



JUNE 2012

Chapter Meeting-May 2012

The May 7th meeting held at Az Piano was opened by President Peg Browne with discussion of business items; first, Larry Messerly suggested Lynx Lake near Prescott as a site for the ice cream social in August. He provided information about a new group campground there, and that the fee would be \$175. Concerns were voiced about the expenditure, and it was agreed that more research would be done (**see the update below). Next, there was talk about the chapter library. Jim Coleman Sr. announced that he was donating another set of his DVDs (to replace those that previously disappeared) contingent on proper checkout procedures. That assurance was given by Steve Gevirtz, of whose efforts we are grateful for in his taking on the responsibility of Chapter Librarian. Eliot Lee suggested that the chapter purchase the PTG Journal on DVD, so that users could utilize the search feature to find articles about specific subjects. Again, Steve came to the rescue by agreeing to submit his personal set on a permanent loan basis. If anyone has additional suggestions for materials or has something to donate, please contact Steve Gevirtz directly at (480) 518-3941 or eringevirtz@cox.net. After another quick mention of how next year's WestPac was shaping up, as well as the possibility of the National Convention coming to Phoenix in 2015, the final item was addressed, which was the election of officers for the next term. As there were no nominations from the floor, and since every position was voluntarily covered, the motion was made to adopt as such, seconded, and unanimously approved. Congrats to our new president, Eliot Lee, RPT, and a big thanks to Peg Browne for serving the past two years. With business concluded, the floor was turned over to Nick Gravagne for the technical presentation. (pg 2)

****update:** There have been some emails circulating with new information- Larry informs us that, according to the Forest Service, the \$175 group campground fee will be implemented some time in the future, but for the purpose of our event this August, the only facility cost would be a day use fee of \$5 per vehicle (there are also a few RV spaces for anyone wishing to camp overnight) . Larry has proactively reserved the site for Sat. August 25th. This is only a heads up for all to consider-there will be a vote at the next meeting and assuming this will be approved, there will be some planning to do. Everyone is invited and encouraged to post your thoughts to the email list-it would be good to get an idea of how many interested participants there are and share some ideas for making this happen. Dialogue anyone?

Next Meeting-June 4, 2012

The meeting will be held at Az Piano -7PM. The agenda will include discussion of the current proposals and the votes that our Chapter Delegate will cast at the National Convention in Seattle.

The technical is TBA, but rumor is that there will be a round table discussion of general tools and tips for any number of problems that any of us may have had to deal with. A good opportunity to talk shop!

This is the last meeting until August-hope to see you there!



President :
Eliot Lee, RPT

Vice President:
Lucas Hathcock, RPT

Treasurer:
Wendell Smock

Recording Secretary:
Lyle Cherry

Librarian:
Steven Gevirtz

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Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Technical Presentation: Where's The Beats?

The technical was given by Nick Gravagne, RPT, with the purpose of “presenting a compelling case for the existence of lower beating temperament frequencies”. Nick shared some of his amazing knowledge with the aid of a laptop computer interfaced with a projector and audio device. From his laptop, he opened a program that generates sound waves, aurally of course, but also visually as graphic representations. With the ability to zoom in or out from a macro view right down to individual oscillations, we explored the effect of combining



different ‘notes’ together, along with their respective partials to better simulate string vibration. It was interesting to actually ‘see’ the interaction between all of the various frequencies, *i.e.* the overall pattern of modified sine waves and the mathematical explanation of their existence. As these graphic representations were generated audibly, we were able to discern some examples of the phenomena known as ‘difference tones’. Several other relative terms were mentioned and there was a good deal of discussion in general. Thanks to our Big Kahuna, Nick, for an interesting ride on the waves! It opened eyes and ears to some of the physical effects on tone and timbre, as well as some of the psychology about what we hear.



A message from our newly elected President:

Dear Friends,

I am speaking to you as President which many of you have been or will become. Our chapter is one of the oldest in the guild. Many of you may not know of the resources which we harbor.

Our tuning guru Jim Coleman Sr. is a Golden Hammer recipient as well as Hall of Famer. He has taught most of us in the valley and he is still our Certified Tuning Examiner. Many RPT's have flown in for coaching with Jim Sr. and later take their exams here in our unit administered by him and two other local RPT's. Although he calls himself retired we still rely on him to tutor us, give classes and troubleshooting over the phone. Jim is the owner of Superior DVDs all of which are available in our chapter Library. Randy Potter has included a few of Jim Sr.'s tapes in his correspondence course.

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Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

From the President cont...

Jim Jr. his son is the National PTG President or will be until the next convention this summer; he has been the National VP and Treasurer as well. Jim Jr., although not with us any longer, is now the technician for the University of Tennessee. He has been past chapter President recently as well as Western Regional VP.

Larry Messerly is our Western Regional VP and is based here and in Prescott. Many of you have been to his classes or seen him at conventions.

Rick Florence, the chief tech at ASU has been chapter President as well as National Institute Director. Rick regularly gives classes at our chapter meetings and has hosted the Phoenix regional conventions at ASU a number of years.

Michael Spreeman, the creator of the Ravenscroft piano is also in our chapter. The Ravenscroft piano is a world class piano comparable to the best of all pianos in existence. Michael has regularly taught classes at our meetings and at the National Convention.

Nick Gravagne has worked with Kawai for some time and is a valuable asset to the technical community with his software and video tapes. Nick also supplies soundboards custom made for rebuilders. He has committed himself to teach a class each year at our chapter meetings.

Mark Purney, a newer RPT is now nationally active as Assistant National Institute Director and his wife Dawn is active in the PTG Auxiliary.

These prominent technicians usually come to our monthly meetings and classes.

I am hoping that this year we all do what we can to cooperate and unite to serve the Phoenix area. There are far more pianos available in the valley to service than all of us could possibly do ourselves. With the resources in our guild we are being foolish not to associate with one another as piano technicians.

Unfortunately, only a few people regularly come to meetings to network or to hone their skills. In not doing so we are really doing a disservice to the community.

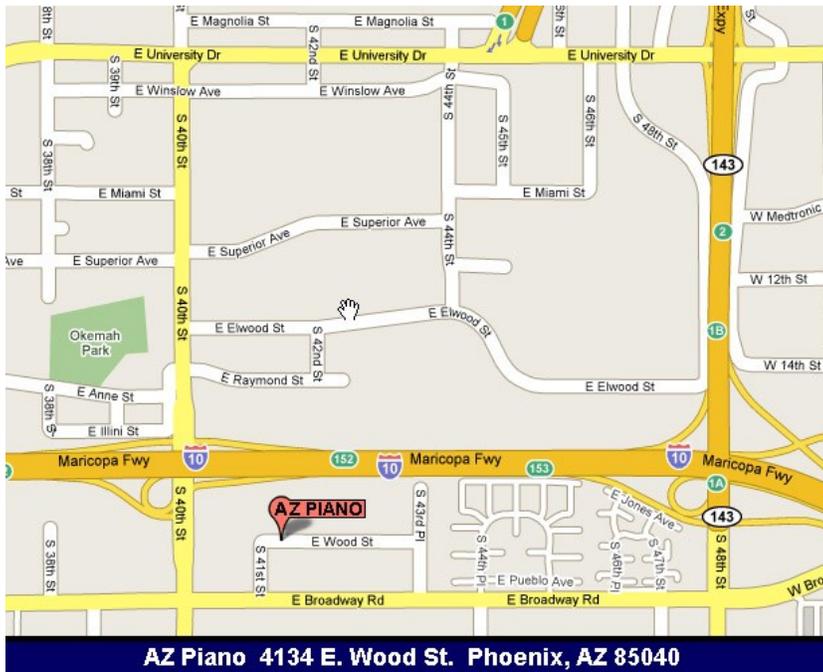
With email we should be able to better represent you, should you be unable to make our meetings, so please let us know what we can do to help you.

All The Best,

Eliot Lee, RPT

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Map to our next meeting
Monday, June 4th at **7:00 PM**
Az Piano
4134 E. Wood St.
Phoenix, Az 85040

All expressions and opinions within this publication are solely those of the editor and contributors with every attempt of accuracy. The Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild is not responsible for unauthorized content.

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