

FEBRUARY 2014

Chapter Meeting - January 6, 2014

The meeting was hosted by Jon Frank at his N. Phoenix 'Harmony House Music' store. President Eliot Lee opened with a few announcements; rumor has it that Larry Messerly will be moving from Prescott to Wisconsin at some time in the future and will be selling some tools and such at the seminar. [prior to this post, Larry sent a recent email detailing the items up for sale-if you missed it, you can call him or just bring money!] Also, it was announced that Blais Wight, having recently moved from Prescott to Globe, is retiring and will be retained as an honorary RPT. There was some mention of the meeting in March. It was suggested that there may be the possibility of gathering to view and study ASU professor and pianist Eckart Sellheim's collection of historic pianos. It will remain 'to be announced' until determined. The focus at this point again is the Arizona seminar coming up on Sat. February 1st—we're reminded again to get that payment sent! Mark Purney spoke about the PTG convention in Atlanta this summer and the 'Leadership Challenge' program that is being promoted. He urges anyone who is interested in applying to definitely do so soon. As a refresher-any active and regularly attending chapter member who has not attended the national convention for at least seven years may qualify for 1/2 off registration plus \$500 to supplement the trip. There are a couple other minor contingencies and the deadline is Feb. 1st. You can call the home office at (913) 432 9975 for information, or talk to Mark— if you didn't know, he is this year's Institute Director. A good time and valuable learning experience is guaranteed! Wendell Smock provided the Treasurer's report:
Balance from 9/9/13 was \$11,819.94
Debits for refreshments (141.63), postage (18.40), sustaining member dues (176.50), website software (36.99), 'WF chapter project' (199.90), and Christmas dinner (1089.46) totaled \$1662.88. Interest credit was .47 for a balance total of \$10,157.53. Finally, Wes Flinn introduced Dale Spencer, a student of Jim Sr.- Welcome!

Next Meeting-

The Az Seminar-Saturday
Feb. 1st @ Piano Gallery
9am -5:30pm

'A Day With Yamaha' by
Yoshi Suzuki, Dir. Yamaha
Piano Service

Donuts & coffee @ 8:30

Also: Feb. 1st apply deadline for PTG 'Leadership Challenge' to Atlanta Convention.

 **PIANO
TECHNICIANS
GUILD**
PHOENIX, ARIZONA CHAPTER

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Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

The Technical Presentation

was given by Michael Alosi, owner of Craftsman Piano Restoration. Although Michael has taken a hiatus from active PTG membership for a couple years or so, he is a well-known and talented rebuilder, refinisher, soundboard maker, and generally knowledgeable in all things piano. Michael began his lengthy career in the late 80's working for the original owner, Jeff Turner and subsequently bought the thriving business when Jeff moved out of state in 1998. Mike gave us a little background on how the company has fared over the years and how the struggling economy affected the piano industry from the viewpoint of a rebuilding shop. He admits that things have been difficult and candidly spoke of his appreciation for all the other techs who have managed to float along in a smaller, lower overhead situation. He recently completed building a large shop next to his home in Scottsdale and looks forward to a new direction of growth.

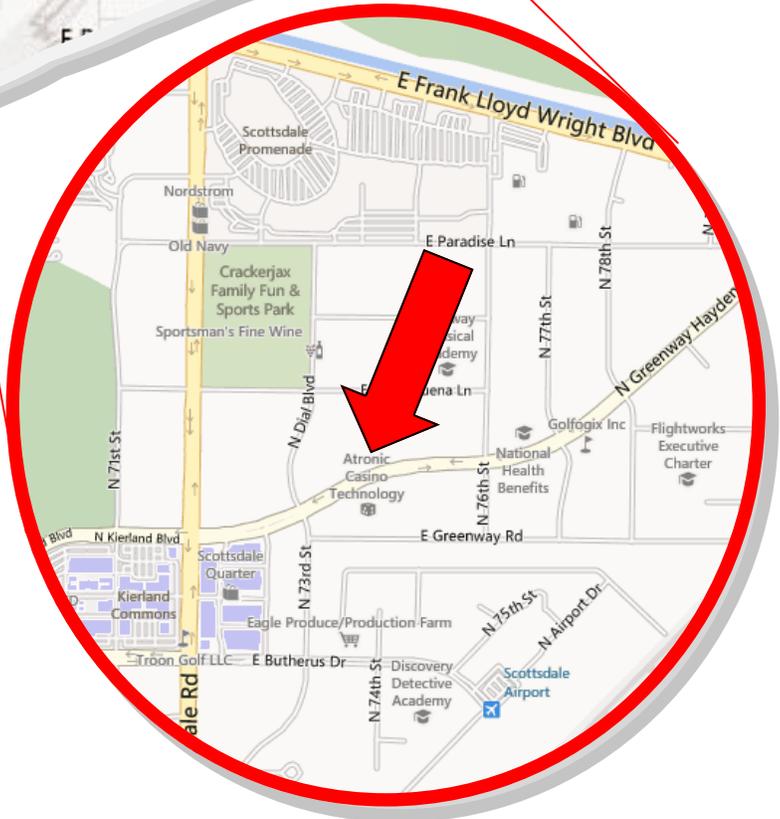
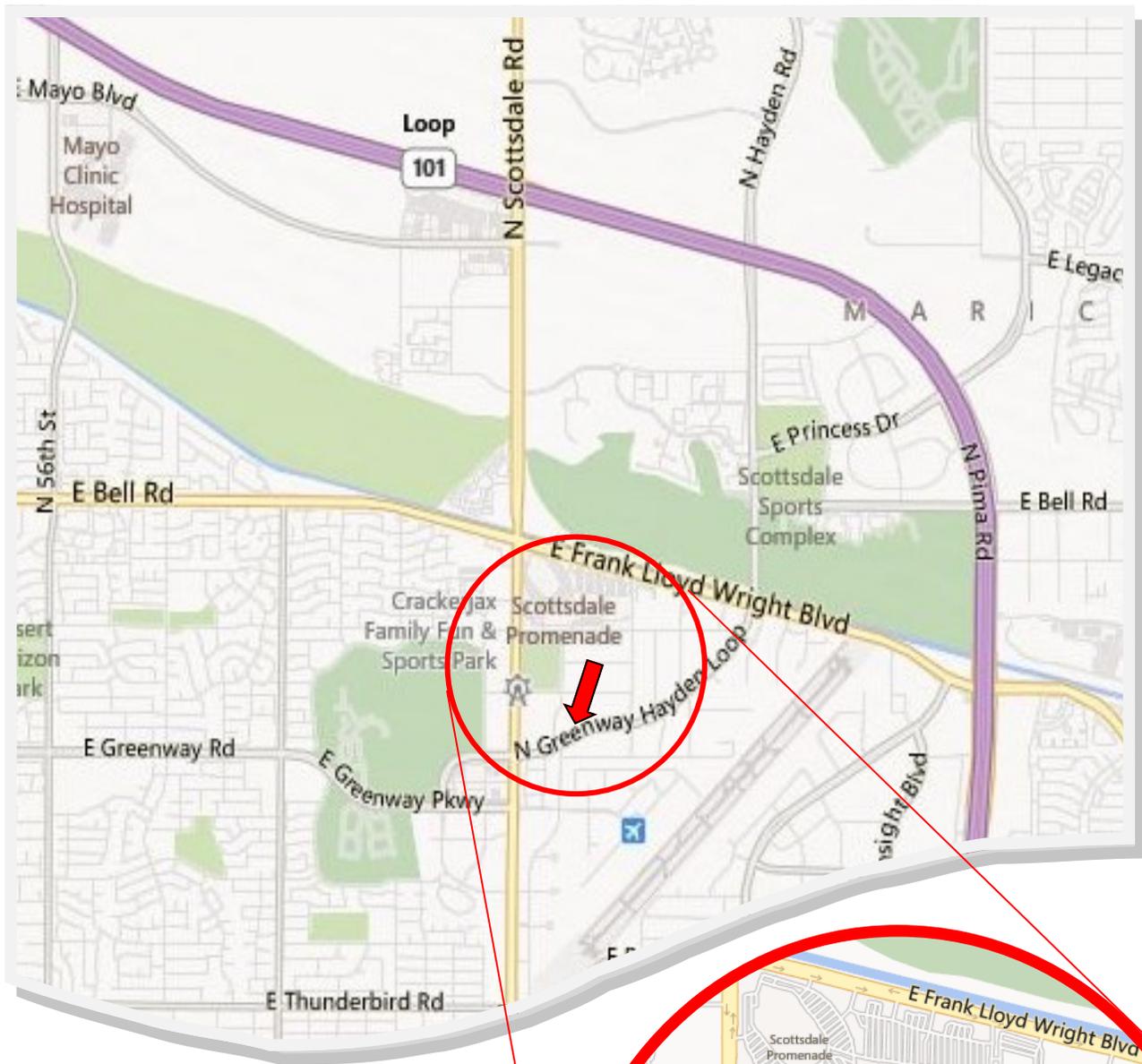


Michael shared some of his experience in repairing legs and pedal lyres. Because of age, and the occasional stress of certain moving techniques, the joints in many of these components can fail and become wobbly or fall apart. The two specific types of joints he talked about were 'through-wedge' and 'blind wedge' tenons. He described and showed examples and sketches of the typical construction and implementation of both, then proceeded to explain some good repair methods. He listed all the tools that should be at hand, stressing that *you can't have too many clamps, and buy good ones!* Michael gave some good tips on taking apart the joints; how to remove the old wedges and soften the remaining hide glue. He spoke of preparing the joint surfaces, making new wedges and fitting everything together. Then he talked about different glues and epoxies and what to consider when choosing which to use. Finally, he divulged some tips on clamping-checking for trueness and wiping the excess glue before an overnight cure. He shared a fun fact of the first time he glued together a pedal lyre when he was just a pup trying to impress the boss. He was sooo proud of the job he'd done.....until he realized he'd put the pedal block on backwards! Fortunately, he got it apart before the glue had set. A big thanks to Michael for contributing his time and expertise-we hope we'll be seeing more of him! Mike will be happy to take on any rebuilding, refinishing, or piece work that needs an experts touch-he can be reached at (602) 451-3359. Thanks also to Jon Frank for opening up the store to us on the day he is normally closed! Much appreciated.

WHAT!! ANOTHER REMINDER??

The Az Seminar is Saturday Feb. 1st

Don't be left out! Is your fee & registration in?

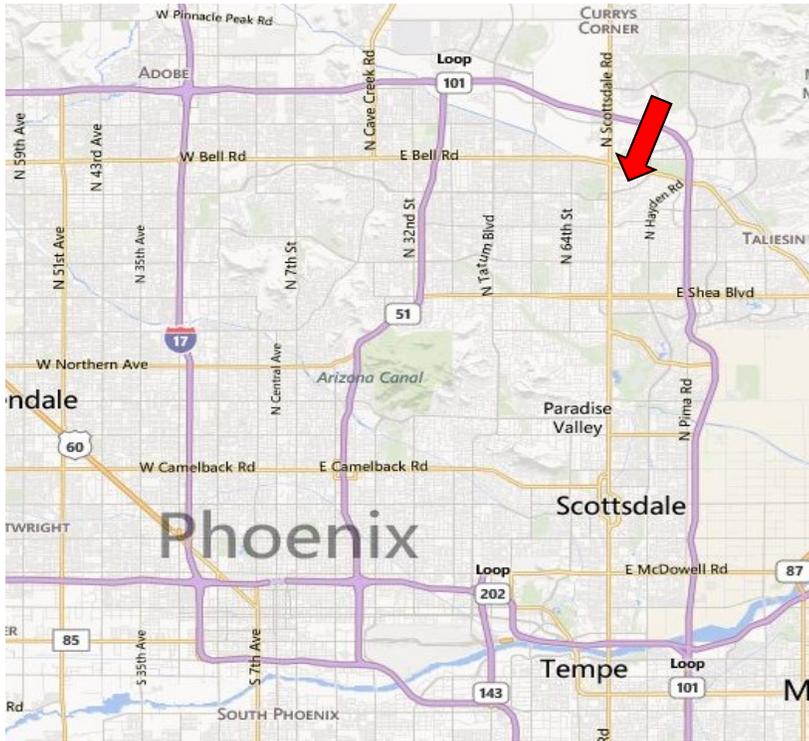


Piano Gallery-
15450 N. Greenway-Hayden Loop
Scottsdale, Az 85260

(480) 556-9910

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Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild



Map to our next meeting:
Az Seminar @ Piano Gallery
15450 N. Greenway-Hayden Loop
Scottsdale, Az 85260
2/1/14 9am-5:30pm

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