

THE BRIDGE



MEETING NOTICE

Monday October 6, 2003

**6:30 - 7:15 Applied Skills
6:30 - 7:30 Board Meeting
7:15 - 7:45 Food Served
7:45 - 8:00 Business Mtg.
8:00 - 9:30 Main Technical**

**Applied Skills:
Clem Fortuna, RPT
Main Technical:
Ron Berry, RPT**

**Meeting will be hosted at
Hammell Music by Tim Hoy**

**Hammell Music,
Bloomfield Store
located at
4110 Telegraph Road
(South of Long Lake on the
West side)
phone: (248) 594-1414**

**CHAPTER PROJECT will be on
October 18, 10:00 am. It will be
held at The Piano Place, 444 W
Maple, Suite E, Troy. North side
of Maple between Livernois and
Crooks, next to Thunder Bird
Lanes. This month's main focus
will be on key bushing,
replacing key tops, hammer
hanging. Soundboard and
bridge repair will be covered in
the near future. See you
there!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**The top ten reasons to
attend a Chapter meeting:**

10. **Because there is nothing on TV.**
9. **to see your friends so you can
tell them about the piano you
had to tune last week.**
8. **The food.**
7. **An interesting Applied Skills
session by one of the local
technicians.**
6. **The main Technical is something
of great value.**
5. **The short but provocative
business meeting.**
4. **To see if the store pianos are in
tune.**
3. **To find out what kind of
programs are in the future.**
2. **Because by attending the
meeting it will make you a better
and well rounded technician.**
1. **Because you are paying for it.**

Your President,

Richard Bittner, RPT

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Detroit-Windsor Chapter Officers

President

Richard Bittner, RPT
richardb@atdial.net
(248) 398-3876

Vice-President

Dennis Penney, RPT
dpenney1441@comcast.net
(248) 545-7812

Secretary

Zen Reinhardt, RPT
diskladame@provide.net
(734) 971-6143

Treasurer

David Foster
pepsi29@earthlink.net
(248) 276-9543

Past President (ex-officio)

Rick Bowen, RPT
rbowen@wideopenwest.com
(248) 524-4713

Chapter Chairs

Newsletter Editor

Larry Young, RPT
lyoung2@peoplepc.com
(734) 930-9227

Social Chair

Roberta Brown
rlbrown417@aol.com

Program Chair

Jan Bittner, RPT
jano@provide.net
(248) 398-8720

Tuning Examiner

Zen Reinhardt, RPT
(734) 971-6143

Technical and Written

Exams

Richard Bittner, RPT



Piano Technician's Guild, Detroit/Windsor Chapter 481

The Detroit-Windsor Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild met at PianoNation in Novi the evening of September 8, 2003. Seventeen RPTs, 12 Associate Members, and 8 guests attended the meeting for a total of 38. A quorum was definitely established.

Guests were Kris Good, Tony Profota, Jeff Mossington, Sam Wiersma, Scott Borgman, Don Erkfritz, David McMillan, and Arnold Patin. Our speaker was also a guest, namely Mike Kurta, RPT from the Syracuse Chapter.

Minutes from the June 7 meeting were approved as printed in The Bridge. Motion for approval made by Paul Hornberger. Seconded by Dennis Penney. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report read by Dave Foster with a balance forward of \$5522.42.

The Chapter rebuilding project will start at 10am September 20 at Richard Bittner's shop. All members are invited to work on the project on the third Saturday of each month. Call Richard Bittner for details at (248) 269-6155.

Roberta Brown would like to hear what members would like for a midwinter party in February. Shall we return to the Taiwan Buffet or do you have other ideas? She would like to make all arrangements by December.

Upcoming meetings:

- October 6 - Hammell Music (Bloomfield Hills) - Ron Berry RPT on Tools, Tips, and In-Home Repairs
- November 3 - Evola Warehouse (Pontiac) - Ben McKlveen RPT on Troubleshooting, Problem Isolation
- December - no meeting

Motion to adjourn business meeting made by Bruce Carter. Seconded by Scott Nelson. Motion passed.

DEADLINES from the Home Office:

- December 31, 2003 - Proposals for Changes in By-Laws
- December 31, 2003 - Nominations for Awards:
 - Member of Note
 - Hall of fame
 - Golden Hammer

Mike Kurta RPT from the Syracuse Chapter gave a lively demonstration of the tools and supplies from his life as an automotive mechanic and from other walks of life and how they make servicing pianos a breeze. Members in attendance often chipped in with their "methods of madness" and gave Mike more ideas to incorporate into his already vast arsenal of tricks. Respectfully submitted by

Z! Reinhardt, RPT and Secretary.

MAIN TECHNICAL - RON BERRY

Ron Berry's 30 years of collecting tools and techniques brings efficient ways to do everyday jobs and ways to handle the unusual jobs we encounter. The emphasis is on the practical. October's Technical covers everything from tool kits and organizing to that special tool for the unusual repair.

After Ron Berry graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in philosophy, he began looking for a challenging and fulfilling career. He found that piano technology allowed him to combine his love of music, math, physics, and people.

Early in his career Ron discovered that the Piano Technicians Guild offered many opportunities for professional developments as he apprenticed with an experienced piano technician in the Indianapolis Public Schools piano shop. He joined the Guild and passed his craftsman exams in 1976.

When the "new" exams, the nationally standardized and technologically assessed tuning exams in particular, were approved by the Council in 1980, Ron was appointed as national chair of the PTG exam committee. He spent lots of time on the phone and on the road helping establish test centers around the country.

During the ensuing years Ron has continued to serve the Piano Technicians Guild in a variety of capacities, holding office and serving on committees every year. Among other things he has served as president of the Indianapolis Chapter, president of the Piano Technicians Guild, officer of the PTG Foundation, and the International Association of Piano Builders and Technicians. He has represented the Guild at international meetings in Japan and Korea, addressing the assemblies in the local languages.

In 1995, Ron began working to create and maintain The Piano Page on the World Wide Web, investing as much time there as he spent working for the Guild on its Board of Directors. The Piano Page (www.ptg.org) currently includes several hundred pages of interest to piano technicians, teachers and enthusiasts.

Ron's second profession is vocalizing as a baritone in the Indianapolis area, specializing in operatic and liturgical music. Ron and his wife Julie live in Indianapolis with their two sons, Charles and Daniel. He can be reached at ron@berrypiano.com.

APPLIED SKILLS

Clem Fortuna, RPT "Pitch Raising Short Cuts". Clem will discuss and demonstrate a variety of techniques for fast and accurate pitch raises. He will explain over pull calculation, "deaf" tuning one string, tuning by untempered 5th's and melodic tuning in the treble. Something you've got to see to believe.

Larry Young, Editor
4379 Walden Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



October 2003

October meeting will be at Hammell Music in Bloomfield, MI !

Disclaimer:

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians' Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."

MidWinter Party!

You've turned on the furnace and started raking the leaves so that can only mean one thing - it's time to start thinking about the MidWinter Party !

This year's party will be on Monday, February 2, 2004 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Here are your two choices for places for the party:

1. Return to Taiwan Buffet (roughly same price as last year)
2. Clawson Steak House

Clawson Steak House has a room for banquets and would have room for a piano. They would offer us a choice of 3 menu items:

- Prime Rib for \$17.95
- Chicken D'Angelo for \$13.95
- Fresh Catch of the Day (usually whitefish) for \$13.95

The meal would include soup, salad, vegetable, baked potato, and fresh bread. Coffee and tea would be free, but other beverages would be at an additional cost. Price does not include 6% sales tax and 15% gratuity. Like Taiwan Buffet, they would require a \$100 deposit to reserve the room for our requested date. The cost per member for this option would be higher than for Taiwan Buffet.

Be prepared to vote for which of these two venues you would like for our MidWinter Party at the October PTG Meeting!

- Roberta Brown, Social (Fun!) Chair