

## November 2009 Central II PTG Meeting Reminder

This month is a slightly different format with a double technical, meeting and lunch in Decatur. Cindy has some CD sleeves and if you have any tools you would like handled, let me know. There will also be a roll of toilet paper to ponder (thanks John Dewey).

**Where:** Chuck Beck's shop at 1605 W Main St., Decatur (217) 620-0842. Lunch between sessions at Pop's Place, 4335 W Main St Decatur, IL 62522 (217) 330-6546.

**When:** Saturday November 21, 2009, first meeting at Chuck's house/shop at 10:00am, followed by lunch 2.5 miles up the road at 12:00pm, and then back for a second session from 1:00 until 3:00 or so.

**Why:** Because with only one more meeting this year (!) you have to come to this one. If you live far away we can see you in the morning, have lunch, and then yes we'll be together again for more piano work in the afternoon, and you will still be home at a decent time. In the morning we will be string tying and the tuner's knot, string kits in CD wallets, and "What I learned at the convention". After lunch we will have our business meeting, and "Note By Note, the making of Steinway L1037" will be playing on the tv upstairs, and in the shop we will be working on "bench rebuilding with a router". Also if you would like to stay after the meeting Chuck Beck will be turning handles for any tools you have broken a handle on, are missing a handle, or would like a fitted handle for.

**How:** Take I-72 to the exit 133 (on the west side of Decatur) to merge onto US-36 E toward Decatur. Turn right at Wyckles Rd and then left onto W. Main St. Keep going east about 2.5 miles and turn right onto Dennis Ave., and park anywhere along the street or in my driveway. It is the first driveway on the right, a brick bungalow. You can also come from I-51 to West Main St and turn west, go 16 blocks (6 blocks west past Millikin University) and turn left onto Dennis Ave.

### Toilet Paper and Tuning Hammers

This is not intended to get you to change the way you do things but instead to get you to consider if you are doing them the best way. With things we do many many times it is easy to get into a routine and "just do it the way we always have".

The other day I reached for the toilet paper and found that it had torn off so that the end was against the wall and there was no tail to grab. With my mind on something entirely different I put my hand on the top of the roll to turn it so that the end would be handy to grab. In the case of this roll someone had gone against the strong request of Mr. Wipple and had "squeezed the Charmin" to the point where the core tube was now an oval instead of a circle. When I tried to turn the roll it would turn part way and then roll back to it's original position. I did this a few times before it got through to my wandering brain that "this isn't working". I then put my hand under the roll and turned it without any trouble. I got to thinking about what had just happened and realized that with my hand on top of the roll I was actually pressing down and adding to the weight of the roll and making it harder for it to turn over the "hump" caused by the oval shape of the core. When I put my hand on the bottom of the roll I was lifting the roll so that it would turn over the "hump". The same concept applies to how you position your tuning hammer. If you are applying force in the direction of the hitch pin you are adding to the force the string is placing on the tuning pin which will make it harder to turn the pin and also increase the tendency to bend the pin and to make the hole in the pin block more egg shaped. If you are pulling away from the hitch pin you are counteracting the force of the string. There are many other factors that must be considered as well when deciding how to use a tuning hammer, or any tool for that matter but sometimes we need to step back and look at what we are doing. Next time you are sitting on the toilet consider the toilet paper. The end hanging down could represent the string, the roll can represent the tuning pin and your hand the tuning hammer. Try turning the roll from different directions and see what happens. You can even call it research and multitasking if your significant other asks what is taking so long.

-John Dewey

Chuck Beck, editor

The A-Chord