

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Our 43rd ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

November Meeting Annual Auction

Our next meeting will be our annual November auction. It will be held on Friday, November 2nd, at the Agawam Jr. High school on route 57 and Feeding Hills. The Jr. High school is on the left, just before the Grange School, as you are heading west on 57.

Doors will open at 6:00pm, and the auction will begin at 7:00pm. Once again, Jeff, K1BE will be the auctioneer.

The club will take 10% off the final selling price of each item. No minimums are allowed, but you may bid on your own item. If you are the high bidder of your own item, the club will waive the 10%. Donations to the club will be accepted.

All items, sold or not, must be removed from the premises after the auction. No dumpster or other trash disposal facilities will be available, so please don't leave any boat anchors.

Any questions may be directed to Bob, NQ1C at (413) 737-8503.

W1AW Resumes Packet BBS

After more than a year of absence from the air, the ARRL has reinstated its packet radio BBS, W1AW-4. The system is currently on 145.01 MHz, with a backbone for forwarding on 221.05 MHz. The system is primarily intended to disseminate the ARRL bulletins. The system will not exchange other bulletins (such as NEBBS or ALLBBS types). Although users may check into W1AW-4 to read ARRL bulletins, users are requested not to make W1AW their "home" BBS system.

The system is running on a Tandy 1000 donated by Tandy, Kenwood radios, and Kamtronics TNC's. The league is using the MSYS multiconnect BBS software.

Time To Renew?

Have you renewed your membership this year? Check your address label on the back of the newsletter! If your membership is about to expire, you should send your dues to the club PO Box, or pay Greg at the next meeting.

Next VE exam will be November 7th, 7:00pm at the Agawam High School

Next meeting will be November 2nd, 7:00pm at the Agawam Jr. High School

Next board meeting will be November 8th, 7:30pm at K1CPJ's house

Club Officers

President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE
Vice President—Jim Sebolt, N1DUY
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH

Board of Directors

Charlie Dunlap, K1II	Bob Cohen, K1CPJ
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE	Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF	Frank Potts, NC1I
Cliff Junkins, W1UWX	Scott Cohen, KA1QAS

Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted as long as credit is given to Zero Beat

Rohn 25AG4 top section

Thrust Bearings

By

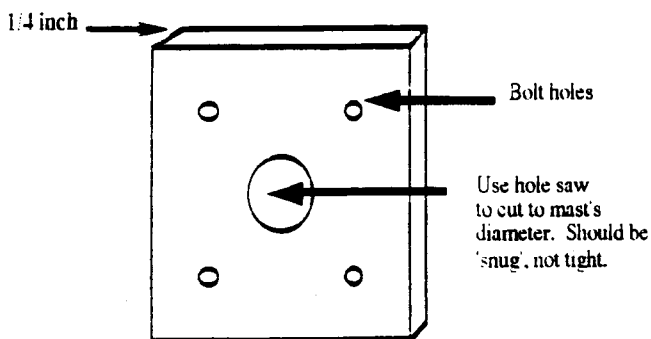
Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

My article on proper tower installations explained how the moment or thrust against an antenna mast can be quite substantial. Guy wires and antenna wind loading raise or lower the moment. The expensive rotor you've installed should not be made to carry all of the torque antennas introduce onto the mast! Thrust bearings are used to take up a lot of that energy and to prolong the life of your rotor and antenna system. Now that you know how and why they are important, where do you get them?

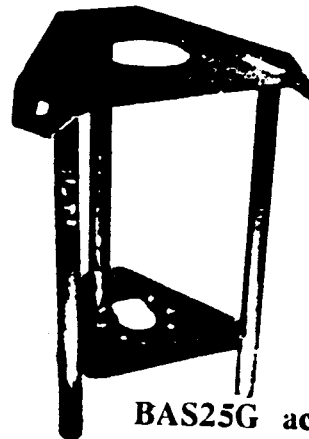
Commercial thrust bearings are available from companies like Rohn who make the towers. Price range is \$75 to \$500. You feed your mast through it after bolting it to a bearing assembly shelf (Rohn BAS25G), to the accessory shelf (Rohn AS25G), or to the tower top section (Rohn 25AG-4). Rohn also sells a thrust bearing made out of wood (Rohn AB), that also bolts into place on the above parts.

Hams, being generically frugal, (read "cheap"!), have for years made their thrust bearings out of wood. I was ready to do just that when Fred Stefanick, N1DPM, suggested I look for some plastic at work. I found some pieces of teflon, about 6 x 6 inches, and 1/4 inch thick. I drilled out a hole slightly smaller than the size of the mast, used a file to widen it to a snug fit, and bolted it to the Rohn 25AG-4. It works great! Unlike wood, it will never shrink or swell from the rain, and it has built in lubricating.

I have a few extra pieces of teflon, which I'll sell for \$10.00 for the first one, \$5.00 for each additional piece, first come first served. (Don't send me \$5 and say you want the second one!) I'll pay to mail it. Send a check to: 18 Anvil Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1530.



Teflon sheet thrust bearing
Mount to Rohn AS25G or equivalent



BAS25G accessory shelf

1990 US and DX Callbooks

\$28.00 each

Place your order at the November meeting, or send your check to the club PO Box. Callbooks will be delivered in December.

RG 8 A/U Coaxial Cable Sale!

A limited amount of high quality foam core RG 8 A/U is now on sale. Local radio stores sell a poorer grade RG 8/U for 42¢ per linear foot. This coax is brand new, with 96% shielding. Here's your chance to save money and improve performance.

Price: 500 foot roll, \$160. (32¢ foot)
100 foot lengths, 35¢ foot
Odd lengths 37¢ foot

You can call and order ahead or buy it at the next meeting. 730-2584 weekdays 8-4
N connectors for RG 8 \$5.00 each

		LOSS IN db PER 100 FEET					
TYPE	IMPEDANCE	3.5	7	14	21	28	50
RG 8/U	52 ohms	0.3	0.45	0.66	0.83	0.98	1.35
RG 8 A/U	52 ohms	0.25	0.36	0.53	0.67	0.80	1.1

How I Got Started
By
Larry Reilly W1BVP
(Re-printed from April 1984 Zero Beat)

Only a few days ago Jeff Duquette, K1BE paid me a visit. We became acquainted thanks to our mutual friend, Jim Spates, W1ARA. Jeff took for distribution some old gear I had lying around for the past fifty years. I hope some youngster just starting out can use it. Jeff left with some back issues of Zero Beat-- the most memorable of all was the issue tracing the history of the Hampden County Radio Association. I found it fascinating and was reminded of the verse from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (stanza 69):

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

Our get-acquainted visit covered several topics and I'm not sure how, but I volunteered to tell Zero Beat how a "ham" got started over fifty years ago! So, here we go.

I'm sure you want to know if amateur radio had an influence on my life. The answer has to be "LOTS!". Accompanying this article is a copy of my first license, issued when I was 17 years old. A year or so before that license was issued, another teenager and I tried to teach each other the Continental Code. We hooked up a pair of homemade keys to a buzzer we both could hear, using ARRL's Radio Amateur Handbook for guidance. Not a bad guide, but we didn't get very far, for neither of us knew a dit from a dah! Sort of the blind leading the blind!

Then came a newspaper article calling my attention to the Springfield Radio Association. Recruits were welcome, and I became one immediately. Meetings were held every Saturday evening in a small building, (about the size of a one car garage) located behind Ike Creaser's home on Cortland street. This was less than a mile from my parent's home.

Joining the SRA shaped my life. The members, (all much older than I), were experienced hams and very helpful to a headstrong lad not yet ready to shave. But topping them all was the man who meant the most to me: Isaiah "Ike" Creaser. After our first meeting I spent as much time as possible at the "shack". At that time you either walked or took the family car--No choice for me, we didn't have one.

Ike was a great teacher. In a few weeks (he worked in Stamford, and was home only on weekends,) he got me up to ten words-per-minute so I could pass the exam. Three years later I won an award at a Boston hamfest for copying 60 W.P.M.! I was then newly married. When my future wife and I got engaged, I didn't have enough money to buy her a diamond. Instead I gave her a

medal I had won in an ARRL Sweepstakes Contest! She later got her diamond and wedding band, but that medal is still in her collection of keepsakes.

When Mrs. Reilly heard me banging out these memoirs at the typewriter, she asked if I remember the time (before our marriage) I asked her to hold a spool of wire while I wound a coil for something I was building. Memories, memories!

With Ike Creaser's recommendation, I landed a job at WBZ(A) as an apprentice radio operator and that led to a life long career in radio. My ham call was W1BVP. Then the Pearl Harbor disaster ended it all! As directed by our government, I dismantled all my gear, including a new rig I was building, and I never put it back together again. I was into radio broadcasting, building stations, and let my ham call lapse. Not sure I could copy 10 WPM. let alone 60 today! After my hams days ended, I was building commercial stations in Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts, both AM and FM.

Nearly all, if not all, of those Depression era members of the SRA are gone now. Today I find it hard to remember their names or call letters. Just the same, they were a good influence on a growing up kid. They gave me something unpurchasable: a grip on myself. I am grateful for the career that ham radio led me to, even if my fiance had to help me wind coils before I could buy a diamond ring for her!

Now we're retired. My boating days are also just memories. Mrs. Reilly and I used to cruise our boat, PRIME TIME, to and from Florida. All good things must come to an end. Resting on my desk is a semi-automatic sending key modeled after the Vibroflex, that I used in my ham days. At WBZA we were linked to WBZ in Boston by wire line. We got to use a genuine Vibroflex. I wanted one in the worst way for my ham station but my \$78 dollar per month salary was otherwise committed. So I made as near a replica as I could contrive! Just a few days ago I fingered the paddles to see if it still works. It does, but I'm back at 10 WPM!

When I was a lad, it was ham radio. Now the grandchildren are into computers. What next?

73,
Larry Reilly -(W1BVP)

Note from K1BE:

This was originally printed on the letterhead of the Springfield Radio Association. If you're new to the Hampden County RA, this was the original club the HCRA is based from. The name was changed after World War II, but that's a story for a future issue of Zero Beat! I hope to do several articles on past doings in the club.

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482
West Springfield, MA
01090 - 0482

Application for Membership

Call Sign: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () - Listed: Yes _____ No _____

License:

Studying _____ Novice _____ Technician _____ General _____ Advanced _____ Extra _____

ARRL: Life Member _____ Member _____

VE: Advanced _____ Extra _____ Expiration: ____/____/____

Regular HCRA Membership is \$9.00. Additional family members residing at the same mailing address are FREE - no additional charge (please fill out reverse side for each family member. If you are under 18 years of age, dues are only \$5.00. Please consider including a donation to help support the club's future projects. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Membership Dues \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form and a check made payable to HCRA, Inc. to:
HCRA, PO Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090 - 0482
or bring to any club meeting.

Calendar of Events

November	2	Auction
	7	VE Session
	8	Board Meeting
December	5	VE Session
	7	Christmas Social
January	4	Meeting
	10	Board Meeting
	19-21	VHF Contest
February	1	Meeting
	6	VE Session
	7	Board Meeting
March	1	Meeting
	6	VE Session
	7	Board Meeting
April	5	Meeting
	11	Board Meeting
	28	Fleamarket
May	3	Meeting
	9	Board Meeting
June	5	VE Session
	7	June Banquet
	13	Board Meeting
	29-30	Field Day

Rutland Arrays highest performance yagis available! 10m: RA5-28, 5 elements, 8dBd gain. 6m: RA4-50, 4 elements, 12' 4" 8.25dBd. RA7-50, 7 elements, 26' 6" 10.5dBd. 2m: RA8-2UWB, 8 elements, 11' 9" 13.5dBi gain. FO12-144, 12 elements, 17" 4" 12.6dBd. FO15-144, 15 elements, 24' 8" 13.7dBd. 220: FO16-220, 16 elements, 17' 3" 14dBd. 70cm: FO11-440, 11 elements, 6' rear mount 12dBd. FO22-432, 22 elements, 14' 15.8dBd. FO25-432, 25 elements, 17' 3" 16.5dBd. FO33-432, 33 elements, 24' 3" 17.8dBd. We also have stacking frames and power dividers. Call or write for our catalog. 1703 Warren Street, New Cumberland, PA, 17070. (717) 774-8298, 7:00-10:00pm EST.

Receive Only	Free. Range (MHz)	N.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	1 dB Comp. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
P28VD	28-30	<1.1	15	0	DGFET	\$29.95
P50VD	50-54	<1.3	15	0	DGFET	\$29.95
P50VDG	50-54	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P144VD	144-148	<1.5	15	0	DGFET	\$29.95
P144VDA	144-148	<1.0	15	0	DGFET	\$37.95
P144VDG	144-148	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P220VD	220-225	<1.8	15	0	DGFET	\$29.95
P220VDA	220-225	<1.2	15	0	DGFET	\$37.95
P220VDG	220-225	<0.5	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P432VD	420-450	<1.8	15	-20	Bipolar	\$32.95
P432VDA	420-450	<1.1	17	-20	Bipolar	\$49.95
P432VDG	420-450	<0.5	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
Inline (rt switched)						
SP28VD	28-30	<1.2	15	0	DGFET	\$59.95
SP50VD	50-54	<1.4	15	0	DGFET	\$59.95
SP50VDG	50-54	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP144VD	144-148	<1.6	15	0	DGFET	\$59.95
SP144VDA	144-148	<1.1	15	0	DGFET	\$67.95
SP144VDG	144-148	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP220VD	220-225	<1.9	15	0	DGFET	\$59.95
SP220VDA	220-225	<1.3	15	0	DGFET	\$67.95
SP220VDG	220-225	<0.55	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP432VD	420-450	<1.9	15	-20	Bipolar	\$62.95
SP432VDA	420-450	<1.2	17	-20	Bipolar	\$79.95
SP432VDG	420-450	<0.55	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95

Every preamplifier is precision aligned on ARRL's Hewlett Packard HP8570A/HP358A state-of-the-art noise figure meter. RX only preamplifiers are for receive applications only. Inline preamplifiers are rt switched (for use with transceivers) and handle 25 watts transmitter power. Mount inline preamplifiers between transceiver and power amplifier for high power applications. Other amateur, commercial and special preamplifiers available in the 1-1000 MHz range. Please include \$2 shipping, U.S. and Canada. Connecticut residents add 7% sales tax. C.O.D. orders add \$2. Air mail to foreign countries add 10%. Order your ARRL Rx only or inline preamplifier today and start hearing like never before!

Advanced Receiver Research

Box 1242 • Burlington, CT 06013 • 203 582-9409



VHF Contest Date Change

The January VHF contest has been moved to the weekend of January 19-21. This was done to avoid the conflict with the football playoff weekend, which would cause contesters to have to deal with possible TVI problems on both Saturday and Sunday. However, since this change was made, the NFL has also changed its schedule, and the contest is once again on playoff weekend. It is now too late for the ARRL to change the contest dates again. Watch the December QST for the official contest date change notice from the ARRL.

LOOP YAGIS: 902 Mhz 33 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 Mhz 45 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 55 element "Super Looper" \$99 kit, \$124 assembled and tested. 2304 Mhz 45 element \$75 kit, \$89 assembled and tested. Also available: element and hardware kits for above. 2 and 4 w power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid state line power amps. 13vDC: 1296 - 8W in, 35W out \$315. 1W in 20W out \$265. 4W in 70W out \$695. GaAsFET preamps: 902 Mhz 8dB \$90, 1296 8dB NF \$90, 2304 Mhz 1dB max NF \$140. SHF System: no-tune transverter kits, w/144 Mhz IF now available for 903 thru 3456. Write or call for complete catalog. DOWN EAST MICR WAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2301, RR-1, Troy Maine 04907. For information and orders telephone (207) 948-3741.

HCRA Membership

Dues for the Hampden County Radio Association are \$9/year. As a member of the HCRA you will receive 10 issues of Zero Beat, possible special notices of meetings, the ability to vote for officers and directors at the annual meeting, and the ability to submit your score towards the club score in the January VHF contest.

You may sign up at any meeting by seeing the club treasurer, Greg Stoddard N1AEH, or you may send your payment along with name, address, call, and license class to HCRA, P.O. Box 482, West Springfield MA, 01090-0482.

Membership is open to all licensed amateurs. A non-amateur may join the HCRA as an associate member.

Feel free to contact any of the officers listed on the front of this newsletter if you have any questions about the club.

VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM *sharp* at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette WC1O at 786-1463.

Next VE exam will be November 7th at the Agawam High School.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

Local Nets

HCRA 10 Meter Net	Thursday 9:00 PM 28.650
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CPN	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965
	Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Swap Net	Follows Mt. Tom Information Net
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
WMA Tfc Net Cycle 3	Tue, Wed, Thu 4:00 PM 146.34/94
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720
BEARS Traffic Net	Daily 9:15 PM 145.11(-)

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482

West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

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Correction Requested

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If you are not currently a member,
why don't you consider joining!