



THE ALTERNATE Source

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SBET RECEPTION – A GREAT SUCCESS



Photos courtesy of Deborah O'Leary, SBET Vice President, BMET, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd, MN

At the annual AAMI (Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation) meeting in Anaheim on 7 May, RPI was pleased to host the reception honoring SBET (Society of Biomedical Equipment Technicians) members. Over 200 people attended this year instead of the 75 or so of prior years before RPI sponsorship. The conversations and refreshments were so good that the cocktail hour stretched into three. They exchanged information and gossip with each other, and interchanged product and service ideas with RPI people. There for RPI were the Product Development team, Phil Goldstein, Steve McConkay, and Andy Sandelski, and Al and Sherry Lapides.

As a catalog/phone/fax/mail order company, we don't often have the chance to meet many of our customers in person. This

was the perfect opportunity to have face to face discussions about equipment repair and maintenance and RPI's role in supporting you. We talked about parts in development and parts you want in development. We talked about delivery, price, and quality. We talked about what you like about us and what you'd like done differently. In short, our customers helped determine our short and long range plans.

Just as important were the discussions between SBET members. They learned from each other in an informal setting. And during the four days of the convention, they learned specific material in formal settings. These new ideas, plans, and technical knowledge were taken home with them to benefit their hospitals and customers. This is an essential element in the process of improving your skills and thus your worth.

It is the way in which you learn what others have already learned so that you don't have to make their mistakes over again.

Join professional associations. Promote yourself and your profession. Go to local meetings. Attend regional or national conventions. Attend seminars. Go to medical and dental exhibits. Keep abreast of what's happening and where your industry is going. Listed below are three of the national associations. But there are also a great number of state and local organizations. Take your choice, but help yourself and your profession to a brighter future.

Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation/Society of Biomedical Engineering Technicians
3330 Washington Blvd. — 4th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201
800-332-2264
Debbie Tritle

Clinical Engineering Section, American Society for Hospital Engineering
840 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
312-280-6000 x3334
Eric Muehlbauer

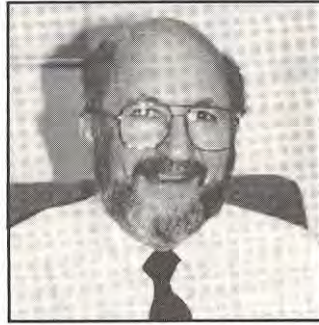
Dental Equipment Technicians Association
239 N. Main St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-692-0818
Bob Steinman

i n s i d e

From the Desk of The President	2
From the President's Boss	3
Dear RPI	2
The RPI Family	3
Service Tips	2
Did You Know?	4



from
the
desk
of
the



Al Lapides, President

PRESIDENT

wonderful. Look at the sessions they had: Dick Honn on PCB in X-ray heads; Dr. John Palenic of Indiana University School of Dentistry on biological hazards; Ian Askill of Coe Labs on PCB; Bob Meyer on electrical hazards; and Art Carlson of the Illinois Department of Radiological Health on radiological hazards. Add to this a business and organizing meeting and the exhibits from the host show and you have a first class annual meeting.

You need this association and it needs you. But you have to join to get the mutual benefits accorded. Do so. Do yourself and your profession a lot of good. Contact Robert Steinman at 239 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025 (618) 692-0818 and ask about joining DETA.

Q I am having trouble adjusting your part #PCT007, the solid state controller to fit the Pelton & Crane OCM and OCR autoclaves. Is there a trick to it?

A There's no trick to the adjustment. We have recently come out with new instruction sheets that detail the steps required on each individual machine. One is enclosed with each controller.

Q What happens if I still have a problem?

A Call our toll-free number, (800) 221-9723, and ask for technical assistance. One of our product engineers will be glad to help you. If you need to return the controller to RPI, please be sure to get an RGA (Returned Goods Authorization) and make certain you send the connector along with it.

In the past, there have only been societies for clinical engineers and biomedical engineering technicians. But now we have the Dental Equipment Technicians Association (DETA). You dental techs now have the same opportunity to professionalize and improve that the biomedes have had for so long.

DETA was conceived and formed by Robert Steinman, owner of Steinman Services, Inc. in Edwardsville, IL. The birthing process has been long and tough, but DETA is now on its way. The first full annual meeting was held in February in conjunction with the DDA/DMA meeting. This pattern will follow for the next few years. The agenda of this first meeting was

**No one does it better
than RPI
The Alternate Source**

**QUALITY
SERVICE
PRICE
CONVENIENCE**

SERVICE TIPS



by Dave Stives
Techniserv
Concord, California

Ritter Tables and Chairs

The Ritter F-7 and F-75 tables were discontinued in 1981. Many of today's field technicians have not had nor will they have the advantage of formal training for these older models. They have to rely instead on on-the-job-training, instinct, and a good background in repair. Here are a few tips on checking, adding, and maintaining the hydraulic systems.

DETERMINE NEED: There are two indicators that oil is needed in the system. One is audible and the other is visual. They are found by first raising the table from its lowest position with no load. When low on oil, a noticeable change in sound can be heard when nearing the top. This is because the pump is sucking both oil and air. After it has reached the top, lower the unit. As it nears the base, you may hear a squirting sound again indicating a low oil condition. Also, during this return travel, the table will not go down smoothly, but rather will jerk.

Again, this is an indicator of low oil.

ADDING OIL: The oil to be added must be a light weight detergent-free mineral oil. Unfortunately, Ritter never made a "proper" place to add oil. What you have to do is raise the table as high as it will go. Remove the four screws that hold the Outer Elevation Tube Cover to the tube and lift the Outer Elevation Tube Cover. Pour oil in between the Inner and Outer Elevation Tubes. Reinstall the cover.

BLEEDING AIR: This is the toughest part. A vent screw is provided in the Lower Elevation Tube. This acts on a nylon ball in order to bleed off trapped air. It must not be overtightened. Snug is sufficient. Proper tension will allow bleeding without removing the table top. The screw, acting on the nylon ball, eliminates the need for torque to get a good seal. With the table top in place, the correct screw driver is essential. It must be short enough to fit

through the access port in the yoke, but long enough to allow a few inches of elevation tube travel. First, loosen the vent screw. With the pump running, open and close the vent screw several times. Entrapped air and some oil will escape. During this procedure, the elevation tubes will rise while the screw is closed and sink while open, purging the air as they go. When you can no longer hear air escaping, close the vent screw before turning the pump off. The pump must be on during the entire procedure or air will be sucked back into the system.

If a major repair is in progress, it is simpler to bleed the system while the table top is off. Since there is no table weight, it is necessary to push down the elevation tube manually or by foot.

continued on page 4

from the PRESIDENT'S BOSS

Spring is here! It may be summer weather by the time you read this. But it's late April as I'm writing and trying to resist the urge to play hookey and go to the park, beach, mountains or anywhere outside. It's one of those magic days that used to be so common in Los Angeles — it's so clear the sky is blue instead of smoggy beige, you can see the mountains on all sides of the San Fernando Valley, the recent rains have made them green, and a warm breeze is blowing gently.

It all combines to make me feel real good, especially about being here at RPI, in Los Angeles, and most particularly in this country. Al and I spent some time during March in Israel. It was our first visit to the Holy Land and it was wonderful.

We covered the country from the Lebanese border and the Golan Heights to Eilat and the Red Sea and the Egyptian border, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordanian border. We even went into the Dead Sea in the rain.

Southern California is facing drought conditions this summer, so it was interesting to see what the Israelis have done with water recycling and drip irrigation. We can learn a lot from them. The country is far more beautiful and far greener than we had anticipated. However, it has more hills and rocks than we had imagined. And the reforestation that is being done is remarkable. They grow many of the same crops we grow here — citrus, avocados, nuts, tomatoes, a lot of fruit



Sherry Lapides, General Manager

trees, and some of the most beautiful flowers I've ever seen.

We found Jerusalem to be a fascinating city, marvelous to walk around, with so much history it was difficult to take it all in. We even got to see Jimmy Carter when he arrived at our hotel for a meeting.

We saw no violence while we were there, but never quite got used to seeing so many soldiers (and civilians) walking around with weapons over their shoulders. That was rather unsettling, to say the least, although we never felt any sense of danger. Nevertheless, it made us appreciate the freedoms we have here in the United States even more. Besides, the coffee here is much better!

We came home with a bad case of jet lag, but with many ideas for new parts and new or better ways of doing things. It's amazing how much brainstorming we can do when stuck on an airplane for as long as we were.

While we kept in touch by telephone, it was very nice, too, to know that we could go away for a couple of weeks and leave the business in such capable hands. We are fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated people to work with.

It was great to go, but it was even better to come home again.



My name is Tony Aguilar. I joined RPI in February, 1988. Prior to this I worked retail for five years, which gave me experience in warehouse work and merchandising.

I come from Bolivia, a country in South America. I came to the states in 1963. Most Latin families are large. Our is no exception. We're one complete dozen, six boys and six girls, of which I am the youngest, "the spoiled one."

Now I am the father of five children, three boys and two girls. The oldest will be graduating from high school this month and the youngest is in the first grade. The key to all this is Maria, who is my lovely wife. Without her it could not be possible.



Tony Aguilar

My hobbies are restoring vintage cars, raising doves and pigeons, coaching little league baseball, and soccer. And when I have time for myself, I enjoy sculpturing. I bet you're wondering how I find time for all these events. Well, my kids keep me young at heart and very happy.

Editors Note: Tony is Supervisor of Shipping and Receiving for RPI.

HELPFUL HINTS

Our thanks to Jim Filer of Bio-Medtronics in Columbus, Ohio for this hint:

RPI boxes are normally filled with both newspaper and foam peanuts. If you turn the box upside down when you open it, it is easy to remove the newspaper and the parts, and leave the foam packaging in the box so it doesn't fly all over.

Note: If you have noticed a green tint to the foam packaging lately, it's because we've changed material. We are now using "Sun-Pac," a photodegradable loose fill that breaks down to a fine dust when exposed to sunlight.

We would welcome any input from you, our readers, in the way of other helpful hints, new product suggestions, ideas for

future articles, questions, service tips, comments, or questions. Please send them to my attention.

Thanks,
Sherry Lapides

Our thanks again to Ivan Frank of Sienco Instrument Service Company in Denver for his book on the installation and maintenance of centrifuge motors. The many years of field experience Ivan has had really show up. It's the most detailed and complete information we've ever seen on this important subject. For those of you who haven't seen the book yet, it's yours for the asking when you place your next order with RPI.

FROM OUR CUSTOMERS

"Thank you for the quick service."

— John Robinson, Biomedical Equipment Service Co.
Salinas, California

Did You Know?

PERSONNEL NOTES & NEWS

A BIG RPI WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST EMPLOYEES



LISA JENSEN

Assembly and Shipping



KEVIN BOLT

Order Desk



VERONICA JARAMILLO

Order Desk, Order Entry

You've heard of trying to fit a round peg into a square hole. It doesn't work very well, does it? Our part #AMG006 gasket to fit the American Sterilizer Autoclaves #8816A and 8816M (page 11 in our current May 1989 catalog) is a similar case. This is a round gasket that does fit into a square door. The trick is to give the gasket a one-quarter turn so the flat side is down. It then fits nicely into the groove in the door.

The AMG005, which fits the older AMSCO Autoclave #8816, looks like the

gasket you need, but it's too thick. Trust us.

When we goof, we do a good job of it! There is still confusion concerning the seat and air valve housing assemblies to fit the Pelton & Crane OCM and OCR autoclaves. Gremlins switched illustrations in our catalog and the PCV057 and PCV059 drawings were reversed. Please refer to the price sheet dated February 1990 for corrected illustrations and further information.

You Asked For Them – You Got Them Your Opinion Counts!

In response to your requests we have added the following parts to our inventory, in stock and ready to be shipped today.

6 cables to fit Hewlett Packard EKG's, amplifiers, defibrillators, monitors, ultra sounds and telemetry units.

12 high usage parts to fit MDT autoclaves, models 4000, 5000, 5500, 6000, D.

4 additional parts to fit Pelton & Crane air compressors, model #'s 420-C and 840-C.

6 new parts to fit Puritan Bennett Ventilators, #MA-1 and MA-2.

7 more asked-for parts to fit the Ritter model FL type 75 exam table.

Please see the enclosed sheets for prices, pictures and descriptions.

What's Coming Up

Our next newsletter will be coming out in September. Look for these new parts, now in development.

AIR SHIELDS (Transport Incubators #'s C86 and C100)

fans, gaskets, heaters, latches, switches, temperature probes

COULTER (Cell Counters) chokes, latex diaphragms, pump diaphragms, 500 ml Lyse straws

GOMCO (Thermotic pumps #'s 764, 765, 765A)

bacteria filters, P.C. boards, tubing

HEWLETT PACKARD (EKG's 1500A, 1500B, 1511)

styli

MDT (Autoclaves 4000, 5000, 5500, 6000)

metering valve bodies, door gasket

PELTON & CRANE (Validator auto-clave 8 & 10)

door gaskets, spacer, switch, wire assembly, thermostat

SERVICE TIPS (con't.)

HOW MUCH OIL: Two quarts of oil is normally all the reservoir will hold. Dip sticks are not provided so the above audio and visual checks are needed. Rule of thumb says don't add oil unless you have discovered air in the system. One pint is usually all that is needed. Good luck next time out.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Dave has been servicing medical and laboratory equipment since 1961. He founded his own company in 1975. You may remember Dave and Techniserv as parents of Medi-Parts, which Dave closed in 1988. Techniserv specializes in the service of equipment for physicians, clinics, and veterinary hospitals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Dave is planning on selling Techniserv and semi-retiring in 1993 or 1994.*

Call Toll Free 1-800-221-9723 • FAX (818) 882-7028



replacement parts industries, inc.

"The Alternate Source"

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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