

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

**NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area**



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>

Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

**Facebook: New Providence Amateur Radio Club
(NPARC)**

December 2025

Volume 58 No. 12

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

at New Providence Municipal Bldg (3rd Floor)

**Dec 8 - The Impact of Amateur Radio
on KN2SIS/W2EWQ**

Dec 22 - No meeting.

Upcoming Events

**Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.030 MHz**

Check announcements in the Reflector for details.

Meeting Schedule

**Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
2nd & 4th Monday
of each month**
Watch for Emails

Everyone is Welcome

If a normal meeting night is a holiday,
we usually meet the following night.
Call one of the contacts below
or check the web site

Club Officers for 2025

President: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-615-1262
Secretary: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG, Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: N2TO, Kevin Glynn
917-885-4424

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency
145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net
Murray Hill Repeater (W2LI) at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
With PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control K2AL

Digital Net
Mondays 9 PM
28.084 — 28.086 MHz
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control KC2WUF

CW Training Net
Thursdays 9 PM
28.050 or 7.050 MHz
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: www.nparc.org
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - October 2025

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,
who has been recording daily weather events at his station
for the past 44 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp. this October, 80 F (October 5)
Last October(2024) maximum was 78 F.
Average Maximum temp this October, 63.5 F

Minimum temp this October, 37 F (October 28)
Last October(2024) minimum was 36 F.
Average Minimum temp this October, 47.7 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 3 F (55 - 52 F)10/13
Maximum diurnal temp range, 26 F(78 - 52 F)10/4

Average temp this October, 55.6 F
Average temp last October, 57.0 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this October – 4.34” rain
Total precipitation last October – Trace rain

Maximum one day precip. - Oct 30, 2.83” rain
Measurable rain fell on 9 days this October
0 days last October.

YTD Precipitation – 45.58 ” rain

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Rick Anderson 11/6/2025
243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908)464-8911
rick243@comcast.net
Lat = 40 degrees, 41.7 minutes North
Long = 74 degrees, 23.4 minutes West
Elevation: 380 ft.
CoCoRaHS Network Station #NJ-UN-10

December President's Report

Reflections and Updates from Your Radio Club President

As we approach the end of another exciting year for NPARC, I want to take a moment to reflect on our recent achievements, look ahead to new opportunities, and express my gratitude to every member who has contributed to our shared passion for amateur radio.

Celebrating Our Achievements

From a successful Field Day (2nd place, 2A NNJ Section), to participating in STEM community outreach events, to lively club meetings, your enthusiasm and dedication have helped us reach new heights. We welcomed new members KE2EZM, KE2FTA, K2PER, KE2GPG, KE2FKE and W2GLS. We celebrated our 60th anniversary as an incorporated club and made over 700 contacts with our special event station N2J over a two-week period in May in commemoration of the event.

Community and Camaraderie

One of the most rewarding aspects of our club is the sense of community we foster. Whether it's collaborating to solve technical challenges, supporting each other during contests, supporting our weekly NPARC nets, volunteering as an officer, or simply sharing stories over the airwaves, our club is a testament to the spirit of amateur radio. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and expertise—your efforts make a real difference.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, we have many exciting plans on the horizon. Winter Field Day is just around the corner, and I encourage everyone to participate, whether you're a seasoned pro or a newcomer eager to learn. Our Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, February 28 at the Salt Brook School Cafeteria. So, stay tuned for updates at our monthly meetings and on our club website.

Get Involved

Amateur radio thrives on participation! If you have ideas for activities, topics you'd like to see covered, or would like to help with club events, please reach out. Your input is always valued, and together, we can ensure our club remains vibrant and welcoming.

Our Holiday and Awards Luncheon

A reminder that our annual NPARC Holiday Luncheon is on Saturday, December 6 at the Village Tavern, 342 Valley Road, Gillette. It starts at 11:30AM. There is still time to make a reservation so contact Dave, K2YG, to make yours. Hope to see you there to join in the festivities. We plan on presenting some awards, including the coveted Wouff Hong Award.

Thank You

Finally, I want to thank all of you for continuing to make NPARC such a special club in 2025. Your passion for ham radio, curiosity, and generosity keeps our club strong. Wishing you and your families a joyful holiday season and great DX in the year ahead!

73,

Al Hanzl, K2AL

President, New Providence Amateur Radio Club

Popular Contests in November 2025

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Mode s	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
ARRL 160m Contest	Fri 12/5 5pm to Sun 12/7 11am,	CW	W/VE: rst + section DX: rst	QRP/LP/HP 160 Meters Only Rules: www.arrl.org
FT Challenge	Sat 12/6 1pm to Sun 12/7 7pm	FT8/ FT4	Signal Report + 4 Character Grid Square	QRP/LP 80-10 Meters Rules: www.rttycontesting.com
ARRL 10m Contest	Fri 12/12 7pm to Sun 12/14 7pm	CW Phone	W/VE/XE: rst + State/Prov DX: rst + serial #	QRP/LP/HP 10 Meters Only Rules: www.arrl.org
OK DX RTTY Contest	Fri 12/19 7pm to Sat 12/20 7pm	RTTY	RST + CQ Zone	LP/HP 80 – 10 meters Rules at: okrtty.crk.cz
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Sat 12/27 10am to Sun 12/28 10am	CW	4 Character Grid Square	QRP/LP/HP 160 m only. Rules at: www.kkn.net
ARRL Straight Key Night	Wed 12/31 7pm to Thu 1/1 7pm	CW	Not a contest. Just have a short or long rag chew.	All Bands incl WARC & 60m CW only, No score. Not a contest. Use a straight key or bug. www.arrl.org

Check www.contestcalendar.com or contest specific websites for more information on these and many other radio contests.

* State QSO Parties allow out-of-state stations to contact only in-state stations for that specific contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists. State qso parties begin again in February.

** No WARC or 60 meter bands in any contest.

There are many more contests every month including weekly and monthly repeating contests with a variety of abilities required, such as slow speed cw contests. For info on more contests, please check www.contestcalendar.com

For DX chasing, there are a number of free and paid subscription DX publications.

The ARRL DX Bulletin (weekly) is available Thursday evenings on air, or via e-mail (sign up required).

Receiving W1AW bulletins via e-mail is easy for **ARRL Members**: Go to your online [member profile](#) and select the categories of bulletins you wish to receive. **Non-ARRL members** can also receive W1AW bulletins via e-mail. Send an e-mail message to w1aw-list-request@arrl.org. **Subject:** Subscribe [your e-mail address]

DX World,Net has a free weekly bulletin. The website is at www.dx-world.net

The Daily DX (\$54/year) and The Weekly DX (\$30/year) are the best subscription DX publications available. More info at www.dailydx.com.

From Airwaves to Highways

Collecting Ham Radio Call Sign Plates

Ken Hanzl – W2IOC

Over the years, I've built a collection of license plates that proudly display ham radio call signs. To most people, a license plate is simply a way to identify a car. Each plate tells a story: of stations once or still alive with signals, and of operators bound together across the airwaves.

My display includes plates from across the United States, representing nearly every Amateur Radio call sign region (except Alaska). Among them is a New Jersey plate bearing the former call sign of K2AL, W2VF. Many of these plates go beyond the basics, incorporating creative designs with radio towers, lightning bolts/radio waves, and even Morse code woven into the artwork.

Some collectors take this pursuit to the next level. I know of one who has managed to gather first-issue ham radio plates from all 50 states—a remarkable achievement in dedication and persistence.

But these plates are more than just collectibles. They are emblems of connection. Just as our voices travel across continents, these plates travel the highways, quietly broadcasting our shared hobby to those who know how to read them. Each one is a handshake, a nod, and a reminder that the ham community is everywhere—whether on the air or on the road.



Ham Radio Trivia

Ken Hanzl – W2IOC

- The term “ham” was originally a nickname for amateur operators who were considered “ham-fisted” compared to professionals. Over time, it became a badge of honor.
- The first amateur radio license in the U.S. was issued in 1912, after Congress passed the Radio Act.
- The most licensed amateur radio operators are in the United States followed by Japan.
- The top five countries with the greatest per cent of the population who are hams are Slovenia, Japan, US, Canada followed by Denmark.
- Ham radio operators have communicated from some unusual places—including Mount Everest, the International Space Station, and even Antarctica.
- The longest recorded ham radio contact (DX) covered more than 12,000 miles, bouncing signals across the globe.