

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)**

VOLUME 54 NO. 2 February 2019

Regular Meetings

**3/11 & 3/25 Monday 7:30
DeCorso Community Center**

Upcoming Events

**New Providence Maker's Day event the afternoon of
March 23rd at the New Providence Library**

New Providence Memorial Day Parade

More information to follow as the date approaches

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
NP Senior & Adult Center
15 East Forth Street
New Providence

Informal Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
4th Monday of each month
Same location

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 2018

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-406-6914
Vice President: K2GLS Bob Willis
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KA2MPG Brian Lynch
973-738-7322

—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
First & Third Mondays 9 PM
28,084 — 28,086
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2UI, Jim

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Contributing Editors:
WB2QQQ Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for January 2019

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2QQQ, who has been recording daily
weather events at his station for the past
38 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this January, 57 deg. F
(January 24)

Last January (2017) maximum was 62 deg.
F.

Average Maximum temperature this January,
37.1 deg. F

Minimum temperature this January, +1 deg. F
(January 31)

Last January (2017) minimum was -1 deg. F.

Average Minimum temperature this January,
23.9 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 6 deg.
(41-35 deg.) 1/2

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 29 deg.
(33-4 deg.) 1/29

Average temperature this January, 30.5 deg.
F

Average temperature last January, 28.8 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this January - 3.93"
rain/melted snow; 2.1" snow.

Total precipitation last January - 3.04"
rain/melted snow; 7.1" snow. 3.04" rain/
melted snow

Maximum one day precip. event this January -
January 24, 1.36" rain

Measurable rain fell on 6 days this January,
5 days last January.

Measurable snow fell on 5 days this January,
4 days last January.

YTD Precipitation - 3.93"

=====
Rick Anderson
2/9/19

243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908) 464-8912

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

NPARC Members Receive 2018 CQ-WE Contest Certificates

At the February 11th NPARC meeting Ken Hanzl W2IOC presented the 2018 CQ-WE certificates and gave a recap of last November's CQ-WE contest. Started in 1959 this contest is now open to all active and ex-Bell System employees and non-Bell employees. Club members Al, Ken and Lauryn Hanzl and Al and Ken's sister Joan Sommer designed the award and participation certificates. Western Electric Kearny Works was chosen as this year's host location and was incorporated into the certificate's design. The WECO Kearny factory was active for 63 years from 1923 to 1986. The 3 million square foot facility was located on 145 acres that were originally marshlands between the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers. During its peak production years following World War II, this factory employed over 24,000 people. It was during those war years that Western Electric switched much of its commercial telecommunications equipment production to the manufacture of military products. By the end of the war it produced over half of the radar systems used by the Allies.

On the back page of the certificate, the design team included a connection among the Kearny location, ham radio and the Hanzl family's ham radio legacy. Amateur radio licenses have been held by three generations of Hanzls dating back to 1934. The two holders of call sign W2IOC, (SK) Al Hanzl, Sr. and his son Ken Hanzl had a total of 75 years of Bell System service. Counting a silent key uncle, the Hanzl clan has held amateur radio licenses for 165 years. Now that's a lot of air time and QSO's!

For this 59th CQ-WE contest, there were 61 participants of which our club had 9 competitors. Our club represented four different Bell locations: Whippany had 3 contesters and AT&T HQ, Bellcore and Kearny had one each. Two of our members won 3 of the 7 available top awards. Al Hanzl, K2AL who for the contest was 11th highest in points and top scorer in our club, won High Digital Score and High Non-Bell Score. David Barr K2YG won the High QRP Score. Award certificates were presented during the meeting to these winners. Ken W2IOC also presented participation certificates to members; Andy Meyer N2FYE, Scott Foster K5PBJ, Rick Anderson WB2QOQ, Paul Wolfmeyer W2PTP, Jim Stekas K2UI and Dave Bean KC2WUF. Ken W2IOC was also a contest participant. Our Bell and Non-Bell participants can all be very proud of the way they represented our club in this contest. Without a doubt, these participants are looking forward to contacting others on the bands for the 2019 CQ-WE contest and would like to see an increase in our club participation... nine and counting !



President's Column February 2019

I missed getting a column done for January, so let me start with last month. Barry, K2JV, coordinated and ran an excellent Kids Day on January 5th. Kids were active and engaged on VHF and Morse Code learning. HF conditions were not great, as can be expected with the sunspot cycle, but there were good attempts!! And Sam's displays certainly showed the contact possibilities of ham radio. And the pizza was good...(thanks Don, N2SLS)...thanks to all who participated either at the Center or remotely...

Now we're fresh off a successful auction on February 23rd. I will plagiarize my "thank you" message on the reflector (with a bit of editing):

"...We had paid attendance of 92, auctioned lots of equipment, sold some excellent donations, sold all the food, and...**everyone seemed to have a good time!** A couple of our members even labelled it "spectacular"..."

It was good to have our Hudson Division Director, Ria Jairam, N2RJ, in attendance. Equipment donations from Jim Brown, WB2EDO, Ron McConnell, W2IOL, and others also benefitted the coffers..."

Our Treasurer's analysis shows every seller sold at least one item—so those who lugged gear in went home with some satisfaction from it! Dave's, K2YG, analysis also shows Saturday worked well again with proceeds comparable to last year. We do still need to get the bill for janitorial service/coverage.

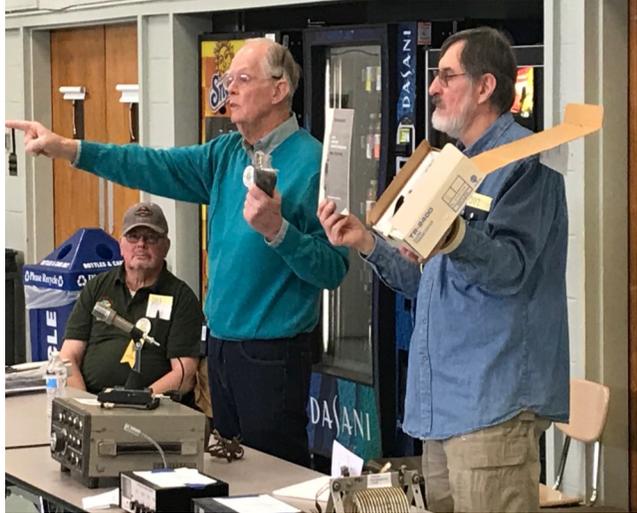
"Particular thanks to Al for Publicity, Billie for announcements, Rick for signs, Jon for pictures, Joe for auctioneering, Sam and David (WUF) for food, David (YG) for "cashiering, etc", food table staffers (W2IOC and KD2JRI) and the "handlers" (N2JU, KD2EKN, KB2FCV, and WB2QOQ). And there were lots of club members "at the ready" to pitch in"-- and pitching in!!... Members of our club step up well to the tasks—thanks!!

So next is the New Providence Maker's Day event the afternoon of March 23rd at the New Providence Library...Barry K2JV and Kevin N2TO are the leads—but they'll need our assistance—stay tuned...

Thanks again,

73 for now
Wolf
W2PTP
201-404-6914 or W2PTP@arrl.net

Auction 2019



Auctioneers at work



Admissions



Cashiers



The most important part
The audience

Junk Box Treasures

Jim Stekas - K2UI

Once upon a time, every QST contained a Collins ad on the inside front cover featuring an impeccable shack filled with Collins gear. One could imagine the owners large boat vaguely visible through the back window. Occasionally the featured shack was actually *on* the boat and one was left to wonder how splendid the home shack must be.

When the time came for me to take my novice exam, my buddies arranged for me to take it at the home of a local OM. His name and 1x3 call are long forgotten, but his shack remains a vivid memory. He lived right on the channel that separates Atlantic Beach from Long Island, and he operated from a Florida room overlooking the water. The operating position was a large wooden desk with a phone, KWM-2¹, 30L-1 linear, a microphone, and Vibroplex paddle. A station worthy of the inside cover of QST.

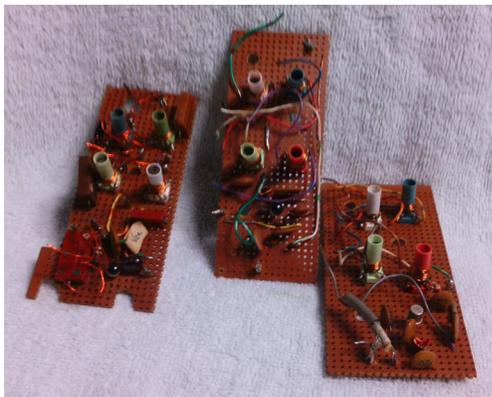
Where do these hams hide their collections of radio treasures accumulated over a lifetime? Their shacks remind me of a NY Times styles supplement showing 1200 sq-ft master bedrooms with a bed, a chair and a glass night table with a chrome lamp. Who lives like that? Where are the books? Magazines? Crossword puzzles? USB wall chargers? Family photos?

My basement “shack” has finally lost its long battle with my “junk box” and had to move to new quarters in a my son's old bedroom. What remains in what I now call my “lab” are the miscellaneous parts accumulated over 40 years for projects conceived but never realized. Here is a taste ...

To the right is a large center tapped coil with a two turn link from a WW2 era military transmitter. The ceramic insulator was cracked when I acquired it but after applying a bit of glue its ready to be become the foundation for an 80m balanced tuner. Or perhaps QSL card holder ...



In the meantime, the Moiré patterns made by the coiled wires are nice to look at. It stays.



Some things in the junk box are from projects that came very close to fruition but ended up abandoned. On the left are RF, mixer, and oscillator boards for a 4-band SW receiver I was building. It dates from the late 70's and the height of my love affair with the 2N4416 JFET.

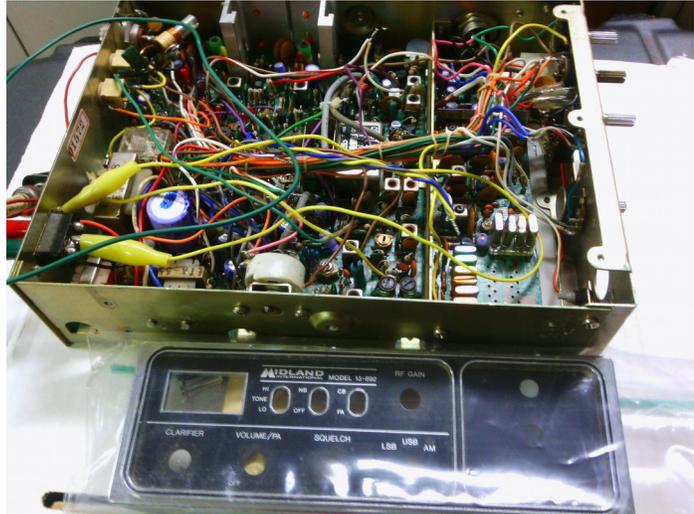
Note the colorful coil forms from Radio Shack. A blister pack full were just a few bucks, and I still have a plentiful supply. Unlike toroids, they *can* be adjusted.

¹ Nothing in hamdom has aged so well as the Collins S-line. Modern gear may out perform it, but nothing comes close esthetically. Even the *inside* of a KWM-2 is beautiful!



The switch at the left is a 3 x 7 pole beauty I picked up on Canal St. over 40 years ago. I planned on building a multiple band SW receiver around it. Every day that goes by I am 24hrs closer to completing that radio.

One project that got in the way of my SWL projects was the SSB CB transceiver on the right. My uncle gave it to me around the time of the 1980 sunspot cycle and my intent was to convert it to 10m or 15m.



So far I've missed three sunspot cycles but I have a good feeling about the next one that is about to start any minute now. I'm more optimistic now that cheap DDS oscillators are available. (I've got a few DDS in the junk box too!)

Back around 1980 there was an article in Ham Radio magazine describing a fully synthesized SSB transceiver with 100dB dynamic range. What an incredible homebrew project! I picked up some



multi-segment LED displays (left) for the frequency readout of my digital transceiver. The builder was Ulrich Rhode, who turned out to be the Rhode of Rhode & Schwarz, the German HP. I guess his lab had more than a grid dip meter and Micronta frequency counter.

The demise of Radio Shack resulted in a tremendous influx of bargains which will easily take another 40 years to get to. Fortunately, I was able to pick up a couple of their 7-drawer parts cabinets. These very practical souvenirs now keep a large quantity of my most valued stuff well organized. Sometimes I can actually find something I am looking for!

