

# **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)**

**January 2026**

**Volume 59 No. 1**

## **Regular Meetings**

**Second & Fourth Mondays  
at Salt Brook School**

Jan 12 - Dr. Rebecca Mercuri, K3RPM  
The MORE Project.

Jan 26 - Auction planning and WFD recap

## **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

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## Club Officers for 2026

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: KC2OSR, Sam Sealy  
973-462-2014

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## 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](http://www.nparc.org)  
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Contact K2AL, Al

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas  
Contributing Editors:  
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

## Climatological Data for New Providence - November 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 November, 65 F (November 5)  
Last November(2024) maximum was 77 F.  
Average Maximum temp this November, 52.2 F

Minimum temp this November, 28 F (November 30)  
Last November(2024) minimum was 25 F.  
Average Minimum temp this November, 37.0 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 9 F (39 - 30 F)11/11  
Maximum diurnal temp range, 23 F(65 - 42 F)11/5

Average temp this November, 44.6 F  
Average temp last November, 47.5 F

### PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this November – 4.49” rain, trace of snow  
Total precipitation last November – 3.59” rain

Maximum one day precip. - November 25, 0.81” rain  
Measurable rain fell on 10 days this November  
9 days last November.

YTD Precipitation – 48.07 ” rain

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Rick Anderson	12/7/2025
243 Mountain Ave.	
New Providence, NJ	
(908)464-8911	
<a href="mailto:rick243@comcast.net">rick243@comcast.net</a>	
Lat = 40 degrees, 41.7 minutes North	
Long = 74 degrees, 23.4 minutes West	
Elevation: 380 ft.	
CoCoRaHS Network Station #NJ-UN-10	

## January President's Report

As we step into the new year, I want to extend my gratitude to all NPARC members for your continued dedication and enthusiasm. January brings a fresh slate of activities and opportunities to connect, learn, and serve our community through amateur radio.

### Winter Field Day

We are gearing up for Winter Field Day, which promises to be both a fun and challenging event. I encourage everyone to participate, whether on the air, assisting with setup, or helping with logistics. This is an excellent opportunity to test our emergency preparedness and enjoy camaraderie in the colder months. We have reserved the Salt Brook School Cafeteria for Saturday, January 24, with set-up scheduled to start at 9AM. We will use the Club's FT-710 radios. More details to follow.

### Club Officers for 2026

Our newly elected club officers are eager to serve and guide NPARC through another successful year. Please join me in congratulating and supporting them as they take on their respective roles. Their leadership and commitment are vital to the club's ongoing success.

- President and Secretary: K2AL
- Vice President: W2EMC
- Treasurer: K2YG
- Activities Chair: KC2OSR

### Holiday Luncheon and Awards

The recent holiday luncheon was a tremendous success, with great food, lively conversation, and festive spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event, particularly K2YG, KC2OSR and K2DAM, and thanks to all those who attended. It's always wonderful to celebrate our achievements and build friendships within the club. Congratulations to the following members for being honored with awards:

- K2PER: 2025 Rookie of the Year
- K2DAM: 2025 Ham of the Year
- KB2FCV: The 2025 Woufff Hong Award

### Looking Ahead

In the coming months, we will be rolling out new programs and activities. Our January 12 meeting will feature Dr. Rebecca Mercuri, K3RPM, with a presentation on the MORE Project. We will also start solidifying plans for our annual NPARC Auction taking place on Saturday, February 28. Stay tuned for updates in our newsletter and at upcoming meetings.

The ARRL has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club. We hope to use this special designation to highlight our club's legacy, foster even greater member engagement, and introduce new initiatives that celebrate amateur radio and community service. Let us know your ideas on how we can help NPARC celebrate this initiative.

Finally, 73 and my sincere wishes for a Happy New Year, good DX and enduring health in 2026.

Al Hanzl, K2AL

## Holiday Luncheon Awards

James Kern, KB2FCV, was awarded the prestigious Wouff Hong Award for 2025. Sam, KC2OSR, presents James with his Wouff Hong award and pin.



K2PER, Paul Rapps, 2025 NPARC "Rookie of the Year. Paul was an integral part of Field Day and other NPARC activities.



K2DAM, Don Madson, receives his 2025 NPARC Ham of the Year award from K2AL. Don has been our official greeter and photographer at Field Day and is very active on HF and FT8, working lots of DX with 5 watts and an indoor antenna.



Norma Cohen, XYL of Barry K2JV (SK), was our guest at the luncheon.



## Popular Contests in January 2026

**Dave Barr – K2YG**

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Mode s	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Sat 1/3 1pm to Sun 1/4 7pm	RTTY only (No FT)	W/VE: RST+State or Province DX: RST + Serial	80-10 meters** QRP/LP/HP More at <a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
Kids Day	Sat 1/3 1pm to 7pm	SSB	Name, Age and QTH plus Favorite Color.	80-2 meters** 2 mtr repeaters OK. Not a contest. No categories or logs. More at: <a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
NA QSO Party CW	Sat 1/10 1pm to 1am (Sun)	CW	Name + State or Province Non NA: Name	160-10 meters** QRP & LP Only KH6, KL7 and DC included in state list. Info at: <a href="http://NCJWEB">NCJWEB</a>
NA QSO Party SSB	Sat 1/17 1pm to 1am (Sun)	SSB	Name + State or Province Non NA: Name	160-10 meters** QRP & LP Only KH6, KL7 and DC included in state list. Info at: <a href="http://NCJWEB">NCJWEB</a>
ARRL Jan VHF Contest	Sat 1/17 2pm to Sun 1/18 11pm	ALL	Four Character Grid Square	Bands: 50mhz & above More info at: <a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a>
CQ 160 M CW Contest	Fri 1/23 5pm to Sun 1/25 5pm	CW	RST + State/Prov DX: RST-CQ zone	160 m only QRP/LP/HP Rules at: <a href="http://CQ160">CQ160</a>
BARTG RTTY Sprint	Sat 1/24 7am to Sun 1/25 7am	RTTY	Serial # only. (No RST)	80-10 meter** QRP/LP/HP More at: <a href="http://bartg.org.uk">bartg.org.uk</a>
Winter Field Day***	Sat 1/24 11am to Sun 1/25 5pm	ALL	Category (#TX & <u>I</u> ndoor/ <u>O</u> utdoor/ <u>H</u> ome or <u>M</u> obile) + ARRL/RAC Sec	All Bands** QRP & LP only See rules at: <a href="http://Winter FD">Winter FD</a>

Check [www.contestcalendar.com](http://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 state's contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists. State qso parties begin again in February.

\*\* No WARC bands in any contest.

\*\*\* NPARC plans to enter Winter Field Day from Salt Brook School. Contact K2AL for details.

# Two QTH's, One Hobby: Expanding My Ham Radio World

## *Ken Hanzl – W2IOC*

My amateur radio life stretches across two call districts—W2 land in Montville, NJ, and W1 land in Barnard, VT. The two QTHs sit about 300 miles apart, and together they give me a unique advantage during state QSO parties. When operators are hunting New Jersey, I'm on the air from Montville. When Vermont becomes the rare one, I switch to the hills of Barnard. Each QTH brings its own challenges and opportunities to explore the bands in new ways.

Both stations are outfitted identically with ICOM-746 Pro transceivers running 100 watts and fan dipole antennas at about 50 feet. Montville adds a trap dipole, a 160-meter dipole, and a dedicated 2-meter rig for local and regional activity, while the Vermont station enjoys a natural edge at 2,000 feet above sea level. It's a reminder that sometimes height really is might.

I also team up with my brother K2AL at the Vermont QTH for annual contests—proof that family can be a great multiplier.

Operating from two distinct locations has expanded my enjoyment of amateur radio and sharpened my contesting strategy. It keeps me active in multiple state events, gives me a deeper appreciation for propagation differences, and allows me to stay connected to two communities I care about. Whether I'm calling CQ from suburban New Jersey or from the mountains of Vermont, the excitement of radio never changes.

73, W2IOC and W2IOC/1  
Ken Hanzl

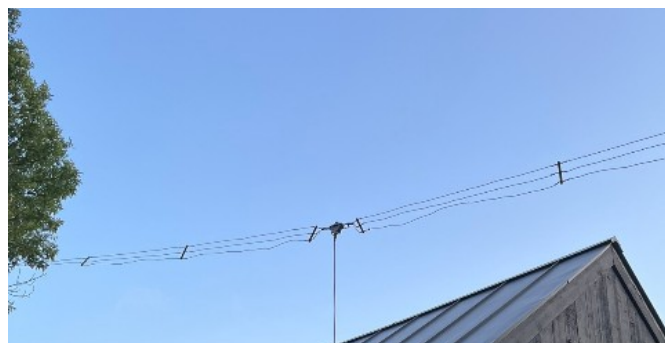
### **W2IOC Montville NJ Shack**



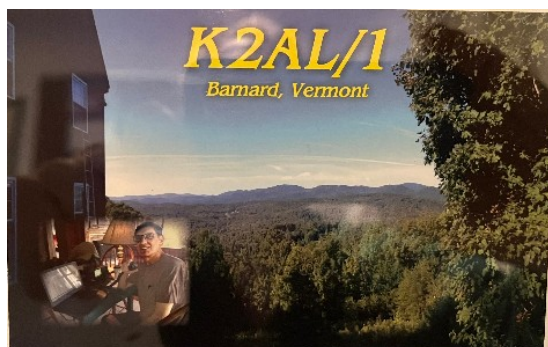
### **W2IOC/1 Barnard VT Shack**



**Vermont Fan Dipole Antenna**



**K2AL/1 QSL Card - Contesting in VT**



**W2IOC and W2IOC/1 QSL Cards**



**VT QTH at 2000 ft**

