

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. 7 July 2019

**Regular Meetings
8/12 & 8/26 Monday 7:30
DeCorso Community Center**

Upcoming Events

This year's TCS New York City Marathon is set for Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Contact Tim Farrell, KD2EKN, for full information.

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
**2nd & 4th Monday
of each month** at the
NP Senior & Adult Center
15 East Forth Street
New Providence

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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Contributing Editors:
WB2OOQ Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for June 2019

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2OOQ, who has been recording daily
weather events at his station for the past
38 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this June, 91 deg. F
(June 29)
Last June (2018) maximum was 95 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this June, 79.5
deg. F
Minimum temperature this June, 53 deg. F
(June 4)
Last June (2018) minimum was 52 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this June, 64.1
deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 5 deg.
(73-68 deg.) 6/18
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 23 deg.
(84-61 deg.) 6/23

Average temperature this June, 71.8 deg. F
Average temperature last June, 72.2 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this June - 7.56" rain
Total precipitation last June - 2.20" rain
Maximum one day precip. event this June -
June 21, 1.57" rain
Measurable rain fell on 11 days this June,
16 days last June.

YTD Precipitation - 33.74"
Season to Date Snowfall - 23.3" (11/16/18-
3/31/19)

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Rick Anderson
7/11/19
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

President's Column July 2019

Hope your summer is going well.

Over the last few years, we have had a practice of very limited distribution of our club roster. However, this “works against us” in encouraging members to talk to other members when they need “ham” assistance. One of the real benefits to club membership is other members being willing and able to share expertise. The Executive Committee has talked this through. So we will soon be publishing a member roster with limited contact info and will plan to issue it yearly (after renewal period). We would ask you **NOT** to share it outside the club in respect to privacy.

Second, dates for your calendar:

September 9—first fall meeting—Ria N2RJ will be with us to do her SDR presentation.

December 7—first Saturday in December—our holiday party!!

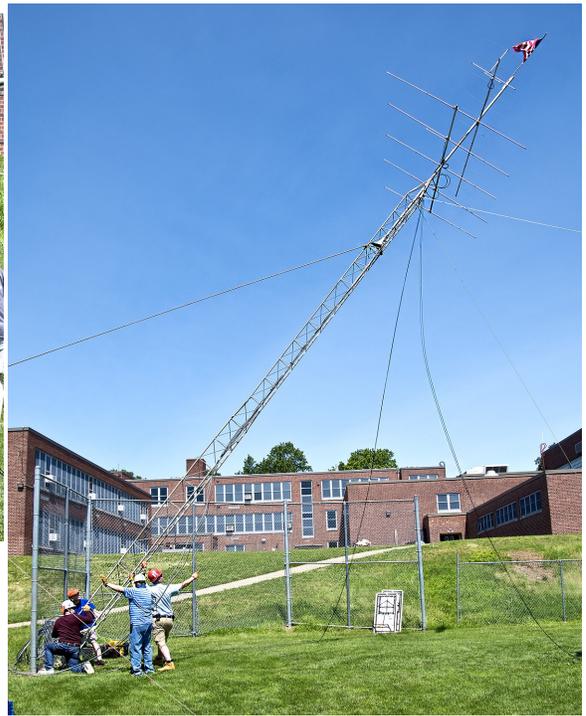
We were all saddened this past month by the death of James Brown WB2EDO. He was always a bright enthusiastic participant when he could attend club meeting and active in our auctions, both selling equipment and selling food at the food table. We will miss his friendly nature and his very firm handshake as well. The club observed a “moment of silence” at our July 8 meeting and have sent a card to his wife.

73 for now

Wolf W2PTP, 201-404-6914, w2ptp@arrl.net



Tower starting up



Half way up



Final tie off



The entrance



Second antenna support



HF1 station



HF1 station



GOTA Station



Lunch time



Supper time

Meta Review

Jim Stekas - K2UI

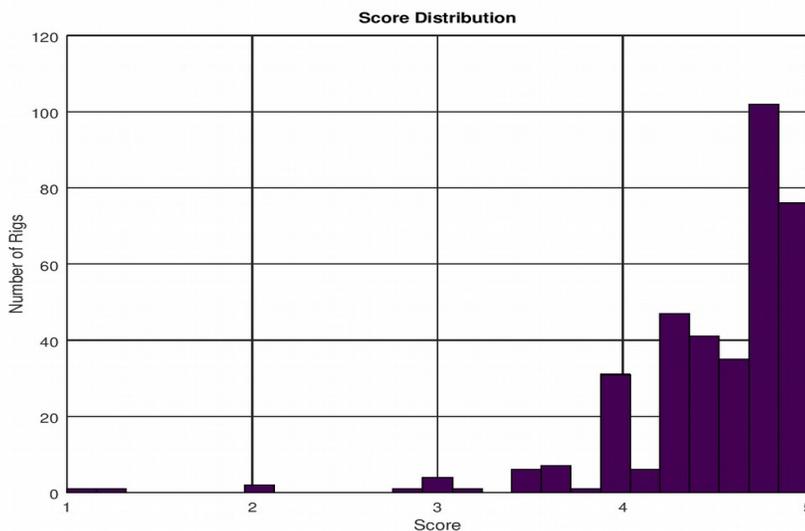
Before the explosion of the Internet reviewers were generally knowledgeable professionals who published their reviews in print and broadcast media. Siskel and Ebert became famous for their weekly movie reviews which culminated in summary a thumbs up or thumbs down. Whatever their recommendation, their tastes and commentary were pretty well calibrated and you ended up with a good sense of which movies *you* should or shouldn't see.

Today everyone is a reviewer on-line, rating products, movies, books, people, ideas, restaurants, professors, vacation spots, ... Generally there are two elements to a review: the rating (1-5) and written review that supports the rating. Few on-line reviewers are expert on whatever it is they are offering an opinion. But generally their review will reflect their knowledge and thoughtfulness, or lack thereof, and it is possible to read between the lines and figure out whether something is worth your time or money.

In my experience reviews fall into three different categories:

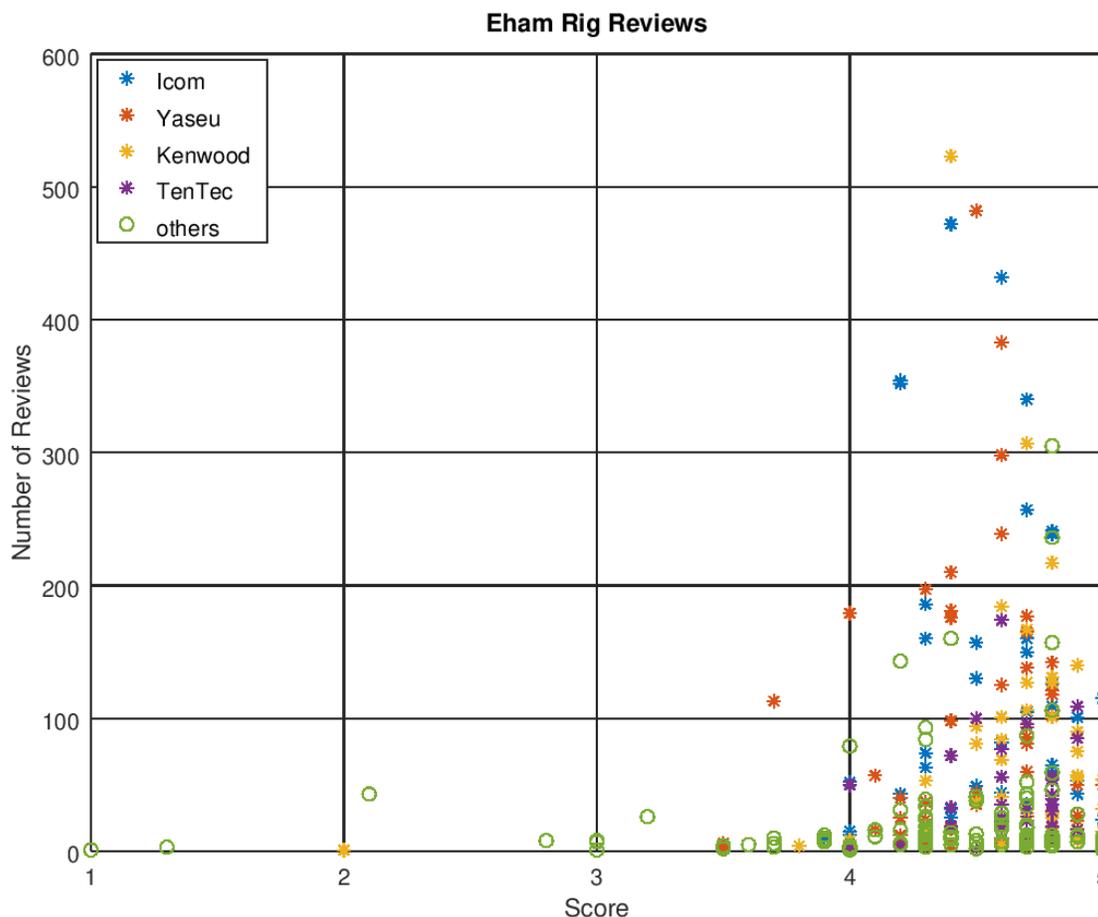
1. Very high ratings from who bought something, like it, and don't care how it stacks up against the competition. Generally, people tend fall in deeply love with their own stuff.
2. Very low ratings from people who expected something different from what they ordered or had it delivered DOA.
3. Thoughtful reviews by knowledgeable people who know what they are buying and how it should work. These are the reviews that are the most helpful.

In the ham radio world eHam.com is the place where we go to enter reviews of ham equipment. Enter any rig into Google and the eHam.com review will be high up on the first page of hits. Although the folks who post reviews on eHam.com tend to be fairly knowledgeable the reviews tend to fall into the three categories described above. The HF Transceiver section of eHam lists about 360 different "rigs", along with there average rating (1-5), manufacturer, and price (what someone paid at some unknown date.) The plot below shows the average rating (score) for each of the HF rigs in the table.



Note that the distribution of scores is heavily skewed to the high end, which reflects the “we love our stuff” tendency. There are about 50 rigs that have an a score of 5.0, but 40 of them have only 5 reviews. The Icom IC-732 has a score of 5.0 above the Elecraft K3 with a score of 4.8, but that isn’t a fair indication given that the K3 score is based on 236 reviews while the IC-732 has only a single review.

The figure below shows a scatter plot of all the “rigs” in the HF Transceiver table. The first thing to note is that the bulk of the rigs score in the 4-5 range, a clear reflection of the “we love our stuff” effect. The larger the number of reviews, the less statistically likely a rig is to score a 5.0. The rig with highest number of reviews (115) and a 5.0 score is the IC-751A, a radio many hams developed a crush on, but not a radio better than the K3.



All the rigs scoring less than 4 tend to have too few reviews to be statistically significant with one exception: the Eico 753 Tribander. There is a strong consensus that this is the worst rig ever produced and it gets a 2.1 score averaged over 43 reviews.

Popular subjects of debate among hams are “which brands do hams like the most” and “who makes the best radios”. The table below is ordered by the number of reviews, a crude measure of popularity. Icom barely edges out Yaesu in this weird popularity contest.

Manuf	Reviews	Rigs	Score
Icom	5158	51	4.56
Yaesu	5064	70	4.54
Kenwood	3364	49	4.67
Ten-Tec	1332	31	4.65
Elecraft	775	6	4.80
FlexRadio	496	11	4.66
Alinco	364	11	4.35
Heathkit	223	15	4.26

Turning to quality, we sort by score, and find that Elecraft is at the top with a clear lead with the rest of the pack. Kenwood, Drake, Flex and Ten-Tec follow in a virtual tie for 2nd.,

Manuf	Reviews	Rigs	Score
Elecraft	775	6	4.80
Kenwood	3364	49	4.67
Drake	109	6	4.67
FlexRadio	496	11	4.66
Ten-Tec	1332	31	4.65
Icom	5158	51	4.56
Yaesu	5064	70	4.54
Alinco	364	11	4.35