

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)**

September 2024

Volume 57 No. 9

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
at New Providence Municipal Center**

**September 9 - QSL How-To from NJDXA
September 23 - TBA**

Upcoming Events

**Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.050 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 2024

President: K2UI, Jim Stekas
908-868-4970
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2OSR, Sam Sealy
973-635-8966

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: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974
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Editor Emeritus: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Acting Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - July 2024

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,
who has been recording daily weather events at his station
for the past 43 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp. this July, 99 F (July 16)
Last July(2023) maximum was 93 F.
Average Maximum temp this July, 88.5 F

Minimum temp this July, 61 F (July 1,2)
Last July(2023) minimum was 61 F.
Average Minimum temp this July, 69.6 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 11 F (83 - 72 F) 7/24
Maximum diurnal temp range, 25 F(99 - 74 F) 7/16

Average temp this July, 79.1 F
Average temp last July, 77.3 F

Two heat waves in July:
7/6 – 10, 5 days, with max of 95 degs;
7/14 – 17, 4 days, with max of 99 degs.

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this July— 2.66” rain
Total precipitation last July— 5.8” rain

Maximum one day precip. - July 17, 0.97” rain.
Measurable rain fell on 15 days this July
11 days last July.

YTD Precipitation – 29.68”

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Rick Anderson 8/16/2024
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

President's Column

September marks the start of the school year and a return to our traditional meeting location at Salt Brook School. Our first meeting at Salt Brook will be on September 9 at 7:30pm. John Stoneman, KC2THY, from the NJDXA will talk about the art of QSL-ing in the 21st century.

Fall not only brings the promise of better weather, it also heralds the start of the contest season, and we have two good ones coming up:

- The NJ QSO Party on Sept 21, and
- The CQ WW RTTY contest. On the final weekend of September.

Hope to see a good NPARC turnout for the NJ QSO Party.

For our final meeting of August, Sam Sealy (KC2OSR) arranged for NPARC to be given a private tour of the Bell Labs museum. Check out Al's (K2AL) article in this issue.

Lately, the Thursday CW net has been starting off on 40m to allow members to exercise their Cricket transceivers. Operation with the Cricket has been a bit of a challenge: low power, poor filtering, and no frequency adjustment. Dave, K2YG, runs the net from his K4 and it's narrow digital filter make it easy for him to miss a Cricket that is off frequency. After chasing Crickets around the 7030 Khz neighborhood we have just about settled on 7029.5 Khz as a good net frequency. This keeps us all within 500 Hz of each other while maintaining good beat notes for the Crickets.

73,

Jim – K2UI

Popular Contests in September 2024

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
Tennessee QSO Party	9/1 Sun 1-11pm	CW Phone Digi	TN: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP All Bands except WARC Rules: tnqp.org
WAE DX SSB	9/13 Fri 8pm to 9/15 Sun 8pm	SSB	RS/Serial Number Optional QTCs.	LP/HP 80-10 m Rules: www.darc.de
ARRL Sept VHF	9/14 Sat 2pm to 9/15 Sun 11pm	All	4 Character Grid Square	LP/HP 6 Meters and above. Rules: www.arrl.org
Iowa QSO Party	9/21 Sat 10am – 10 pm	CW Phone Digi	IA: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP All bands but WARC & 60m Rules: www.w0yl.com
New Jersey QSO Party	9/21 Sat 10am – 10 pm	CW Phone Digi	NJ: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP//LP(150)/HP 80 thru 10 m, no WARC Rules: NJQP
Texas QSO Party	9/21 Sa 10am-10pm 9/22 Su 10am-4pm	All	TX: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP All bands except WARC Rules: www.txqp.net
Wash. State Salmon Run QSOP	9/21 Sat 12n-3am 9/22 Sun 12n-8pm	CW Phone	WA: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP 160-6 m. no WARC or 60m Rules: salmonrun.wwdxc.org
New Hampshire QSO Party	9/21 Sat 12n-12m 9/22 Su 8am-6pm	CW Phone Digi	NH: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 m No WARC or 60 m. Rules: w1wqm.org
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY	9/27 Fri 8pm to 9/29 Sun 8pm	RTTY	W/VE rst/zone/state-prov	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 m, No WARC or 60 m Rules: www.cqwwrtty.com
Maine QSO Party	9/28 Sat 8am to 9/29 Sun 8am	CW Phone	ME: rs(t) + County Non: rs(t) + state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 m. No WARC/60 m Rules: www.ws1sm.com

* 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.

** No WARC 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. Check www.contestcalendar.com or contest specific websites for more information.

Bell Labs Museum Tour

Al Hanzl – K2AL

Twenty members of NPARC were treated to a private tour of the Bell Labs Museum in Murray Hill for the August 26th Club meeting.

Among some of the exhibits presented were the first telephone of Alexander Graham Bell, the first television, fax machine and laser, the trans-Atlantic ocean cable, Telstar and a discussion about the birth of radio astronomy and the discovery of the cosmic microwave background- the echo of the Big Bang.

Thanks to Gary Steitz, KD2VYZ, for setting up the tour and to Sam, KC2OSR, our activities manager.

Al, K2AL



NPARC members pose in front of the bust of Alexander Graham Bell at the Bell Labs Museum (N6JIV photo)

Skeeter Hunt 2024

Al Hanzl – K2AL

Several NPARC members took their radios into the field and participated in the 2024 QRP Skeeter Hunt, sponsored by the NJ QRP Club, which took place on Sunday, August 18.

I set up my end fed dipole and K1 in my backyard and made 20 contacts in 9 states, working down to Florida and into the Midwest.

Al, K2AL

