

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 52 NO. 4 April 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Day Parade 5/29

Details inside

Field Day

6/24—6/25

Regular Meetings

5/8 & 5/22

Mondays at 7:30

DeCorso Community Center

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 Project 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 2017

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-404-6914
Vice President: K2GLS Bob Willis
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: AC2GL David Hartman
908-665-1419

—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 and Third Mondays
28,084—28,086 kHz
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net Control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster K2MUN David Berkley
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2UI, Jim

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974
©NPARC 2010 All Rights Reserved
Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Contributing Editors:
WB2000 Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for March 2017

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2000, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for the
past 35 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this March, 70 deg. F
(March 1)
Last March (2016) maximum was 80 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this March, 47.2
deg. F
Minimum temperature this March, 11 deg. F
(March 5)
Last March (2016) minimum was 21 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this March, 27.6
deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 5 deg.
(42-37 deg.) 3/31
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 31 deg.
(61-30 deg.) 3/2
Average temperature this March, 37.4 deg. F
Average temperature last March, 46.7 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March - 4.81" rain/
melted snow; 10.7" snow
Total precipitation last March - 1.55" rain/
melted snow; 1.4" snow;
Maximum one day precip. event this March -
March 14, 8.0" snow/sleet.
Measurable rain fell on 9 days this March, 7
days last March.
Measurable snow fell on 2 days this March, 3
days last March.

YTD Precipitation - 11.46" (includes rain +
melted snow; 22.25" snow as of 3/31/17)

=====
Rick Anderson
4/22/17

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 April 2017

It was wonderful at March meetings to see new members and several visitors/potential members! Our new member Henry Keppler got his Technician license—congratulations.

The Memorial Day parade in New Providence is coming—let Rick Anderson WB8QOQ know if you can march. It's a nice walk down Springfield Avenue and advertises the club.

Mark your calendars for Field Day—June 24 and 25. We plan to be at Governor Livingston High again and our operations will include digital modes at one of the HF stations and GOTA (get on the air). GOTA is a way for new hams and prospective hams to get on the air with coaching right there. So plan to be there and operate.

Speaking of digital modes, the digital net is operating again on first and third Mondays at 9 PM. We are limiting it to PSK31 and RTTY at this time to encourage more people to join. I found the ARRL pub “Get on the Air with HF Digital” very helpful and done in a step by step approach. It is dependent on what rig you are using—I'd suggest Dave K2YG, David KC2WUF, Al K2AL, or Bob K2GLS as possible mentors—talk to them or to me.

Finally—get your QSLS for “pooling” to Sam KC2OSR.

73 for now

Wolf

W2PTP

201-404-6914 or W2PTP@arrl.net

New Providence Memorial Day Parade

NPARC members are invited to participate in this years Memorial Day Parade, taking place on Monday, May 29. Our club has annually participated in this town event, for as long as I can recall; and a decent attendance in this club activity is requested. This is the one public event where hundreds of town's people get to see the club members, and a good attendance is most welcomed. Last year there was a small participation in our parade unit. As in past years, we request members to initially meet in the New Providence Memorial Library parking lot at 9:25 a.m., and we will truck pool over to our starting position on Central Avenue.

Suggested dress code is white shirt, blue slacks, NPARC yellow cap, and of course your 2 meter HT, tuned to club frequency.

Our unit will walk the parade route, down Springfield Ave., between Central Ave. and Academy St. Please consider taking part in this community event. Please contact Rick, WB2QOQ, if you will be participating in the parade or have questions. rick243@comcast.net; (908) 464-8911. Thanks Much !

Extreme SOTA

Jim Stekas - K2UI

Most hams have hobbies and interests outside of hams radio and have often found ways to combine them with ham radio. Remote control of model planes was an early combination of two hobbies that motivated many modelers to get their ham tickets. The desire to get on the air while camping was one of the key drivers for the explosion of QRP over the last 40 years. Today, portable operations represents a significant segment of the amateur radio marketplace and the active outdoor ham has a wide selection of rigs, antennas and power solutions to choose from.

Forty years ago a typical vacationing ham packed a tent, cooking gear, fishing pole, Heathkit HW-7 QRP rig batteries and tuner, and a couple of cases of Budweiser. The trip ended when either the beer or the batteries gave out. Today, Summits On The Air (SOTA) is an amateur radio activity for a new generation of fitter outdoor oriented hams. The idea behind SOTA is very similar to chasing grid squares but with an athletic element. A hiker/climber ascends a mountain and sets up his station on the peak and makes contacts with stations as



possible. Every June NPARC conducts Field Day operations at Governor Livingston HS which is on the summit of the First Watching Mountain, so we technically operating SOTA. But a 550 foot summit with easy automobile access, a parking lot, and porta-potty means we are not a “rare one” for SOTA chasers.



Eagle Cape OR is 9000 ft higher than our FD site and a much more desirable SOTA contact. The picture to the left shows WG0T operating from the Eagle Cape with back-packable rig and antenna. No Honda generators or porta-potties are to be seen.

While ascending Eagle Cape requires much effort than hiking up Watchung

One, it is not a challenge worthy of the top tier of climbers more focused on the likes of Everest and K2. To address their special needs, hams in this top tier group have started XSOTA, or eXtreme SOTA. The goal of XSOTA operators (and chasers) is to QSO from/with the most challenging peaks in the world, culminating one day with the Seven Summits (the highest peaks on the seven continents, version of WAC).

XSOTA is meant for hams like the guy on the right, in the process of lowering his end-fed half wave antenna in preparation for working a 20m pileup for as long as his battery holds out.



The Eiger ARC in the Swiss Alps is one of the leaders of the XSOTA movement. By putting Mt. Eiger on the air with a 2m handheld (left) the club currently holds the record for highest altitude XSOTA QSO of all time, 3970m. (XSOTA records are kept exclusively in meters.)

The Eiger ARC has set up a clubhouse (right) just below the peak as a base from which to get an HF station operating from the summit. In the late summer of 2017 they plan to be on the air with 20 watts from 160-6m





While the Eiger ARC has taken the early lead in XSOTA, the Kathmandu ARC is hot on their tail. Here they are (left) hiking up for their annual FD operation. Owing to limited financial resources, they were forced to carry their modest equipment in an old cello case (last climber).

There are strong rumors in the XSOTA world that a Silicon Valley billionaire is funding the permanent installation of tri-banders on 30 foot towers on Mt. McKinley, Mt. Eiger, Mt. Blanc, Mt. Ranier and Mt. Elbrus .If things work out, installations on Everest and K2 will follow.

The IARU has formed an XSOTA committee to draft a formal set of rules for what qualifies as an XSOTA contact. Some of the key issues to be addressed include:

- use of permanently installed station elements,
- operation from non-peak locations (e.g. face encampments)

