

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area



**N2XJ**

**Club Callsign**

**VOLUME 42**

**February 2007**

**NO. 2**

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**MEETING ON 12 FEBRUARY 2007 AT SALT BROOK SCHOOL**  
**Our Own Frank McAneny, K2EZR,**  
Explains the Antenna Pointing System for the Salt Brook School  
**ARISS QSO**

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**Auction on Friday, 23 February**  
**at**  
Lincoln Gymnasium in the New Providence Municipal Bldg.

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**Second Regular Monthly Meeting on 26 Feb. at Salt Brook School**  
Software Defined Radio update, Auction Summary

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**President's Column by James Kern, KB2FCV**



February brings on some big changes and a lot of things going on in NPARC. Sadly, Bob KB2IKC passed away on Jan 30th. We lost a friend, a colleague, as well as our photographer and our Sunday night net control. Bob was helpful to many whether it was solving a problem, answering questions from inquisitive students over the air about space, or just being a friendly voice on 145.75 to talk to. Bob will surely be missed.

We are actively searching for a new Net Control for the Sunday night net. If there is anyone interested, please talk to me or any of the club officers. This is a good opportunity for anyone wanting to get more involved with the club to step up. Furthermore, there is some interest in seeing the digital net

make a comeback! The details are still in the works, but expect to see a schedule up soon with dates, times, modes, etc.

On January 8, Dr Frank Brickle, AB2KT, gave a very informative and interesting talk about Software Defined Radio. Frank came along with radios and demonstrations that were amazing to see and learn about. Frank covered the theory in-depth behind the technology and how your computer takes over many of the functions normally built in to a conventional transceiver. One radio that Frank brought, the SoftRock, is an inexpensive kit that allows one to dabble in this cutting edge technology for just a few dollars. As of now, these kits are a strong contender for the club project - more to follow!

As a reminder, the NPARC Annual Club Auction is on Friday, Feb 23rd at the New Providence Municipal Center Gymnasium at 6:30pm. We'll need members helping out to get there at 6pm or a little before to help setup. A big thanks in advance to everyone who is helping make that night happen. Every year it seems the crowd gets a little bigger and bigger!

In closing, I read that Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on Groundhog Day, so there is some hope for an early spring which means one thing: Hamfest season is just around the corner!

73, James KB2FCV . . . .

NPARC Semi-Annual FY '07 Financial Report Aug 1 '06 to Jan 31 '07

Balance Forward August 1, 2006		3546.59
<u>Income</u>		
Dues Income	730.00	
Annual Luncheon Payments	687.00	
Gift	<u>100.00</u>	
Total Income		1517.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Annual Awards	191.78	
Gratuities	50.00	
Hudson Dinner Awards	180.00	
Holiday Luncheon	778.30	
Stamps/PO Box Rent	62.00	
Refreshments	35.62	
Equipment (Projector)	<u>790.73</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>-2088.43</u>
<u>Balance January 31, 2007</u>		2975.16

Dave Barr, K2YG  
2007 Treasurer, NPARC



General Electric - RCA UV-201  
Detector & Amplifier Triode ca. 1920.

Image grabbed from Bill's Vintage Tube Site:  
<http://www.bill01a.com>

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## License Upgrade Classes

With the FCC ending the requirement for CW proficiency for General and Extra licenses, there has been interest expressed within the club for upgrade classes to help people study for these licenses. We plan to offer a short set of classes for General first, then a longer set of classes for the Extra exam. (We also intend to offer a Technician class after these classes for members of the public interested in getting a start in amateur radio.) Classes will be scheduled to avoid conflict with work schedules. If you would like to take the General, Extra, or both classes, please send email or otherwise contact me, Scott Alexander, at: [salex@dsalex.org](mailto:salex@dsalex.org) and let me know the following:

- 1) Which class or classes are of interest to you
- 2) What your preferences for class times are
- 3) Whether you're looking for a refresher, a Q&A session to clear up some tricky bits, classes to explain the technical bits, or a complete overview of all the material
- 4) Your contact information

73, Scott, AB2WF (Recently ex-KC2FWX) Phone: (908) 875-9633

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## Climatological Data for New Providence for January 2007

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 25 years.

Maximum temperature for this January, 64 deg. F (January 6)  
Last January(2006) maximum was 59 deg. F.

Minimum temperature for this January, 6 deg. F (January 26)  
Last January(2006) minimum was 13 deg. F.

Average temperature this January, 34.3 deg. F  
Average temperature last January, 37.6 deg. F

Total precipitation this January – 3.57" rain; 2.0" snow  
Total precipitation last January – 4.60" rain; 0.8" snow

Greatest precipitation day this January - January 1 = 1.59" rain  
Measurable rain recorded on 8 days this January. Snow fell on 7 days this January.

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Rick, WB2QOQ



## **Bob Barns, KB2IKC, SK**

Bob passed away Friday, January 30th, after a short respiratory illness. He would have been 80 years old in March.

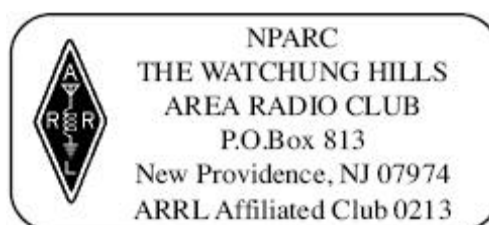
Bob was without a doubt a true pillar of our club. He was our Sunday night net control operator and omnipresent on our club frequency. He held several club offices.

He was always curious about the world around him and because of that he gained an enormous wealth of knowledge during his eighty years. As pointed out by many hams and non-hams in attendance at his memorial service at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, he was always willing to share his accumulated knowledge with anyone he

could help.

Bob made the above picture of himself a few months ago after serving as "Astronaut Bob" during many practice sessions for the students at Salt Brook School in preparation for a QSO with another astronaut aboard the International Space Station. He answered many prepared and unprepared questions from the students as they spoke with him via our club frequency on two meters. He never missed a beat and gave replies at least as well as any registered NASA flyer could.

We should all be inspired and encouraged by the example Bob set for us: He could learn and understand anything he put his mind to even at 80 years of age. Who among us would be able to produce the above image so well? Bob did it not to prove his computer ability, but just for fun and to put a face to the voice of Astronaut Bob for the students. He always left his world better than he found it.



**Membership Registration**  
**NPARC - The Watchung Mountain Area Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 813, New Providence, N.J. 07974-0813**  
**For the Calendar Year 2007**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Office Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month and Day are sufficient) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member \_\_\_\_\_

Can you operate 145.75 MHz FM \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

HT \_\_\_\_\_

Can you operate on 440 MHz FM \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

HT \_\_\_\_\_

Can you give a technical presentation at a Club Meeting?

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Talents \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this entire form.**

Dues are \$20.00 per year for Members, \$10.00 per year for Students.

Dues may be paid by cash or personal check made to NPARC and sent to:

**James M. Brown**

**56 Springbrook Road**

**Morristown, N.J. 07960**



# Auction and Flea Market

**New Providence Amateur Radio Club**

**Friday Evening February 23, 2007**

**6:30 p.m.**

Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.

**New Providence Municipal Center Gym  
Academy St. (at Springfield Ave.)  
New Providence NJ**

**Note: This location is different from 2006**

Driving directions on reverse/next page

Some of New Jersey's most highly prized and valuable radio, electronic, audio, and computer items will be available at the live auction or post-auction flea market.

**\$2 to buy or sell – Free parking – Refreshments - Door Prizes**

Anyone buying admission ticket may auction items and get flea market space. NPARC gets 10% commission on all auctioned items. No commission on flea market items.

Donated auction items welcomed!

**Come early to inspect auction items!**

For additional information:

Visit <http://www.nparc.org/auction.htm>

or call Al K2AL 908 872 5021 or Andy WA2DKJ 973-377-6992

## [Driving Directions to the New Providence Municipal Center Gymnasium](#)

**The New Providence Municipal Center's Gymnasium entrance is on Academy Street in New Providence, NJ.** Please park in parking lot across the street from the entrance. Additional parking is on the surrounding side streets

**GPS Coordinates:** [40.70740, -074.40405](#)

**From the East or North:** Take Route 24 to Summit and the Summit Ave Exit. Follow Summit Avenue to Springfield Avenue (Rt 512) in the center of Summit. Turn right and take Springfield Avenue southwest to New Providence (about 3 miles). You want to turn right one block before the traffic light in the center of New Providence onto Academy Street (Academy is the right after Jane Road). Municipal Center on right.

**From the South (Rt. 22 and Scotch Plains):** From Route 22 (near Blue Star Shopping Center and Snuffy's), take Diamond Hill Road north to Mountain Avenue. Turn right on Mountain Ave and go about 1 mile to light at South Street. Turn left and proceed down the hill to the center of New Providence. At the second light, turn right onto Springfield Avenue. Then turn at your first left which is Academy Street. Municipal Center on right.

**From the West (Berkeley Heights):** Follow Springfield Avenue through the traffic light in the center of New Providence at South Street. Turn at your first left which is Academy Street. Municipal Center on right.

**From Route 78 Eastbound :** Take exit 44. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto Glenside Avenue. Go about ¼ mile and look for your first left, Glenside Road, which goes under Route 78 and up a hill to your first light. Continue through that light, Glenside becoming South Street. Continue down the hill to the second light at Springfield Ave. Turn right on Springfield and then turn at your first left which is Academy Street. Municipal Center on right.

**From Route 78 Westbound:** Take exit # 43. Follow exit ramp, which will place you on Diamond Hill Road. Continue on Diamond Hill Road to the end of the roadway. Name changes from Diamond Hill Road to Union Avenue after second traffic light. Continue on Union Avenue which ends at Springfield Avenue. Turn right and continue for approximately 2 miles through second traffic light (the center of New Providence). Turn left onto Academy Street. Municipal Center on right.

### **Talk-in on:**

- **W2LI Repeater: 147.255 MHz +.600 PL 141.3**
- **145.75 MHz simplex**