

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain area



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

VOLUME 46 February 2011 NO. 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings

Monday Feb 28, 2011 & Mar.14, 2011
7:30 PM
Salt Brook School

February 25, 2011
Annual NPARC Auction
Flyer Attached

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—10:30 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

Informal Project Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
4th Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

Everyone is Welcome

If a normal meeting night is a holiday,
we usually meet the following night.
Call the contacts below.

Club Officers for 2011

President: N2KDK, Paul Campano
908-508-9595
Vice Pres.: K2MUN, David Berkley
908-500-9740
Secretary: K2JV Barry Cohen
908-464-1730
Treasure: 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 (W2LJ) at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
With PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control K2AL

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net

First and Third Mondays at 9 PM (0100Z)
Look around 14.085 Khz for RTTY
Ops using AFSK should look around 14,086-
7. Contact K2YG for details.

Club Internet Address

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

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOO Rick Anderson
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for
January 2011

The following information is provided by
Rick, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for the
past 29 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this January, 50 deg. F
(January 2)

Last January (2010) maximum was 58 deg.
F.

Average Maximum temperature this January,
33.7 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this January, 0 deg.
F (January 24)

Last January (2009) minimum was 11 deg. F.

Average Minimum temperature this January,
19.1 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 7 deg.
(29 - 22 deg.) 1/9.

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 21 deg.
(35 - 14 deg.) 1/15.

Average temperature this January, 26.4 deg.
F

Average temperature last January, 29.5 deg.
F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this January - 2.7"
rain/melted snowfall; 30.7" snow

Total precipitation last January - 1.9"
rain/melted snow; 1.25" snow

Maximum one day precip. event this January;
January 27; 7.25" snow).

Measurable snow fell on 11 days this Janu-
ary, 2 days last January.

=====
Rick Anderson

2/1/11

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

MISCELLANEA

I regret to announce that Al Hirsch, K2SKV, became a silent key on 2/2/2011. Al was a long time club member and, although his health prevented recent activity, he will be missed.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Not available at press time.
(Hint, Hint)

Auction

Does your shack have equipment that has not been used in years?
Do you have inoperative gear that is going to get fixed "some day"?
Check around and see what can go. The annual auction is a good way to clean house, give yourself a little more room, make some money and help the club. There are a lot of hams in the area who are not club members, so spread the word.

Digital Net

The digital net has been moribund for some time. Anyone interested in resurrecting it asked to get in touch with Dave K2YG. This net was a great place to try modes other than PSK and RTTY without

AUCTION

And Flea Market

Friday Evening February 25, 2011

(snow date: Friday March 4)

**Doors open at 5:30 pm for sellers and 6:30 p.m. for buyers
Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Driving directions on next page

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

**\$5 Admission – Unlicensed Non-buyers and Children Free
Food and Beverages Available - Door Prizes – Free parking**

Same as Last Year: NO COMMISSION charged to sellers.

Sellers: please visit the “Sellers Page” at <http://www.nparc.org/sellers.htm> for important selling information. Donated auction items welcomed!

Come at 6:30 p.m. to inspect auction items!

For additional information:

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

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.

Parking: You can park in the Municipal Center lot or on the surrounding side streets. Please do not park in any private lots or you risk a ticket/tow, especially in spaces reserved for the First Aid Squad.

GPS Coordinates: 40.70740, -074.40405

From the Garden State Parkway traveling north: Take GSP exit 142B onto I-78 westbound. Follow directions From I- 78 Westbound below.

From the Garden State Parkway traveling south: Take GSP exit 142B onto I-78 westbound. Follow directions From I- 78 Westbound below.

From I-78 Westbound: Take I-78 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 and Gym entrance are on right.

From I-78 Eastbound: Take exit 44. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto Glenside Avenue. Go about 1/4 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 Rd. 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 and Gym entrance are on right.

From Rt. 22 and the Blue Star Shopping Center: East of the Shopping center, 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 and Gym entrance are on right. **NOTE: The overpass and intersection east of Blue Star Shopping Center are currently under major construction, and traffic patterns are constantly changing.**

From the Northwest: Take I-287 south to Rt. 24 east. Take Rt. 25 to I-78 West and follow directions for From I-78 Westbound above.

Talk-in on W2LI Repeater: 147.255 MHz +.600Tone 141.3

Pictures from NPARC VHF SPRINT

2/13/2011

The results will be published next month after they are tabulated.

These are pictures of KC2ONP and K2JV operating as W2FMI/mobile. (The initial use of the new club call sign). The conditions were as cold and slushy as they look.



SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

It seems like only yesterday, but it was really 90 years ago (November 2, 1920) when the first commercial radio station went on the air. An experimental version had actually existed in Westinghouse engineer Frank Conrad's garage since 1916 as amateur station 8XK. (I wonder if he was related to our former NPARC member SK Pres Conrad.) It was eventually moved to a shed atop the K Building of the Westinghouse East Pittsburgh works and licensed as KDKA. The first broadcast provided election night coverage (Harding vs. Cox) from 6:00 P.M. until noon the following day. Between news and occasional music, announcers asked the audience, "Will anyone hearing this broadcast please communicate with us, as we are anxious to know how far the broadcast is reaching and how it is being received."

Brings back memories for a few of us, doesn't it?

HERE WE GO AGAIN

A non-superconducting metal was briefly turned into a superconductor when it was blasted with laser light by scientists from the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. An infrared laser pulse repositioned some of the atoms in the material to become superconducting for a fraction of a second. The scientists said that finding could lead to development of materials that super conduct at room temperature versus hundreds of degrees below freezing. The scientific community keeps trying to achieve superconductivity at room temperatures and will probably achieve this feat. We only hope that it doesn't turn out to be the same type alchemy practiced in the Middle Ages (making gold from base metals).

MORE BATTERY STUFF

The news from the battery industry continues its steady stream of improvement and innovation news. Stanford engineers have developed ultra thin, rechargeable lithium ion batteries that can be embedded on a sheet of paper, producing a flexible and lightweight power source. The battery consists of a film of carbon nanotubes layered on top of another film of lithium compound. The battery film is 300 millionths of a meter thick and still performed well after hundreds of recharge cycles. Immediate applications could be in radio frequency identification devices and paper products infused with electronics. It would seem that this is only the very beginning for such a power storage device. I do hope that they use fire retardant paper.

TECHNOLOGY MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY

This bit of news caught this writer's eye as something that I was totally unaware of.

Having access to PCs and the Web and communication devices can boost people's sense of satisfaction and well-being, according to a report by the United Kingdom's Telegraph newspaper citing a British survey of 35,000 people worldwide. Those with lower incomes or less education appear to benefit more from access to IT. It seems that IT increases the sense of personal control in people's lives, reducing anxiety. It provides choices, information and links to others as well as increasing feelings of security and personal freedom. Obviously this survey did not address the feelings of frustration we all have had when dealing with a balky computer or other IT device. Throwing such devices against the nearest wall is permissible behavior under such circumstances.

Jim WB2EDO