

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)**

February 2025

Volume 58 No. 2

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

at New Providence Municipal Center

February 10 - N2XDD, Hudson Div Dir.

February 24 - Auction Status Review

Upcoming Events

Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.030 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 2025

President: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG, Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: N2TO, Kevin Glynn
917-885-4424

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: 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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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - December 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 December, 57 F (December 30)
Last December(2023) maximum was 60 F.
Average Maximum temp this December, 40.8 F

Minimum temp this December, 7 F (December 23)
Last December(2023) minimum was 22 F.
Average Minimum temp this December, 27.2 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 4 F (47 – 43 F)12/10
Maximum diurnal temp range, 21 F(60 - 39 F)12/11

Average temp this December, 34.0 F
Average temp last December, 40.4 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this December— 4.69” rain,5.0” snow
Total precipitation last December— 8.96” rain

Maximum one day precip. event this December—
December 16, 0.99’ rain; December 21, 2.5” snow
Measurable rain fell on 13 days this December
11 days last December.
Measurable snow fell on 3 days this December

YTD Precipitation – 45.47”

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Rick Anderson 1/18/2024
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

Plans are well underway for our annual Auction and Flea Market that takes place on Saturday, February 22 at the Salt Brook School cafeteria.

With the Club purchase of two Yaesu FT710 radios, the Club will now be putting up for auction the Icom 756 Pro II and Pro III radios that were donated to us last year from the estate of George Kelly WA2SQO. Hopefully, we will have a lot of other desirable items available for auction. So, look around the shack and turn some of that unused gear into cash to buy new stuff.

You have undoubtedly heard of and read about (in K2YG's Spark Gap Contest Calendar) the State QSO parties as a way to get your feet wet in contesting.

There are 47 state QSO parties slated to run in 2025 starting this weekend through October 20th. They are "friendly" operating events. Several club members like to try to participate in all 47 of them as part of "The State QSO Party Challenge". Making two contacts in a state QSO party is enough to get credit for participation in each QSO party. And this year the sponsors have added a "Mobile and Portable Challenge", like POTA.

Please make an effort to participate in our weekly NPARC Nets: the "2 Meter Phone Net" on Sunday nights at 9pm local on the W2LI VHF repeater, the 10 meter "Digital Net" (PSK-31 and on occasion, other digital modes) on most Mondays and the CW Training Net on Thursdays at 9pm (watch for Reflector emails for announcements for band and frequency).

And, of course, I hope to see you at our Club meetings as we make plans for the Auction, Field Day '25 and other activities and operating events.

We are always in need of a presentation at our meetings. So please consider giving a talk. I know we have a lot of talented members with interesting things to share.

73,

Al, K2AL

President and Secretary

NPARC

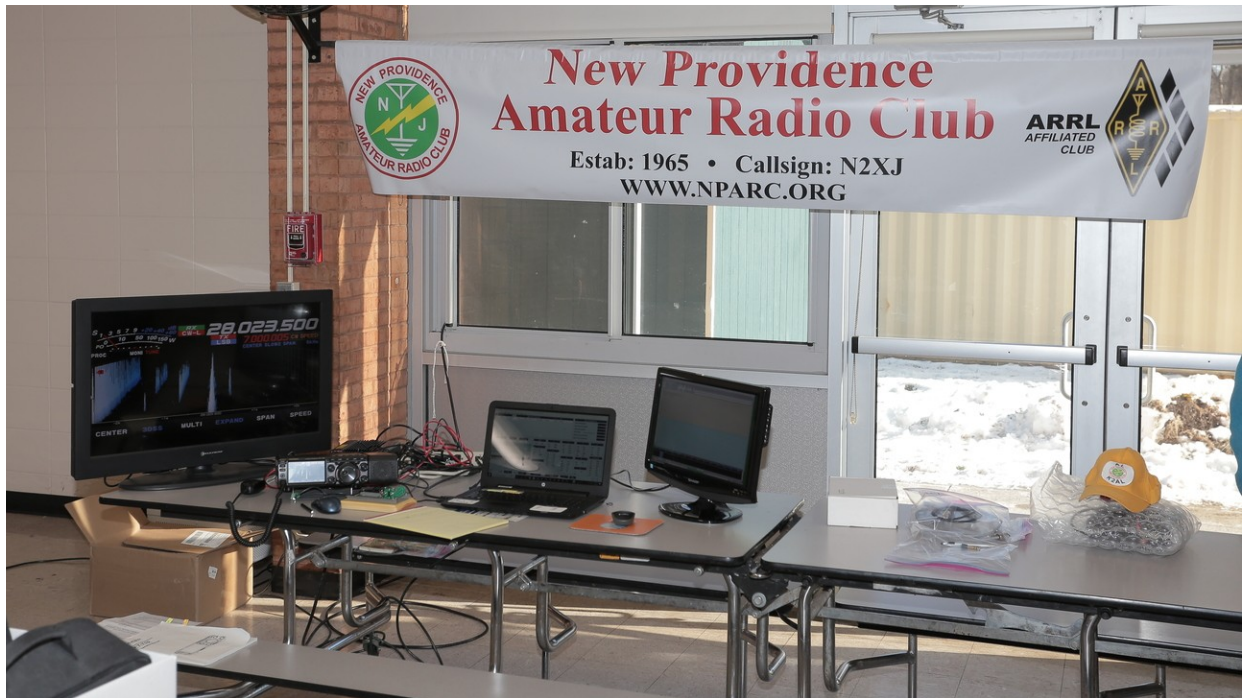
Winter Field Day *Al Hanzl (K2AL) and Jim Stekas (K2UI)*

Some NPARC members have participated in past Winter Field Days individually. This year was the first time we participated as a club. On January 25, NPARC members and helpers assembled at the Salt Brook School to set up operations in the cafeteria. A major goal for WFD was to gain experience with the new Yaesu FT-710 rigs which we purchased for Field Day (and other over-the-air activities). One of the rigs was put on the air, and the second was hooked into a dummy load training purposes. We operated with the club call, N2XJ, with the exchange "1I NNJ", where 1I indicates one active transmitter operated indoors.

Participants included members K1DK, K2AL, K2DAM, K2DAM, K2OT, K2UI, K2YG, KC2HLA, KD2CMS, KD2ONY, KD2ZRO, W2PTP, WB2QOQ, and visitors KC3LNB, N2OT, W2NTN.

While work to set up the rigs went on indoors, the antenna team put up the OCF dipole we used at Kid's Day 2024. The one difference was that the long leg was hung from a tree increasing the average antenna height. The antenna team included K2AL, WB2QOQ and K2UI.



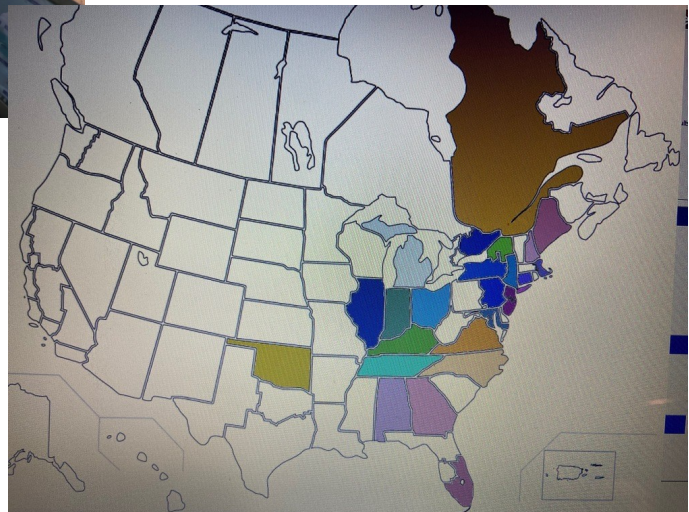


The operator position included (left to right) a monitor that magnified the FT-710 display, the FT-710, a laptop running N3FJP's logging program, and a second display for FLDIGI. Note the 3D "waterfall" display of the FT-710, a very cool feature that takes some getting used to.



At left, K2AL operates 10m CW using the 3d waterfall display. Using a mouse plugged into the FT-710 allows frequency selection by clicking on the display. Fine tuning is also possible with the mouse.

In 4 hours of operation we made 46 contacts and tallied a score of 395. There was no attempt to be competitive. We didn't even understand how WFD multipliers worked until we were ready to go QRT! The map at right shows states and provinces worked during WFD.



Popular Contests in January 2025

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
Vermont* QSO Party	1/31 Fri 7pm to 2/2 Sun 7pm	All	VT: rs(t)+County Non VT: rs(t)+State	HP/LP/QRP classes. 160 thru UHF** Details at: www.ranv.org
Mexico RTTY Contest	2/1 Sat 7am to 2/2 Sun 7pm	RTTY	XE: RST+State Non XE: RST+Serial #	HP/LP (no qrp). 80 thru 10 meters**. See details at: rtty.fmre.mx
Minnesota* QSO Party	2/1 Sat 9am to 7pm	CW-RTTY; Phone	MN: Name+Cnty Non MN: Name+State	HP/LP/QRP; no FT. 160 thru 10m**. See: www.w0aa.org
British* Columbia QSO Party	2/1 Sat 11am-11pm 2/2 Sun 11am-7pm	CW SSB	BC: RS(T)+Dist Non BC: RS(T) +State/Prov	HP/LP/QRP. 160 thru 10 meters**. See: www.orcadxcc.org
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	2/7 Fri 7pm to 2/9 Sun 7pm	RTTY	RST + Serial #	HP/LP/QRP 80 thru 10 m**. Details at: www.cqwprrty.com
ARRL DX Contest, CW	2/14 Fri 7pm to 2/16 Sun 7pm	CW	W-VE: rst+state/prov DX: rst+power	HP/LP/QRP. 160 thru 10 m**. Details at: www.arrl.org
CQ 160 Meter SSB Contest	2/21 Fri 5 pm to 2/23 Sun 5 pm	SSB	W-VE: rs+state/prov DX: rs + CQ Zone	HP/LP/QRP 160 meters only. Details at: www.cq160.com
South* Carolina QSO Party	2/22 Sat 10am-9pm	CW Digital Phone	SC: rs(t) + County Non SC: rst+state	HP/LP/QRP . 160-6 meters**. Details at: scqso.com
N American QSO Party RTTY	2/22 Sat 1pm-1am	RTTY	Name+State/Prov or NA Country. DX: Name only	LP and QRP only. 80 thru 10 meters**. Details at: www.ncjweb.com
North* Carolina QSO Party	2/23 Sun 10am-8pm	CW-SSB Digital (No FT)	NC: County Non-NC: State/Prov/DX	HP/LP/QRP . Details at: ncqsoparty.org

* 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. State qso parties begin again in February.

** 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.