

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)**

November 2024

Volume 57 No. 11

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

at New Providence Municipal Center

November 11 - Officer Nominations +
EC Initiatives

November 25 - Elections +
National Traffic System

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 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

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Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813

New Providence, NJ 07974
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Acting Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - September 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 September, 82 F (Sept 14)
Last September(2023) maximum was 89 F.
Average Maximum temp this September, 73.5 F

Minimum temp this September, 50 F (Sept 8,9)
Last September(2023) minimum was 48 F.
Average Minimum temp this September, 58.16 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 3 F (64-61) 9/8, (62-59) 9/29

Maximum diurnal temp range, 23 F (75-52 F) 9/4

Average temp this September, 65.8 F
Average temp last September, 66.3 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this September— 0.52" rain
Total precipitation last September— 8.38" rain

Maximum one day precip event September 18, 0.15" rain.
Measurable rain fell on 8 days this September
16 days last September.

YTD Precipitation – 40.19"

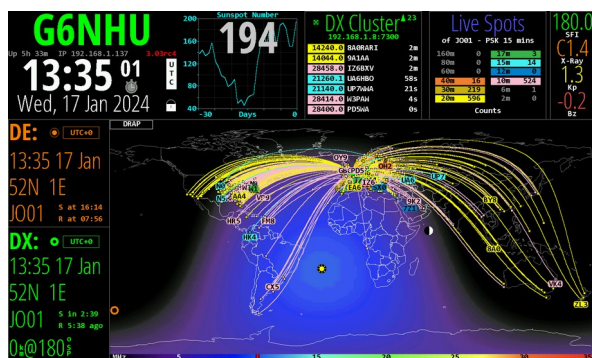
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Rick Anderson 10/25/2024

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

The Executive Committee has chosen the FT-710 AESS for NPARC Field Day. A single FT-710 and Alinco PSU was purchased from HRO for evaluation. Barring any serious issues we will buy a second FT-710 and PSU to fill out both HF Field Day positions. The plan is to make the rigs available to members for training and club events.



On October 28, Mark Philips, NI2O, gave a presentation on HamCLOCK, an open source application with a boatload of features¹. The application can run on just about any Unix-like OS². The web home for HamCLOCK is at Clear Sky Institute where links to source code, documentation, and FAQs. The [HamCLOCK QST article](#) by Elwood Downey, WBØOEW, gives a good introduction.

November is the time for electing club officers for next year. Tim Farrell, KD2EKN, will be collecting a slate of [willing] officer candidates to present at the November 11 meeting. If you would like to serve as an officer or want to make a nomination, contact Tim at tim.farrell@ieee.org.

Thanks to Al (K2AL) and Lauryn (W2OLF) for pictures of the aurora and comet Tsuchinshan-Atlas. Wonder how long it will be until we see both rare events in the same month again ...

At long last the memorial plaque for Sister Irma was delivered to St. Elizabeth Convent. Finding out whom to deliver it to proved much harder than expected. So we assigned the task to Sam, KC2OSR, head of the NPARC Mission Impossible Team. At right, Sam presents the plaque to Sister Judy and Sister Elizabeth who were delighted to receive it.

73,
Jim – K2UI



1 A link to the Zoom demonstration at the meeting was sent out on the NPARC reflector.
2 Linux, Raspberry Pi OS, Apple IOS, ...

Popular Contests in November 2024

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
ARRL Sweepstakes CW	Sat 11/2 5pm – Sun 11/3 10pm	CW	Serial No. + Precedence + [your call] + Check + ARRL Section [See Note 1]	QRP-LP-HP 160-10 m** See www.arrl.org for details.
WAE DX Contest RTTY [See Note 2]	Fri 11/8 7pm – Sun 11/10 7pm	RTTY	RST + Serial #. Optional QTCs	LP-HP 80-10 m** See below for QTC details or: www.darc.de
CQ-WE (Western Electric)	Sat 11/9 2-6pm CW/Digi 8-12m Phone Sun 11/10 2-6 pm Phone 8-12m CW/Digi	CW SSB FM DIGI	Name; Western Elect QTH Code; Years of service See rules for location codes	All Bands See rules at: w8zpf.com
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	Sat 11/16 4pm -Sun 11/17 10pm	SSB	Serial No. + Precedence + (your call) + Check + ARRL Section See note 1 for exch details	QRP-LP-HP 160-10 m** Details at www.arrl.org .
CQ WW DX Contest CW	Fri 11/22 7pm to Sun 11/24 7pm	CW	rst + CQ zone	qrp-lp-hp 160-10 m** Details at www.cqww.com

Note 1: Sweepstakes exchange is:

Serial Number; start at 001

Precedence (entry category): Q = QRP; A = <100w; B = >100w; U = unlimited; M = Multi Op;

Your Call Sign;

Check (2 digit year first licensed)

ARRL/RAC Section.

For example, my first exchange running qrp would be: 001 Q K2YG 56 NNJ.

Note 2: The WAE contest is simple, if you prefer, with only RST and serial number exchanged. However, scores can be increased by a factor of between 2 to 10 if you participate in the exchange of QTCs, which are lists of contacts including time, call and serial number for already completed contest contacts. QTCs should only be attempted if you understand the process and are using logging software that makes the QTC process fairly easy, such as N1MM+. You can avoid sending or receiving QTCs by simply saying “no” or “nil” when asked if you have or want QTCs. Most participants do not exchange QTCs.

** 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.

Portable Operating from Cape May

Al Hanzl – K2AL

During a trip to Cape May in early October, I wanted to keep my streak alive of participating in all 47 State QSO Parties in 2024 as sanctioned by the State QSO Party Challenge. QSO Party number 40 was the California State QSO Party on the weekend of October 5.

I set up my Icom 705 QRP radio with an MFJ End Fed antenna in the Kiwanis Park just down the block where we were staying. It was a picture-perfect fall day and a gazebo near the lake was a convenient location for setting up the operating station for an hour or so.



Working California was a challenge, but I did manage 11 contacts on CW and phone to keep the streak alive and have some fun. (Two contacts are the minimum required to get credit for working a state QSO party.)

Several visitors also stopped by, curious about what I was doing.

For more information about the State QSO Party Challenge go to <https://stateqsoparty.com> They are relatively low key and “friendly” contests for both inexperienced and experienced contesters alike.



Aurora and a Comet

Al Hanzl – K2AL

Solar Cycle 25 brought on a major (G4) solar storm and a display of aurora as far south as the Bahamas on the evening of October 10th. Here in New Jersey, the aurora was visible outside my front door facing north, first as a green glow on the horizon around 9PM, then as pink and purple veils peaking around 10PM. We also saw a brief auroral display near the zenith. The Aurora photos were taken with iPhones in night mode.



(photo by W2OLF)



(photo by K2AL)

Another current celestial event is the appearance of Comet Tsuchinshan-Atlas. It was visible in the west shortly after sunset earlier this month. This photo was taken with an iPhone on October 16 by K2AL.

