

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



Volume 30

OCTOBER 1995

No. 9

Our Prez Speaks!

October is the month that you start thinking about the approaching winter and all the things that have to be done in preparation. At my house there are always things to check and winterizing to do, but most of all — are the antennas ready for the harsh weather ahead? First things first, I always say.

Bob, KB2IKC, gave a very interesting talk about quartz crystals and just scratched the surface of a subject that should be of interest to us all. At some point in our lives we have used a piece of equipment that is crystal controlled or has a crystal inside. (I wear a quartz watch! Ed.)

I spoke to Rick, WB2QOO, over the weekend and found out about his trip to Alaska and it sounds like he had a great time. Speaking with Rick I was reminded of the Overlook Run that takes place this month. In past years, several members of our club have helped out with this and this year should be no exception. I'm sure Rick will

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October 23rd Meeting: Electrical Measurements

Do you trust your meter? How can you be sure that what you read is what's really there? Is your digital meter really that accurate?

Brett Nordgren will be talking about measuring voltage and current at DC and low (Audio) frequencies. See some examples of standards-lab equipment and find out how to design your own home-brew precision measuring instruments.

The talk will also cover four terminal measurements, thermal effects, potentiometers, the Kelvin bridge, and waveform effects on AC measurements.

WARNING! Our first meeting in October will be on TUESDAY, October 10th. The library is closed on Monday.

More great door prizes are appearing at every meeting. Don't miss out on this great opportunity — bring stuff in/take stuff home!

Pep Talk for Volunteer Speakers for our Main Meetings.

Bob, W2OKO, has done a wonderful job obtaining speakers for our programs this year. We know that we have a lot of talent within our own ranks and we would like to hear about it. Always keep in mind that even a minor project of your own might be of interest to our other members. We will be electing new officers a month from now and they will be looking for programs for next year.

Speak up if you can help, or even let us in on it, if you find another member doing something interesting. That person might not recognize it as a possible program subject.

Generous Contributors

We wish to express our most sincere thanks to two of our members who have made generous contributions in addition to their regular dues. Marty Boyle, KA2CCJ, and Don Nathan, K2GPM, both inflated their dues payments to the club for next year.

We are very grateful for their kind generosity.

Another New Licensee

Congratulations to Billy O'Connor who has just received his Novice call, KB2VTG. This is another credit to the work of Joe, K2JAO. As mentioned last month, Billy is a classmate of "CJ", KB2VPJ. They will undoubtedly be keeping tabs on each other's progress. It's really great to see more young people taking up our hobby.



New Providence
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 813

New Providence

NJ 07974-0813

ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

1272

Meeting Schedule

7:30 - 9:00 P.M.
2nd & 4th Monday of each month
Downstairs meeting room
New Providence Memorial Library
Elkwood Avenue
One block north of Springfield Ave.
and one block east of Passaic St.
Anyone is welcome.
If normal meeting night is a holiday
we usually meet the next night.
(Check the Spark Gaps)

On the Air Club Activities:

Club Operating Frequency
145.75 MHz simplex FM phone
FM Phone Net
Sunday Evening 9:00 PM
On the Whippany repeater
Listen on 147.03 MHz,
Transmit on 147.63
Net Control: Bob, KB2IKC
RTTY Net
Sunday Evening 8:00-9:00 PM
60 WPM Baudot, 145.75 MHz
Net Control: John, K2AGI
Packet BBS 145.01 MHz
KA2UGQ-4 (Berkeley Hts.)

Club Officers for 1995

President:

..... Dave Sawyer N2VEV
(201) 635-7011

Vice President:

..... Joel Tompkins KB2PDW
(201) 635-8088

Secretary:

..... Guy Brennert K2EFB
(908) 754-3204

Associate Secretary:

..... Jim Bushnell N2TSJ
(908) 464-9321

Treasurer:

..... John Sheetz K2AGI
(908) 464-5671

Activities Manager:

..... Bob Mendelson W2OKO
(908) 464-5244

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Our Prez Speaks

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appreciate my asking all of you who are interested in helping to contact him. I for one would like to help again this year.

By now all of you should have paid your 1996 club dues. If you attend regularly, John, K2AGI, will have your new badge for pickup at our meetings. New club rosters showing all those paid through 1996 will be distributed in January. Thanks, John, for all your good work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who made contributions to the Phase 3D satellite program. As you know, every dollar that

was received was matched from our club treasury and those dollars were again matched by ARRL headquarters which quadrupled your contribution. All in all, our club was able to add over one thousand dollars to the AMSAT program. Individual Certificates of Appreciation have been received and distributed at our meetings.

December is coming sooner than you think, so be sure to mark your calendar for the Holiday Dinner. Again, the date is December 8th. Watch for reservation forms in the Spark Gaps for November.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

de N2VEV

Hamfests

Sellersville, Pennsylvania, Sunday, October 22, setup 6 AM, buyers 7 AM. RF Hill ARC, Sellersville Firehouse, Rte 152, 5 miles south of Quakertown and 8 miles north of Montgomeryville. Talk-in 145.31. Admission \$5, indoor tables \$18, tailgate \$6.

Hamfest Hotline: Linda Erdman, KA3TJZ, 215-679-5754.

Swap and Shop

FOR SALE: Compaq 286, 20 MHz, laptop with 40 Meg hard drive, 2 Megs memory and an LCD screen. Asking \$350 or best offer.

A smaller Compaq similar but with a bad hard drive, looking for a home.

1990 Geo Prism, 4-door Hatchback, automatic transmission, air conditioning, 70k miles. New battery, tires and exhaust system.

Call Dave Sawyer on all above items 201-635-7011.

FREE:

A number of pieces of smoked plexiglass sheets 7"x19"x1/8". Rick WB2QOQ, (908)464-8911, or 145.75.

WANTED:

Heathkit Micro. Replacement microprocessor for Heathkit Digital Weather Computer, model ID-4001. Heath part #444-23. Suggested replacement MK3870. Heath/Zenith no longer has this part available. Vintage 1978. Motorola micro. #SC80004L is currently in unit, and not functioning.

Rick, WB2QOQ, (908)464-8911, or 145.75.

Note: Above request is why we do not have Rick's usual monthly weather report for our area. Keep your eyes peeled for a weather monitoring computer!

Summit Race Requests NPARC Help

The "Overlook Hustle", an annual 5 mile footrace, will take place on Sunday, October 22nd in Summit. The event is being sponsored by the Overlook Hospital Foundation. The 5 mile race will start on DeForest Avenue and follow a scenic course through Summit. Our club has been asked to assist with communications throughout the race, in the same manner as we have in previous years. Our job consists of having our members, each with a 2 meter Handie-Talkie positioned along the race course at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th mile locations, and at the start/finish line. As the race progresses, each club member will relay back to the finish line, the status of the race, and which runners are in the lead positions. This information will be then be made available to the officials. This event will again demonstrate the effectiveness of Amateur Radio in providing communications for such local public service events, and certainly give our club some publicity. Our club has provided assistance in the form of communications for both the New Providence 10 K race and the Berkeley Heights race in previous years. I will be looking for approximately 10 members who will assist me in this project. All that you would need is a 2 meter handie-talkie. The activities start at approx. 1pm on Sunday, October 22nd and will take only a couple of hours of time at the most. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting in this event.

Tnx.

Rick Anderson WB2QOQ,
(908)464-8911 or 145.75 Mhz.

Old Tube Characteristics

If you are looking for the characteristics of very old vacuum tubes I just stumbled across the fact that the Chemical Rubber Handbook has an extensive list. I happen to have a 1936 edition which covers receiving tubes, telephone and industrial, transmitting, gaseous and high vacuum rectifiers and grid controlled rectifiers (thyratrons). (That's really the way they spell it!) If you need any of this give me a call.

John, K2AGI

Grid Square Calculator

I found a program on my Amsoft CD-ROM called GS which is actually "Maidenhead Grid Square Calculator." This program will give you your grid square code if you input your latitude and longitude or you can do it the other way and put in your grid square and get your latitude and longitude.

Then you can put in a second location (either way, grid square or lat.-lon.) and it will give you the bearing and distance in kilometers or miles using either location as the origin.

Very easy to use and well done.

This is HAM518 on the Amsoft disk.

John, K2AGI

Back Issues Available

Just in case anyone is looking for a past issue of the Spark Gaps I have a collection of spares of most past months. Of course in case there are none on hand I do have the masters for the last six years which can be reproduced.

John, K2AGI, Editor



October Birthdays

Joe Blank N2KRP 14th
Bill Wadsworth W2ZKE 23rd
Chris Campbell N2XYU 28th

November Birthdays

Dave Sawyer N2VEV 2nd
Paul Mathews NZ2K 5th
Rod Coppola KA2KET 12th
Chuck Snyder W2HSA 13th

NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

Balance Fwd. 1/1/95.....	2,881.73
Income	
Dues Received	754.00
Interest.....	20.58
Auction	870.99
ARRL Rebates.....	37.00
Contributions	40.00
Patches & Hats.....	32.50
Total Income.....	1,755.07
Expense	
Postage.....	322.56
Food & Refreshments	301.00
Field Day.....	317.96
Contributions+Dues	305.00
Miscellaneous	15.00
Total Expense	1,261.52
Balance 9/30/95.....	3,375.28

Two Months Away!

If you haven't marked your calendar for our

Holiday Dinner Party
do it now!

Friday, December 8th.

Reservation forms will be included with the November Spark Gaps.