

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

December 2003

NO. 11



**N2XJ**  
**Club Callsign**

## Club Elections to be held on December 8th

### From: The Prez

#### Back to Basics

Every so often it just feels good to get back to basics. Maybe that is why we feel good when we do things like work in the garden, bake bread or put up a new antenna. These are simple works of accomplishment that just make us feel better in an ever more crowded, more complicated world.



Maybe that's why the talk by Andy (WA2DKJ) and James (KB2FCV) was so popular at our first club meeting last month. A simple circuit for a regenerative receiver brought back lots of memories for many club members and instilled a desire in others for more talks on the basics of various technical aspects of ham radio. One topic mentioned was antennas. I think it would be a great idea. So watch out, I will be soliciting volunteers from the club to spew out their knowledge! It may be challenging (making difficult topics easy to understand always is) but I know it will make you feel better!

And talking of basics, several club members with QRP rigs again took part in the CQ WW CW contest this past weekend. Band conditions were great and from first reports from club members, the results were outstanding. I will have a full report in next month's Spark Gaps on how we fared.

Best wishes with peace to all this holiday season, and for health and contentment in the New Year. And may Santa find a way to stuff that new rig in your stocking! 73, 88 and 61

Al  
K2AL

### Club Meeting Monday DEC. 8th

This will be our annual Election Meeting. The Nominating Committee will present at least one slate of candidates for Club Officers to serve during the calendar year 2004. Nominations from the floor will be strongly solicited, but there are no absentee ballots and you've got to be present to have a vote and a say in how and what the Club does in 2004. Many of your present Club officers will be running for reelection, and this is your **BIG CHANCE** to "turn the rascals out!!"

If transportation to the meeting is a problem please call any of the Club officers right away, and we'll arrange for pickup and delivery. Maybe it's unfair prejudice, but this does not include our out-of-state members. If those members would like to petition for a Constitutional Amendment to allow Absentee Ballots, perhaps the new Executive Committee will consider that.

### Kids Day at the Berkeley Heights

#### Community Center

**Sunday January 4, 2004**

**from 1800 to 2400 UTC.**

Watch for a Flyer. We need volunteer operators.

### Luncheon on December 13

Don't forget our annual holiday luncheon to be held on Saturday December 13th at O'Connors Beef n' Ale House in Watchung. Except for the location, it will be like last year, starting at 11:30AM and the price will still be \$21 per head for full members, and \$10 for student members. You've already received the flyer, so at this late date, in order to accommodate you and your guests please use the landline and call me. The "Transportation Offer" above is also good for this event.

73 de Barry K2JV

## Meeting Schedule

**2nd and 4th Monday of each month**  
7:30 - 10:00 PM at the Salt Brook School Cafeteria Springfield Ave. and Maple St. New Providence.

**2nd Monday meeting** will generally be a program or Guest Speaker on a Ham Radio subject.

**4th Monday meeting** will be an Informal Project Meeting, and for ARISS Planning and Preparation.

### Everyone is Welcome

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

## Club Officers for 2003

President: K2AL Al Hanzl  
908-464-1323

Vice Pres: KC2EAI Ryan Kelly  
908-273-4143

Secretary: K2GLS Bob Willis  
973-543-2454

Activities Mgr:KB2IRS Cameron Hall  
908-756-3712

Past President: AB2CM Harry Schwill  
908-322-8867

Treasurer: K2JV Barry Cohen  
908-464-1730

## On the Air Activities

### Club Operating Frequency

145.750 MHz FM Simplex

### Sunday Night Phone Net

Whippany Repeater at 9:00 PM  
Transmit on 147.63 MHz  
Receive on 147.03 MHz  
Net Control: KB2IKC

### RTTY Net

Sunday evenings 8:00 to 9:00 PM  
60 WPM Baudot 145.75 MHz  
Net Control: K2AGI

## Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.qls.net/nparc>  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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WB2QOO Rick Anderson

Mountain Spark Gaps

## Climatological Data for the Watchung Mountain Area Provided by WB2QOO, Month of November



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	75	69
Minimum Temp.. °F:	28	21
Average Temp.. °F:	47.4	41.6
Total Precip . Rain/snow (in.):	4.18/trace	4.89/1

The above information was provided by WB2QOO, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 22 years.

## Calendar of Coming Events

Dec 8th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
Election of Officers for 2004

Dec 13th : **LUNCHEON** at O'Connor's starts at 11:30 AM

Dec 22nd : **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
Bring in a Project you are working on.

Jan 4th SUNDAY: **KIDS DAY** at Berkeley Heights Community Center  
Volunteers needed!

Jan 12th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
Program to be announced

Jan 26th : **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
Bring in a Project you are working on.

## SBS/ARISS Project Off and Running

November was a big month for the ARISS project at Salt Brook School.

The first meeting of the SBS Radio Club was held on Monday Nov. 24. There were 6 NPARC Members in attendance, one "Club Astronaut" on duty from his home Space Capsule, the official Club Teacher Ms. Cathy Cleenput, and 36 bright and eager school students from all classes in the Salt Brook School.

The Kids broke up into small groups of their own choosing, to take part in one of the activities which included: Morse Code (AB2CM), computer plotting and tracking of satellites (K2GLS), two way HT communications with introduction to phonetic alphabets (KC2KMK and N2VI), two way communications on 2 meters with our simulated astronaut (KB2IKC and K2JV), and possibly the most important startup activity, inventing and designing a suitable name for the new club, and preparation of a logo and design for club tee shirts and ID Cards (WW2OLF). The kids all got into these activities with great energy and interest, and I've heard nothing but kudos from the Principal, teachers and parents who attended.



Lauryn WW2OLF and Stefanie supervising a small part of the "Art Group" on tee shirt and logo design.

This first meeting will be a tough act to follow. It is however, a Major Program of Public Relations and Community Service for Ham Radio. We need your help!!! **Next meeting - Monday December 8th.**

Check out our website for more photos of this first meeting.

## New Life for Regenerative Receivers



How many of you remember Dr. Mu?? For those who don't, he was the advertising symbol for Grebe Radios back in the 1920 era. The 1920's were the heyday of regenerative receivers, but the advantages of these detectors was not overlooked as late as WW2. Many of the best German receivers used in the field, where QRM was fierce, were specifically designed with regenerative detectors.

Confucius had it right about pines and cypress. When the cold season does come, we also can appreciate the advantages and beauty of these old time designs. Be not surpassed by thy neighbor with the latest IC or FT rig. Set the pace with your homebrew regen or auto-dyne.



Our Club meeting on November 10th featured Andy WA2DKJ and James KB2FCV and their modern but antique style regenerative receivers. This has to be a "labor of love" because building and operating these old style receivers is not only labor inten-

sive, but just finding the parts is a project for an archaeologist. But we seem to have more than a few club members with great interest in radios from the past. So we can look forward to more instructional meetings of this kind.

And Spark Gaps will soon reflect this interest by starting to publish a column (or maybe a page) every month entitled "The Way Things Were, Looking Backwards at Ham Radio."



## December is Election Month

Don't forget the first meeting of December which is scheduled on Monday, December 8th. At that meeting we will hold elections for Club officers.

You'll soon be hearing from the Nominating Committee about a slate of officers to lead the Club in 2004. If you are NOT interested in what activities the Club pursues, then you don't have to do anything. If you DO want a say in what goes on in 2004, then you've got to step up and be heard!!

## Donation to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund

As approved by the members present at the September meeting, the club has made a contribution of \$100 to the ARRL, earmarked for the BPL defense fund. The check was hand delivered to Mary Hobart K1MMH at League Headquarters, who expressed the appreciation of ARRL and asked that this be relayed to all the members. The NPARC name has been listed on the ARRL website, and should soon be appearing in QST. We have also received a thank you letter and a certificate of appreciation from HQ.

## Membership and Renewals

It's almost 2004, and time to renew membership in NPARC. The 2004 Membership Form is attached to this issue of Spark Gaps. Please fill it out and mail it to your Treasurer (address on form) with your check for \$20 per full member and \$10 for each Student member.

Please note the New Question asking for your birth date. The year is NOT REQUIRED, but we'd like a list of birthdays so we can celebrate with you in Spark Gaps and at meetings.

## Happy Birthday!!!

Only about half of our members have submitted their 2004 Membership Form and payment to the Department of the Treasury. Most of the submitters did fill out the Birthday information. For those with December birthdates all of us wish you a very Happy Birthday, good health, prosperity, and lots of good DX.

Lauryn Hanzl	WW2OLF
Jim Josenhans	W8FVI
Harry Schwill	AB2CM
Hillary Zaenchik	KC2HLA

We will all celebrate your Birthday at our December 8th meeting, so please try to attend.

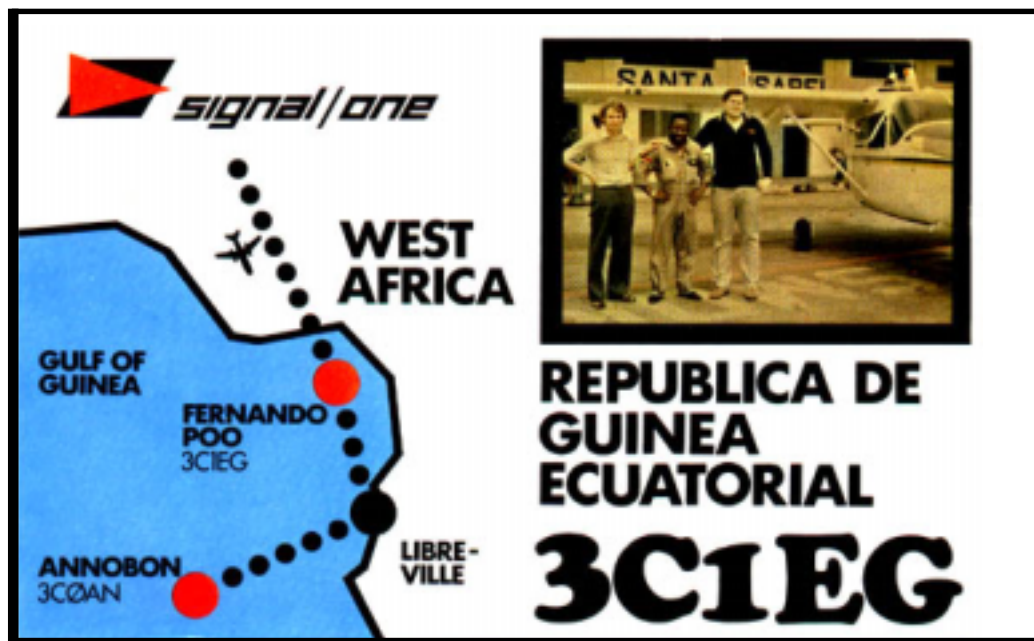
## More Fabulous Old QSL Cards from the bequest of W2BHM

**The Republic of Ecuatorial Guinea!** Just how many of us have ever heard of it much less know where it is. But here's a QSL card received by Joe Painter W2BHM, reporting a QSO on 26 June 1971, less than 3 years after its Independence was declared.

This wonderful card is not just from a new African country, but specifically from the island of Fernando Poo (now called Bioko). The island is located offshore from Dahomey, and perhaps 60 miles from the continental part of Ecuatorial Guinea, which is the old Spanish Colony of Rio Muni. The DXCC desk still refers to this place as Fernando Poo.



Take a look at the picture. Here we see Ville Hiilesmaa OH2MM on the left and Marti Laine OH2BH on the right standing with an african military officer named as Lt. Tognisso of the Dahomey Air Force. They are standing next to a small plane on the tarmac of the Santa Isabel airport on Fernando Poo, and they are apparently about to leave for the Island of Annobon. Santa Isabel, which is the capital of the whole country, is now called Malabo, but the highest mountain on the island is still called Pico de Sta. Isabel.



The whole story emerges from the very small text on the back of the card. I've reproduced it as best I can.

W2B verified by  
Armas, OH2NB.....

**REPUBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL** is situated in West-Africa consisting of three main parts - Rio Muni, Fernando Poo and Annobon. The state got it's independence October 12th 1968 and the population reaches 250,000. The Island of Fernando Poo, where is situated also the Capital Santa Isabel, lays straight in front of Cameroon (TJ) and has direct flight connections with Europe. Coffee and cacao are the main exports, sold all over the world.

Radioamateurs all around the world are very grateful to the President, EXCMO. SR. D. FRANCISCO MACIAS NGUEMA, who personally granted the permission and his best support to enable realisation of the first DX-pedition during the independence of the country. We were treated kindly with extreme hospitality by all of the people and this DX-pedition remains among the most pleasant memories for us.

We had 7,300 contacts to 140 countries from "Radio Bahia" (Hotel Bahia), that is situated on the end of a most charming cape in the Atlantic.

Photo: At Santa Isabel Airport leaving for Island of Annobon. L. to R. OH2MM, pilot Lt. Tognisso and OH2BH.

As explained in the second paragraph of the text, this was "the first DX-pedition during the independence of the country." Of the 7300 QSO's made by the two Finnish operators, Joe Painter was one of them.

Next month I've got an even more fantastic QSL card from Joe's collection. It's the sequel to Fernando Poo, after the intrepid DX-peditioners went on to Annobon Island.

**W2BHM de K2JV MNI TNX, GUD DX ES 73 SK**

**Membership Registration**  
**NPARC - The Watchung Area Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974-0813**

**For the Calendar Year 2004**

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 give a technical presentation at a Club Meeting?

Subject?? \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

**Barry G. Cohen, Treasurer**  
**39 Cromwell Court**  
**Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922**

Dues for 2004 are payable before the first meeting in January 2004.