

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

February 2003

NO. 2



N2XJ
Club Callsign

Meeting scheduled for Monday February 10, at the Salt Brook School Featuring a Discussion with Bill Hudzik W2UDT

From: The Prez

“DX’ing on 145.75”



Through the efforts of club members Ralph, KC2RLM, and Bob, KB2IKC, the January 19th Sunday Night NPARC Net had check-ins from Florida and New Mexico! No, it was not due to some once in a lifetime aurora or tropo causing the DX to come through. It was all possible through the use of

a “Voice Over Internet Protocol” program called “Echolink”. It is accomplished by downloading this program and using your computer’s sound card and linking into a 2 meter radio that is operating in New Jersey. Ralph has posted a nice explanation of how it all works on the club website. The “DX stations” who checked into the net and who have also been heard on the club frequency are Jim, N2TSJ, who is relaxing in Florida and Steve, NF4X (ex-N3OIE) in Clearwater. Bob’s daughter, Sue, KD5MIA, also checked into the net from Los Alamos. So check into the club frequency or the Sunday Night Net to hear the latest DX!

In other news, the date for the Annual NPARC Club Auction is set. It is on for Friday, April 4th but at a new location, the Salt Brook School cafeteria. So start looking around your shacks, attics and garages for those unused items you can turn into cash! K2JV will be putting out a flyer soon with all the details.

And a club “field trip” is being planned for Saturday, February 15th to Ham Radio Outlet in New Castle, Delaware (near Philadelphia). The plan is to set out

They knew the risk...

but unfortunately this time they paid the price.



We don’t know the effect of this loss on NASA’s space program, but until we hear otherwise the NPARC space program will continue unabated. See article on page 3.

early, browse around the store in the morning and then have lunch at a local farmer’s market. It will be a good chance to see and try out all the latest ham gear. Please e-mail or call me if interested in going.

And if you have not been coming to the club meetings, you have been missing a lot. The latest club technical project is moving along nicely as several club members are close to completing the construction of their seismometers. And you can also hear the latest on the club’s exciting project of setting up an ARISS contact with the Space Station at Salt Brook School.

So although the weather is cold, club activity is heating up! See you at the meetings.

Vy 73 de Al K2AL

Meeting Schedule

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

4th Monday each month: 7:30 - 9:00
Informal Project Meeting, at the
New Providence Memorial Library
Elkwood Ave. and Academy St.
One Block North of Springfield Ave.

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
973-543-2454
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
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2JV Barry Cohen
Editor Emeritus: K2AGI John Sheetz
Contributing Editors:
AB2CM Harry Schwill
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

We report with deep regret that **Louise Anderson**, wife of Rick WB2QOQ, passed away on Saturday, February first 2003.

All NPARC club members, family and friends send our condolences to Rick and family members.

We also report that Jim Montllor, W2GRO, became a silent key Sunday night Feb 2, 2003. For arrangements: AA2ZJ

Calendar of Coming Events

February 10th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School

February 24th: **PROJECT MEETING** at the Library
RED CROSS Net Night, monitored at the Library

March 10th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School

March 24th: **PROJECT MEETING** at the Library

April 4th: **AUCTION** 7:00 PM at the Salt Brook School

May 16 - 18: **DAYTON HAMVENTION**. It's not too soon to think about attending this year! Rooms and rides are available.

Getting the Most from Your Hand-Held Transceiver

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C. Edward Harris, KE4SKY, AEC Fairfax ARES

ADVICE ON BRICK AMPLIFIERS

If you need high power transmissions of several minutes duration and can't replace or supplement your hand held with a mobile rig, my advice is to get a "brick amplifier" to do the heavy work. This keeps your HT from overheating, and helps ensure a solid signal for emergency simplex operation. An ideal amp for HT owners should weigh under a pound, be capable of 10 to 15w output when driven by an HT at 1w, or 20 to 40w output when driven by the same HT at its normal 2 or 3w output from a standard battery pack. It should draw no more than 8 amps current at its maximum rated output, enabling it to operate safely from the .093 pin Molex Series 1545 connector or a fused cigarette lighter plug.

You should make some auxiliary power cords to power your HT and small brick amp from an external gel cell battery or a cigarette lighter plug. Use two #14 or #16 wires with 2-pin polarized connectors. Plugs, receptacles and pins are readily available from Radio Shack, and should be rated at 8A, which is adequate to power small brick amps up to 35w output. Various manufacturers make these plug sets, and ARRL recommends some specific devices. But the main thing is to get your equipment working from an external power source with a reasonable length of wires, and if there is an incompatibility with someone else's Rig or Battery, a pair of diagonal cutters and some tape will fix it up in a hurry.

Ed. Note: Another clip from ARES which should be of interest to all.

A QSL from the past

There are a lot of NPARC members who get great pleasure from working DX on the HF bands, and in receiving QSL cards in the mail or via the QSL Bureau.

Not many of us however, are in the category of DXers held by one of our late members, Joe Painter W2BHM of Berkeley Heights. Joe was always very near the top in the DXCC tabulations, and was honored by ARRL by being given the status of #1 Honor Roll. For all of us "ordinary" DXers, #1 Honor Roll means that at one point Joe had worked and received a confirming QSL Card from every existing DXCC Country on the list!!!



Joe Painter W2BHM SK

When Joe left Berkeley Heights, and was cleaning up his shack for the movers, I discovered that he had deposited two boxes full of QSL Cards in the trash. When I berated him for this, he said something like "OK you take them home and face your wife."

Fortunately I did take them home, and in looking through the boxes the other night I discovered a huge cache of interesting historical relics. The card below is just one of them.



It commemorates a QSO of 14 March 1948 during the 1948 DX contest, with a British station located in what was then the Suez Canal Zone. At that time all of Egypt was a British colony, and Major Ellis of the Royal Signals listed other places in the Middle East from which he apparently had operated including Egypt, Palestine, Cyprus, Rhodes and Kuwait.

W2BHM de K2JV MNI TNX, GUD DX ES 73 SK

Salt Brook - NPARC - ARISS

Project Report

The application prepared by NPARC and the teachers of the Salt Brook School is just about ready to be submitted to ARRL. We are convinced that it will be accepted, and as soon as we hear that, it will be time for all Club Members to get on board and find a place in this program where they want to be active.

We need equipment, especially antennas and rotors, amplifiers and preamplifiers, and all the peripherals necessary to support a pair of two meter FM stations and an HF station for use at the School during the next 18 months.

Two of our young members have already volunteered to take the lead in Mentoring the elementary school kids and in teaching them how hams communicate. But there is still plenty of room on the various committees which will be formed for everyone to take part.

Calling all Cubs!!

On Sunday, January 19th, Joe Blank N2KRP and his XYL Gale brought six Cub Scouts to visit my station in Berkeley Heights. I think the Cubs had a good time, but I know that I had a great time with them!

After briefly showing them the station we had a great QSO with KR6Z in California on 15 meter SSB. John it turned out, was located in Apple Valley CA, in the Mojave Desert, and is a paraplegic. Each of the youngsters had a chance to introduce himself, ask John a question, and get an answer.



What seemed to be the most interesting piece of gear in the shack? It turned out to be an old Straight Telegraph Key. They loved the sound of the Morse Code. Joe's son David is the one on the lower left. de K2JV

Membership Registration
NPARC - The Watchung Area Amateur Radio Club
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS NOW

For the Calendar Year 2003

Full Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

e-Mail Address _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

Office Telephone (_____) _____

Call _____ Class _____ Expiration Date _____

ARRL Member? _____ Life Member? _____

Can you operate 145.75 MHz FM? _____ Mobile? _____ HT? _____

Can you/ will 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 2003 are payable before the first meeting in January 2003.

PLEASE DO IT NOW