

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 39

January 2004

NO. 1

N2XJ
Club Callsign

First Meeting of 2004 scheduled for Monday January 12th, at the Salt Brook School

From: The Prez

NPARC Hot Stove



An old tradition in baseball is the "Hot Stove League". It is a time during cold winter nights that the results of the previous season and changes (wish lists) for the coming season are discussed and debated. It is almost as much fun as the regular season!

Although we don't have an "off season" in our club, we can always find time to talk about what is "hot" in the club. The radio club at Salt Brook School appears to be a home run. The school administration, PTA, and parents have been very supportive. Students ranging from 1st to 6th graders have kept those club members who have come to the club meetings very busy in trying to keep up with their enthusiasm! We can use more help. Meetings are held every other Monday from 3-4 PM at the Salt Brook School Library. Call or e-mail me or Barry, K2JV, for details. You will come away in awe of these kids.

And on Sunday, January 4th at the Berkeley Heights Recreation Center, the Club will host its second "Kids' Day". It gives a chance for kids to talk to kids on the air to give them a taste of the "Big Leagues". Again, we can use some help so come on out and give us a hand.

We have several great club meetings set to go for the next two months. Leading off is a live demo of the latest in ham radio gear by a major, local distributor of ham equipment and on deck is a talk and demo on digital voice in ham radio. Don't strike out by missing these two meetings!

(Continued in next column)

Demonstration of Kenwood TS-480 HF band Transceiver

At our first meeting of 2004, we will be fortunate to have a visit by Gene Niemiec K2KJI, who will demonstrate the operation of Kenwood's latest HF + 6 meter Transceiver.



Gene is well known to most of us as the Proprietor of KJI Electronics of Caldwell NJ. Gene's Radio Store which is located right on Bloomfield Avenue, usually has many pieces of Ham Gear on display, and Gene is always well stocked and capable of delivery right "over the counter."

In other happenings, word is out that Steve, KC2KJK, is busy building his Elecraft K-1 QRP rig that Santa delivered. That makes about seven club members who have built their own QRP rigs from kits and have had a blast using them on vacation or in contests. Good luck, Steve, with the soldering.

And don't forget to check out the club website. Ralph, KC2RLM, has redesigned it a bit and it looks better than ever. On the site, you can check out photos from members and their families. We look forward to another winning season in 2004!

73 es 88

Al

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 2004

President: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-464-1323

Vice Pres: K2GLS Bob Willis
973-543-2454

Secretary: KC2HLA Hillary Zaenchik
973-543-2454

Activities Mgr:

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.qsl.net/nparc>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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KC2RLM Ralph Milnes
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for the Watchung Mountain Area Provided by WB2QOQ, Month of December



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	57	58
Minimum Temp. °F:	18	15
Average Temp. °F:	33.3	33.7
Total Precip Rain/Snow (in.):	1.5/20	3.68/10.75

The above information was provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 22 years.

Calendar of Coming Events

January 12th : First 2004 Meeting of the **SALT BROOK Radio Club** at the School at 3:30 PM. Come and join the kids "Adventure Centers."

January 12th: First **REGULAR MEETING** of the year at the Salt Brook School, at 7:30PM. A Kenwood demonstration by K2KJI

January 26th : Meeting of the **SALT BROOK Radio Club** at the School at 3:30 PM. Come and join one of the 5 "Adventure Centers."

January 26th : **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School at 7:30 PM
Discussion of Projects for 2004

February 9th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School at 7:30PM
Presentation on Digital Voice methods for Ham Radio

February 23rd: **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School at 7:30 PM

May 14 - 16: **DAYTON HAMVENTION**. It's not too soon to think about attending this year!

MORE EVENTS??? Send info to [k2jv@arrl.net!!](mailto:k2jv@arrl.net)

NPARC Receives Grant from Salt Brook School Students

At the meeting of the Salt Brook School Ham Radio Club on December 22nd, the Club (NPARC) was presented with a Holiday Greeting Card which contained a cash grant of \$100. The inscription in the card reads as follows:

To the Ham Radio Group-

Thank you so much for volunteering to bring Ham Radio Club to Salt Brook.

Sincerely

Salt Brook School

Ham Radio Club participants.

This totally unexpected gift was graciously accepted in a thank you letter written by President Al Hanzl K2AL and directed to Mrs. Jamie D'Amato the PTA President.

Your executive committee has determined that this and all similar gifts and grants will be used to fund projects and activities of the Salt Brook Radio Club, and the first of these activities will be the construction by the kids, of the ARRL "No Soldering" Code Oscillator.

Digi-Tales

by Ralph Milnes KC2RLM

Next month we launch a new column called Digi-Tales. Digi-Tales will explore all things digital in the Amateur Radio world. That might include packet, PSK31, SSTV, new sound card modes, digital radio, High Speed Multi-Media (HSMM), internet applications, and much more.



Ralph Milnes KC2RLM has volunteered to be the Contributing Editor, but we hope other club members will assist him by contributing a column on a subject of particular interest to them. As Ralph says, "If it relies on a computer chip and a radio, then it's fair game for *Digi-Tales*."

Meetings of Salt Brook School Radio Club Continue to Impress



Harry AB2CM working with (L to R) Matt Garvin, Nicholas Esposito, and Bryce Vogel learning to send and receive the Morse Code.

You thought Morse Code was dead?? Don't tell it to the kids at the Salt Brook School. Our Morse Code instruction, under the tutelage of Harry AB2CM and Jim WB2EDO, is one of the most active "Adventure Areas" during the club meetings. Of course it's also true that with approximately 35 kids attending each Club meeting, we have plenty of interest in the other "Adventure Areas" which we are presenting as part of Ham Radio.

Your NPARC Badge will get you into the School Library, where the meeting is held. So come on in and watch the kids learn things like Satellite tracking, phonetic alphabets, on the air procedures, etc.

Wouff Hong Award to KB2IKC

The NPARC Wouff Hong Award was presented to Bob Barns, KB2IKC, at our annual luncheon on December 13th at O'Connor's Restaurant in Watchung.



The Award was presented by Al Hirsch K2SKV, a founding member of NPARC. The citation included many of the services Bob has provided for the Club, including his continuing activity as Net Control Station for the Sunday night net.

TCRA Events for January

For more information and directions to their locations, see the TCRA website at: www.w2li.org

January 5th: "STATE POLICE AND RACES"

Bob Schroeder, N2HX the Communication Coordinator for the State Police of NJ will discuss the relationship of RACES with the State Police and also talk about the emergency communication program in NJ. (8PM AT THE WESTFIELD YMCA)

January 6th: "VE TEST SESSION" At the **Union County E.O.C building**, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. Testing will begin at 7:00PM. All license class tests will be given. REMINDER: the testing fee is \$12.00.

January 10th: "VE TEST SESSION" 8AM at the **Union County College Cranford Campus**.

January 19th: "AMSAT" Dominick "Dee" Interdonato, NB2F, the state coordinator for AMSAT will discuss getting started in SAT communication. (8PM AT THE CHURCH)

Coming next month: Two new columns

Digi-Tales: Under the editorial leadership of Ralph Milnes KC2RLM we'll have a new monthly column on all matters digital in Ham Radio. While Ralph will produce the first two or three articles, he will need some help. All Club Members are strongly urged to help out by writing up a description of things that interest them.

The Way Things Were: Your conductor will continue the series of articles about Joe Painter's QSL Cards from the 1940s and 1950s. But we'll also throw in some interesting old articles from QST and other Radio Magazines from the 1920s and 1930s. There are also a few Club Members with tales to tell about the "old days" of Ham Radio, and we'll get them to put their stories on paper so they can be presented in Spark Gaps.

Club QRPers Score Big in CQWW CW Contest

It's becoming an annual event and the competitive juices run high as several club members with QRP rigs (mainly Elecraft K1s and K2s built from kits) participate in the CQ World Wide CW Contest. The contest takes place over a 48 hour period on a weekend in late November, and the goal is to work as many countries and CQ zones as you can. The main goal of the NPARC participants is to work 100 countries for the proverbial DXCC.

Five club members submitted scores this year. In order of countries worked they are:

1. K2YG: 106 countries on 107 QSO's (K2 with Yagi)
2. WA2DKJ: 101/105 (K2 with Yagi)
3. K2AL: 42/62 (K1 on 20 and 40 meters with end-fed longwire)
4. K2JAO: 30/45 (K2 with Yagi)
5. KB2FCV: 12/18 (K2 with Loop antenna strung inside his living room!)

All stations ran 5 watts.

As you can see, you do not need high power or big antennas to work the world. If conditions are right, even a few hours yields great results. And none of us had time to run the full 48 hours.

So join in the fun next year and let us know how you do.

Good DX'ing and 73, de Al K2AL

It's January 2004, in case you haven't noticed. For those who have not yet paid their NPARC Dues -- it is now time. The last couple of issues of Spark Gaps included a Membership Form for 2004, so please find it and send it in.

Editors Note: This is a somewhat abbreviated issue of Spark Gaps, and it's being distributed early. This is because your editor is taking off on an extended foreign trip, and will be gone for most of January. But if all goes well I'll be back in time to produce the February issue on time. Hopefully I'll have some interesting pictures about the places I go and the hams I meet.

73 es CU fm SU de K2JV
