

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

March 2003

NO. 3



N2XJ
Club Callsign

Meeting scheduled for Monday March 10, at the Salt Brook School Featuring a videotape program on Electrical Safety

From: The Prez

Play Ball!



The New Providence Recreation Department has always been a great resource and assistance to the club throughout the years. From Field Day insurance coverage to the use of town facilities, they have really helped the club. So when Norman, the Recreation Director, asked if the club was interested in

sponsoring a Recreation League baseball team this spring, I told him that we surely would be.

The club has shown that we are willing to be part of and contribute to the community and its surroundings and we should let the townspeople know who we are. We will even have our club logo put on the team's T-shirts! Let's just hope they have a winning record! I'll keep you posted.

In the latest ARRL contest bulletin, it mentions an "Elecrafft QSO Party" scheduled for March 8th-9th. For those club members with Elecrafft QRP rigs (I think there are five of us now) it may be a fun contest. Actually, anyone regardless of the type of radio you own can join in. See the Elecrafft or ARRL website for details. Or send me an e-mail and I can send you the information.

It appears that the "Hamfest Season" has started. A bunch of us went to the Splitrock Hamfest this past Saturday and we had a great time. It was well attended and quite a few club members were there. If you have

Club Meeting on Monday

The Club meeting of Monday March 10th will be led by Al K2AL, based on a Video obtained from JCP&L about Electrical Safety. Although the tape is not specifically designed for Hams, your local power lines and distribution systems aren't designed for Hams either. (Just how many of our wire antennas or feedlines run over or under the commercial power lines??)

We've received a copy of the new ARRL Publication "Amateur Radio Today" narrated by KB2GSD (Walter Cronkite). Playing time is 6 1/2 minutes, so we'll give everyone a quick look during the coffee break.

This forthcoming meeting is also the last meeting before the Auction on April 4th. The Auction is an important Club function, and we need lots of help to make it run smoothly and to make a financial success out of it. As usual we need many different kinds of advertising to pull in the local buyers, and we need "greeters" and other assistance in making it a good experience for those who just drop in.

never been to one or have not gone in awhile there are several good hamfests coming up soon.

Another reminder that the Annual Club Auction is Friday, April 4th at Salt Brook School. Spread the word and keep looking around the shack for auction items. Part of the club meeting on March 10th will deal with planning for the auction.

Finally, we are always looking for interesting topics for club meetings or the Spark Gaps. I am sure, in fact I know, there are a lot of interesting things going on within the club. Let's hear about it!

vy 73 de 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.qsl.net/nparc>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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

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



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	50	65
Minimum Temp. °F:	7	15
Average Temp. °F:	28.9	38.1
Total Precip Rain/Snow (in.):	4.68/23.3	0.92/18

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

TNX. FROM WB2QOQ

I would like to thank fellow NPARC members and their families for their kindness and support, after the passing of my dear wife Louise, on Feb. 1st. The outpouring of love and support has been much appreciated, during this difficult time. Thanks very much agn.73 Rick, WB2QOQ.

Calendar of Coming Events

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

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

March 31st: **RED CROSS Net**. Everyone invited to the Summit Chapter to observe the Net operations.

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

April 14th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School

April 28th: **PROJECT MEETING** at the Library
RED CROSS Net. Monitor the Net at the Library

May 12th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School

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

Local Hamfests Coming

Cherryville Repeater Assn. on Saturday March 15, 2003

Usually a very good Flea Market, and terrific Breakfast available. Held at the No. Hunterdon Regional HS on Route 31 south of Clinton

Maryland State Convention Saturday/Sunday March 29/30

Held at the Timonium Fairgrounds just North of Baltimore off Interstate Route I-83. This is a Real Convention, with Indoor and Outdoor exhibitors, technical sessions, and usually lots of Hams.

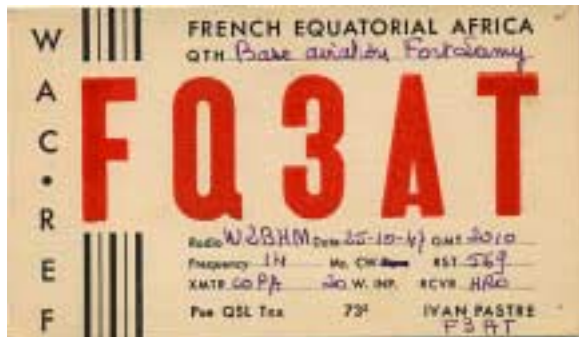
A QSL from the past

Last month we had a QSL card from the Middle East. We can almost imagine the adventures of Major Ellis of the Royal Signals as he traveled in 1948. Places like Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Palestine, etc.

For this month's examples, I discovered two cards in the boxes from Joe Painter W2BHM. You've really got to look at them carefully. The first is shown below:



Joe Painter W2BHM SK



It is a very nice, but plain card from a French Air Base called Fort Samy. It QSLs a contact made in 1947 from French Equatorial Africa, which doesn't exist anymore. The operator was an Ivan Pastre F3AT who may have been associated with the French Army Airforce during WW2.

A few years later, in 1951, Joe contacted a station in Sudan (Soudan). That was FF8AG:



By golly it's Ivan Pastre again, now located at Base Aviation in Bamako! Bamako is still there, except it's on the Niger River in Mali, and he says he's ex-FQ3AT.

Don't be surprised if next month we MEET Ivan.
W2BHM de K2JV MNI TNX, GUD DX ES 73 SK

Salt Brook - NPARC - ARISS

Project Report

We are STILL waiting for the Application Document to be prepared by the Salt Brook School teachers. I am promised that it will be ready "shortly." The program is far from dead. The astronauts had an ARISS QSO last week with a school in Germany,

Although we seem to be on "hold" once we get the application in to ARRL, we'll want to start terrestrial operations for the Salt Brook Kids, and we're going to need lots of help from Club Members.

Treasurers Interim Report

as of February 28, 2003



At the end of February there were 61 paid up members, and probably a couple were still "waiting." The unpaid members have been dropped from the regular Spark Gaps mailing, but are getting a final complimentary copy.

Cash in Bank 2/28/03	\$1733.
Budgeted Expenses remaining	1244.
 Projected Cash at end of FY 2003	 \$489

AUCTION!!!

The Annual Auction is scheduled for Friday April 4th. A flyer is attached to this issue of Spark Gaps for your use. Please print a few copies of it and spread 'em around.

It won't hurt to talk about the auction on local repeaters and at any other Radio Club Meetings you attend. This includes Flea Markets and Hamfests, most organizers don't mind if you put a few flyers on the sign in table.

We'll discuss Auction procedures at the Club Meeting on Monday night March 10th at the Salt Brook School.



AUCTION

and Flea Market

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club will hold its Annual Auction and Flea Market on Friday April 4th, 2003.

New Location. Mark your calendar!!!

We will again hold our combination activity. After two hours of AUCTION there will be a FLEA MARKET. The major items will be auctioned while the smaller items will be available during the flea market portion.

DATE - - FRIDAY - - APRIL 4, 2003
TIME - - 7:00 P.M.
IN THE CAFETERIA OF
THE SALT BROOK SCHOOL
40 MAPLE STREET NEAR SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
NEW PROVIDENCE
TALK-IN 145.75 SIMPLEX

DONATION \$2 buy/sell - - - FREE PARKING - - - REFRESHMENTS

ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET FROM REGISTERED ATTENDEES. AUCTION COMMISSION: 10% OF SALES DONATED EQUIPMENT and PARTS are WELCOME

Enter the School building on the Ground Floor near the Basketball Courts. PLEASE abide by the parking signs ON MAPLE STREET.

YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT TIME, MEETING OLD AND NEW FRIENDS AND CAPTURING SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER ELECTRONIC, RADIO, AUDIO AND COMPUTER PARTS. DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!

**For additional information call:
Barry K2JV, at 908-464-1730 or Al K2AL, at 908-464-1323**