

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

May 2003

NO. 5

**N2XJ**  
**Club Callsign**

## Meeting scheduled for Monday May 12, at the Salt Brook School Jerry Sevick W2FMI to discuss Broadband Transformers

### From: The Prez

#### The Signs of Spring

Is it finally Spring?? It sure is starting to feel like it! Not only is the weather warming up, but some recent club activities sure indicate that Spring has arrived.

The Club sponsored 6th-7th-8th Grade Girls' Softball team has begun play. They look absolutely stunning in



their team tee shirts with the NPARC logo. And congratulations to the team for playing as good as they look with a very impressive 9-5 victory in their first game. The team plays every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6PM now through

May 16th at Salt Brook Field. So if you are in the area, come out and support the team.

And just around the corner is Memorial Day and "The Parade" in New Providence. We will need both communicators and marchers for the parade. So get your walking shoes on and contact Rick, WB2QOQ, if you want to march. Contact Barry, K2JV, or myself if you can help with communications.

With the warmer weather I have been able to operate "backyard portable" with my Elecraft K-1 QRP rig and have worked some good DX on a few watts. And don't forget to support some of the local hamfests that are currently happening. Spring has indeed arrived!

One last note- we have received word from the ARRL that the club's application for an ARISS contact (with Space Station astronaut/hams) has been approved. Now the work begins!

Vy 73, K2AL

### Club Meeting on May 12th

Dr. Jerry Sevick, W2FMI, is widely known in amateur radio circles for his work with transmission line transformers, baluns, and ununs. His written work on



the subject includes "Transmission Line Transformers" published by Noble Publishing Co., "Building and Using Baluns and Ununs" published by CQ Communications Inc., and a great many published articles in Ham Radio and technical journals.

Jerry is perhaps best known by us for his pioneering work with short vertical antennas and ground plane systems and measurements. His *QST* series on short verticals has become a classic and his April 1978 *QST* article on short ground radial systems serves as the world standard for earth conductivity experiments.

Jerry will present the latest views on broadband transmission line transformers, baluns, and ununs. The theory has been simplified and unified. The classification of these broadband devices has been shown to be simply determined by their impedance ratio. Examples: 1:1, 1:4, less than 1:4, and greater than 1:4. Many examples will be discussed.



NPARC  
THE WATCHUNG HILLS  
AREA RADIO CLUB  
P.O.Box 813  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

## 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  
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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AB2CM Harry Schwill  
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## Climatological Data for the Watchung Mountain Area Provided by WB2QOQ, Month of April



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	84	92
Minimum Temp. °F:	27	25
Average Temp. °F:	48.5	53.5
Total Precip Rain/Snow (in.):	2.84/5.0	3.5/0

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

May 12th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School  
Jerry Sevick W2FMI, will talk about his new book!!

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

May 27th: **TUESDAY TUESDAY TUESDAY**  
**PROJECT MEETING at the Library, Monday is a holiday.**

June 9th: **REGULAR MEETING** at Salt Brook School  
Field Day Planning Meeting

June 14 - 16: **ARRL VHF QSO Party**. You'll need to give your Grid Square locator in order to join in on this contest. Details in QST

June 28 - 29: **FIELD DAY**. Be sure to attend the meeting on June 9th when we get organized for the BIG EVENT.

## Hobby Day Results Summary -- It was Great!!



Emily KC2KHK and some of "her kids" at N2XJ

It happened on Friday April 11th, at the Mountain Park Elementary School in Berkeley Heights. The event was part of "No TV Week" during which the school kids are introduced to alternative entertainment. They certainly got a good introduction to Ham Radio.

At least 50 kids got to see the actual operation of a ham station on 20 meters, and a few got to talk to a ham in Evansville, Indiana.

Simultaneously, there were a batch of QSL cards displayed and the kids were able to match cards with the state or country from which they came.

In addition there were a couple of code oscillators available so the kids could send "secret messages" to each other. Some learned to recognize their names in Morse code.

This was a major effort on the part of a very few Club Members. Thanks to AB2CM, KC2EYG, K2EFB, KC2KMK and KC2KHM for making it a success. It WILL happen again for those who missed it.

## More QSL Cards from the bequest of W2BHM

For the past two months we've been talking about the cards received from Ivan F3AT when he was in Africa. Noone could have known that it would have led to a QSO on 20 meters with him.

Here's another of the cards found in the boxes left to me by W2BHM. It's just an ordinary German Ham DJ2KS operating from Brazil (PY0).

Or is it ???



Joe Painter W2BHM SK



Take a good look at this card from St. Peter and Paul's Rocks!! Essentially no one but a ham would ever recognize the name of this place. Located about halfway between Brazil and Africa, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and about one degree of Latitude north of the equator, this is no resort location. And read it carefully - a one hour DXpedition??? Here's a close up.



There is Hans Widdel kneeling on the Rocks with headphones on, equipment propped up on a suitcase talking to Joe!! And not a tree in sight.

Next month I've got more fantastic old QSL cards.

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

## Salt Brook - NPARC - ARISS

### Project Report

The Application has been filed with ARRL and it has been accepted! What does this mean?? It means that a QSO between the ISS and the Salt Brook School kids **will take place** sometime in the future. We are unable to say "when" it will happen, and it may not be until some time in 2005, but it will happen.

Now that we know we're online, we'll want to start terrestrial operations for the Salt Brook Kids, and we're going to need lots of help from Club Members. By "terrestrial operations" we mean having practise communication sessions from the school to a club member who simulates the ISS operator. We will also want to start a program of visual observations of ISS passes. Thanks to K2GLS the school is being regularly informed of the dates and times of Visible Passes.

Most of the educational activities will start in September, probably with a Poster Contest, and most important: a contest to design the official Salt Brook Earth Station tee-shirt. At that time we should be ready with the necessary equipment and a plan to engage as many kids as possible in various parts of the program.

**But -- we are online for an ISS QSO!!**

## Quad Antennas

### Made simple and interesting



N2OT Shows how it's done

It was a most enjoyable evening for our last Club Meeting. The computer worked, the projector worked, Tony was his usual self with coffee and cookies. But the main event was the entertaining and interesting presentation about Quad Antenna design and construction by Gary Kath, N2OT.

Gary had a well prepared Power Point presentation and lots of models and examples of antenna construction. There are many of us who use quads for HF and VHF antennas, but we never seem to get tired of hearing and learning more about them.

If we need a Real Ham Radio project for the club, it seems that a 2 meter quad design and construction project would be a good way to go.