

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

November 2003

NO. 10



**N2XJ**  
**Club Callsign**

## This Months Meeting Regenerative Receivers

### From: The Prez Trick or Treat?

The trimester of holidays is already upon us, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. It is always a hectic time around



this household ....full of treats and tricks! Thinking of tricks or treats, just a few thoughts on some important "global issues" confronting ham radio these days.

We were fortunate to have several guest speakers last month at club meetings, namely Bill Hudzik, W2UDT Steve Mendelsohn W2ML, Frank Fallon N2FF, and Joyce Birmingham KA2ANF. The major issue for discussion

was BPL, "Broadband over Power Lines". The more you hear about it, the more it appears that it is a very real and serious threat to all of us hams. We should all be alert for news on what steps we can take to fight against this threat. Ralph, KC2RLM, has posted links to our ARRL Section, Division and ARRL home page web sites on the home page of the NPARC web page where we can find instructions on fighting this problem.

I have been reading about the introduction of "Logbook of the World" in QST. I have mixed emotions about it. There is something about getting a real QSL card that I have always thought to be a "romantic" part of the hobby. I hope that practice does not disappear. Always a treat to get that rare QSL in the mail!

A real treat for CW buffs this month is the CQ Worldwide Contest on November 29-30. I know several of us club members with QRP rigs will be active.

On the club news front, we will have 2004 officer elections at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Salt Brook School.. Although we have had elections in November in the past, we have a technical meeting scheduled instead on November 10<sup>th</sup> given by Andy, WA2DKJ. So be there, it will be a good one. (Should I say, a real treat!). (By the way, I will be throwing my name into the hat for re-election for 2004. You can decide if that is a trick or treat!)

73,

Al K2AL

### Club Meeting Monday Nov. 10

Two of our members will present the theory and construction of Regenerative Receivers. This is a project being worked on by Andy WA2DKJ and James KB2FCV.

### TCRA Auction November 17

We received the following notification of the TCRA Auction. It will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road, Scotch Plains (just East of Martine Avenue) on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>:

All are welcome to sell including non-club members. TCRA receives 10% of the sale price (up to a max of \$10 on the first \$100 of any sale-all sales above \$100 are commission free). Items for sale must be Ham Radio-Electronics or Computer related items. No home electronic items or commercial sales.

**Note: doors will open at 6PM and the auction will start at 7PM. (AT THE CHURCH)**

### Luncheon on December 13

We have arranged for our annual holiday luncheon to be held on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> 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 a flyer, so please return it soon. We have to guarantee the number of attendees to the restaurant by December first.

The Luncheon Sign-up sheet is Page 6 of this issue of Spark Gaps. Please send it in soon.



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

## 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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Editor: K2JV Barry Cohen  
Editor Emeritus: K2AGI John Sheetz  
Contributing Editors:  
AB2CM Harry Schwill  
WB2QOO Rick Anderson

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



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	73	79
Minimum Temp.. °F:	31	32
Average Temp.. °F:	52.1	52.6
Total Precip . Rain (in.):	5.37	6.95

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

Nov 10th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School.  
Presentation by WA2DKJ and KB2FCV on Regenerative Receivers

Nov 17th : **TCRA AUCTION** at the Church. See article on Page 1

Nov 24th : First Meeting of the **SALT BROOK Radio Club** at the School at 3:30 PM

Nov 24th : **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School at 7:30 PM  
ARISS Antenna project, building circularly polarized Yagis

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

## ARISS Project Kicks Off at Salt Brook

November is going to be a big month for the ARISS project at Salt Brook School. The meeting we had in September, while not very well attended, was considered a big success by the kids who were there, by the parents who were there, and by the Principal of the school. The success was big enough that the school has asked us to help them run a Ham Radio Club at SBS.

The first meeting of the SBS Radio Club will be at 3:30 PM on Monday Nov. 24. That evening there will be a visible pass of the ISS, so we are ordering clear skies!!

The 24th is also the date for our project meeting for November. That meeting will start at 7:30 that evening. The Project will be the design and construction of circularly polarized Yagis for ARISS.



Is THAT the ISS?

So at 3:30 we'll meet with the kids and the school's Computer Teacher, Cathy Cleenput, who will be in charge of the Club activities. Within the next week we'll put together a program for this meeting and for the next few months. Whatever else we do, however, there will always be time for on-the-air QSO's and we will set up some semipermanent antennas for HF and VHF use.

This should be a fun filled experience for everyone involved. If enough people get involved there won't be too much work. So come to the SBS on Monday afternoon, right after school is out, and join in with the kids.

## Two October Meetings Featured ARRL Officers and Candidates

At our October meetings we were favored by visits from our ARRL representatives, Steve Mendelsohn W2ML the Vice Director of the Hudson Division, Bill Hudzik W2UDT our NNJ Section Manager, Frank Fallon N2FF the Hudson Division Director and Joyce Birmingham KA2ANF our Vice Director Elect.



Steve Mendelsohn W2ML

Steve presented his view of the leading issues facing Ham Radio, and his involvement. He spoke at length on the threat to the HF ham bands by the proposed Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) technology. He described the interference measurements made by Ed Hare, W1RFI, in areas trialing BPL systems. These field trial systems cause enough interference to make the HF bands unusable. He encouraged all Hams to stay on top of the FCC actions in this area. He also mentioned the need to get young people interested in Ham Radio and the ARRL Big Project activities to get Ham Radio into the schools. Other issues mentioned were the FCC requirement for a code test and the new ARRL Logbook of the World.



Bill Hudzik W2UDT

Bill presented his view on New Jersey Ham issues. He emphasized that we need to make the public more aware of Ham Radio and its contributions to the community. Currently there is a bill, A3065, patterned after federal law PRB-1, before the legislature to protect Hams' rights to erect antennas. He directed interested hams to the Hudson

Division NNJ web page for details on this and other New Jersey issues.

Frank Fallon introduced Joyce as the next Vice Director. She's vice president of the 10-70 Repeater Association, enjoys DX and is a VE. Frank also talked about the threat from BPL and encouraged all to be ready to write letters as soon as the FCC acts on changing the rules to allow BPL technology. He also answered questions on changes to the worldwide allocation of frequencies in the 40 meter band and that it will take years before we see changes in the rules. He did mention that hams may get 40 meter expansion at the next world conference in 2007.



Joyce Birmingham KA2ANF, Frank Fallon N2FF

## 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!!

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## 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 should soon be appearing in QST.

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## 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.

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## Articles, Articles, Articles!!!

The story this month is only little changed from last month. Our reliable, dependable contributors K2AL and WB2QOQ have come through in style with helpful and interesting material for publication.

But there is an addition: the article (to the left) on the October meetings, was written and submitted by Bob Willis K2GLS. To Bob we are all "deeply indebted."

Still, as of today the Club Roster has the names of 70 members located from New Hampshire to Florida, but mostly right nearby in New Jersey. Are we to believe that NONE of you have done ANYTHING of Club interest in the past month?!

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

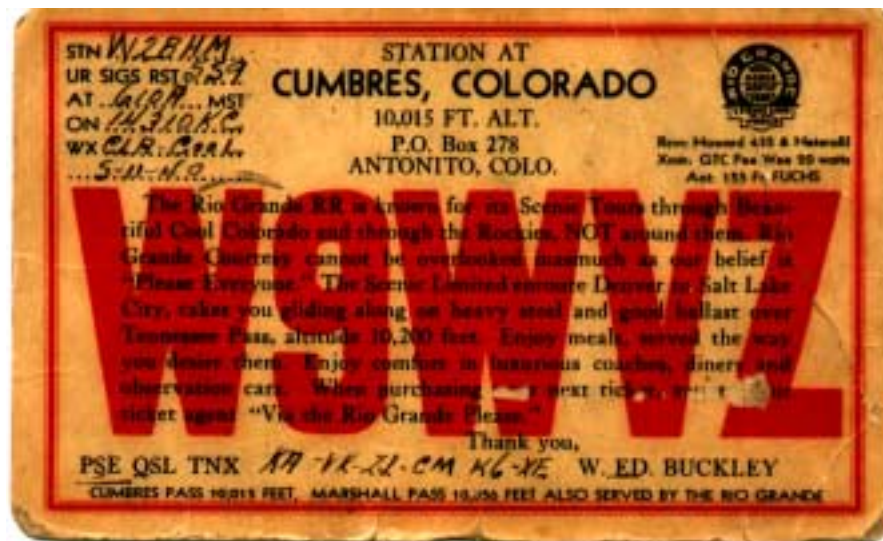
Before the summer break, we were talking about the treasure trove of QSL Cards left to the Club by Joe Painter W2BHM SK. The first card we looked at was the one received from Major Ken Ellis of the Royal Signals. Ellis was MD5KW at that time, stationed in the Suez Canal Zone which was part of Great Britain, and the card was for a QSO in the DX Contest of 1948.



After that there were the cards received from Ivan Pastre, F3AT, in 1947 and 1951 when he was in Africa, and operated as FQ3AT and FF8AG. No one could have known that it would lead to a QSO on 20 meters with Ivan himself, who is still actively on CW.

We also had a card from a German ham, DJ2KS operating from Brazil (PY0). But it wasn't just Brazil, it was from St. Peter and Paul's Rocks. It had a photo of Hans, DJ2KS, operating his portable station, for a period of one hour in 1965, and he really was kneeling on the rocks!!

Now take a look at the card below. It looks like an ordinary QSL Card from a ham in Colorado, but you'll have to exercise some imagination for this one.



First, look at the date. It's May 11, 1940.

Next, look at the station location. It says "Cumbres Colorado." Today, there is no town or village at Cumbres, but there is a Cumbres Pass and a place called Cumbres which on my maps is marked as a Railway Siding!! Cumbres is in south central Colorado, no more than 5 miles north of the New Mexico State Line, and the pass is at an altitude of 10,022 feet.

It seems pretty clear that Mr. W. Ed. Buckley W9WVZ was associated with the Rio Grande Railroad, and operated a ham station from a railroad building high in the Rocky Mountains (really the San Juan Mountains), and Joe spoke with him from there.

I think the scanned image is good enough for you to read the printed matter on the card.

And a little something more -- There still is a railroad running through Cumbres! Today it's called the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. It no longer goes from Denver to Silverton (the Durango to Silverton part of the line still exists and is very popular), and you can buy tickets on the Web to ride it from Antonito.

Next month I've got more fantastic old QSL cards from Joe's collection.

**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.

**NPARC - AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
2003 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Saturday, December 13th, 11:30 AM**

Our Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at  
**O'Connor's Beef 'n Ale House**  
708 Mountain Blvd. Watchung, NJ

**Luncheon will be served at 12:15**

A cash bar will be available starting at 11:30.

*Lunch will include,*

Open Salad Bar

*AND your choice of one of the following entrees:*

- 1) Roast Prime Rib of Beef
- 2) Shrimp Scampi over Rice
- 3) Chicken Parmigiana over Linguine

*bread, vegetables, dessert and soda/coffee/tea will be included*

TOTAL COST IS \$21.00 PER PERSON (STUDENT Club Members: \$10)  
Keep the top portion of this form so you will remember when and where!

-----  
Cut on dashed line and return the bottom portion of this form.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BEFORE NOVEMBER 30th!**

Enter the names of those who will be attending, (PLEASE PRINT)  
and the menu selection:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée (1 - 3): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée: \_\_\_\_\_

\$21.00 per person, STUDENT Club Members \$10

Your Telephone Number:

Make check payable to NPARC

Send with this reservation to:

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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