

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 39

November 2004

NO. 9

N2XJ
Club Callsign

Election of Officers for 2005

Monday November 8th, at the Salt Brook School

From: The Prez

The passing of two members of the NPARC family this past month has left us saddened.

Tony, KB2BBP, will be missed as someone who was always willing to help whether with Field Day catering or with helping local youth get involved in Ham Radio. Those who knew Tony well came to realize that his heart was always in the right place, always willing to help and always there with words of encouragement. I know there were times when a few, well maybe more than a few, words from Tony helped me get through a tough time.



Martha Barns, wife of long time member Bob, KB2IKC, will also be missed. Martha was a fixture at all club functions and was always good company.

Our prayers to Bob Barns and his family and to Val Lockhart and family during these difficult times.

In regard to club activities, we had some great presentations during October meetings. Bob, K2GLS, with help from Eric, N2VI, presented a WWII newsreel Bob downloaded from the Web about the Hallicrafters HT-4 transmitter which helped win the war for the Allies. It was a riveting movie. Rich, N2AUG, presented a show and tell of a 1950's Radio Shack power supply kit he unearthed at the BARA hamfest.

As I have said many times, if you are not coming to the meetings you are missing good talks, good company and good coffee and donuts!

And don't forget to get to the November meetings. It is club election time.

73 es 88 de Al K2AL

Tony Lockhart KB2BBP SK

Martha Barns XYL of KB2IKC

Both will be sorely missed by all who knew them, especially by the membership of NPARC. Our sympathy is extended to Val and to Bob .

Election of Club Officers

The primary matter of business at the November 8th Meeting will be the Election of Officers for the year 2005. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Guy Brennert K2EFB, will present his committee's slate of officers, and nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Just like for the National Elections, you may not get your way but you should stand up and be counted!

Membership Renewals

The membership form for 2005 is attached at the end of this issue of Spark Gaps. Please fill it out and return it to the Treasurer with your annual dues.

We really want the information requested, so we can have ice cream cakes at suitable times (birthdays). Since there is more and more important activity going on in the 440 MHz band, we want to know who has this capability.

Holiday Luncheon Scheduled

The NPARC Annual Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday December 4th at O'Connor's Beef 'N Ale House in Warren. This is the same location as last year, and the price will be essentially the same as last year.

There is a reservation form attached to this issue of Spark Gaps, so please fill it out and send it back ASAP.

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
908-244-6202

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

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:

KC2RLM Ralph Milnes
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

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



	2004	2003
Maximum Temp.. °F:	71	73
Minimum Temp. °F:	39	31
Average Temp. °F:	53.2	52.1
Total Precip Rain (in.):	1.47	5.37

The above information was provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 23 years.

Calendar of Coming Events

Nov. 7th: **NYC MARATHON**

Nov. 8th: **3:00PM - SALT BROOK STATICS**
MEETING CANCELLED

Nov. 8th: **REGULAR MEETING** -- ELECTION of OFFICERS

Nov. 13th: **HUDSON DIVISION AWARDS DINNER**
Special Award to Jerry Sevick W2FMI

Nov. 22nd: **3:00PM - SALT BROOK STATICS** regular meeting

Nov 22nd: **NPARC PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School

A New Project

Holiday Toy Drive for Homeless Florida Children

ARRL has announced that it will conduct a nationwide Toy Drive for Florida kids who have been displaced or made homeless by the recent series of weather events which hit the state.

Between now and Thanksgiving, hams throughout the USA are collecting new toys, and sending them with a QSL card to the United Way of Martin County Florida, which will handle distribution.

It was originally suggested that the members of the Salt Brook Statics would donate toys and NPARC would pack and ship them. However the school Principal has requested that the whole Salt Brook School be part of the drive, and it's just possible that it will expand beyond that.

The project will be led by the Salt Brook Statics kids, with help from NPARC. There will be much more information in a few days.

Hudson Division Awards Dinner to honor Jerry Sevick W2FMI

This annual event is hosted this year by LIMARC, the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club, on Saturday evening Nov. 13th, in Jericho NY. It is expected to be attended by up to 100 hams including all the Hudson Division officers and Jim Haynie W5JBP the President of ARRL.

A special honor will be conferred upon Jerry Sevick W2FMI, for his technical contributions to Ham Radio and electronics in general.

There will be transportation to and from the dinner for those interested in attending. Contact K2JV for details.

Report on Repeater Use at BH 5K Race

By Eric Grosse N2VI



At last year's Berkeley Heights 5k race, the VHF base station at the start/finish line had trouble hearing some of the handhelds situated in remote locations. This year we experimented with adding a cross-band repeater at the far point of the course.

The radio we used was a Kenwood TM-V7A that Barry K2JV bought at Dayton. This unit (like my IC-2410H dual-band transceiver) can be put into a mode of transmitting on VHF Freq1 everything it hears on UHF Freq2 and vice versa. At medium power (10 watt) and reasonable duty cycle as found in our emergency communications exercise, the radio stayed cool and a marine battery easily lasted through the event.

Our antenna is a homemade J-pole constructed from ladder-line, cut for the 2 meter band and adequate on 70cm. J-pole and RG-58 feedline run inside nested plastic pipes and are bolted to a base made of scrap angle-iron, weighted by the battery and radio. Overall height is a bit over 19 feet, but breaks down in minutes to pieces that can be readily transported by car or carried up to a roof.

We deploy the cross-band repeater in a different way than we would a normal repeater. A main tactical VHF Freq1 is chosen. As in previous years, the base station operates simplex on Freq1 and nearby handhelds communicate with it directly. Everyone hears each other and the system is robust, with no single point of failure. The repeater is used to accommodate "distant handhelds" that cannot hear the base station. We pick a UHF Freq2 allowed for simplex by the ARRL band plan, not a harmonic of Freq1, and typically not in use. Set up the cross-band repeater at a good location and configure for Freq1 and Freq2 operation. The "distant handhelds," which are nearby the repeater, tune to Freq2 in simplex. They may or may not hear each other, but they will be able to hear and be heard by the base station and by the VHF handhelds.

Joe KC2EYG and I were a bit skeptical so we tested in advance. A trial set up on the day before the race was in high winds from remnants of hurricane Ivan, but the makeshift antenna held up fine. Configuring the V7A proved to be more troublesome, but after many tries we finally got the right combination.

Both weather and radio performance on the day of the race were excellent.

Salt Brook Meeting Cancelled

The meeting of the Salt Brook Statics scheduled for 3 PM on Monday 8 November **has been cancelled**. The reason given is that the Library has been preempted by an emergency school staff meeting.

An alternate arrangement is being made-contact K2JV

Salt Brook Statics Report

The first club meeting for the Salt Brook Statics was held on Monday October 25th. The club members were divided into three groups working on code practice, operating procedures, and QSL card design. The code practice group used three practice oscillators. They worked with the alphabet sheets and were sending words and short messages to each other.

Operating procedures used the list of abbreviations and phonetic code charts to send messages using the HT's.

Based on the experience of designing a club logo last year, the kids formed a QSL design group. Some of the samples were interesting. The members were excited at the prospect of sending and receiving the cards.

reported by Frank McAneny K2EZR

Antennas for Salt Brook School

The Salt Brook School building is constructed with a perfectly flat and easily accessible roof. There is, however a problem for antennas: there is no place to mount anything.

The current plan is to place two large and heavy pedestals on the roof. They are built with 6 x 6 inch chemically treated timbers which are cut, drilled, and bolted together by long threaded rods. One pedestal is already built but was disassembled for delivery to the school and hoisting to the rooftop. It is 3 x 4 feet in size. The other pedestal will be constructed in the school maintenance yard next week, and will be 4 x 5 feet in size.

Both pedestals will mount a 36" tripod (Radio Shack) and one of them will be equipped with an azimuth rotor mounted on the pedestal inside the tripod. When the ARISS tracking Yagis are complete, they will include an elevation rotor system, and they will be mounted on a mast connected to the azimuth rotor.

It is intended that one pedestal be equipped with an omnidirectional 2 meter antenna, and the other with a multiband vertical for HF. The flat roof will make it easy to lay out an array of radials. The Club could use a donation or loan of a suitable HF vertical antenna for 20 and 15 meters.

Two coax, two rotor, and necessary control cables will be run from the antenna locations to the library.

NPARC - AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2004 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 4th, 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 \$22.00 PER PERSON (STUDENT Club Members: \$11)

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 26th!

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

Name: _____

Entrée (1 - 3): _____

Name: _____

Entrée: _____

\$22.00 per person, STUDENT Club Members \$11

Your Telephone Number:

Make check payable to NPARC

Send with this reservation to:

(_____) _____

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

Membership Registration
NPARC - The Watchung Mountain Area Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974-0813

For the Calendar Year 2005

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 operate on 440 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 2005 are payable before the first meeting in January 2005.