

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 38

September 2003

NO. 8

**N2XJ**  
**Club Callsign**

## Meeting Scheduled for Monday September 8, at the Salt Brook School Topics to Include Forthcoming Club Activities

### From the Prez: A Summer Wind

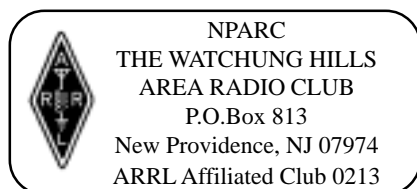


As usual, the summer season came and went in a breeze. I was able to escape to the Jersey Shore a few times and brought along my Elecraft K-1 QRP rig. With a random wire antenna, I worked into Europe on a few watts. Quite a thrill.

We were a club without a “home” this summer but managed to obtain use of the Lincoln Complex Gym and were able to have a few good club and project meetings. The Library (our normal second monthly meeting location) will be unavailable for at least a year due to construction. However, the Salt Brook School is reserved for both monthly meetings through June 2004.

Club activities will be heating up again so come out to the September 8th meeting and be prepared to shake off the summer doldrums! See you there.

73, Al  
K2AL



### Club Meeting on Monday

The first meeting of the Fall season will be held on Monday September 8th at the Salt Brook School. All meetings for the coming year will be at the school while the library is undergoing reconstruction and expansion.

The subjects for this “regular” meeting are primarily associated with Club Activities and Programs. There is a tentative agenda for this meeting on Page 3 of this month's issue of Spark Gaps, and I hope you will all read it and get back to your executive committee members with suggestions for additions or deletions.

We will of course continue our “project meetings” on the fourth Monday of every month. Individual members are invited to suggest projects to be pursued. In addition to technical or construction projects, we will start the planning and organization for ARISS. Those members who are interested in the Space Project are urged to attend and take part in the ARISS work.

If you haven't noticed, the club is “on-a-roll” with activities designed to increase public awareness of Ham Radio and NPARC in particular. For those who haven't seen our new publicity brochure, there will be copies available at the meeting.

### October Meeting “Heads-up”

Our Regular October meeting is scheduled for October 13th at the Salt Brook School. This date is Columbus Day, but I am assured that the school will be open.

At that meeting we will host Steve Mendelsohn W2ML and Bill Hudzik W2UDT who will tell us about the latest happenings at ARRL and in the Hudson Division.

This will also be your “big chance” to cross examine Steve about his plans and platform as he runs for the office of Hudson Division Director.

## 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.qsl.net/nparc>  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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



	2003	2002
Maximum Temp.. °F:	88	96
Minimum Temp.. °F:	55	56
Average Temp.. °F:	74.2	74.4
Total Precip . Rain (in.):	7.39	3.15

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

Sept 8th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
See the tentative agenda on Page 3.

Sept 22nd : **PROJECT MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
ARISS Project Kickoff Meeting

Sept 28th : **NEW PROVIDENCE STREET FAIR**. The Club will assist by supplying communications and Public Information

Oct 13th : **REGULAR MEETING** at the Salt Brook School  
Guest Speakers Steve Mendelsohn W2ML and Bill Hudzik W2UDT

## NPARC continues projects for kids!

New Providence ARC members had another opportunity to demonstrate Ham Radio to the citizens of our local communities. At the request of the Berkeley Heights Recreation Commission, the Club set up an HF station under the pavilion at Columbia Park, on Plainfield Avenue. A multiband dipole was hung up in the tall trees, and the Rec. Commission supplied a drop line so we could operate the equipment from 120 volts. It was a beautiful sunny day, and we all appreciated the operating position which was under the roof of the pavilion, but otherwise was outdoors.

At the mike at station N2XJ are control operators Harry AB2CM and Jim N2TSJ and two of our most interested young visitors Andrew Chirichella and Corey Bernard. Many others had an opportunity to get on the air, and had fun doing it.

Operations took place on July 24th from noon through about 4 PM and over a dozen kids had a chance to speak with and ask questions of Ham Operators located as close as Halifax NS and Virginia, and as far away as Baton Rouge Louisiana and Panama City, Panama.

One of the most interesting QSOs was with HP3XBH in Panama who answered many questions which the kids asked about life in Panama and about his activities. Another great QSO was W5KID a ham station on the USS Kidd, a WW2 Fletcher Class Destroyer tied up at Baton Rouge LA.

Thanks to the club members who made the day a big success: Harry AB2CM; Jim N2TSJ and Tony KB2BBP.

73 de K2JV

**Tentative Agenda for NPARC Meeting**  
**September 8, 2003**  
**at the Salt Brook School 7:30 PM**

The following items will be brought before the Membership at the Regular September meeting, for consideration and discussion, and for a vote if necessary. This agenda has been suggested by the Executive Committee and will be modified to reflect any interest or input from the whole Membership.

1. Holiday Season Luncheon: The date of Saturday 13 December and a venue of O'Connors Beef n' Ale House in Watchung is proposed.
2. Programs for meetings through December 2003. Steve Mendelsohn and Bill Hudzik are already scheduled for October 13. December is the election of officers for 2004.
3. Public Service Activity: New Providence Street Fair on Sunday Sept. 28th. Staffing of 4 or 5 operators for the whole period will be required.
4. ARISS Project. The second meeting of each month will have a planning and organization session for the Space Project. Plans for getting the kids, parents and teachers involved will be discussed.
5. Broadband over Power Lines threat to Ham Radio will be discussed. We will have some of the ARRL and DARC videos which demonstrate the interference caused by BPL, and we'll show them as time allows.
6. Any other items of interest to members may be brought up at this meeting.