

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



N2XJ

Club Callsign

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

VOLUME 39

September 2004

NO. 7

First Meeting of the Fall Season

Monday September 13th, at the Salt Brook School

From: The Prez

Now that September is upon us, it's time to get back into a Ham Radio "groove."

My summer has been both relaxing and hectic. Fortunately, work has been very busy the last few months and should get even busier in October. I had a chance to get to the Jersey shore a few times and had fun with my K-1, working some DX on CW on a few watts. I also upgraded the home computer and signed on to cable broadband. The next project is completing the wireless networking I started. Although it is going well, I think computers are a love-hate relationship with me. Or maybe they just hate me! They can be sensitive, you know!



For the club, after a long summer hiatus, meetings begin again on Monday, September 13 at Salt Brook School and we will have an interesting speaker there. In other activities, the club is providing communications along the route of a 5K race in Berkeley Heights on Sunday September 19. Contact K2JV or me if interested. It is actually fun to do and does not last long. So think about helping out.

The Salt Brook School Statics Radio Club starts up again this month. Help is always appreciated as it can get hectic in managing the enthusiasm of the kids. We are still on the list for an ARISS contact but it has been pushed back with the Shuttle program on hold. There is still a lot of work to do to prepare for the contact.

After some glitches, it appears that the Whippany repeater is now working well again. So don't forget to check into the Sunday Night Net at 9 PM and listen to the sweet sounds of Bob, KB2IKC, net control. It's a good way to keep up with club activities and to keep others updated on your activities, no matter what they are.

So, welcome back and we will see you at the meetings and on the net.

Meeting at Salt Brook School:

How to Get into HamSat Communications

This month's Guest Speaker will be "Dee" Interdonato NB2F, who is the AMSAT Area Coordinator for New Jersey. "Dee," who has been active in satellites for over 20 years, will be telling us about the recently launched AO-51 satellite and AMSAT's plans for future launches.

"Dee's" biography states: "I've been an AMSAT member since the late 70's and have worked most satellites at some time. I became an AMSAT Area Co-ordinator about 15 years ago and have been to most area major hamfests representing AMSAT- given many presentations- won awards for my efforts (never asked for any). I presented a paper at an AMSAT symposium that has since inspired the "Mars" or "moon" efforts with communications packages in the AMSAT community."

We've been trying to get "Dee" to an NPARC meeting for over a year, so this will be a special event. His talk will start at 1930, so there will be plenty of discussion time at the end of his presentation.

For those who can make it, try to come early and have dinner with the Guest Speaker and Club Officers. Contact K2JV for venue, or just ask on 145.75 MHz.

Some Important Dates

September is already full of NPARC activities, and there is reason to expect that October thru December will be the same. We will be at the Salt Brook School for all our normal meeting dates in October and November.

In December the meeting on Monday the 13th will be the Election Meeting. We'll probably have a nominating committee, but now's the time to start campaigning for office. School is closed on December 27th.

Our Holiday luncheon will be scheduled soon, but it will be either the 4th or 11th of December. If you have a suggestion or preference, for date or location, please make it known NOW!!

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
973-543-2454

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.qsl.net/nparc>
Reflector: 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



	2004	2003
Maximum Temp.. °F:	86	88
Minimum Temp. °F:	53	55
Average Temp. °F:	71.8	74.2
Total Precip Rain (in.):	4.9	7.39

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

Sept. 13th: **REGULAR MEETING** -- Guest Speaker, Dee NB2F AMSAT Area Coordinator will speak on Satellites and Satellite Communications.

Sept. 19th: **BERKELEY HEIGHTS 5K Race** NPARC will supply communications for the Race Organizers, and spot operators along the course.

Sept. 26th: **NEW PROVIDENCE Street Fair and SAFETY AWARENESS DAY** NPARC will supply communications for the events during the day.

Sept. 27th: **INFORMAL MEETING** at the Salt Brook School

Ham Radio at Summer Camp was One Big Success!!

As an "extension" of our activities at Salt Brook School, NPARC undertook the operation of an Amateur Radio demonstration during July, in cooperation with the Recreation Commissions of Berkeley Heights and New Providence.

On July 20, 21 and 22 we operated from Columbia Park in Berkeley Heights and the following week July 27, 29 and 30 from Oakwood Park in New Providence.

A few of our most dedicated students from Salt Brook were present at these events, but mainly it was a whole new bunch of kids, who were present at Camp anyway, who discovered the fun and excitement of Ham Radio.

Just one example: how often does a NJ kid get a chance to speak directly with a rancher in Arizona, who raises buffalo?

This program is just one of the many activities performed by NPARC to raise awareness of and interest in Ham Radio. These activities include Kids Day twice a year, demonstrations in the local schools like Hobby Day at Mountain Park, and all the emergency exercise drills we do including the BH 5K Race and the NP Street Fair.

Contact any Club Officer to learn more.



Sgt. Frank Fortunato is surrounded by eager campers during Summer Camp at Berkeley Heights.

Field Day Report

by Al Hanzl K2AL

I think the participants in NPARC's 2004 Field Day would all agree on two things- the weather was great and it was great fun.

Despite the absence of many "veterans" due to prior commitments or travel (Well, I guess not all of us have our priorities straight!), and thanks to some late heroes from newcomers Tom, K2ESE, and Rich, N2AUG, everything went off smoothly at the Class 2A station at Governor Livingston.



The Antennas at Governor Livingston. 20 Meter Yagi on the right and VHF arrays on the left.

A quick recap shows 394 CW and 334 phone QSO's for 728 total and a claimed score of 2,994 points with 100 watts and 40 participants.

For comparison, in 2003, we had 397 total QSO's (3,915 points as QRP) and in 2002 we had 957 QSO's. Propagation was much improved over last year and we were able to get some younger club members and visitors on the air this year despite the lack of an official GOTA station.

And thanks to Tony, KB2BBP and Val for supplying good eats.

The Class F station spearheaded by Lou, WK2I, was a big success. I can attest to being one of several operators at Class F who were worn out by the pileups we generated! Lou reports that 20 participants worked 207 CW and 416 phone QSO's for a submitted score of 1,660 points. Special thanks to Bill, W2UDT, for working the night shift.

As always, there is always room for improvement. For example, we could use a "Bonus Manager" to maxi-



Bill Hudzik W2UDT, sorts out the pileups at the Class F station located at the New Providence Firehouse

mize bonus points and we cut it a little close at GL as we were ready to go just at the 2 PM start time.

All in all, FD'04 was a success. We had good scores, a great turnout, good food, good conditions and great weather. KB2FCV's wireless computer link for logging at GL worked without a hitch.

I can't wait 'til FD '05!
Tnx to all who participated.

73 es 88,
Al K2AL

Future Feature Articles

There is plenty of room in Spark Gaps for articles submitted by members. We've got a couple in the mill right now and they will see the "light of day" in future issues.

For instance: I have a follow on to the QSL Card articles which were generated by the old QSL Cards from Joe Painter W2BHM SK. I also have a wonderful draft with old photographs about the early days of Ham Radio as described by Jim Bushnell N2TSJ. And Ralph Milnes KC2RLM has promised that there will be more articles on digital technology under the Banner of DIGItales.

But there can never be enough!! As Editor of Spark Gaps I can promise you that no article that bears upon Ham Radio will be turned away. And if an article is accompanied by photographs or other graphics, I'll do whatever I have to, in order to print them too.

If you can submit a technical article on a project you're working on, the project need not be complete. You can be assured that most of the NPARC membership is interested in your activities, travels, reminiscences, and any Ham Radio activities.

73 es CUL de Barry K2JV