

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area



**N2XJ**  
**Club Callsign**

VOLUME 41

April 2006

NO. 2

## From: The Prez



"Spring Ahead"

What a day for ham radio! I just heard that the next sunspot cycle peak will be arriving a year earlier, there is talk that the FCC is considering an automatic upgrade for all hams to Extra Class in the next restructuring plan and the Dayton Hamvention is relocating to Las Vegas in 2007....and I am writing this on April 1, of course.

Seriously, I would like to thank ARRL NNJ Section Manager Bill, W2UDT, and Hudson Division Vice-Director Joyce, KA2ANF, for speaking to the club at the March meeting. We were updated on some ARRL issues and Bill gave a great slide show on his dx'peditions to the Virgin Islands.

And the kit building continues on the second meeting of the month. We promise to spend more time with our kit building members at the April 24th meeting.



In other club happenings, K2JV and I hosted a pack of Cub Scouts and their parents in an attempt to spot the ISS from a local

hill. The overcast skies did not deter Barry from teaching the curious group a thing or two about ham radio, spaceflight and geography.

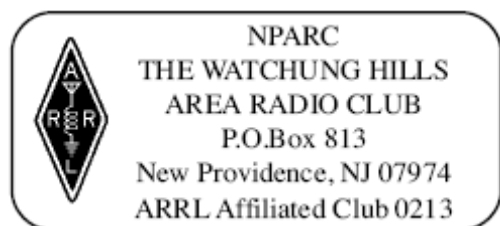


So the end of winter has begun a flurry of activity in the club.

A few reminders:

Dayton 2006 is coming in May. You can get advance admission tickets on line. The Field Day 2006 rules are on the ARRL web site. Not too early to start thinking about Field Day!

73 es 88 AI, K2AL



## 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, NJ

**4th Monday each month:** 7:30 - 9:00  
Informal Project Meeting, at the  
Salt Brook School Cafeteria  
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.  
New Providence, NJ

### Everyone is Welcome

If a normal meeting night is a holiday  
we usually meet the following night.  
Call the contacts below.

## Club Officers for 2006

President: Al Hanzl, K2AL  
908-464-1323  
Vice Pres: James Kern, KB2FCV  
908-219-4016  
Secretary: Ralph Milnes, KC2RLM  
973-377-7061  
Activities: Andy Stillinger, WA2DKJ  
973-377-6992  
Past President: Harry Schwill, AB2CM  
908-322-8867  
Treasurer: Ralph Milnes, KC2RLM  
973-377-7061

## 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

## Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>  
<http://www.qsl.net/nparc>  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Webmaster: Ralph, KC2RLM

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Rick Anderson, WB2QOQ

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

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording  
daily weather events at his station for the past 24 years.

Maximum temperature for this March, 74 deg. F (March 31)  
Last March(2005) maximum was 61 deg. F.

Minimum temperature for this March, 21 deg. F (March 21)  
Last March(2005) minimum was 12 deg. F.

Average temperature this March, 41.5 deg. F  
Average temperature last March, 36.1 deg. F

Total precipitation this March - .28" rain/.5" snow  
Total precipitation last March - 1.19" rain/6.3" snow

Greatest precipitation day this March - March 12 = .2" rain  
Snow fell on a total of 1 day this March

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## Calendar of Coming Events for 2006

- April 22 & 23: Trenton Computer Festival, The College of New Jersey  
Ewing Township, New Jersey
- May 7: Warminster ARC (PA) Hamfest at the Middletown Grange  
Fairgrounds in Wrightstown (Bucks County), Pennsylvania  
7 a.m. start, \$5 admission
- May 19 - 21: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio
- May 27: Bergen ARA Spring Hamfest, Westwood Regional High  
School, 701 Ridgewood Road, Washington Twp, NJ 07675  
8 am to 2 pm, \$5 admission
- June 17: Raritan Valley RC Hamfest, Piscataway, NJ. Piscataway  
High School at Hoes Lane and Behmer Road, 7 am to 2 pm  
\$5 admission
- June 24 & 25: ARRL Field Day, NPARC will probably be at Governor  
Livingston High School again this year and a Class F  
station at another local QTH.
- July 9: Sussex County ARC Hamfest, Sussex County Fairgrounds  
in Augusta, NJ. 8 am start time. \$5 admission.
- August 20: Ramapo Mountain ARC Ham and Computerfest, American  
Legion Hall, 65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ, 8 am to Noon,  
\$4 admission.
- Note: The following Pocono Hamfest has not been confirmed for 2006
- September 10: Pocono Area Hamfest and Electronics Expo, Stroudsburg  
Junior High School, Chipperfield Drive, Stroudsburg, PA  
8 am start, \$5 admission.

## Upcoming Meeting Information

The next meeting of NPARC will be at the Salt Brook School at 7:30 pm, April 24. We will be continuing the assembly and testing of the Ten Tec regenerative receiver projects. Also, we will have a short 10 to 15 minute demonstration and explanation of a basic electronic concept as suggested by the informal survey that was passed around at the last couple of meetings. The program for the first meeting in May (on the second Monday) has not quite been determined yet, but if all goes well, we will have the subject pinned down and announced in the next issue of the Spark Gaps. The plan is to have the May issue published before May 1st. In addition, start thinking about what form the Field Day event should take for this year. June is coming up fast!

Martha Hirsch, KA2PNF, XYL of AI, K2SKV, became a Silent Key last month. She and AI had hosted many summer picnics for NPARC where the guests enjoyed swimming, fine food and putt-putt boat races. She was a life member of the ARRL. Below is the related text printed in local newspapers.

Andy, WA2DKJ

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## Martha Hirsch, KA2PNF



Martha, 71, died Wednesday, March 15, at Integrated Health Services, Bound Brook. Martha was employed with AT&T's research wing, Bell Laboratories, working out of the Murray Hill, Whippany, and Liberty Corner campuses, before retiring. While there, she participated in the original speech processing computer voice project and also in research leading to the development of the UNIX programming language. Earlier, she worked at the Western Electric Co., Burlington, N.C. and Winston-Salem, N.C.

Martha earned a bachelor's degree in music from the Westminster Choir College in Princeton and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Elon College in North Carolina. She was a member of several choirs in Princeton, including the Westminster Symphonic Choir, which performed many times at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She was an alto soloist in several area churches, including the Bound Brook and Morristown Presbyterian churches. In the mid-1950's Martha sang with the Westminster Touring Choir and traveled with the choir via military aircraft, on a worldwide goodwill tour for the State Department to Japan, Vietnam, India, Thailand and Europe. She taught piano in her parents'

music studio in Burlington, N.C. many years ago.

After retiring, Martha was a volunteer at the Warren Township Library and an officer of the Friends of the Library, a member of the library's advisory board and co-manager of the annual book sale. She was also secretary of the trips committee of the Old Guard of Summit.

Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, she lived in Burlington; before moving to Warren. Surviving are her husband, Alfred E. and brothers, John C. and David W. Southern.