

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



NPARC-The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/nparc>

N2XJ

Club Callsign

VOLUME 44 April 2009 NO.3

UNCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting
Monday April 27, 2009
7:30 PM
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
40 Maple Street
New Providence, NJ

The meeting on 4/13 was devoted primarily to a discussion of Field Day. The present plan calls for a setup at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. Because of a shortage of operators, there will not be a Class F station at the Summit Red Cross building. James Kern KB2FCV volunteered to be Field Day chairman.

At the next meeting Rich Moseson, W2UV, the editor of CQ magazine will be our speaker.

At the meeting on May 11 we will have program on SKYWARN; see the attached flyer.

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—10:30 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

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

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

Club Officers for 2009

President: K2UI Jim Stekas
908-665-0299
Vice Pres.: N2KDK Paul Campano
908-508-9595
Secretary: WB2EDO Jim Brown
973-829-1892
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: W2UDT Bill Hudzik
908-580-0493
Past President: KB2FCV James Kern
908-219-4016

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency
145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net

Murray Hill Repeater (W2LI) at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
With PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control WA2DKJ

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net

First and Third Mondays at 9 PM (0100Z)
Look around 14.085 Khz for RTTY
Ops using AFSK should look around
14,086-7. Contact K2YG for details.

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/nparc>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

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Climatological Data for New Providence for March 2009

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

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this March, 67 deg. F
(March 7)

Last March (2008) maximum was 61 deg.
F.

Average Maximum temperature this March,
49.7 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this March, 9 deg.
F (March 3)

Last March (2008) minimum was 24 deg. F.

Average Minimum temperature this March,
32.6 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 9 deg.
(51-42 deg.) 3/9

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 27 deg.
(54-27 deg.) 3/25

Average temperature this March, 41.2 deg.
F

Average temperature last March, 40.8 deg.
F

Number of days, this March, with tempera-
tures of 32 degs. or lower - 14

Number of days, last March, with tempera-
tures of 32 degs. or lower - 16

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March - 1.69"
rain/melted snow, 5.0" snow

Total precipitation last March - 4.06"
rain/melted snow, 1.00" snow

Maximum one day precip. event this March -
March 2, 4.0" snow

Measurable rain fell on 6 days this March.
Measurable snow fell on 2 days this March;
1 day last March

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Rick Anderson, WB2QOQ

4/20/09

The following is shamelessly copied from the Tri County Radio Association Newsletter.

12VDC Polarity/Test Light

By: 2manytoyz

12 June 2006

Necessity is the mother of invention, or so they say. Back in the 80s, I purchased a used conversion van that the previous owner wired using speaker wire. What a mess! Consequently, I spent a lot of time under the dash chasing wire. Trying to hold a meter and leads at the same time while upside down is a challenge. There had to be an easier way. I had seen a bicolor (2 color) LED at Radio Shack. With a limiting resistor, a couple of leads, I could make a simple test light that also shows polarity. Nice thing to have when wires aren't identified. This is a quick and easy project. Costs only a couple of bucks, is waterproof, and will last virtually forever. My original one is over 20 years old and still gets used. I'm making a couple of spares so I can keep one in each vehicle, and 1 in my workshop. The LED is Radio Shack P/N 276-012 and is \$1.49. I used a couple of pre-made jumper wires and just cut the wire at the mid point. You could use your own wire and buy the clips separately at the Shack too. The resistor is a 330 Ω (orange/orange/brown) and is a 1/8 Watt. You could use a 1/4 Watt if that's all you have. The clear tube I'm using was from a pencil eraser package. Use your imagination on this one. Any small clear tube will work. To calculate the resistance, I used this formula: $\text{LIMITING RESISTANCE} = (\text{SUPPLY VOLTAGE} - \text{VOLTAGE DROP ACROSS LED}) / \text{DESIRED CURRENT}$. In this case, this works out to be $(12\text{V} - 2.1\text{V}) / 30\text{ mA} = 330\ \Omega$. The current rating (30 mA) and voltage drop (2.1V - forward voltage) info is printed on the back of Let's get to building...

For assembly instructions with images go to :

<http://www.alpharubicon.com/elect/12vpollight.htm>

Thanks go to Harry, KB2MDO for sending in this web site.

Courteous of WB2EDO

NEWS FLASH

A new manufacturing method for lithium-ion batteries that can be charged in just seconds has been developed by MIT scientists. The team says it has created a "beltway" that allows for the rapid transit of electrical energy through the common battery material. A prototype battery can be charged in less than 20 seconds, compared with 6 minutes in conventional methods. The discovery could lead to smaller batteries that can be charged in 10 seconds. The bigger question is what does this mean for heavy duty batteries. If this discovery can reduce the charge time for heavy duty batteries or an array of heavy duty batteries significant, can a practical electric car be far behind. This should be an interesting development to follow.

**NPARC, the Amateur Radio Club
Serving the Watchung Hills Area**

**In cooperation with
the National Weather Service**

Presents a Program on:

Basic SKYWARN Training

SKYWARN is the National Weather Service network of volunteer citizens, public service and emergency management people working to assist the National Weather Service in providing local weather spotting during severe weather events.

Date: Monday May 11, 2009

Time: 7:00PM

Location: The Salt Brook Elementary School
40 Maple Street (just off Springfield Avenue)
New Providence, NJ

Amateur Radio Operators are a key communications element in SKYWARN, but all area residents are welcome and encouraged to attend this Presentation, which will be delivered by employees of NOAA and the NWS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Barry G. Cohen K2JV
39 Cromwell Court
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
908-464-1730