

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

**NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area**



**Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI**

VOLUME 49 NO. 4 April, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings

Mon. 7:30

**5/12 Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Hudson Division Director, Mike Lisenko, N2YBB, will attend
5/27 Location to be determined**

Memorial Day Parade

5/27

See announcement inside

FIELD DAY 2014

June 28 –29

**It is not too early to start planning
and reserve the weekend!**

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

Informal Project Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
4th Monday of each month 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.
When Schools are closed,
Meetings are held in the Recreation
Department Meeting Room in Borough Hall

Club Officers for 2013

President: K2MUN David Berkley
908-500-9740
Vice President: KC2WUF David Bean
973-747-6116
Secretary: KD2EKN Tim Farrell
908-244-6202
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-404-6914

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 K2AL

Digital Net
First & Third Mondays 9 PM
Details as announced.

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster K2MUN David Berkley
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2UI, Jim

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:
WB2QQQ Rick Anderson
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for March 2014

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QQQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 33 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this March, 64 deg. F (March 22)
Last March (2013) maximum was 61 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this March, 46.0 deg. F
Minimum temperature for this March, 7 deg. F (March 4)
Last March (2013) minimum was 23 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this March, 26.0 deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 7 deg. (46-39 deg.) 3/30

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 31 deg. (40-9 deg.) 3/1; (64-33) 3/22
Average temperature this March, 36.0 deg. F
Average temperature last March, 38.9 deg. F

Number of days this March with daily minimum temperatures of
20 deg. or lower - 9; last March - 0.
2 days this March saw temperatures in the single digits; last Mar., 0 days.

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March - Tr snow;
3.6" rain/melted snow.
Total precipitation last March - 7.75"
snow; 2.74" rain/melted snow.

Maximum one day precip. event this March;
March 29, 1.55" rain.
Measurable rain fell on 7 days this March,
3 days last March.
Measurable snow/sleet fell on 0 days this March.

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Rick Anderson

4/9/14
243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908) 464-8912
rick243@comcast.net

Lat = 40 degrees, 41.7 minutes North

Long = 74 degrees, 23.4 minutes West

Elevation: 380 ft.
CoCoRaHS Network Station #NJ-UN-10



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

By K2MUN

Regrettable, K2MUN was unable to prepare a presidents column for this issue. Fear not! The saga of the design of limited space antennas will continue next month.

New Providence Memorial Day Parade

NPARC members are invited to participate in this years Memorial Day Parade, taking place on Monday, May 26. Our club has annually participated in this town event, for as long as I can recall; and a decent attendance in this club activity is requested. This is the one public event where hundreds of town's people get to see the club members, and a good attendance is most welcomed. Last year there was a decent participation in our parade unit. As in past years, we request members to initially meet in the New Providence Memorial Library parking lot at 9:25 a.m., and we will car pool over to our starting position on Central Avenue.

Suggested dress code is white shirt, blue slacks, NPARC yellow cap, and of course your 2 meter HT, tuned to club frequency.

As in prior years youth club members are more than welcome to join us, whether they're licensed or not. There will be handie talkies available for youth.

Our unit will walk the parade route, down Springfield Ave., between Central Ave. and Academy St. Please consider taking part in this community event.

Please contact Rick, WB2QOQ, if you will be participating in the parade or have questions. rick243@comcast.net; (908) 464-8911.



Last years contingent.

O.M.A.R.C. Tailgate/Indoor
Hamfest

<http://www.n2mo.org>

SATURDAY

May 17, 2014

(Rain or Shine)

**Location: InfoAge Project Diana Site
2300 Marconi Road, Wall Township**

GPS Coordinates: 40-11.70N 074-03.39W

Contact: Jeff N2LXM, Phone: 732-996-0637, n2lxm@juno.com

Three Grand DOOR PRIZES

Supplied by CheapHam

Wouxun Dual Band HT and Two \$100 Gift Certificates

Gates open to Sellers at 06:00

Hours Cost: \$10.00 per Space (outside) includes admission. \$15.00 per space (inside) includes admission

Gates Open to Buyers at 07:00 Hours

Cost: \$5.00 Per Person

Talk-In 145.110, -600 (PL 127.3) N2MO/R

VE Session Starting at 10:30am

Contact Rich Kennard N2RPQ@arrl.net to pre-register
Kids under 10 and Non-Ham XYL's Free
Ample Parking, Bathroom Facilities

SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

Tidbit Potpourri

The quest for cheap renewable energy has taken a step forward. Table sugar and genetically modified yeast cells could be used as a new biofuel according to the University of Texas researchers. The cells were altered to make 90% of the cell produce lipids, a type of oil and fat, which can be used to make biodiesel. The fuel is similar to that made from soybean oil, but yeast cells are a better option because they can be easily genetically modified, grown anywhere and do not compete with other crops for land area. This sounds all very nice, but the question is how soon this process can be ramped up to commercial production. So far there are several of these processes that produce biodiesel fuel in the lab but none have reached the commercial stage yet.

Now here is something we haven't heard before. The shape of an ear is a new form of identification. Startup Descartes Biometrics has developed an app called Ergo that lets users sign in to a smartphone by touching their ear to the phone. For now, the app works only on Google Android phones. It uses cues such as shape, size and the way a person presses the phone to the ear to identify the person. How the app accomplishes this task using a cell phone is not explained. However, I would think a retina scan makes much more sense for identification as it is impossible to defeat it.

Let us turn to a scary tidbit. Painkillers could make the flu worse, not better, according to research from McMaster University in Canada. Painkillers like aspirin reduce fevers, which researchers believe is nature's virus killer. Lowering a fever increases the amount of the virus that can be spread to others. The researchers estimate the use of painkillers increases the spread of the flu each year in the U.S. Well that may be true but when I am lying in bed with my eyeballs on fire and a roaring headache, I am still going to use a fever reducing painkiller!

Here is some more scary tidbit news. The Pacific Ocean temperature variations that cause storms in some areas and unusual dryness in others are likely to increase says a joint report by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies. Strong El Nino events are expected to increase from every 20 years to once a decade. The finding resulted from examining 20 climate models around the globe. The prediction of increased El Nino episodes assumes an increase in global temperatures over the next 100 years. Oh great! More bad winters to be expected.

This one last tidbit should tickle you science fictions buffs. A synthetic bio-robot is said to be the first self-propelled robot capable of swimming in bodily fluids, offering the potential for targeted drug delivery and minimally invasive surgery. The tiny University of Illinois-developed prototype is modeled on one-celled creatures with long tails called flagella. Its flexible polymer body is cultured with heart cells that synchronize to beat together, creating a wave that propels it through liquid. The possibilities seem enormous.

Jim WB2EDO