

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>

Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

**Facebook: New Providence Amateur Radio Club
(NPARC)**

VOLUME 54 NO. 4 April 2021

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

“ZOOM” until we can all

get together again

Upcoming Events

Digital Net Mondays at 9:00 PM

PSK on 80 or 10 meters

CW training Net, Thursday at 9:00 PM

Watch for Email announcements.

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
2nd & 4th Monday
of each month

ZOOM until further notice

Everyone is Welcome

If a normal meeting night is a holiday,
we usually meet the following night.
Call one of the contacts below
or check the web site

Club Officers for 2021

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-406-6914
Vice President: K2GLS Bob Willis
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2OSR Sam Sealy
973-462-2014

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

Mondays 9 PM
28,084 — 28,086
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2JV, Barry

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974
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WB2QOO Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for March 2021

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2QOO, who has been recording daily
weather events at his station for the past
39 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this March, 76 deg. F
(March 26)
Last March (2020) maximum was 73 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this March, 49.9
deg. F
Minimum temperature this March, 20 deg. F
(March 2)
Last March (2020) minimum was 21 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this March, 33.7
deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 4 deg.
(44-40 deg.) 3/18
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 32 deg.
(63-31 deg.) 3/12

Average temperature this March, 41.8 deg. F
Average temperature last March, 45.8 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March- 3.40" rain.
Total precipitation last March- 3.75" rain.

Maximum one day precip. event this March-

March 24, 1.29" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 9 days this March, 16
days last March.

YTD Precipitation - 11.55"

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Rick Anderson
4/13/2021
243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908) 464-8911
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

President's Column April 2021

Welcome to new members Dan Kahn, K1DK, and Heather Speas, KD2VZA. Thanks to Gordon West, WB6NOA, our special guest at our first April meeting. The talk was on Emergency Communications, and featured recording of hams in action doing EmCom. The talk was recorded and I distributed the link to the recording on the reflector. I will repeat that link here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/fJQh_B5taVj07194m7qH4LMRFyVzAmCTzbC3-KxhqnlXPFfVwgdnCEfxXzbLM0Es.TBxAfZJqa_TuxkS- Passcode: iix1Xr=?

For our second April meeting, I had called a Special Business Meeting according to Section 4 of our Bylaws (available on the website <http://www.nparc.org/bylaws.html>).

Our Constitution is also available (as noted in my March column on the website: <http://www.nparc.org/constitution.html>)

My intent of the special business meeting was to “clean up” three bylays with minor changes (also covered in my March column) that were recommended by the Executive Committee. Maybe my “OCD” was showing, as we can operate without the changes.

The discussion on the bylaw changes raised questions about our tax status and possible impact of bylaw changes on our tax status. Without clarity on that issue, the whole issue of bylaw changes was taken back by the Executive Committee. My apologies.

For May, we have a possible program for the May 10 meeting and a definite “virtual visit to K3LR” for the May 24 meeting.

I hope you are putting together some plans for Field Day operation under essentially the same rules as last year when we had more than one dozen entrants. And don’t forget the nets, we have had some new participants!

73

Wolf W2PTP
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Cosmology Theory & Ham Radio

Jim Stekas - K2UI

Every April the Perimeter Institute ARC holds its annual Cosmology Conference and Boat Anchor swapmeet in Waterloo, Ontario. Thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, I was able to attend the conference for the first time via Zoom.

In the introductory session I learned that modern cosmology theory estimates that there are some 10^{500} possible universes. These universes are characterized by different physical constants, mass, size, etc. Some would expand too quickly for star formation to occur. Others would expand slowly, forming massive stars that burn out well before life has a chance to evolve. Our particular unlikely universe appears to be exceedingly finely tuned to have the characteristics that it does. Some interpret this as evidence for design by a creator. Others apply the anthropic principle: intelligent beings can only arise in a finely tuned universe.¹

We are lucky to live on planet Earth, whose environment sustains us despite our endless efforts to tinker with it. The Kudzu we planted as roadside ground cover has taken over huge tracts of land in the southern states. Escaped pet pythons feast on alligators in the Everglades. Pollution of our waterways has even resulted in the Cleveland river catching fire. The changes we make in our environment almost never lead to improvement, but somehow it's never catastrophic either. Animals and plants are overrunning Chernobyl, and from 35,000 ft the impact of humans appears insignificant.

This got me thinking that our universe is in a very stable equilibrium and could probably tolerate a little tweaking of the physical constants without any negative consequences. Of course that isn't possible with today's technology, but neither was genetic engineering, and if we ever develop the ability to adjust the physical constants in our universe, you can bet that we will. Now is the time to think about how we would improve our universe when we get the tools to do it.

As an antenna nut, the first thing I would tweak for the benefit of ham radio and mankind is to decrease the speed of light, c , by a factor of 10. It sounds like a big change, but light is so fast anyway, who's going to notice? The benefits would be enormous. Imagine our new and improved world where a half wave dipole for 1.9 MHz is reduced from 260 ft to 26 ft. Even a modest urban backyard would be able to accommodate a full size antenna for the Gentleman's Band. Better yet, a today's chimney mounted 2m yagi would work fine on 14 MHz with some minor trimming. Instead of a 3-element beam on a 40 ft tower, stacked 9-element arrays on 14 MHz would be the basic entry level beam of choice. What is now the 10 m band would become the 1 m band, allowing for practical multi-yagi arrays of the type used for moon-bounce. These would have rotators for control of both azimuth (compass direction) and elevation (take-off angle). A contest super-station would fit snugly but easily in a suburban backyard.

Those who would be helped the most by a decrease in c would be mobile HF stations that have no real-estate at all. With a 10-fold speed decrease a mobile could run a 4 MHz phone station with a 6 ft whip antenna. That would be a full size a $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength vertical, so say good-bye to lossy loading coils that need to be retuned after a QSY of 25 kHz.

¹ A web poll showed VE3's to be the most "anthropic", while the W4's and W5's were decidedly "anti-anthropic".

Of course, a 10-fold decrease in c might also have some unpleasant side effects. But so do the myriad of drugs advertised on TV that bring with them a long list of potentially fatal side-effects. For some, perhaps many, fatal liver failure is a worthwhile risk to be free of toenail fungus. So until someone can demonstrate a downside, I say “Go Bold with 10-fold!” What could possibly go wrong?