

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 55 No. 4 April 2022

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

5/9/22 Salt Brook School Cafeteria

5/23/22 Zoom

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.

5/30 Memorial Day Parade

New Providence Memorial Day Parade



Picture from 2019

NPARC members are invited to participate in this years Memorial Day Parade, taking place on Monday, May 30. Our club has participated in this town event, for many years, prior to the Covid pandemic, with the parade being cancelled the past two years.

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.

Our unit will walk the parade route, down Springfield Ave., between Central Ave. and Academy St. Please consider taking part in this community event. More details to follow. Please contact Rick, WB2QOQ, if you will be participating in the parade or have questions. rick243@comcast.net; (908) 464-8911. Thanks Much !

Meeting Schedule

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

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 2022

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-406-6914
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
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

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WB2OOO Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for March 2022

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2OOO, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 40 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this March, 73 deg. F
(March 7)
Last March (2021) maximum was 76 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this March, 51.9 deg. F
Minimum temperature this March, 18 deg. F
(March 4, 13)
Last March (2021) minimum was 20 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this March, 33.4 deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 7 deg.
(38 - 31 deg.) 3/9
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 33 deg.
(71 - 38 deg.) 3/31

Average temperature this March, 42.7 deg. F
Average temperature last March, 41.8 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March- 2.53" rain/
snow melt; 2.6" snow
Total precipitation last March- 3.40" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this March-

March 12, 2.0" snow; March 24, 0.40" rain.
Measurable rain fell on 12 days this March, 9 days last March.
Measurable snow fell on 2 days this March.

YTD Precipitation - 9.61"

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Rick Anderson
4/16/2022
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 2022

The first meeting of April was full of talking about Field Day and there is excitement in the air!!

We tentatively filled “manager” positions as follows:

Near Field HF Station	Kevin Glynn N2TO
Far Field HF Station	Sam Sealy KC2OSR
VHF Station	Rick Anderson WB2QOQ/Al Hanzl K2AL
Network (Computer)	David Bean KC2WUF
Food Manager	unfilled
Publicity	Al Hanzl K2AL
Overall Manager	me

Note the absence of the critical role of managing food!! This role does NOT mean you do all the securing, cooking, or cleanup but all the food functions need to be managed—**please consider filling this role** or we may all be “brown bagging it” at Field Day.

We do not plan to have a GOTA (Get On the Air) station. Getting new and recent hams on the air is an important and valuable part of Field Day (in my view perhaps the most important aspect of Field Day). We plan to integrate that in the Far Field HF station. The “logger” function is also a good one to really get engaged. Ask any of the “managers” how the “logger” function works—it’s not difficult—much easier than pre-computer days!

As we talked at the meeting, visits to the site before Field Day must be minimized. There are some changes in the site structures that will affect antennas, etc. But leave the visits to the “managers” or their designees. Any visit must be out of school/activity hours and, if someone else is present, LEAVE. We don’t want to risk losing our approval of the site! Also communication about the site on the reflector should be limited and “respectful” of the real “site managers”. We will continue our Field Day planning at our May 9 in-person/hybrid meeting. Our second meeting of April was Bart Janke W9JJ, an ARRL manager for Logbook of the World. We unfortunately got off to a late start but the program was informative. The slides and recording info were shared on the reflector. The recording is good for about thirty days.

Reminder: The Executive Committee has decided to purchase an “ARRL brick” in Guy’s and Andy’s memory. You may contribute to the purchase (\$250 each) with a contribution made out to NPARC and sent to Treasurer Dave Barr, 29 Montrose Ave, Summit, NJ 07901

Also--After a two year hiatus for covid, the New Providence Memorial Day Parade is back on and we are planning to march in it!! Rick Anderson WB2QOQ will again be coordinating our appearance.

73 Wolf W2PTP w2ptp@arrl.net 201-404-6914

Free Our 6L6s Jim Stekas - K2UI

On a recent visit to Guitar Center I discovered an unease hanging over the place. The pimply faced adolescents banging out heavy metal licks were oblivious. But something weighed heavily on the old bald salesman with the little ponytails and tattooed arms. Elvin, who normally pounces on me before I get through the door showed little interest in his favorite prey. I had to seek *him* out.

“Hey Elvin, what’s going on? Got any cool new stuff to sell me?”

“Nah. We ain’t even got any old cool stuff these days. Don’t you hear that?”

“Yeah. Kids cranking up and showing off. Just like every Saturday.”

“No, it’s what you can’t hear. No crunchy blues licks from a Fender Twin. NO TUBES DUDE! Just those damn solid state amps. They’re killin’ me.”

I hadn’t noticed it, but once it was pointed out to me, every solid state note grated. Not only was no one playing through a tube amp, there were no tube amps visible on the floor. “What happened to all the Fender amps?”

Elvin stared at his feet and shook his head. “Damn war. No Vodka at the gig, and no 6L6’s to be had. The last of the tube amps got gobbled up last week.”

The manager came by and explained that since Sovtek stopped shipping vacuum tubes to Europe, the US the prices of 6L6’s and EL34’s had jumped up to \$900+ each. A few could be had on the Vacuum Tube Spot Market, but prices were even crazier. Hedge funds had cornered the market, buying up all audio power tube futures for the next 12 months.

“Yeah, Serge Rippoff, from our San Jose office just became the first vacuum tube billionaire.”, volunteered the manager, “Found a warehouse of NOS Western Electric 6L6’s in Kearny, NJ.”

“You gotta be a Wall Street lawyer to afford a Fender Deluxe any more. Even a class B amp with 6V6’s is outta my price range. 6V6’s for cryin’ out loud.”, Elvin added.

Wow. \$4/gal gas is a hardship I am willing to put up with for the sake of Ukraine. At least for a while. But I’ll be damned if I’m going to play my Telecaster through some shrill solid state amp that doesn’t even glow in the dark.

“Yup Elvin, war is hell.”

