

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)**

April 2025

Volume 58 No. 4

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
at New Providence Salt Brook School**

April 14 - The Member/Coordinator Partnership
for Field Day. - W2PTP

April 28 - Program TBD

Upcoming Events

Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.030 MHz

Check announcements in the Reflector for details.

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 2025

President: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG, Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: N2TO, Kevin Glynn
917-885-4424

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 MHz
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control KC2WUF

CW Training Net
Thursdays 9 PM
28.050 or 7.050 MHz
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: www.nparc.org
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - February 2025

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,
who has been recording daily weather events at his station
for the past 44 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp. this February, 54 F (February 25)
Last February(2024) maximum was 58 F.
Average Maximum temp this February, 38.6 F

Minimum temp this February, 14 F (February 19)
Last February(2024) minimum was 18 F.
Average Minimum temp this February, 25.4 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 7 F (36 – 29 F) 2/6
(35-28) 2/9; (35-28) 2/12
Maximum diurnal temp range, 24 F(43 - 19 F) 2/1

Average temp this February, 32.0 F
Average temp last February, 35.8 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precip this February— 2.83” rain/snow melt,
5.7” snow
Total precip last February – 1.92” rain/melted snow,
10.2” snow

Maximum one day precip. events -
Feb 16, 0.62” rain; Feb 9, 2.0” snow
Measurable rain fell on 4 days this February,
6 days last February.
Measurable snow fell on 8 days this February

YTD Precipitation – 3.61” rain/snow melt

=====
Rick Anderson 3/8/2025
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 Report

Encouraging and motivating youngsters to get an interest in ham radio can be a challenge in this era of an apparent addiction to cell phones and social media.

“Communicating” is the core of ham radio but how to compete with all the other devices and get the attention of today’s younger generation is the challenge that has been well documented by the ARRL and many others.

One way to try to get their attention is through technology. We have been invited to several Makers Fairs in New Providence and Chatham and NPARC has participated in several.

We have had mixed results at the fairs. Demonstrating digital modes like WSJT-X (FT8) using a Raspberry Pi has attracted interest, but so has a mode that many proclaim to be fading, CW.

At my 50th high school reunion, I mentioned to the students who were giving the tour that I used to run the radio club there, which was apparently quickly abandoned after I graduated. I offered the possibility of reviving the radio club and they were genuinely interested. I assumed perhaps that their main motivation was to have another accomplishment listed on their college application, but that’s OK. Maybe ham radio will stick with a few of them.

So, give some thought to the possibility of reviving or starting a radio club at your high school alma mater or your local high school. NPARC will be glad to assist. Maybe it will help keep this great hobby alive.

NPARC will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary as an incorporated club in April.

We are planning an on-air operating event like the one we did in 2015 for our 50th Anniversary.

N2TO, our Activities Chairman, sent out a short survey about it on the Reflector. So please take the time to submit it so we can plan.

73 and enjoy the start of Spring,
Al, K2AL
NPARC President

Popular Contests in March 2025

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
EA RTTY Contest	4/5 Sat 8am to 4/6 Sun 8am	RTTY	EA: rst+province non-EA: rst + #	QRP/LP/HP 80 thru 10 See: concursos.ure.es
Missouri QSO Party	4/5 Sat 10am -12m 4/6 Sun 10am-4pm	CW Phone Digital	MO: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-10, VHF-UHF See: www.w0ma.org
Mississippi QSO Party	4/5 Sat 10am-10pm	CW SSB RTTY FT4/8	MS: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro FT#: sig+grid sq	No Power Categories 160 – 2 meters See: www.arlmiss.org
Louisiana QSO Party	4/5 Sat 10am-10pm	CW/Digital Phone	LA: rs(t)+parish Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See: laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
SP DX Contest	4/5 Sat 11am to 4/6 Sun 11am	CW SSB	SP: Prov (1 let) Non: rs(t)+serial	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 meters See: spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl
IG-RY RTTY	4/12 Sat 8am to 4/13 Sun 2pm	RTTY	RST + 4 digit year 1st licensed	LP/HP 80-10 meters See: www.ig-ry.de
New Mexico QSO Party	4/12 Sat 10am to 10pm	CW Phone Digital	NM: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See: www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
North Dakota QSO Party	4/12 Sat 2pm to 4/13 Sun 2pm	CW Phone RTTY/PSK	ND: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	No Power Categories 160 – 2 meters See: ndarrlsection.com
Georgia QSO Party	4/12 Sat 2pm-12m 4/13 Sun 10am-8pm	CW SSB	GA: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-6 meters See: gaqsoparty.com/
CQMM	4/19 Sat 5am to 4/20 Sun 8pm	CW	RST+continent EX tags: see web	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See: www.cqmmdx.com
Nebraska QSO Party	4/19 Sat 7am to 4/20 Sun 7pm	CW Phone Digital FT#	NE: County Non: State/Prov See web for FTs	QRP/LP<150/HP 160-10m VHF-UHF See: nebraskagsoparty.com
Michigan QSO Party	4/19 Sat 12n-12m	CW SSB	MI: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See: miqp.org
Ontario QSO Party	4/19 Sat 2pm-1am 4/20 Sun 8am-2pm	CW Phone	ON: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP<150/HP 160-2 meters See: www.va3cco.com
Quebec QSO Party	4/20 Sun 8am-6pm	CW Phone	QC:rs(t)+qczone Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See: wp1.quebecqsoparty.org
SP DX RTTY	4-26 Sat 8am to 4-27 Sun 8am	RTTY	SP:rst+prov code Non:rst+serial#	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See: www.pkrvg.org
Florida QSO Party	4-26 Sat 12n-10pm 4-27 Sun 8am-6pm	CW Phone	FL: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 40-10 meters See: floridaqsoparty.org
BARTG Sprint 75	4-27 Sun 1pm-5pm	RTTY 75 baud	Serial Number	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters bartg.org.uk

- State QSO Parties allow out-of-state stations to contact only in-state stations for that specific contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists.
- No WARC bands in any contest.

Makers Day

New Jersey's 11th annual Makers Day was held on March 21 and 22. This two-day event is meant to expose students to the world of “making”. A wide variety of engaging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities were held across New Jersey.

As we did last year, NPARC set up a demonstration of digital radio communications using FT8. The radio setup included an IC-705 feeding a 40m end-fed half-wave antenna (EFHW). WSJT-X was run on a Raspberry Pi 400 plugged into the club's XGA projector. The rig was assembled and tested by AI (K2AL). Don (K2DAM) and Jim (K2UI) managed to get the antenna up after numerous launch attempts. Sam (KC2OSR) brought his QSL collection, which got a lot of attention from the adults in attendance. Paul (W2PTP) also attended to support the NPARC effort.

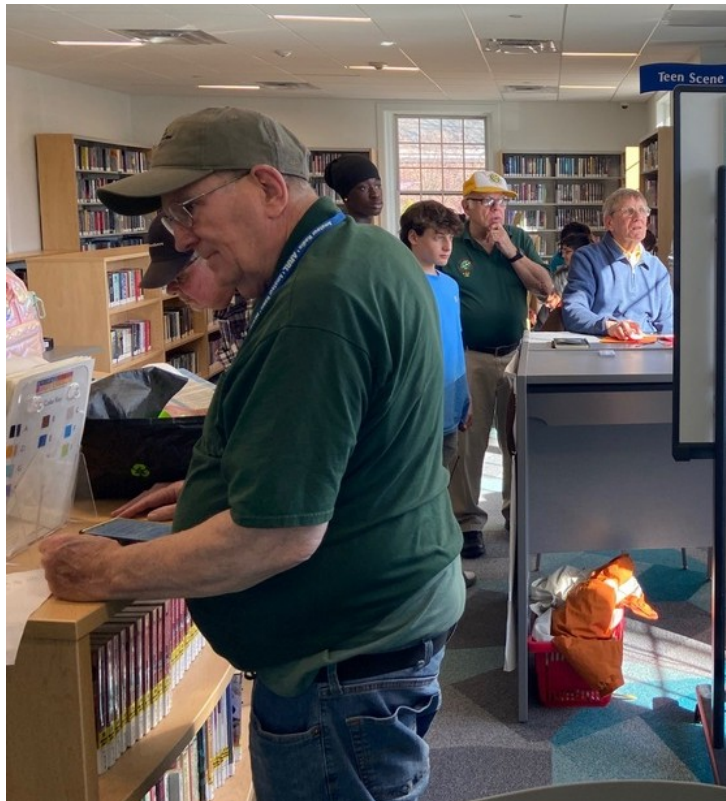


This year NPARC and the Chatham HS Robotics Team shared the same room resulting in increased traffic as compared to last year. Above, K2AL demonstrates WSJT-X to several students by making a few FT8 QSOs. The K1USN Slow Speed Test was in progress and K2AL couldn't resist making a few CW contacts as well, which seemed to generate more interest than FT8!



Above, W2PTP looks on as K2AL explains the steps involved in making an FT8 QSO.

Below, KC2OSR, explains the pleasure of chasing DX and collecting QSL cards from around the world.

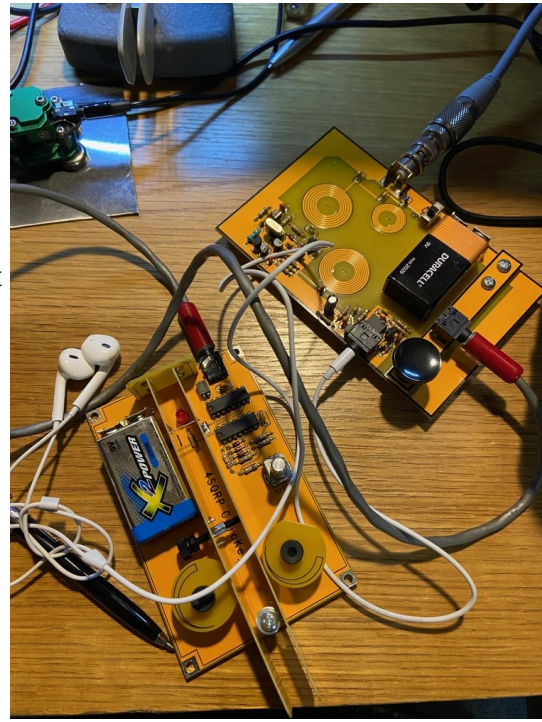


750 Milliwatts Anyone? *Al Hanzl – K2AL*

We all know about the weekly NPARC Nets, FM Phone, Digital and CW, but did you know that NPARC has a QRP CW Net (no more than 5 watts) ?

Dan, K1DK, a regular on the Thursday Night CW Net, suggested that I try using my Cricket 40 QRP kit that several of us built as a club project. QRP means using between 100mW to 1 watt of power. The Cricket puts out about 3/4 of a watt.

We were QRV on March 17 at 2PM when we figured conditions would be better for short range communication on 40 meters, so I called CQ on 7.030. Dan heard me and we had a short QSO. I was also heard by several stations in the Midwest and Virginia according to the DX spotting network I was using on N3FJP. (See below.)



```
e ON6PJ:      5352.0  ON100U      Ses  
e WZ7I-#:     7029.4  K2AL        CW  9 dB 19 WPM CQ  
e PDORUD:    7140.0  OP100A     thanks for nce contact 73 R
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DX de ON5VN-7: 24961.0 K2WPA      5 5 in Belgium  
DX de PA2P:    14027.0 VU4AX     QSX 14031.20 CW  
DX de N8DXE-#: 7029.4  K2AL        CW  1 dB 18 WPM CQ
```

All those with Crickets are encouraged to participate but any radio set to 5 watts or less will do. The schedule for the net is flexible and a bit sporadic, so check the Reflector for announcements.

72,
AL
K2AL

Junkbox Bargain

Jim Stekas – K2UI

Hiram, a local ham, embarked on a homebrew project for which he required ten resistors with the following values: 100Ω, 220Ω, 680Ω, 1.8kΩ, 2.7kΩ, 6.2kΩ, 33kΩ, 47kΩ, 470kΩ, and 2.0MΩ. By a stroke of good fortune, a visit to Greenbrook Electronics uncovered a large box of surplus ¼ watt resistors of 5% tolerance. The box contained 100 resistors of each of the 168 standard resistance values. The price, \$10, was too good to resist¹, but there was a significant catch: the resistors were in an unsorted jumble.

How many resistors should Hiram expect to pull from the box in order to get one of each of the ten values required?

Standard 5% Resistance Values

1.0	10	100	1.0 k	10 k	100 k	1.0 M
1.1	11	110	1.1 k	11 k	110 k	1.1 M
1.2	12	120	1.2 k	12 k	120 k	1.2 M
1.3	13	130	1.3 k	13 k	130 k	1.3 M
1.5	15	150	1.5 k	15 k	150 k	1.5 M
1.6	16	160	1.6 k	16 k	160 k	1.6 M
1.8	18	180	1.8 k	18 k	180 k	1.8 M
2.0	20	200	2.0 k	20 k	200 k	2.0 M
2.2	22	220	2.2 k	22 k	220 k	2.2 M
2.4	24	240	2.4 k	24 k	240 k	2.4 M
2.7	27	270	2.7 k	27 k	270 k	2.7 M
3.0	30	300	3.0 k	30 k	300 k	3.0 M
3.3	33	330	3.3 k	33 k	330 k	3.3 M
3.6	36	360	3.6 k	36 k	360 k	3.6 M
3.9	39	390	3.9 k	39 k	390 k	3.9 M
4.3	43	430	4.3 k	43 k	430 k	4.3 M
4.7	47	470	4.7 k	47 k	470 k	4.7 M
5.1	51	510	5.1 k	51 k	510 k	5.1 M
5.6	56	560	5.6 k	56 k	560 k	5.6 M
6.2	62	620	6.2 k	62 k	620 k	6.2 M
6.8	68	680	6.8 k	68 k	680 k	6.8 M
7.5	75	750	7.5 k	75 k	750 k	7.5 M
8.2	82	820	8.2 k	82 k	820 k	8.2 M
9.1	91	910	9.1 k	91 k	910 k	9.1 M

Note: I am determining the answer empirically and I hope to have it ready in time for the May edition of Mountain Spark Gaps. - K2UI

1 - No pun intended.