

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)**

August 2024

Volume 57 No. 8

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
at New Providence Municipal Center**

**August 12 - Intro to Contesting
August 26 - Bell Labs Museum Tour**

Upcoming Events

**Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.050 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 2024

President: K2UI, Jim Stekas
908-868-4970
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
973-635-8966

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: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974
©NPARC 2010 All Rights Reserved
Editor Emeritus: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Acting Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - June 2024

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,
who has been recording daily weather events at his station
for the past 43 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp. this June, 96 F (June 21,22)
Last June(2023) maximum was 92 F.
Average Maximum temp this June, 84.8 F

Minimum temp this June, 57 F (June 11)
Last June (2023) minimum was 48 F.
Average Minimum temp this June, 64.4 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 11 F (80 - 69 F) 6/6
Maximum diurnal temp range, 26 F(89 - 63 F) 6/17
One heat wave in June, 6/18-23, with max of 96 F.

Average temp this June, 74.6 F
Average temp last June, 68.7 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this June— 3.4” rain
Total precipitation last June— 4.7” rain

Maximum one day precip event - June 30, 1.2” rain.
Measurable rain fell on 10 days this June,
11 days last June.

YTD Precipitation – 27.02”

=====
Rick Anderson 6/20/2024
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

At the July 22 meeting, Jay Morreale (KD2ZRO) gave a very in depth presentation on using the Raspberry Pi for digital communications using various SDR devices. A live demonstration of WSJTX running on the Pi showed JT8 transmissions in real time. A recording of Jay's presentation is available on [DropBox](#) courtesy of Dave Hartman (AC2GL). You can also read [Jay's article](#) in the November 2023 issue of Mountain Spark Gaps.

The program for our August 12 meeting will be an Introduction to Contest by Dave Barr (K2YG) and Al Hanzl (K2AL). Dave and Al are dedicated contesters who spend just about every weekend "playing" in one contest or another. Contests are a great opportunity to add new band/states and band/countries to your log, especially during the final hours of the contest when all the big guns are looking for anyone they haven't already worked.

For our final meeting of the month, August 26, Sam Sealy (KC2OSR) has arranged for private tour of the Bell Labs museum at 600 Mountain Ave. in Berkeley Height. Only 25 slots were allocated for the tour and all have been claimed. If you haven't already signed up, contact Sam (chatnjfd236@gmail.com) to see if there are any cancellations. The tour will start promptly at 7PM EDT¹.

73,
Jim – K2UI

1 - Specifically, this is **not** 7PM NPARC time!

Popular Contests in August 2024

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
N American QSO Party CW	8/3 Sat 2 pm to 8/4 Sun 2 am	CW	NA: Name/State-DC-Prov-Country Non NA: Name	QRP/LP 160-10 m See: www.ncjweb.com
WAE DX CW	8/9 Fri 8 pm to 8/11 Sun 8pm	CW	RST/Serial Number Optional QTCs. See rules.	LP/HP 80-10 m See: www.darc.de
Maryland-DC QSO Party	8/10 Sat 10 am to Sat 12 midn	CW Phone	MDC: county/city Non MDC: State No rs(t)	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 (no WARC bands) See: www.w3vpr.org
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	8/16 Fri 8 pm- Sat 4am; 8/17 Sat 12n to 8 pm; Sun 4am to 12 n	RTTY	RST + Serial #	LP/HP 80-10 M; ***8 hours on-8 hours off. See: www.sartg.com
N American QSO Party SSB	8/17 Sat 2 pm to 8/18 Sun 2 am	SSB	NA: Name/State-DC-Prov-Country Non NA: Name	QRP/LP 160-10 m See: www.ncjweb.com
Hawaii QSO Party	8/24 Sat 12 am to 8/26 Mon 12 am	Phone, CW, Digital	HI: rs(t) + district Non HI: rs(t)+state/prov	QRP/LP/HP 160-10m (8/24 0400z-8/26 0400z) See: www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
World Wide Digi Dx Contest	8/24 Sat 8 am to 8/25 Sun 8 am	FT8, FT4	4 Character Grid Square	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 m See: ww-digi.com
Kansas QSO Party	8/24 Sat 10a-10p 8/25 Sun 10a-4p	CW SSB Digital	KA: rs(t) + county Non KA: rs(t)+state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP 80-6 meters See: ksqsoparty.org
Ohio QSP Party	8/24 Sat 12n-12m	CW SSB	OH: rs(t) + county Non OH: rs(t)+state/prov/dx	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 meter See: www.ohqp.org
Colorado QSO Party	8-31 Sat 9am-12m	CW Phone Digital	CO: name + county Non CO: name+state/prov	QRP/LP/HP All bands except WARC See: ppraa.org

Check www.contestcalendar.com or contest specific websites for more information on these and many other radio contests.

* 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.

*** SARTG RTTY Contest (Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teletype Group) uses the “eight hours on, then eight hours off, then eight on, eight off and a third eight hours on” schedule. For us in EDT, the contest starts at 8pm Friday, stops 4am Saturday, restarts at noon on Saturday running until 8pm, then pauses again and resumes once more at 4am Sunday morning, finishing at noon on Sunday.

There are many more contests every month including weekly and monthly repeating contests with a variety of abilities required, such as slow speed cw contests. For info on more contests, please check www.contestcalendar.com

Operating Outdoors QRP

Al Hanzl – K2AL

There are several outdoor operating events sponsored by QRP groups.

The “Flight of the Bumblebees” is a CW only QRP event is sponsored by The Adventure Radio Society. It took place on Sunday, July 28 from 1pm-5pm. Stations opting to operate “in the field” are the sought after “bumblebees” and are assigned a number. I was granted number “2” and decided to operate in Jaycees Park in New Providence. I tossed my end fed antenna over a tree branch and set up my Icom-705 on a park bench. It started slowly on 20 meters, but conditions and activity improved on 40 meters later. Dave, K2YG and Kevin, N2TO, and his xyl Mary stopped by to observe and to assist. I made 15 contacts with stations from Florida to Canada.

The other QRP event is the “Skeeter Hunt”, sponsored by the NJQRP Club and takes place on Sunday, August 18. Stations who wish to be designated as “skeeters” and read more details , go to: www.qsl.net/w2lj
No need to trek beyond your own backyard to operate in the Skeeter Hunt, but use of your permanent antennas is not allowed to be considered portable. Or you can travel to a park or even operate from your home QTH. More points are earned if you operate portable or with homebrewed or kit-built transceivers.



Gud Luck,
AL K2AL