

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



**N2XJ  
Club Callsign**

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

**VOLUME 41**

**December 2006**

**NO. 8**

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**A "No-Frills" edition of the newsletter: All the information without all the fancy formatting! (Well...\*almost\* all the information)**

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## **President's Column by Al Hanzl, K2AL**

"Thanks for the Memories"

The answers to last month's "NPARC trivia quiz": The original club callsign before being granted the N2XJ vanity call was .....KC2INV. And the author of a 1954 QST article on a transistor super-regenerative receiver for 6 meters was..... our own Bill Wadsworth, W2ZKE. I have the issue if anyone wants to read it.

The annual NPARC Club Auction and Flea Market is confirmed for Friday, February 23rd, 2007 in the gym on Academy Street in the Lincoln Municipal Complex in New Providence. Always a fun event, please make room on your calendars.

The Berkeley Heights Recreation Commission has asked the club to hold "Kids Day" again this year. The date is January 7 and we will need help in setting up antennas, assisting in operating and in talking with the public. Contact K2JV or me if you want to help.

Don't forget that there will be a club meeting on Monday, December 11. It will be the only club meeting in December.

And finally, with the election of new officers for 2007, I will be stepping down as club president after a three year run. I wish to express many thanks to all club members for all their help, encouragement and comraderie during that time. I sincerely enjoyed every minute of it and am proud to be a member of such a great club. Thanks again. And good luck to the new officers. I truly believe 2007 will be our best year ever.

And , of course, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all NPARC members and their families. Amateur radio is so capable of spreading goodwill throughout the world. Let's hope some of that "ether" will rub off on everyone and spread the idea of peace to all.

Tnx fer the QSO,best 73 es 88, de Al K2AL K

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## **Tentative (really, really tentative) Program for December 11th, 2006**

The meeting on Dec 11 is the last club meeting for 2006. If things work out, "South Pole Bob" Melville, WB3EFT, will give us a talk along with his pictures from his recently completed one year stay at the South Pole. Bob spent his time there attending to science experiments including some interesting radio efforts. However, he returned to this area only a couple of weeks ago and understandably he has many things to take care of (presumably one task is to thaw out), so the program may happen at a later club meeting.

We should have our usual assortment of munchies and drinkies as well as announcements and show & tell items. You know....club-type stuff.

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## **Short Announcement for the January 8th, 2007 Meeting**

Looking Ahead to the New Year!

Software Defined Radio presentation at the January 8, 2007 Meeting

Dr. Frank Brickle AB2KT, one of the key engineers at FlexRadio Systems, the leading commercial venture making Software Defined Radios (SDRs), will provide us with a basic overview of SDRs and where this fascinating technology is going. A demo of a SDR radio station is also on the agenda.

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## **NPARC Annual Equipment Exchange (i.e. Auction)**

Our club auction is set for Friday the 23rd of February, 2007, in the Lincoln Gym located in the New Providence municipal building (the police station) on the corner of Elkwood Ave. and Academy St., one block from the center of New Providence. This location is different from last year's location, but where this event has been held in years past.

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## **Climatological Data for New Providence for November 2006**

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 25 years.

Maximum temperature for this November, 68 deg. F (November 16)  
Last November(2005) maximum was 72 deg. F.

Minimum temperature for this November, 30 deg. F (November 21)  
Last November(2005) minimum was 19 deg. F.

Average temperature this November, 48.6 deg. F  
Average temperature last November, 46.1 deg. F

Total precipitation this November - 5.43" rain  
Total precipitation last November - 4.43" rain/0.25" snow

Greatest precipitation day this November - November 8 = 2.72" rain  
Measurable rain recorded on 10 days this November.

According to State Climatologist, David Robinson, this November was one of the five warmest Novembers in more than a century, averaging around 49 degrees. Normal average for Nov. is 44.9 degrees.

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Rick, WB2QQQ

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## **NPARC Annual Club luncheon - December 9th, 2006**

Our luncheon is set for this Saturday, Dec. 9, at Charlie Brown's Restaurant in Chatham Township. The restaurant is on Southern Boulevard across from the Shop-Rite shopping center (Hickory Tree) at the intersection of Southern Blvd and Shunpike and Green Village Roads. The cost is \$22 and room is still available for those last minute attendees. Please join us for a relaxed lunch starting at noon. For more detailed directions, see your most favorite paper map or atlas, or see the club website at nparc.org

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## **Emergency Response Team - Information & Request from Barry, K2JV**

"Winter is a cumin in," and it's also time for me to reissue ID Cards for those of you who are willing to be members of the Emergency Response Team. I know that some of you are reliable old hands with experience at this, and I suspect some of you new members want and are willing to perform this important public service.

There are some rules for becoming a member of ERT and for wearing the ID Card. Fundamentally they are:

1. A willingness to serve as an emergency communicator for one of our served agencies should a serious emergency occur, and
2. Taking a part in some of our "emergency exercises" which have been cleverly disguised as fun events such as the 4th of July fireworks, the annual Child Safety Awareness Day, the Memorial Day Parade, and a couple of other times when we get together and practice our formal communication skills, under some kind of pressure.

For those who want to join or rejoin us in this activity, please respond to this e-mail directly to me. I'll send you the 2007 agreement form and information about our net and call-up procedures.

For those who just want to make comments or ask questions, use the reflector so everyone can get into the act.

But please respond NOW, since we don't know when the first snow or ice storm will occur!!  
73 es CUL de Barry K2JV

Dr. Barry G. Cohen  
39 Cromwell Court  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922  
TEL: 908-464-1730

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**Following is the text from the NPARC Kid's Day Flyer** - see the full flyer on the NPARC website. Please consider printing out a flyer or two and posting (legally, please) in a public place:

Berkeley Heights and New Providence Recreation Commissions

in cooperation with NPARC  
The Amateur Radio Club for the Watchung Hills Area

Present "Ham Radio KID'S DAY"

A chance for kids of all ages to operate a Ham Radio station and speak with other kids from all over the USA and Canada

This event takes place on January 07, 2007 at the Berkeley Heights Community Center, 29 Park Avenue next to the Town Hall, between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM

No experience required. Just show up at any time in the afternoon

Licensed Radio Amateurs from NPARC will set up the station starting at noon and will be available to answer any questions which you or your parents may have.

For information call:

Al Hanzl, K2AL, 908-872-5021 (evenings)

Barry Cohen, K2JV, 908-464-1730 (anytime)

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## **From Field Day, 2006:**

**(We need at least \*one\* picture in this issue of the Spark Gaps)**

