

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the  
Watchung Mountain Area



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>  
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

VOLUME 47 NO. 12 December 2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Regular Meetings

Mon. 1/14 & 1/28 7:30 PM  
Salt Brook School Cafeteria

**Kid's Day Sunday 1/6**

**2—5 PM**

**Berkeley Heights Rec. Center**

**29 Park Avenue**

**See Page 3**

## Meeting Schedule

**Regular Meeting:** 7:30—10:30 PM  
**2nd Monday of each month** at the  
Salt Brook School Cafeteria  
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.  
New Providence

**Informal Project Meeting:** 7:30—9:00 PM  
**4th Monday of each month** at the  
Salt Brook School Cafeteria  
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.  
New Providence

### Everyone is Welcome

If a normal meeting night is a holiday,  
we usually meet the following night.  
Call the contacts below.  
When Schools are closed,  
Meetings are held in the Recreation  
Department Meeting Room in Borough Hall

## Club Officers for 2012

President: K2MUN David Berkley  
908-500-9740  
Vice President: KC2WUF David Bean  
973-747-6116  
.: Secretary: KC2HLA Hillary Zaenchik  
908-244-6202  
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr  
908-277-4283  
Activities: WA2CG Bill Pointon  
732-872-1167

## 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

## Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>  
Webmaster K2MUN David Berkley  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Contact K2UI, Jim

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny  
Contributing Editors:  
WB2QOO Rick Anderson  
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for  
November 2012

The following information is provided by  
Rick, WB2QOO, who has been recording  
daily weather events at his station for the  
past 31 years.

### TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this November, 68 deg.  
F (November 12)  
Last November (2011) maximum was 69 deg.  
F.  
Average Maximum temperature this November,  
49.3 deg. F  
Minimum temperature for this November, 24  
deg. F (November 6)  
Last November (2011) minimum was 28 deg. F.  
Average Minimum temperature this November,  
32.2 deg. F  
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 3 deg.  
(36 - 33 deg.) 11/27  
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 27 deg.  
(60 - 33 deg.) 11/13  
Average temperature this November, 40.8  
deg. F  
Average temperature last November, 47.7  
deg. F

Number of days this November with daily  
maximum temperatures of  
50 deg. or higher - 17; last November - 25.

### PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this November - 9.0"  
snow; 1.41" rain/melted snow.  
Total precipitation last November - 3.91"  
rain.

Maximum one day precip. event this Novem-  
ber; November 7, 5.0" snow.  
Measurable rain fell on 1 day this Novem-  
ber, 8 days last November.  
Measurable snow fell on 2 days this Novem-  
ber.

=====  
Rick Anderson 12/20/12  
243 Mountain Ave.  
New Providence, NJ  
(908) 464-8911  
[rick243@comcast.net](mailto: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

**NPARC**  
**The Amateur Radio Club for**  
**the Watchung Hills Area**

In cooperation with the Berkeley Heights Recreation Commission  
and the New Providence Recreation Department

**Presents “Ham Radio KIDS 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, and possibly from all over the world!**

**This event takes place on**  
**Sunday January 6, 2013 at the**  
**Berkeley Heights Community Center, 29 Park Avenue next to the**  
**Town Hall, between 2:00 PM and 5:00 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:

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

Paul Campano N2KDK, 908-508-9595

Or go to: [www.nparc.org](http://www.nparc.org)

**If anyone misplaced the registration form, here it is.**

**Membership Registration**

**NPARC - The Watchung Mountain Area Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 813, New Providence, N.J. 07974-0813**

**For the Calendar Year 2013**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Office Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month and Day are sufficient) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Can you operate 145.75 MHz: FM \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ HT \_\_\_\_\_

Can you operate on 440 MHz FM \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ HT \_\_\_\_\_

Can you give a technical presentation at a Club Meeting?

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Talents \_\_\_\_\_

**Please name one subject you'd like to hear about at a Club Meeting:**

Dues are \$20.00 per year for Members, \$10.00 per year for Students.

Dues may be paid by cash or personal check made to NPARC.

Dues are payable on January 1, 2013

**Please return this entire form to:**

**NPARC, - Attn Secretary**

**P.O. Box 813,**

**New Providence, N.J.**

**07974-0813**

# SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

## World War II Mystery

Britain's world-renowned code-breaking intelligence experts have admitted being stumped by a dead pigeon. The UK's super secretive Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) issued a statement acknowledging that they were mystified by an encrypted message found attached to a dead pigeon believed to have been sent during WWII.

The skeleton of the pigeon in question was found in the chimney of a private home in Surrey, in southeast England. Tied to its leg was a small red canister in which was a handwritten message under the heading "Pigeon Service." The owner of the home began searching for someone to help him figure out the code. This effort led him to the curator of the pigeon exhibit at Bletchley Park, which had been home to the U.K's decryption experts during World War II, and today is a code museum. It was the code breakers that worked at Bletchley Park that were responsible for the cracking of the famous German Enigma Code. The curator, Mr. Colin Hill, took up the cause and passed on the coded message to the GCHQ to crack the 27 five-letter codes, listed in four columns.

The code breakers at GCHQ believe the message is consistent with techniques used during the war. Senders often used codebooks that gave the translation of each group of four or five-letter codes relevant for a specific mission. The code groups themselves were sometimes encrypted by using methods such as a one-time key that both the sender and receiver could access. The Current code-breakers quickly discovered that they were missing key clues as all the code books from that period had been destroyed. It is a tribute to the skills of the wartime code-makers that they were able to devise a code that was undecipherable both then and now.

However, Mr. Hill is somewhat skeptical about the efforts made to crack this code by the people at GCHQ. Given all of the modern-day computer equipment they have, "it's a little bit hard to believe that they can't crack it." He is continuing his efforts to trace the pigeon's identity number and has enlisted the help of a woman in France, who used to be part of the Resistance movement during the war, to try and find the keys to the code. We can only wish him the best of good fortune in his quest. Fascinating stuff from WWII.

This month's article was produced from material supplied by John Zollhofer (KC2MTN) for which we are most grateful. His contribution does illustrate the point that any member can send pertinent material to this editor without having to write the actual article for publication in the Mountain Spark Gaps. All that has to be done is to send the subject article to me and I will prepare it for publication in our paper. The more contributions we get the more interesting reading we can provide.

Jim WB2EDO