

# Mountain Spark Gaps

New Providence Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 813  
New Providence, NJ 07974-0813  
ARRL Club Number 0213

February, 1987

## Nets:

FM Phone 147.030 MHz	Sundays at 9:00 p.m. EST	Bill King, W2LTJ
RTTY 145.750 MHz	Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EST	John Sheetz, K2AGI
Westlink 145.750 MHz	Sundays at 7:30 p.m. EST	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Westlink 147.030 MHz	Whippany Rptr. Simulcast	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Slow CW 28.150 MHz	Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EST	Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

February 9: The first "surprise meeting" of 1987. By the way, if you haven't paid your dues to our treasurer John Sheetz K2AGI, this will be a good opportunity so that you will continue to receive the Mountain Spark Gaps each month!

February 23: Regular fourth-Monday meeting.

Sneek peeks: Possibility of FAX, SSTV, Image communications meeting in the future (no promises, yet)

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\* NPARC Meetings are held in the meeting \*  
\* room of the New Providence Memorial \*  
\* Library at 8 PM the second and fourth \*  
\* Mondays of each month unless otherwise \*  
\* noted. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

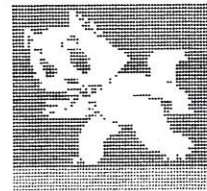
## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2: "Punxsutawney Phil" Day
- 9: NPARC Meeting
- 11: Thomas A. Edison born, 1847
- 12: Lincoln's birthday
- 16: Presidents Day
- 20: John Glen orbited earth, 1962
- 22: Washington's birthday
- 23: NPARC Meeting

Now that we are switching to the metric system, will the inch-worm become the two-point-five-six-centimeter-worm?

The  
New Providence  
Amateur Radio Club

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



## SLOW CW NET - NOVICES TAKE NOTE!

Most of you probably don't realize that the NPARC runs a slow-CW net every Wednesday at 9 PM on HF. Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG has been doing this for quite a long time and is a good person to chat with to get your code speed up as well as to ask questions about operating procedures. Why not check in at least once and make a few mistakes among friends before a DX station calls you and you are unsure of what to say! Look for Floyd, KA2DDG on or around 28.150 MHz (smack in the middle of the 10-meter Novice band) every Wednesday night at 9 PM.

--From N2XJ

## UPGRADES

John Bennett passed his Novice exam in December and received his license in the mail a day after the January Spark Gaps had been mailed out. His call is KB2CBC. Congratulations, John!

## The Mountain Spark Gaps

Editor ..... Tom Brown, KA2UGQ  
Distribution ..... John Sheetz, K2AGI  
Complaints ..... (position open)

## HAMFEST WATCH

February 13 (Friday): The Irvington ARC will be holding a hamfest in Livingston, NJ, 7 PM to 11 PM. Tickets are \$2. Talk-in on 146.52 (simplex) and 146.415 (simplex). More info: Walt Heineman, W2QR at (201) 429-0504.

## NPARC CLASSIFIEDS

NEEDED by John Bennett, KB2CBC:

- \* Inexpensive novice-band rig to get started. Call Tom Brown, KA2UGQ at 464-7958 if you know of anyone with a rig for John.

For sale by Ernie Kolb, N2EFR (665-0141):

- \* ST-6 with manual and W2LTJ 60 MA loop AFSK, both work 100 percent.
- \* TEN-TEC 540 transceiver, 252M PWS, 235 speech processor, 299 talking counter, all good condition, all manuals.

For sale by Bill King, W2LTJ (377-5653):

- \* QST QST QST Would you believe 200 pounds of them from 1933 to 1966 solid, and several from 1930. Single issues not for sale so please offer on the whole works---tell your friends about them. My wife is getting tired of my excuses for storing them for an Estate friend of mine. Please rush your offer to W2LTJ Bill King 377 5653, or call on 145.75, 055/655, or 63/03.

For sale by Bob Brown, W2EME (464-7958):

- \* Clean, labled, glass containers for storing all standard resistor values. A handy thing to have to pick out resistors for projects quickly and easily!

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If you would like to place a FREE ad in the Mountain Sparks, contact Tom Brown, KA2UGQ on the club frequency or at 464-7958.

## TIME BEACONS

(From the Reading Radio Club newsletter)

Interested in knowing the correct time? Most of us are familiar with the standard time and frequency stations WWV and JJY, and can listen to one or the other during any part of the day or night....But, how about using time beacons as propagation beacons? Besides stations WWV and JJY, there are many other time stations which give a rough indication of propagation paths to different parts of the world. You should be aware that some of these stations run rather high power while others have apparently sporadic operating schedules.

Look for signals on the following frequencies:

CHU Ottawa Canada: 3.33, 7.335, 16.670 Mhz  
DAO German Hydro Institute: 2.775,  
12.763 Mhz  
JJY Tokyo, Japan: 2.5, 5, 8, 10, 15 Mhz  
OLB5 Czechoslovakia: 3.170 Mhz

VNG Lindhurst, Australia: 5.425, 7.515,  
12.005 Mhz  
VVC Calcutta, India: 12.744 Mhz  
WWV Ft Collins, Colorado: 2.5, 5, 10, 15,  
20 Mhz  
WWVH Maui, Hawaii: 2.5, 5, 10, 15 Mhz

--From KL7BGE

## BUD SNYDER, KB2GN OUT OF HOSPITAL

The title says it all. Bud Snyder KB2GN, who was in Overlook Hospital because of a severe case of pneumonia, was able to return home at the end of January. Thanks to all the members who sent him cards and visited him at the hospital, and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

--From KA2DDG

## ARRL VEC PROGRAM

Know of anyone who is thinking of upgrading? Does someone you know want to go for their novice license? Don't forget that the NNJ VE Board is alive and well and has sessions the second Saturday of each month. Exams are conducted at Union County College in Cranford, NJ. FCC form 610 applications with copy of existing amateur license and \$4.25 check payable to "ARRL VEC" should be received at least 30 days prior to exam date. Walk-ins are permitted but at risk of limited test materials. Novice form 610 applications are exempt of the \$4.25 fee. Contact Carl Felt, N2XJ at 635-7686 for more information and/or 610 forms.

## NEW JERSEY HAM-RADIO BULLETIN BOARDS

The following is a list of some computer telephone bulletin boards which have sections for Amateur Radio. A complete, nationwide list is also available on request from Tom Brown, KA2UGQ. If you know of any others to add to this list, please let Tom know.

(All are in 201 area code)

Phone #	Name	Location
271-4517	WB2TIX Radio BBS	Bound Brook, NJ
494-3649	Micro-Fone TBBS	Metuchen, NJ
694-8122	Sonnet	Mountain View, NJ
757-1491	Holly Park PBBS	Piscataway, NJ
943-7759	N2DSY CBBS?	Little Falls, NJ?

--From KA2UGQ

## "YA WANNA BE FAMOUS?"

How? Send in anything to the Mountain Spark Gaps:

Articles - long or short  
Hamfests  
Classified Ads  
Tidbits  
Anything!

Where? To Tom Brown, KA2UGQ on the club frequency (145.75), on the telephone (464-7958), on packet (KA2UGQ @ WA2SNA-1), on UNIX (..!ihnp4!mtunh!ky2d-2!ka2ugg), or at any NPARC club meeting. Why? To make the newsletter interesting. OK? Thanks!

## GEORGE MEADE'S LIFE HISTORY

Some people have requested more information about George Meade, the speaker at the Christmas party last December.

George Meade is a graduate of Seton Hall University and the Army's R.O.T.C. flight program at Caldwell-Wright Airport. He earned the Bronze Star, the Air Medal for Valor, and some 30 other decorations flying an assault helicopter in Vietnam. He is also the recipient of the New York City Police Commendation Certificate and Commendation Bar, the Bergen County Safety Council President's Safety Award, and the Excellence in Communications Award from the Helicopter Association of America.

--Via W2EME

## AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS IN JAPAN SPEAK OUT

(From the November 13, 1986 Mainichi Daily News newspaper, page 2)

To the Editor:

Your article of Oct. 30 titled "7 Charged In Illegal Sales Of Personal Radio Devices" was quite interesting to me, for I am an amateur (ham) radio operator.

However, your expression "amateur radio operators" in the article was misleading, and I am sure other ham radio operators felt the same. Apparently you mixed up amateur (ham) radio operators and personal radio operators.

Every ham radio operator must take a state-run exam since the Wireless Telegraphy Act requires an amateur radio operator to be properly examined and licensed to operate radio equipment, and such an operator must abide by the strict rules. That is why we are allowed to use our own call sign assigned by the authorities and we can exclusively use certain radio bands, and we are proud of it.

On the other hand, so-called personal radio operators (or bugs) using the 900 MHz (megahertz) band are not required to have any operation license. Needless to say, the notorious citizen band maniacs (CBers), who are illegal from the beginning and out of the question, do not have a license, either.

I do not say you married the dignity of ham radio operators, but, at least, in order not to confuse good MDN readers, you should have used the wording "personal radio operators" or "illegal radio bugs" instead of "amateur radio operators" in your article.

By the way, we know your paper [sic] is dedicated to international understanding thru radio communication. Did you know there are about a half million ham radio operators in Japan and lots more all over the world?

KOJI HIROSE, JH3WEV  
A member of Japan Amateur  
Radio League, Inc. (JARL)

--Via K2SKV

## NPARC ENCOURAGED TO USE WHIPPANY REPEATER

At the invitation of Dick K2ASM and other members of the Whippany Amateur Radio Club the members of our club have been invited to make more use of the Whippany Repeater W2TW which operates on an input frequency of 147.63 and output on 147.03 MHz. We understand that the timeout timer on Whippany is

set for about two-and-one-half minutes. In order to reset the timer it is only necessary to momentarily release your mike button and then continue transmitting. You do not have to wait for the repeater to drop its carrier. Our club net on Sunday nights has started using Whippany and so far it has been quite successful. It is really good practice for all of us to become more familiar with repeater operation. In case of emergencies we would all be more comfortable knowing protocol, etiquette etc for proper procedure on a repeater. The other big advantage is that the proverbial problem of someone always being in the null of someone else's antenna can be eliminated. Everyone aims their beam (if they have one) at Whippany and they can hear everyone else. In case you don't know the direction to Whippany from your QTH it was distributed in the custom made printouts distributed to all those known to be active on two meters by John K2AGI. If you did not get one of these printouts for your QTH please get in touch with John and he will run one off for you. This listing tells you the direction and distance to all of the other active stations as well.

--From K2AGI

## THE "EARS" REPEATER LISTENS

This is a notice the remind you fellows that the Exxon repeater is an open machine and available to club members et al.

The Exxon repeater is maintained by the "EARS". Translation is Exxon Amateur Radio Society. The input frequency of K2ACU is 146.055 with output on 146.655 Mhz. The antenna is in a clear spot 104 feet in the air supported by the Exxon Research Center at the corner of Park Avenue and U.S. Route 1. The repeater can be tone controlled but only when interference threatens. A tone signal of 151.4 hertz is continuously on the output which is an aid for monitoring stations such as W2LTJ where a tone decoder removes all but the repeater signals. The tone also helps a repeater in Stamford Ct. to eliminate K2ACU with Anti-PL decoding.

Because of the antenna location near U.S. route 1 and the N.J. turnpike as well as the Garden State Parkway you can get good coverage on these important roads. We encourage you to use this repeater. Any questions you have please call me W2LTJ.

--From W2LTJ

## CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President ..... Rick Anderson, WB2QQQ  
Vice President ..... Mike Shepnew, KA2UGR  
Secretary ..... Paul Meinschein, WB2JVG  
Treasurer ..... John Sheetz, K2AGI  
Activities Manager ..... (Position Open)

Club chartered: January 11, 1965  
Incorporated: May 1969

## The New Providence Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Club, #0213

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New Providence, NJ 07974-0813