



MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



FEBRUARY 1990

New Providence Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974-0813

ARRL Affiliated Club No. 0213

AUCTION COMING UP NEXT MONTH

Start getting your goodies together for our combination Auction- Flea Market coming up on March 16th. A lot of copies of our 1990 Auction notice were handed out at our January meeting. Since very few people read anything we had only one complaint about errors! A corrected version is included with this issue of the Spark Gaps. Even with three people proof-reading the notice it still slipped through. Sorry about that.

K2AGI

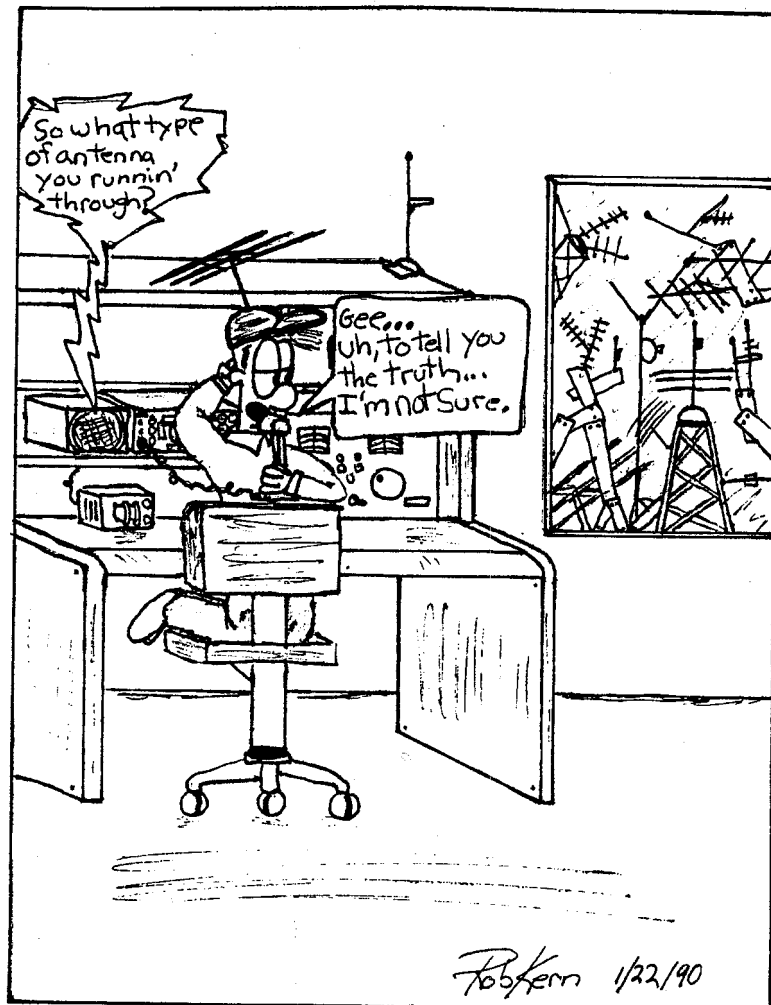
SPARK GAPS STAFF GROWING!

We have discovered an artist in our midst who is going to help improve the appearance and content of the Spark Gaps with custom made cartoons! The one appearing in this issue was produced about two hours before our last meeting as an introduction to what we might have. If you have or get any good ideas for an appropriate cartoon please let us know. Rob Kern is a brother of Jim Kern KB2FCV. Rob isn't a ham but obviously is exposed to hamdom through Jim and we are fortunate to have such talent contributed to the club. If this kind of help keeps growing I am going to have to add a mast-head to the Spark Gaps showing our contributing editors!

PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS MADE EASY

Our February feature program meeting will be on Monday, February 26th. This will be a double barreled program. Mike Kossor, WA2EBY, will demonstrate a system to make printed circuit boards directly from the patterns published in QST etc. without the use of a camera. He will also demonstrate and describe a VOX and MCW unit for use with an HT. If you have been looking for a good construction project this should be an excellent starting point. Mike is with AT&T Government Systems and is often heard on the Whippany repeater 147.03-147.63. He is also writing articles for QST. Don't miss this one.

Our first February meeting will be held on Monday February 12th even though this is Lincoln's real birthday. The library will be opened. We often have surprise demonstrations as a supplement to our regular business meetings so come and see what happens.



AT&T PREPARES FOR ONSLAUGHT OF SUN SPOT ACTIVITY

(news release of 12/15/89)

NEW YORK -- Don't be surprised if your phone calls end in a lot of busy signals this February.

That's when an 11-year cycle of solar-flare activity is expected to peak, potentially disrupting long-distance communications traffic and even electrical power.

American Telephone & Telegraph Co. says it has done all it can to prevent problems. But it makes no guarantees.

The culprit is extraordinary bursts of electromagnetic energy from explosions on the sun's surface, a phenomenon that scientists call the "solar maximum."

"This excess current will sometimes seek out the best conductor, such as a long-haul communications cable or even the Alaskan oil pipeline," says Louis J. Lanzerotti, a senior scientist at AT&T's Bell Laboratories.

Then, suddenly, long-distance phone traffic is disrupted and ham radios get staticky. Even some communications satellites 23,000 miles above Earth become disoriented, and their signals miss their Earth stations.

AT&T's communications network has been stunned by solar activity on numerous occasions this century, leading to some technological advances.

In August 1972, for example, a huge electrical surge from a solar flare knocked out power on a long-distance cable between Chicago and Iowa,

disrupting service for an hour. The accident lost "a lot of revenue" and led Bell Labs to redesign AT&T's power supplies "at a nontrivial cost." But the new equipment makes it unlikely that a similar accident could happen today, says Mr. Lanzerotti, fingers crossed.

Today, "scientists can't predict accurately the magnitudes of the currents that might come because there are no scientific models that will translate the path of a solar flare and its effect on the Earth," Mr. Lanzerotti says.

The impact could be devastating. Last March, for instance, solar activity was blamed for an electrical surge that blew out some electrical transformers in Quebec, causing a nine-hour blackout.

"The same thing could happen again," he says.

SARA HAMFEST

Saturday March 3, Dover NJ Armory, Rte 15 1/2 mile south of I-80; from west of Dover, I-80 eastbound exit 34; from points East, exit 34A Westbound.

Talk-in 146.985, 223.860 & 146.52. Vendors 6:30 AM, Buyers 8:00 AM. VE exams. Indoor tables \$9. Tailgating \$6. Register Early! SARA, POB 610 Rockaway, NJ 07866 After 2/23/90 call days 201-366-5300.

NOVICE CLASS UNDER CON- SIDERATION

We have had a few requests for a training class for newcomers to work toward obtaining Novice Class licenses. Bob Latter, W2YFM, has agreed to act as a coordinator for this activity.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in such a course please have them call Bob

at 665-0479. He will keep track of those who call and if there are enough to form a class we will try to schedule one.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations go to Don Oberman who has started right off from scratch with a General license and is now N2KEW.

Adam Davis KB2GEG has recently upgraded from Technician to General.

We weren't aware of it until mail was returned to us that Paul Wickliffe, KB2BBQ, has moved to Marco Island, Florida.

Scott Killian, KB2GDN/6, who moved to California has renewed his membership and sends the following note to us:

January 5, 1990

"Please tell the club I'm doing fine. California has been a major culture shock. Also, the weather has been nice. Today for example, was 68 F, breezy and sunny. The ham population is surprisingly large and I've already met about three hams around town whose license plates I saw. I have gotten an R-5 Cushcraft Vertical and should now be able to communicate with New Jersey. I "rode out" the earthquake OK on October 17, 1989. San Luis Obispo was about 150 miles from the epicenter in San Francisco, CA so it was only lightly felt here. I barely felt the quake at work on that day and one of my co-workers noticed some signs swaying outside at the time. Anyway, I send my best wishes to NPARC and good luck in '90."

Scott is now working for Alpha Graphics in San Luis Obispo.

NPARC CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Tony Lockhart KB2BBP

Vice President:

Andy Stillinger WA2DKJ

Secretary:

Pat Casey N2FXA

Treasurer:

John Sheetz K2AGI

Activities Chairman:

Warren Mahland K2BIV

MEETING SCHEDULE

Club meetings 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 PM in the New Providence Memorial Library meeting room, Elkwood Avenue. Anyone is welcome. Note: if our normal meeting night is a holiday we usually meet the next night.

DEADLINE FOR SPARK GAPS ITEMS

The deadline for getting items into the Spark Gaps will be 10 days before our first meeting of each month. It is a big job to get all of the stuff together for the Spark Gaps and it is not always easy to squeeze something in at the last minute. Thanks for your cooperation. de K2AGI.

ON THE AIR ACTIVITIES:

FM Phone Net Sunday Evening 9:00 PM Listen on 147.03 MHz, Transmit on 147.63 Net Control: Bob Latter W2YFM

RTTY Net Sunday Evening 8:00 PM 60 WPM Baudot on 145.75 MHz Net Control: John Sheetz K2AGI

Rusty CW Rag Chew - Thursday 9:00 PM 28.150 MHz, KB2GEG Net Control

Packet BBS 145.01 KA2UGQ-4 (Berkeley Hts.)
SYSOP Tom Brown KA2UGQ

SWAP AND SHOP

FOR SALE:

Kenwood HF Station - Excellent condition consisting of:

Kenwood TS-830S Transceiver, 160 thru 10 meters, includes 10, 18 and 24 MHz bands, equipped with 500 Hz CW filter.

Kenwood Digital VFO 230

Kenwood Antenna Tuner

AT 230

Kenwood Speaker SP 230

Kenwood MC 50 Microphone

Kenwood Spinning Knobs on TS-830 and VFO-230

Plus all operating manuals and service manuals for above equipment.

Sale Price \$895

T.E.T. Aluminum Roof Tower equipped with thrust bearing. 10 foot, 2" mast included. Total height with mast 18 feet.

Sale Price \$170

Allinace HD-73 Rotor, Dual Speed, can handle 10.7 sq ft wind load. 50 feet of 8 conductor cable included.

Sale Price \$50

Sale Price Complete System \$210

The following software items for the Commodore C-64 are for sale at \$10 each:

CUT and PASTE

(word processor)

MASTER LOG

(logging program)

CONTENDER

(logging program)

PROPOGATION

(propagation program)

Sixty 5-1/4" DSDD Floppy Disks (\$10 for the batch)

Above items available from Mike Mc Govern, KC2KE 147.03 RPT or call 851-3468 (work) or 887-9368 (home).

SWAP AND SHOP CONT.

FOR SALE:

Two Radio Shack MC-1000 speakers. Bookshelf type, 11" wide, 17" high, 8" deep. 7" 8-ohm speaker + 2-1/2" tweeter. Electrically good, cabinet fair. Call Ernie Kolb 665-0141.

WANTED:

Adam Davis, KB2GEG, is looking for any of the following transceivers: Kenwood TS-930S, TS-830S, TS530S or a TS-130SE. If you have any of these for sale give Adam a call at 635-1490.

Bob Barns, KB2IKC, is looking for a display enhancement board (DEB) card for an AT&T 6300 computer. Bob can be reached at 464-6785.

NEW ROSTER OUT FOR 1990

Included with this issue of the Spark Gaps is an up-to-date club roster. We are starting off the new year with 94 members. I put off issuing a new roster until the last of the stragglers paid their dues. Dues for 1990 were actually due in September and I received the last two in the past week! No awards are given for being last. I plan to issue new rosters at six month intervals or thereabout. Hopefully I can use a better type font in future issues. The problem is in keeping the columns lined up with proportional spaced type. I still have a lot to learn about formatting this sort of thing.

K2AGI

DONT FORGET

THE AUCTION

MARCH 16th



AUCTION

The N.P.A.R.C. will hold its Annual Auction on Friday March 16, 1990. This has been a SUPER event in past years and promises to be even better this year. Mark your calendar!!!

A NEW APPROACH to managing the auction will be put into place this year. After two hours of auction there will be a FLEA MARKET. The better items will be auctioned while the grab bag type items will be available during the flea market portion.

DATE -- FRIDAY -- MARCH 16, 1990

TIME -- 7:00 P.M.

AT NEW PROVIDENCE BOROUGH HALL

(Lincoln Municipal Center)

ELKWOOD AVENUE ACROSS FROM THE NEW PROVIDENCE LIBRARY

FREE ADMISSION --- FREE PARKING --- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**DONATED EQUIPMENT and PARTS are WELCOME
ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET
FROM NPARC MEMBERS ONLY**

The usual NPARC rules will be followed: 10% of the auction price to the Club,
with a maximum of \$10 and a minimum of 25¢

See the reverse side of this flyer for directions to New Providence
and details of the Borough Hall location.

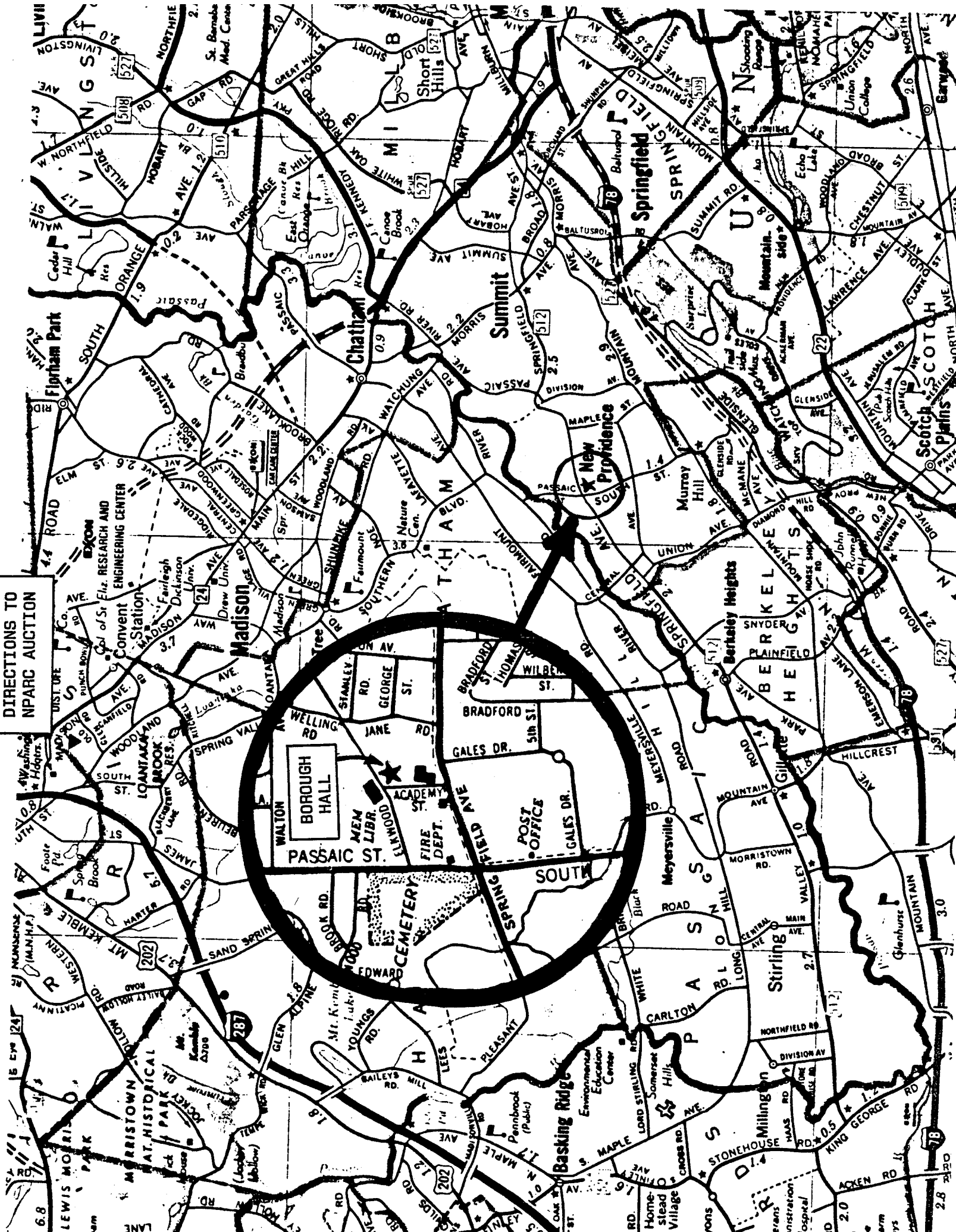
Enter the Borough Hall building from the Elkwood Avenue side,
turn right and go downstairs to the auction room.

PLEASE abide by the parking signs governing Borough Hall.

**YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT TIME, MEETING OLD AND NEW FRIENDS,
AND CAPTURING SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER
ELECTRONIC GEAR AND PARTS
INCLUDING COMPUTER AND AUDIO COMPONENTS. ENJOY!!!**

For additional information call:
Bay, W2GKF, at 464-5090 or Rick, WB2QOQ, at 464-8911

DIRECTIONS TO
NPARC AUCTION



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