

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area



N2XJ

Club Callsign

VOLUME 43

January 2008

NO. 1

**Meeting on Monday the 14th, 7:30 pm at the Salt Brook School
featuring
A Presentation by Randy Gutentag, WA2RMZ
About the D-Star Digital Voice and Data Mode
More information on page 3**

President's Column by James, KB2FCV



Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year to all!

Here it is at the end of the Holidays and another year has gone by. Looking back at 2007 we had a very successful year at NPARC. Our 2007 Auction had over 100 people attend, we had a great trip to Info Age, Field Day we had a great turn out and even better weather, and of course we had the SDR project which has brought in not only interest in cutting edge technology but several new members! NPARC also held it's very first VE session which resulted in many

upgrades and a few new licensed individuals. As a new VE myself I was honored to sign the CSCE's.

Moving ahead to 2008, we are putting together what hopes to be another interesting and fun year at NPARC. Coming up very soon are two NPARC activities, Kids Day on Jan 6 and the annual Auction on Feb 22nd. I have enjoyed serving in 2007 as President of the club and I thank everyone for their support. I am looking forward to the next year serving the club as President for another term in office.

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30 - 9:15 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence.

4th Monday each month: 7:30 - 9:15
Informal Project Meeting, 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.

Club Officers for 2008

President: KB2FCV James Kern
908-219-4016
Vice Pres: KQ2E Bruce Havourd
908-277-2861
Secretary: WB2EDO Jim Brown
973-829-1892
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2IZK Vince Lobosco
908-464-1323
Past President: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-464-1323

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency

145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net

Murray Hill Repeater at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
with PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control: K2AL

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net

Various evenings 8:00 to 9:00 PM
Various Modes 145.75 MHz
Info Contact: AB2WF Scott

Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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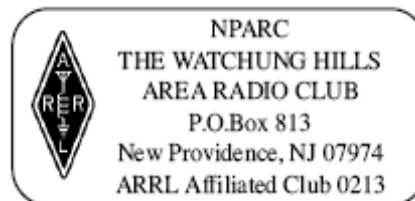
Dues Are Due

Happy New Year folks! Here we are a year older and hopefully a little wiser. It is the time for New Year's Resolutions and New Providence Amateur Radio Club dues. At the end of this newsletter is this year's membership registration form that includes all pertinent information regarding your membership renewal. It is slightly different from last year's so please peruse it carefully. After perusal, please fill out the form and return it to the address shown or to me at a club meeting.

According to my records we have several members who have paid their dues through 2008 either by design or by mistake. These members are as follows: Rick Anderson – WB2QOQ; Jim Josenhans – W8FVI; Frank McAneny – K2EZR; William Schatzabel – KC2QER; Jim Stekas – K2UI; Andrew Stillinger – WA2DKJ; Richard Taylor – N2AUG; William Wadsworth – W2ZKE; John Zellhofer – KC2MTN. Therefore, these above listed members are not expected to pay anything into our treasury until 2009.

I would appreciate your making prompt payment so that we don't have to spend a lot of time and effort chasing down late payers.

Tnx & 73, Jim – WB2EDO



D-Star Presentation on January 14th

Our meeting on Monday night January 14th will feature a presentation by Randy Gutentag WA2RMZ about ICOM's D-Star systems. D-Star is a digital voice and data protocol that ICOM has incorporated in some of its VHF and UHF radios. Randy is a co-trustee and owner of the NJ2DG D-Star repeater system in Martinsville (441.650 MHz), one of the few in the state (<http://www.nj2dg.org/>).

The D-Star system has several fascinating aspects including crystal clear audio, simultaneous voice and text/data reception, and fast transfers of data files, such as images. Since the radios use the TCP/IP protocol, D-Star repeaters around the country can be linked via the internet. And when the radio is connected to a PC, e-mail and other Internet applications are available. So join us Monday for what promises to be a very interesting and informative demonstration of this emerging technology!

Ralph, KC2RLM

Crystal Radio Contest - January 18th through 28th (yes, ten days)

The main crystal set contest of the year put on by the Birmingham Alabama Crystal Radio Group is coming up in a couple of weeks. The objective is to receive as many AM broadcast band or short wave stations as possible with a receiver powered by only the incoming signal - no amplifiers allowed. There are actually a few different classes and one is aimed toward hams who make two-way QSOs in the ham bands using a crystal receiver. This is a great opportunity to throw together a simple crystal set or a highly optimized one and find out what you can receive. This main contest is put on at this time each year because the receiving conditions for broadcast band dx are best and the idea behind such a long contest is to create a low-pressure event with emphasis on building and experimenting, not marathon, beat-the-other-guy contesting.

Please consider trying this event. It might be more fun than you think and you'll probably learn a surprising amount. Several NPARC members are already planning on participating to some degree. Check out Birmingham ACRG website for all the details: www.crystalradio.us

73, Andy, WA2DKJ

One Active Device Contest - February 15-18 & 22-25

The third and fourth weekends in February are when the Birmingham Alabama Crystal Radio Group is holding its annual One Active Device contest. This contest is for any radio that uses up to one active amplifying device such as a single-section vacuum tube, transistor or FET. If you have a favorite one-tube regenerative receiver or a more modern micro-miniature single transistor receiver, this is the contest to give the rig a workout. Again, check out www.crystalradio.us for all the details.

January 28th Meeting May Not Happen

Due to the Salt Brook School being closed on Monday the 28th, NPARC may not have a second meeting in January. We are working on securing a room at the New Providence Municipal Building, but nothing has been approved as of press time. Please keep an eye on the club e-mail reflector for related announcements. If the meeting does occur, we may have QSL night: Bring a few of your favorite QSL cards for show! We will also spend some time debugging & finishing the software defined radio kits.

Regular Meeting Dates for the Next Few Months from AI, K2AL

The following dates are approved for use of the Salt Brook School Cafeteria for NPARC meetings:

2008	January	14	&	28 (cafeteria not available, location to be determined)
	February	11	&	25
	March	10	&	24
	April	14	&	28
	May	12	&	27 (Tuesday)
	June	9	&	No second meeting location scheduled so far



Climatological Data for New Providence for December 2007

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

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this December, 58 deg. F (December 23) Last December 68 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this December, 38.9 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this December, 18 deg. F (December 6) Last December 16 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this December, 28.5 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 3 deg. (34-37 deg.) 12/22
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 23 deg. (58-35 deg.) 12/23

Average temperature this December, 33.7 deg. F Average last December, 40.1 deg. F

Number of days this December with temperatures 32 deg. or above: 27

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this December: 5.5" snow 4.92" rain/melted snow combination
Total precipitation last December: 2.27" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this December: .73" rain (23rd), 2" snow (13th & 16th)
Measurable rain fell on 10 days this December.

Voice of Russia on 7350 KHz

I'm not sure what their entire broadcast schedule is, but Voice of Russia transmits a strong AM signal in English just above our 40 meter ham band. During a break from doing some paperwork the other night, I tuned around with my HF rig and discovered the station. Their programming content was an interesting change in perspective on world events as compared to typical United States programming. The station went off the air at 1 a.m. Eastern Standard Time so I'd assume that they can be heard during evening hours. If anyone else gives a listen, please think about giving a report and opinion at an upcoming club meeting.

Andy, WA2DKJ

Results of NPARC Elections for 2008

At our December meeting the club members voted in a new slate of officers. It turns out that the new officers are the same as the old officers except for one minor change: AI, K2AL, is taking a break after many years of officership. The uncontested positions that were voted upon with a unanimous decision are as follows:

President:	James Kern, KB2FCV
Vice President:	Bruce Havourd, KQ2E
Secretary:	Jim Brown, WB2EDO
Treasurer:	Dave Barr, K2YG
Activities Chairperson:	Vince Lobosco, KC2IZK
Activities Vice-Chair:	Andy Stillinger, WA2DKJ

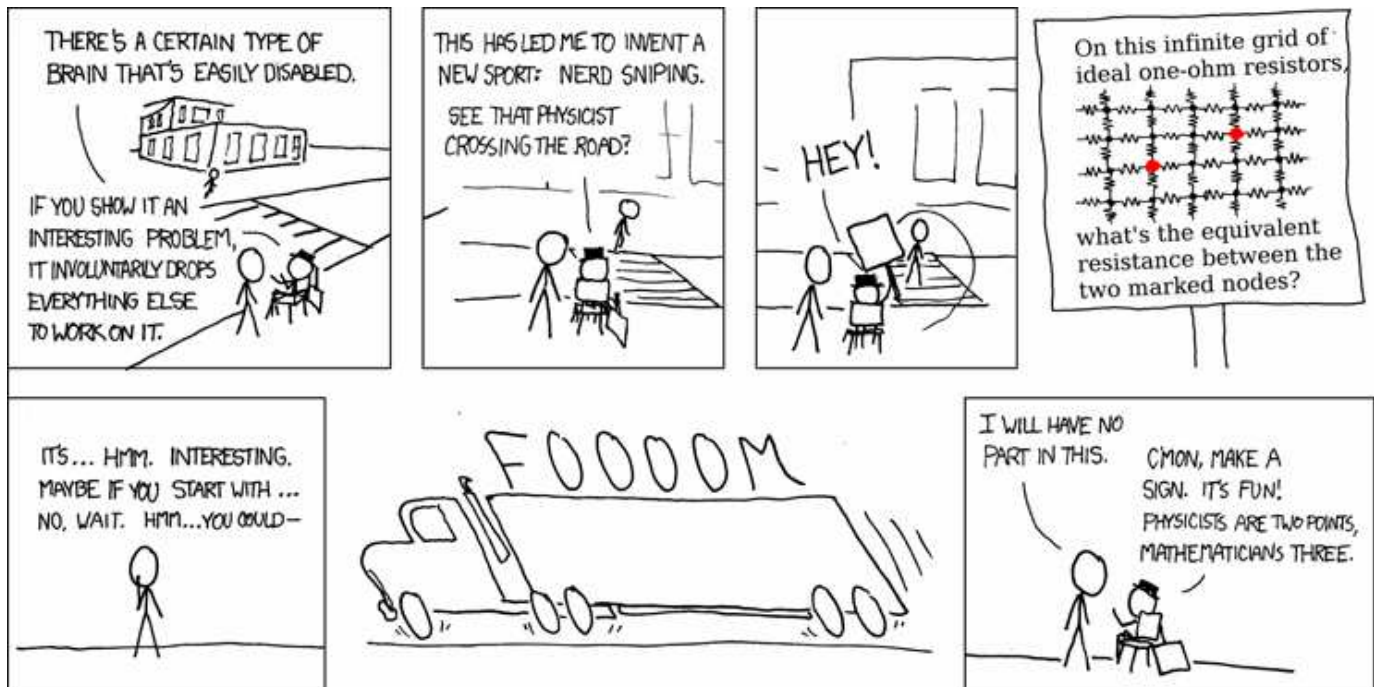
As can be seen in the picture at right, Vince and Andy, the new Activities Committee, wasted no time after the elections. They immediately started evaluating a new Global Positioning Receiver for demonstration at an upcoming meeting.



NPARC Annual Auction on February 22nd

The annual NPARC Auction will be held on Friday evening, 7 pm, at the New Providence Municipal Building Gymnasium, same as last year. An auction committee will be forming shortly. If you'd like to be on the auction committee or just help out, please let any club officer know.

To NPARC members: Please don't read the cartoon below when you are anywhere near a street.



(The cartoon & image above grabbed from somewhere on the vast expanse known as the world wide web.)

Membership Registration
NPARC - The Watchung Mountain Area Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 813, New Providence, N.J. 07974-0813
For the Calendar Year 2008

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX IF YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR.

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 _____ Life Member _____
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 return this entire form.

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 and sent to:

James M. Brown
56 Springbrook Road
Morristown, N.J. 07960