

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



**NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain area**

Website: <http://www.nparc.org> Club Callsign: N2XJ

VOLUME 45 January 2010 NO. 1

UNCOMING EVENTS

**Regular Meeting
Monday Jan. 25, 2010
7:30 PM
Salt Brook School**

**Annual Auction
Friday February 19
Check the reflector for updates**

**VHF/UHF FM Sprint Contest
Sunday February 21
Information Attached**

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.

Club Officers for 2010

President: K2UI Jim Stekas
908-665-0299
Vice Pres.: N2KDK Paul Campano
908-508-9595
Secretary: K2JV Barry Cohen
908-464-1730
Treasure: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: W2UDT Bill Hudzik
908-580-0493

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

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net
First and Third Mondays at 9 PM (0100Z)
Look around 14.085 KHz for RTTY
Ops using AFSK should look around 14,086-
7. Contact K2YG for details.

Club Internet Address

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

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
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WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence for
December 2009

The following information is provided by
Rick, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for
the past 28 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this December, 62 deg.
F (December 3)

Last December (2008) maximum was 62 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this December,
38.7 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this December, 14
deg. F (December 29)

Last December (2008) minimum was 9 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this December,
26.0 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 6 deg.
(34 - 28 deg.) 12/6

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 23 deg.
(54 - 31 deg.) 12/2

Average temperature this December, 32.4
deg. F

Average temperature last December, 34.7
deg. F

There were 8 days this December, 4 days
last December with low temperatures in the
teens.

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this December - 6.79"
rain/melted snow; 10.5" snow.

Total precipitation last December - 5.87"
rain/melted snow; 6.5" snow.

Maximum one day precip. event this Decem-
ber - December 19, 7.5" snow

Measurable rain fell on 9 days this Decem-
ber, 9 days last December.

Measurable snow fell on 4 days this Decem-
ber, 4 days last December.

=====
Rick Anderson 1/12/2010

Lat = 40 degrees, 41.7 minutes North
Long = 74 degrees, 23.4 minutes West
Elevation: 380 ft.

KIDS DAY SUMMARY

We logged 15 QSOs on 2 meters and there were probably some that didn't get into the computer. They were mostly in NJ and New York. Best DX was probably Brooklyn!

We logged 18 QSOs on 20 meters, and some serious DX. Aside from all the USA and Canada stations, we worked OE, XE, 9H4 and VK3. The last two were scheduled by e-mail and they were there!!

9H4DX is Michael Muscat on Gozo Island, Malta, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, and I have rec'd an e-mail from Michael confirming the QSO. Michael is the guy with the room full of ICOM gear - those who came to Dayton last year have seen the photo I took there.

VK3MO, Ian Williams, is in Victoria State Southern Australia and we had a long QSO with Ian and his daughter Rachel (about 14 years old). We all enjoyed speaking with Rachel who explained that she is on summer holiday from school, so she could get on the air at 7AM on a Monday morning, although her father had to go and wake her up. We learned that her birthday is July 4th, and she knew what that date meant to us. The kids who spoke with her have promised me that they will send her a birthday card in time for that date.



On Sunday February 21 NPARC will hold a VHF/UHF FM Sprint Contest. This is at the same time and in the same format as the MRAC FM Sprint which some of us have entered in the past two years, and in which Maycee Campano and Gordon KC2SRV have both won First Place Certificates.

I also hope that every NPARC Member will take part in this contest. We will have separate categories for Adults and Kids. K2JV

RULES

The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF-UHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

This event is a sprint, lasting 2.5 hours, from 2:00 pm until 4:30 pm EST. Contacts are limited to FM simplex on the following amateur bands:

2 meter (2:00 pm –3pm)

70 centimeter (3:00 pm – 3:30 pm)

6 meter (3:30 pm – 4:00 pm)

1.25 meter (4:00 pm – 4:30 pm)□

Contest frequencies: Contest frequencies correspond to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters band plan.

2 meters (Primary 146.550, 146.565, 146.580 and 146.595 MHz)
(Secondary 147.540 147.555 147.570 and 147.585 MHz)

70 centimeters (Primary 446.025, 446.050, 446.075 and 446.100 MHz)
(Secondary 446.125, 446.150, 446.175, 446.200 MHz)

6 meters (Primary 52.530, 52.550, 52.570 and 52.590 MHz) (Secondary 52.730, 52.750, 52.770, 52.790 MHz) or (50.3 to 50.6 MHz horizontally polarized antennas)

1.25 meters (223.520, 223.540, 223.560 and 223.580 MHz) □

On 2 meters no contacts on the 146.52 calling frequency, or the guard channels 15 KHz above and below '52. Any entry from a station heard making QSO's on these frequencies will be disqualified. Try to limit activity to the primary frequencies.

As a matter of courtesy and good amateur practice, avoid the calling frequencies of 52.525, 223.500 and 446.000 MHz.

Exchange: Call Sign and four character Maidenhead Grid square.

Scoring: Each QSO on 2 meters is worth one point. 70 centimeter and 6 meter QSO's are worth two points and 1.25 meter QSO's three points.

A station can be worked once per band. A mobile station could be worked more than once per band if it moves to a different grid square.

Each grid square can be used once per band as a multiplier.

Score is calculated by multiplying total QSO points by total multipliers.

Technicians multiply their final score by 1.5 for a bonus.

Bonus of 10 points added to final score for working NPARC Club Station N2XJ once on any band.

First in each of the three entry classifications. Second and third place awards at the committee's discretion.

Limit of one award per person. Award will be in highest attained category.

Awards to be presented at the March NPARC club meeting.

All entrants to send a copy of their contest log showing the following data for each QSO: "Band - Local time - Call sign of station worked - Grid Square". An entry should state number of QSO's, QSO points, grid square multipliers by band, and claimed total score.

Entry classifications:

BASE - less than 150 watts on 6 and 2 meters and less than 100 watts on 1.25 and 0.70 meters. (ARRL classification of low power for V-UHF contests).

MOBILE- must work from a minimum of two grid squares on any of the bands and power levels same as those specified for the base station classification.

HT's- (not mobile units run at reduced power) - non-amplified, using any type of antenna, mobile or fixed operation (to encourage innovation and creativity).

Awards:

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On January 13, 2010 K2JV sent the following message.

On 1/13/2010 the NPARC ERT was activated to help in response to a request from the Guidance Counselor of the Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, to help in the Haitian Earthquake disaster. They have a large number of Haitian students who need whatever information we can find.

We have been monitoring the SATERN (Salvation Army) net (14.265) and the Intercontinental Traffic Net (14.300) as well as maintaining local contact through the W2LI repeater.

We were able to pass on the official Health and Welfare contact number 888-407-4747, information on the <http://satern.org/> website, which has a Health And Welfare link, as well as general information such as details of the Red Cross response.

Although all anyone could do was listen, the following message was subsequently received from the Guidance Counselor

Dear Barry,

> Thank you for your help. Just the thought that people are listening
> and are helping in any way they can has been an incredible boost to
> the Haitian Students' morale. News is trickling in via cell phone
> text messages. Some news is good, some is tragic. One young
> student (an A+ student fluent in English, French and Creole) initially
> found out that her mother's family - aunts, uncle, children,
> grandparents - all survived and went to live in an intact house.
> Yesterday, she found out that the 6.1 aftershock crushed that house
> and all but 1 died - an entire family crushed ... she is
> heartbroken. .. Just one example ...

>

> I think that if we can collaborate to bring an introductory class/
> club to the school, an entire world will open up. How many weeks
> would an intro club take? Would we have the time to do a club to
> handle the next phase?

>

> Once Again, thank you for all of your help, kind words and well
> wishes.

>

> **Sincerely,**
> **Jordan Siegel**