

# **MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS**

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



**Website: <http://www.nparc.org>**

**Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI**

**Facebook: New Providence Amateur Radio Club  
(NPARC)**

**January 2024**

Volume 57 No. 1

## **Regular Meetings**

**Second & Fourth Mondays**

Jan 8 - Business Meeting at SBS & Zoom

Jan 22 - Meeting at SBS & Zoom.

## **Upcoming Events**

*Check Reflector & [www.nparc.org](http://www.nparc.org) for details.*

Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.086 MHz (+/-)

CW Net, Thursdays at 9 PM – 28.050+QRM

## Meeting Schedule

**Regular Meeting:** 7:30—9:00 PM  
**2nd & 4th Monday**  
**of each month**  
Watch for Emails

**Everyone is Welcome**  
If a normal meeting night is a holiday,  
we usually meet the following night.  
Call one of the contacts below  
or check the web site

## Club Officers for 2024

President: K2UI, Jim Stekas  
908-868-4970  
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca  
973-543-2454  
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl  
908-872-5021  
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr  
908-277-4283  
Activities: KC2QSR, Sam Sealy  
973-635-8966

## 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  
Digital Net  
Mondays 9 PM  
28,084 — 28,086  
Will be using PSK and RTTY  
Net control K2YG

## Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>  
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Contact K2AL, Al

## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.  
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club  
P.O. Box 813  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
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Editor Emeritus: K2EZR Frank McAneny  
Acting Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas  
Contributing Editors:  
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

## Climatological Data for New Providence - November 2023

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,  
who has been recording daily weather events at his station  
for the past 43 years.

### TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp this November, 64 F (Nov 17)  
Last November(2022) maximum was 75 F.  
Average Maximum temp this November, 51.5 F

Minimum temp this November, 22 F (Nov 29)  
Last November(2022) minimum was 21 F.  
Average Minimum temp this November, 34.4 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 7 F (54 - 47 F) 11/22  
Maximum diurnal temp range, 24 F(51 - 27 F) 11/26

Average temp this November, 43.0 F  
Average temp last November, 47.2 F

### PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this November 3.43" rain  
Total precipitation last November 3.23" rain

Maximum one day precip. event - November 26, 1.25" rain.  
Measurable rain fell on 6 days this November  
10 days last November.

YTD Precipitation – 49.65"

=====  
Rick Anderson 12/23/2023  
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

## President's Column

The NPARC Holiday Luncheon at the Village Tavern went very smoothly. Unfortunately, the recipient of the Wouff Hong, Paul Wolfmeyer (W2PTP) was unable to attend the luncheon and received his award at the next meeting two days later.

On a positive note, Zita's ice cream cakes arrived on schedule, albeit without the NPARC logo. In true NPARC tradition, members shrugged off the missing logo and polished off the cake without complaint.

Our next club activity will be Kid's Day at Salt Brook School from 1:30-4:30 on Saturday, January 6. Kevin, N2TO, is managing operations and seems to have things nailed down pretty well. Let's be ready to pitch in if/when last minute issues arise.

The first meeting of 2024 will be at Salt Brook at 7:30 pm on Monday, January 8. Peter Dougherty, W2IRT, of the NJDXA will speak about the art of DX-ing. Watch the reflector for updates and Zoom info. (Note: the Zoom link is always the same. No need to call at 7:29 because you can't find the email.)

73 and Happy Holidays,

Jim – K2UI

## 2023 NPARC Holiday Award Luncheon

On December 9, NPARC held its annual award luncheon at the Village Tavern.



*Ham of the Year – David Bean, KC2WUF*



*Rookie of the Year - Eric Hanzl, K2ESH*

Paul Wolfmeyer, W2PTP, was admitted to NPARC's Royal Order of the Wouff Hong but was unable to attend the luncheon. Below are the surviving members of the 50 year old ROWF assembled for the induction of W2PTP.



From left to right: Frank McAneny (K2EZR), Brian DeLuca (W2EMC), Sam Sealy (KC2OSR), David Bean (KC2WUF), Hillary Zaenchik (KC2HLA), Al Hanzl (K2AL), Jim Stekas (K2UI), and Bob Willis (K2GLS).

Jim Stekas (K2UI) presents Bob Willis (K2GLS) with a plaque commemorating his Honorary Life Membership in NPARC.



Norma Cohen receives a lucite copy of the memorial brick for Barry Cohen, K2JV, located at the entrance to ARRL Headquarters. Seated left to right are Marilyn Sealy and Norma Cohen. Standing are Colin Phoon (AE3A) and Jim Stekas (K2UI).

## January 2024 Contest Calendar

### Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name	Dates	Mode	Exchange	Notes
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Sat 1/6 1pm to Sun 1/7 7pm	RTTY only	W/VE: RST+State or Province DX: RST + Serial	<a href="http://arrl.org/rtty-roundup">arrl.org/rtty-roundup</a>
Kids Day	Sat 1/6 1-7pm	SSB	Name, Age and QTH plus Favorite Color.	<a href="http://arrl.org/kids-day">arrl.org/kids-day</a>
NA QSO Party CW	Sat 1/13 1pm to 1am (Sun)	CW QRP/LP only	Name + State or Province Non NA: Name	KH6, KL7 and DC included in state & prov list.  <a href="http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf">ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</a>
NA QSO Party SSB	Sat 1/20 1pm to 1am (Sun)	SSB QRP/LP only		
ARRL Jan VHF Contest	Sat 1/20 2pm to Sun 1/21 11pm	ALL	Four Character Grid Square	Bands: 50mhz & above  <a href="http://arrl.org/january-vhf">arrl.org/january-vhf</a>
CQ 160 M CW Contest	Fri 1/26 5pm to Sun 1/28 5pm	CW	RST + State/Prov DX: RST-CQ zone	<a href="http://cq160.com/rules.htm">cq160.com/rules.htm</a>
BARTG RTTY Sprint	Sat 1/27 8am to Sun 1/28 8am	RTTY	Serial # only. (No RST)	<a href="http://bartg.org.uk/wp/bartg-sprint-contest">bartg.org.uk/wp/bartg-sprint-contest</a>
Winter Field Day	Sat 1/27 2pm to Sun 1/28 2pm	ALL QRP/LP only	Category (#TX & <b>I</b> ndoor/ <b>O</b> utdoor/ <b>H</b> ome or <b>M</b> obile) + ARRL/RAC Sec	<a href="http://winterfieldday.org/rules.php">winterfieldday.org/rules.php</a>

### Popular Radio Contests in January, 2024

More contests and detailed information for all contests are available through WA8BNM's Contest Calendar website: [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com)

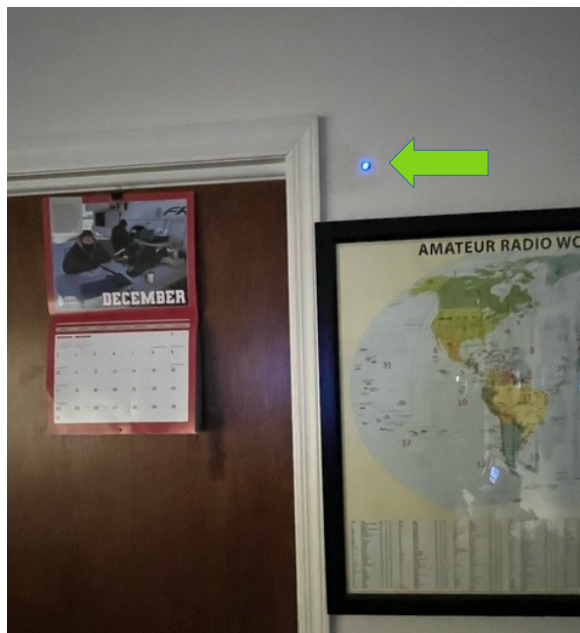
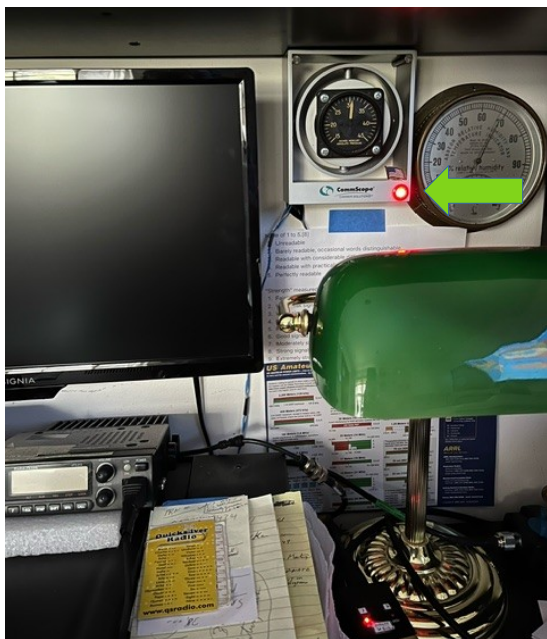
Good Luck -- Dave, K2YG

## Power-On Reminder Lights

Ken Hanzl - W2IOC

Setting up a shack can present many challenges with some being difficult while others are fairly simple to solve. For me, one issue had to do with the fan noise from an older 12-volt power supply. When positioned near my rig it produced a distracting and annoying noise. To solve the problem all I had to do was put the unit somewhere far away from me.

Putting it anywhere in the room was not going to solve my noise problem so I decided to “install” it in the closet. I ran an appropriately rated extension wire and insured for proper ventilation around the supply. So my noise problem was solved. But that left me with a side issue: once I went QRT and hit the rig off switch, I would leave the room with the power supply still running. I had a quiet room but I couldn’t overcome forgetfulness. To assist in remembering to turn the power supply switch off, I installed a couple of strategically placed pilot lights; one near the rig and another near the room exit door.



So I now have a noise free environment and I never forget to turn all my switches off.