

Mountain Spark Gaps

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

January, 1987

Nets:

FM Phone 145.750 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	Sundays at 7:30 p.m. EST	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Slow CW 28.150 MHz	Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EST	Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January 12: 'Show and tell' -- many station setups will be shown, with emphasis on two-meter equipment. Many people have been asking what two-meters is all about and now is your chance to find out while seeing what sort of equipment is being used. Other non-two-meter equipment will most likely be shown as well.

January 23 (Friday): Annual NPARC Auction -- See HAMFEST WATCH (page 2) for details.

January 26: There will be no fourth-Monday meeting due to the annual NPARC auction on the 23rd.

 * 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. *

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1: New Year's Day 1987
- 7: Surveyor VII landed on moon, 1968
- 12: NPARC Meeting: Two-meter equipment
- 23: 1987 NPARC Auction

In 1976 a Los Angeles woman married a rock.

**The
New Providence
Amateur Radio Club**

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



UPGRADES

Congratulations to the following NPARC members who upgraded to Novice class:

- November 1986: Mike Macioce, KB2BTA
- December 1986: John Bennett, (no call yet)



The Mountain Spark Gaps

Editor Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Distribution John Sheetz, K2AGI

(Many thanks to John K2AGI for the many many contributions this month!)

HAMFEST WATCH

* **January 23 (Friday night):** The Annual NPARC Auction!!! 8:00 PM in the basement of the New Providence Municipal Building. Admission FREE, refreshments available. As in previous years, many MANY bargains will be around and the event should be fun even if you can't fit anything else in your shack! Bay Rowan, W2GKF, will again be the friendly and comical auctioneer! Talk-in on 145.75 (simplex). More info: Bay Rowan W2GKF at (201) 464-5090.

January 25 (Sunday): The Yonkers ARC is sponsoring their Electronics Auction at the Lemko Hall, 556 Yonkers Avenue, 9 AM to 3 PM. Admission \$3. Food/parking available. Talk-in on 265/865 and 445.15/440.15. More info: Otto Supliski at (914) 969-1053.

"Auctioneer: The man who proclaims with a hammer that he has picked a pocket with his tongue."

--Ambrose Bierce

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A neat shack is a sign of a sick mind.

CODE PRACTICE ON 2-METERS

Yes, it's true -- every Wednesday evening Frank Arvay W2NR sends code practice on the Greenbrook repeater on 146.94 MHz (-600). The code is sent after the 9:00 net held on the repeater. Now you can keep in practice or prepare to upgrade while listening to your 2-meter rig.

--From W2EME, KA2BZS

FIRST QSO AWARD

Tony Lockhart, KB2BBP has a number of certificates for those of you who have just had your first Ham-Radio contact! The certificates are a neat addition to the hamshack and will hopefully encourage you to get on the air. If you would like a great place to get a first contact, try checking in to the slow-CW net mentioned on the front page.

--From KB2BBP

NPARC ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER BIGGEST EVER

By far the biggest and most successful NPARC annual holiday get-together and dinner was held on December 12th at the Afton restaurant in Florham Park. One-hundred-five guests plus the speaker attended. We were very fortunate to be able to obtain George Meade the WOR "Eye in the Sky" helicopter pilot and reporter. Not only can he fly his own helicopter but he is an excellent speaker and comedian. Everyone in attendance was kept wide awake trying to keep up with the subtle humor being injected throughout the beautiful slide presentation.

We were also honored by the presence of a special guest and charter member of the club, Arden Johnson K8SDZ formerly WB2GPG. Arden flew in from Michigan just for the dinner and

flew back the next day.

The other big event of the evening was the annual awarding of the "famous" Wouff Hong award which was presented to Tom Brown KA2UGQ for his many contributions to the club in the past year. These included the production and enhancement of our club newsletter, the foresightedness to obtain permission to use the Governor Livingston High School grounds for our field day exercise, the single-handed setup and operation of a packet radio station completing numerous contacts for our field day score, the instigation and continuing presentation of a weekly relay of the Westlink Report on our club net frequency and his continuing aid to others in the club who are getting started in packet operation. He has also offered help to many with minor problems throughout the year.

Bob Brown W2EME and Bill King W2LTJ both deserve praise for their work on the holiday dinner. Bob arranged for the program and Bill handled the reservations, money and tickets.

We all wonder how we can top this event this year!

--From K2AGI

WESTLINK NEWS EXPANDS

Many NPARC members probably know that every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, Tom Brown KA2UGQ transmits the Westlink Amateur Radio News on the club frequency, 145.75 MHz. A few weeks ago, Tom began simultaneously transmitting them on the Whippany ARC repeater on 147.03 MHz (+600). If you have trouble hearing the bulletins on 145.75, listen in on the repeater which has great coverage over much of north-Jersey. Tell your friends!

--From KA2UGQ

FIELD TRIP TO AT&T MANAHAWKEN HIGH SEAS RADIOTELEPHONE RECEIVING SITE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE HOLIDAY DINNER

"The morning after" the big dinner a bunch of hardy souls took off early to head down the coast to a fabulous high-frequency receiving site operated by AT&T as part of the High Seas Radiotelephone service. Our club had made this trip many years ago and there are few still here who remember the big rack mounted receivers they used to have there. In fact when we entered the building we were in a large empty room where the receivers used to be lined up in rows. We were treated to a very thorough tour and description of the facility and learned how things have been automated and computerized. One nice feature though is that it still takes real people to run the service. We got to peek inside all of the consoles and study the racks of Rascal receivers (remotely tuned and controlled). Several visitors were interested enough to now attempt to get QSL cards from the station in various modes - they are also using SITOR which is the real source of our present amateur AMTOR. [See note at end of article -Ed]

After the visit we stepped outside to view the rhombic antennas and some broad-band verticals (disk-cones) while we had our picture taken in the chilling breeze (it was very cold wind!).

This was soothed by stopping for lunch at the Cranberry Bog diner nearby which had a menu that is making us all want to go back and try it again.

--From K2AGI

[Note: Paul Newland, AD7I noted that the SITOR test beacon of W00 is on 8051.5 kHz and/or 4801.5 kHz. Some of the traffic is selective FEC and the cycle time for the beacon is about 7 minutes. The message contains info about the station as well as the QSL address. Your signal report will get you a nice QSL card. -Ed]

NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1986

Balance Forward 1/1/86	139.42
Income	
Dues Received	503.00
Interest	9.69
Auction	199.35
ARRL Rebates	22.00
Contributions	60.00
Patches	15.00
Total Income	809.04
Expense	
Postage	183.67
Food & Refreshments	151.16
Field Day	72.72
V. E. Program	16.50
Contributions	105.21
Miscellaneous	25.00
Total Expense	554.26
Balance 12/31/86	394.20

Note that reported income for the year 1986 includes \$270 of dues paid in advance for the year 1987. We have also had generous contributions which were made when we were short on cash and which we hope to return as our new dues structure helps out the balance sheet.

--From K2AGI

TWO-METER PHONE NET TRIES NEW MODUS OPERANDI

At the invitation of Dick Wolff K2ASM and others in the Whippany Amateur Radio Club our club net has been invited to try using the Whippany repeater W2TW which has input on 147.63 output on 147.03 MHz.

Our first experiment doing this was on Sunday night January 4th and for a first try it worked out quite well. We had our first go-around on our regular simplex frequency of 145.75 MHz and then for the rebuttal we went on the repeater. This gave the long winded members a chance to speak their piece before they had to observe the 2-1/2 minute timeout on the repeater. As of now we plan to continue this method of operation until everyone becomes comfortable with the system. That probably means that a bunch of us have to learn when to quit talking!

--From K2AGI

KB2GN RECOVERING IN OVERLOOK HOSPITAL

Bud Snyder is battling his way out of a siege of pneumonia at Overlook hospital. He came down with the bug the day before our holiday dinner and was the only one who had to miss the affair because of illness. Many of us have been trying to keep in close touch with Bud's progress and many have asked about him on the net. Our latest word as of the Sunday night phone net (on the 4th) was that Floyd KA2DDG had been able to visit Bud in Room 760 where he is now out of intensive care. That was good news and others are hoping to be able to visit Bud before long. We all wish him a speedy recovery. We have missed him on the air.

--From K2AGI

NOV 10, 1986 MEETING MINI-MINUTES

Biggest turn-out for a meeting since the 1/12/84 "FAX" program - 34 members.

Treasurer reports \$210 on hand. Don't forget dues are now \$10/year and \$2 for students. Letter of thanks from New Providence library for our gifts of a world globe and ham radio books.

Bill King had cash for 88 holiday dinner tickets at \$16 each in his hot little hands.

Pres. Bill Wadsworth had results of the hidden transmitter hunt: Win = Bob Willis K2GLS, Place = Bud Snyder KB2GN, Show = referred to judges to decide between Bob Brown W2EME and Harry Kundrat W2YEZ because of hanky-panky in the backstretch.

New member: Mike Macioce, KB2BTA

Tony Lockhart KB2BBP elated to receive a First Contact Club Certificate of Merit.

On to New Jersey Bell's super program on NORAD and a question and answer period with Duty Officer inside Cheyenne Mountain over a direct land line. Yep - "We can see 'em coming in but we've got nothing to knock 'em down."

--From WB2JVG

1987 DUES DUE (NOW \$10/YEAR)

Many members have already paid their 1987 dues so they can go ahead and start working on their income tax! For the rest of you a form is enclosed with this issue of Mountain Spark Gaps to be filled out and returned or brought in to the meeting with your check made out to N.P.A.R.C. or if you can fit it in "New Providence Amateur Radio Club" will be ok. Student rate is now \$2 per year.

I am also printing up new rosters which will be available at the meeting.

--From your friendly Tax Collector - K2AGI

NPARC OFFICERS FOR 1987	
President	Rick Anderson WB2QQQ
Vice President	Mike Shepnew KA2UGR
Secretary	Paul Meinschein WB2JVG
Treasurer	John Sheetz K2AGI
Activities Chairman	--- still open!