

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



FEBRUARY 1991

## The Prez Sez

Welcome to February. I have a few things to mention concerning upcoming meetings. First, the BUSINESS conducted at our first meeting of the month (the second monday of the month) will be scaled back. The feeling I have, which is backed up by comments from some of you, is that much of the discussion during the business section could more efficiently be included in the Spark Gaps.

Sometimes it is necessary to have a discussion, such as field day organization, but then it is more appropriate to schedule meeting time for the subject rather than drag out the business portion. I think you can get the idea here. The plan is not to avoid club discussion at all cost, but keep it short since the time could certainly be used more efficiently. Therefore, I will try to ride herd on the duration of the business section at future meetings.

This brings me to the second point - - The purpose of the meetings, it seems to

## Auction Time is Here Again!

Just four days after our first January meeting will be the BIG AUCTION - FLEA MARKET.

Get busy and get your things ready. Friday, February 15th (right after Valentine's Day) is the date. The doors will be opened to unload your goodies at 6:00 PM and the auction will start at 7:00. None other than Bay, W2GKF, will again be our auctioneer. Refreshments will be served. Come on down and join in the fun.

We will have our regularly scheduled meetings in February. Our new president, Andy, has several ideas up his sleeve so come and hear about them. We are looking forward to some great meetings this year.

me, is to have some sort of presentation which enhances the skills or knowledge of the members. A prepared demonstration is probably the most efficient means for achieving this, and as a result, both meetings during the month should have some sort of a presentation.

After having made a couple of long winded dissertations myself, it is apparent that people get bored after the first fifteen or twenty minutes of hot air. Some people get bored immediately, but that's another story. So, what we'll try to do is have two shorter talks on those nights when we don't have an outside speaker. The standard fare for NPARC is not a formal presentation, so all that is necessary is a few words on a project of interest and maybe a show and tell item or two.

Thirdly, there are some minor points which I would like you to mull over and then give me your feelings at the next meeting. (Just think, we could have spent an entire meeting discussing these.)

We could have a pause for refreshments between the two presentations. This would give everyone a chance to stretch and then sit down for the second segment. This also allows the refreshment volunteer(s) to clean up before everyone else has left.

The first and second meetings of a month could differ by whether one is devoted more to the basics of a topic and the other an anything goes session, or some other method of division. Are refreshments desired at both meetings of the month, and what kind of things do people like to munch on

*Go to top-center of page 3*



New Providence  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 813

New Providence

NJ 07974-0813

ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

### Meeting Schedule

Our club meetings are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 PM, in the basement meeting room of the New Providence Memorial Library, Elkwood Avenue. This is one block north of Springfield Avenue and one block east of Passaic St. Anyone is welcome. Note: if our normal meeting night is a holiday we usually meet the next night.

### On the Air Club Activities:

FM Phone Net  
Sunday Evening 9:00 PM  
Listen on 147.03 MHz,  
Transmit on 147.63  
Net Control: Bob, KB2IKC

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

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

### Club Officers

President:  
.....Andy Stillinger WA2DKJ  
Vice President:  
.....Harry Kundrat W2YEZ  
Secretary:  
.....Pat Casey N2FXA  
Treasurer:  
.....John Sheetz K2AGI  
Activities Manager:  
.....Bay Rowan W2GKF

### MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Editor:  
.....John Sheetz K2AGI  
Contributing Editors:  
.....Rick Anderson WB2QOQ  
.....Bob Barns KB2IKC  
Mailing Address:  
P O Box 813  
New Providence, NJ 07974-0813

### Climatological Data for New Providence for January 1991

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 10 years.

Maximum temperature for January, 53°F (Jan. 20th)

Minimum temperature for January, 5°F (Jan. 22nd)

Average temperature for the month, 31.6°F; which is .9 deg. above the average temperature of 30.7° for January for the past 10 years.

Heating degree days, 1037

Heating degree days last January 798

Heating degree days last month (Dec.), 778

Cooling degree days, 0

Cooling degree days last December, 0

Cooling degree days last month (Dec.), 0

Total liquid equivalent precipitation for the month, 3.78 in.  
8.5 in. of snow fell during the month of January.

### Swap & Shop

For Sale: Azden PCS-4000, 25 watt, two meter mobile FM transceiver with manual \$225.  
Call Jim Kern, KB2FCV at 635-1892

### On-the-Air Class

K2AGI proposed an experiment which I think is worth trying. The idea is to hold a class using an informal 2 meter net to learn something of mutual interest. To try this out, we propose to get a group together to learn to use a particular computer program. Both of us are interested in learning more about Word Perfect. WP is the most widely used word processor program for PC's. It is very powerful and consequently, very complicated, although simple jobs, such as writing a letter, can be done using only a few commands. Both of us are beginners so we propose to teach only the first one or two sessions and then assign specific topics (e.g., moving a paragraph) to one of the participants for presentation at the next session.

We think that using Word Perfect 5.0 makes more sense than using 5.1 because 5.0 is a sub-set of 5.1 and more

people may have 5.0. The differences between 5.0 and 5.1 are mostly in the desktop publishing area and that could be covered in a subsequent course.

Initially, the net will meet once a week for about 1 hour on a particular night. 145.75 MHz will be used unless we need the coverage of the Whippany repeater. We think that it will be necessary for all in the group to be running the program during the net and for all to have the same book. We will pick a particular book which all will then have to buy. We are certainly open to suggestions for other topics. For example, I would be willing to give a course in GWBASIC programming if 2 or more are interested. We solicit your requests for other subjects or offers to teach or act as monitor for specific subjects. All who might be interested in this sort of activity should contact either K2AGI or KB2IKC. de KB2IKC

## New Providence RACES

A few things have happened on the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) front recently.

Officer Mike Haines of the New Providence Police Dept. paid us a visit at our January meeting, and informed us of Emergency Management activities in town. He is the Coordinator of Emergency Management in New Providence. Mike was seeking members of our club who would be interested in getting involved in Union County RACES. He explained that New Providence is in its infancy in respect to its activities in Emergency Management.

In order to give our membership a basic introduction of RACES and show us what an Office of Emergency Management looks like; the RACES unit of the Chathams invited our membership to attend their meeting on Feb. 4th. I contacted a number of club members who showed interest in RACES, and as of this writing, was hoping for a good turnout.

A State Emergency Management drill is scheduled for February 2nd. I will have attended this drill, representing the New Providence RACES, and I will report on this activity at a later date.

A number of members of our club have submitted the application forms for Union County RACES authorization, and I am hoping that more members will join the RACES bandwagon in the future.

Rick Anderson WB2QQQ

*The Prez Sez (from front page)*

(doughnuts aren't healthy but they do taste good)?

We might give some attention to our acoustics and visual aids situation. Possibly a microphone-amplifier-speaker system and a permanent projection screen.

If you have any thoughts along these lines please jot them down on a piece of paper and bring it to me at the meeting.

Andy

---

### Possible Field Trip

KB2IKC has contacted the chief engineer of Television Channel 13 and discovered that if there is enough interest (say at least 5 members), we could schedule a visit to the master control room and studios of Channel 13 in Newark. Modern TV practice probably has a lot of interesting technology.

Tentatively, a trip during the day of either a Saturday or Sunday in the near future (say late Feb. or early Mar.) is envisioned. Please contact W2GKF (908-464-5090) or K2AGI (908-464-5671) or KB2IKC (908-464-6785) and state your preference as to day and time of day.

W2GKF, activities chairman.

---

### Happy Birthday to You! January Birthdays:

Gordon Dart 13th  
Bill Kaminski 16th  
Floyd Harvey 19th  
Mike Ryan 19th  
Dick Eckhardt 20th  
Hank Wyatt 21st  
Bill Lott 22nd  
George Hanchett 23rd

**February Birthdays:**  
Pres Conrad 3rd

## Hamfests & Stuff

NEW PROVIDENCE  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
AUCTION AND FLEA  
MARKET.

Friday February 15th, 7:00 PM at New Providence Borough Hall on Elkwood Avenue across from the Library. Open to CLUB MEMBERS SELLING at 6:00 PM. Admission: FREE. Info: call Bay Rowan, 908-464-5090

---

FLEMINGTON HAMFEST  
Saturday, March 16th, 8:00 AM to 2 PM - Sellers 6:00 AM.

Hunterdon Central Regional High School Field House, Route 31 & 523, Flemington, NJ. Admission \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Tables \$15. Sponsored by Cherryville Repeater Association II, Inc. Contact Marty Grozinski, NS2K, c/o CRA II, Inc., Box 308, Quakertown, NJ 08868. (908)806-6944 or (908)788-4080 before 11 PM.

---

IRVINGTON-ROSELAND  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
HAMFEST.

Saturday March 23rd, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. West Orange High School, 600 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ. (off Exit 7 of Interstate 280) Admission: \$2 in advance, \$3 at the door. Tables: \$8 each, two for \$15. Check with SASE to: I.R.A.C., Box 201, Essex Fells, NJ 07021-0201 Info: call Walt Heineman, 201-429-0504

---

### Know Your Equivalents

$10^{-12}$  farads = 1 picofarad

$10^6$  phones = 1 megaphone

$10^{-6}$  phones = 1 microphone

$10^{-1}$  arnaz = 1 deciarnaz

$10^{-6}$  waves = 1 microwave

2 shoots = 1 parashoot

$10^{-18}$  boys = 1 attoboy