

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



Volume 27

JANUARY 1992

No. 1

From the President:

The nearly 30 year history of the New Providence Amateur Radio Club continues with the beginning of another year. I am very pleased to have been elected as the new president, and to have been given the responsibility for guiding the Club during 1992.

Let me begin by saying that I plan to continue all the activities that members have enjoyed in the past, and only introduce new ones at the request of, and with the approval of the membership. Of course we will have Field Day, mark your calendars NOW. It comes on the weekend of June 27-28. The Auction is already planned (Friday February 21st, at 7PM). Bay Rowan W2GKF, has again volunteered (??) to be the auctioneer. We will continue the procedure of two meetings each month, plus weekly on-the-air meetings every Sunday. And no doubt there will be a transmitter hunt, and possibly some field trips. Ideas for other activities will be introduced by the of-

"Taking Off" for the New Year!

At our main program meeting on January 27th Frank Arvay W2NR and Ernie Kolb N2EFR will present a talk about Radio Controlled Model Airplanes. The availability and construction of Model Airplane kits of both basic sailplanes and trainers, as well as associated Radio equipment, will be discussed. A Video tape entitled - "Striking Back", a "Model Strike" on the Japanese forces will also be shown. In addition if time permits a portion of a Flight Training Video tape with the "how to do" flight maneuvers will be available.

Our opening meeting on Monday January 13th will be loaded with coverage of many plans for this year's Club Activities. Our new President, Barry Cohen, is already "running with the ball" and has in mind a lot of action which will involve as many members as possible. Just read his column on this page!

ficers and the membership. We'll consider them all, and put those we can into effect.

Your club officers and I have already had our first meeting, and together we're planning a heck of a year for NPARC. I congratulate all of them on their election: Walt Creuz, W2CIY as Vice President, Bob Barns, KB2IKC as Secretary, John Sheetz, K2AGI as Treasurer, and Guy Brennert, K2EFB as Activities Chairman. This group of dedicated members, and myself form the Executive Committee of the Club. As its first action the Executive Committee has appointed Andy Stillinger, WA2DKJ, to be Junior Past President. Thus he will remain a part of the team of officers. Other actions taken at the first Executive Committee

meeting include the reappointments of: Al Hirsch, K2SKV, Legal Consultant, John Sheetz, K2AGI, Editor in Chief of Mountain Spark Gaps, Bob Barns, KB2IKC, Net Control for NPARC Phone Net, and the appointments of: Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ, Coordinator for the Dayton Hamvention and Rick Anderson, WB2QOQ, Community Communications Coordinator.

My primary goal for this year is to involve as many of our 100+ members as possible in various activities. I'd like to see every member get a "piece of the action." Your ideas are welcome, but your active participation is NECESSARY! Together we can all make 1992 a great year for NPARC!

Barry, K2JV



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:

Club Operating Frequency
145.75 MHz simplex phone
FM Phone Net
Sunday Evening 9:00 PM
On the Whippany repeater
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 for 1992

President:
.....Barry Cohen K2JV
(908) 464-1730
Vice President:
.....Walt Creuz W2CIY
(201) 635-7920
Secretary:
.....Bob Barns KB2IKC
(908) 464-6785
Treasurer:
.....John Sheetz K2AGI
(908) 464-5671
Activities Manager:
.....Guy Brenert K2EFB
(908) 754-3204

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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

Climatological Data for New Providence for December 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 December, 64°F (Dec. 1st)

Minimum temperature for December, 10°F (Dec. 19th)

Average temperature for the month, 37.0°F; which is 2.1 deg. above the average temperature of 34.9° for December for the past 10 years.

Heating degree days for December, 868

Heating degree days last December, 778

Total precipitation this Dec. 4.25" Precip. last Dec.(1990) 6.23"

Average precip. in Dec. during the past 10 yrs. 2.9"

1991 CLIMATE SUMMARIES FOR NEW PROVIDENCE

TEMPERATURE

annual mean high	64.7°F
annual mean low	46.0°F
annual mean	55.3°F
extreme high	101°F, July 21st
extreme low	5°F, Jan. 22nd
largest diurnal range	36°, Mar. 1st
smallest diurnal range	3°, Feb. 7th
last spring freeze	Apr. 3rd
first fall freeze	Nov. 5th
days max. 90° and above	29
days min. 32° and below	87

PRECIPITATION

annual total	45.75 in.
days with 0.01" or more	81
days with 1.00" or more	11
days with 2.00" or more	2
largest monthly total	6.02", Aug.
largest daily total	2.89", Sept. 25th

SNOW

annual total	14.0"
days with 1.0" or more	4
days with 2.0" or more	3
days with 4.0" or more	1
greatest daily amount	5.3", Jan. 11th
greatest monthly total	8.5", Jan.

Happy Birthday to You!

January Birthdays

Joel Tompkins 19th

Bob Williams WA2WGQ 26th

Dave Heiner KE2TE 28th

February Birthdays

Joe Hanay WV2P 2nd

Gerry, KD2PQ Heads Neighbor Club

Congratulations to Gerry Miller who has just been elected president of Tri-County Radio Association. Gerry has been a member of our club for over ten years. We hear him on our phone net and he monitors the RTTY net. We wish him the best in his new assignment.



AUCTION and Flea Market

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club will hold its Annual Auction - Flea Market on Friday February 21st, 1992. This was a SUPER event last year and promises to be even better this year. Mark your calendar!!!

We will again hold our combination activity. After two hours of AUCTION there will be a FLEA MARKET. The major items will be auctioned while the grab bag type items will be available during the flea market portion.

DATE -- FRIDAY -- FEBRUARY 21, 1992

TIME -- 7:00 P.M.

AT NEW PROVIDENCE BOROUGH HALL

(Lincoln Municipal Center)

ELKWOOD AVENUE ACROSS FROM THE NEW PROVIDENCE LIBRARY

FREE ADMISSION --- FREE PARKING --- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**DONATED EQUIPMENT and PARTS are WELCOME
ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET
FROM N.P.A.R.C. MEMBERS ONLY**

The usual NPARC rules will be followed: 10% of the auction price to the Club,
with a maximum of \$10 and a minimum of 25¢

See the reverse side of this flyer for directions to New Providence
and details of the Borough Hall location.

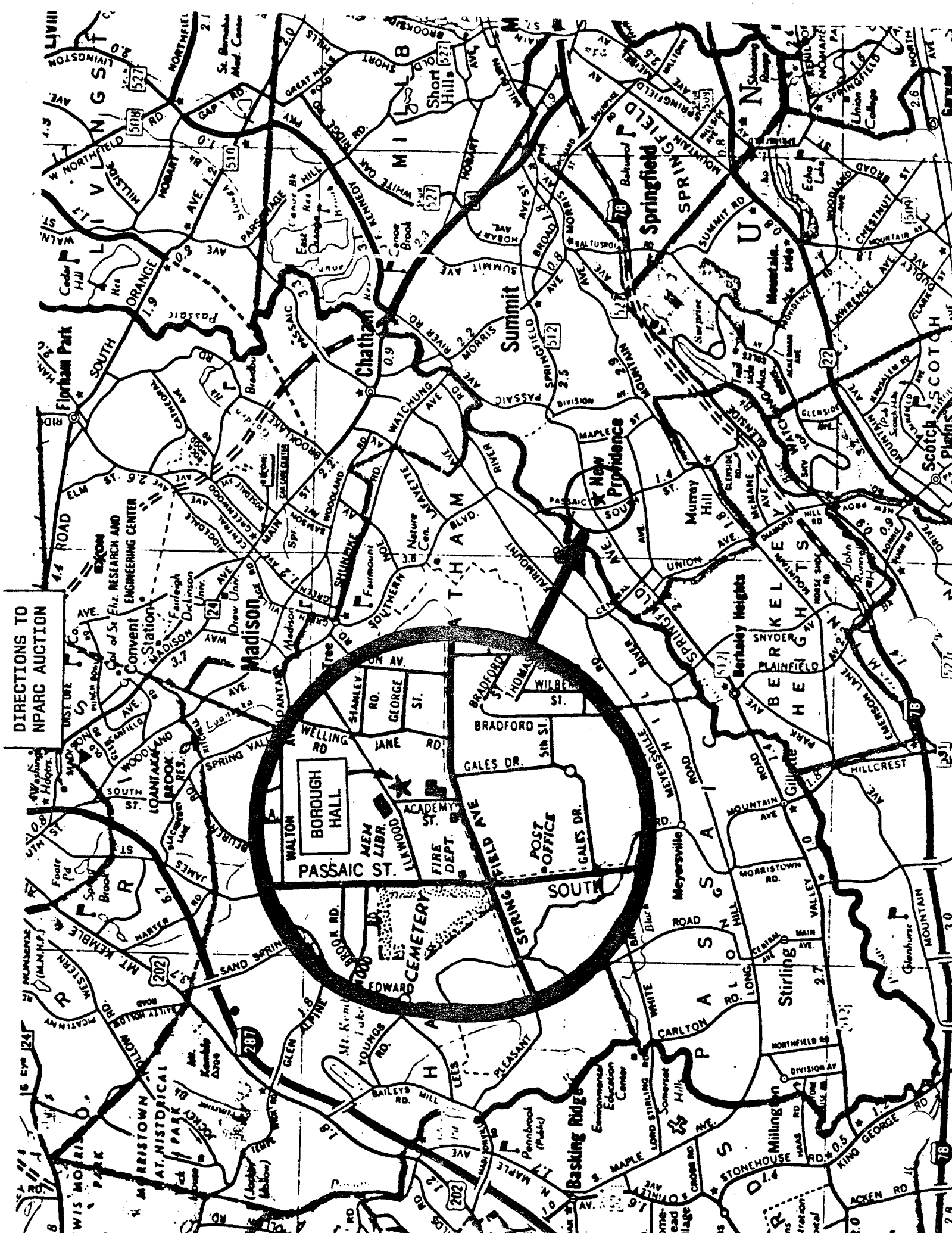
Enter the Borough Hall building from the Elkwood Avenue side,
turn right and go downstairs to the auction room.

PLEASE abide by the parking signs governing Borough Hall.

**YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT TIME, MEETING OLD AND NEW FRIENDS,
AND CAPTURING SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER
ELECTRONIC GEAR AND PARTS
INCLUDING COMPUTER AND AUDIO COMPONENTS. ENJOY!!!**

For additional information call:
Bay, W2GKF, at 464-5090 or Rick, WB2QOQ, at 464-8911

DIRECTIONS TO
NPARC AUCTION



Over-the-Air Classes:

The over-the-air computer class in MS-DOS has about finished. It started in May and was held every Wednesday nite from 8 'till about 10PM. There is (marginal?) evidence that the four students (W2CIY, W2HSA, W2YEZ and W2ZKE), who were remarkably faithful in showing up, actually learned something. ANYWAY, (to quote WA2DKJ), the tutors (K2AGI and KB2IKC) had a lot of fun and learned quite a bit about how to teach (and about DOS).

If there is enough interest, we propose to continue by offering help with specific applications programs, e.g., a spreadsheet, a database, some word processor, tax programs, financial programs and/or a CAD program. KB2IKC is also willing to teach BASIC programming if 2 or more are interested. A schedule for each program would be published in the Spark Gaps and anyone interested can tune in on 145.75 and participate.

To get things started, we will begin discussing QuattroPro on Jan. 15 at 8PM. To plan future offerings, we need immediate input on which applications are of interest. Please call either John, K2AGI (908-464-5671) or Bob, KB2IKC (908-464-6785).

KB2LUD Upgrades License

Congratulations to Doug Phillips who has finally received his upgrade from Novice to Technician. Doug says that the new license arrived in two forms, one for the wallet and another suitable for framing. The wallet sized copy is apparently laser printed and the FCC suggests that you have it plasticized to protect from wear and tear.

NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 1991

Balance Fwd. 1/1/91	1,758.57
Income	
Dues Received.....	946.00
Interest	72.27
Auction.....	72.00
ARRL Rebates	15.46
Contributions.....	164.00
Patches	72.00
Total Income	1,341.73
Expense	
Postage	305.59
Food & Refreshments.....	225.18
Field Day	282.59
Contributions+Dues.....	200.00
Patches	274.25
Miscellaneous.....	26.17
Total Expense.....	1,313.78
Balance 12/31/91	1,786.52

Swap & Shop

FOR SALE:

National RBL-5 VLF receiver. Covers 15 to 600 KHz. With manual. Available by pickup only. \$65
Call Harry, W2YEZ at 908-665-1873

FOR SALE: (from estate of Dick Hammell W2FRC)

Kenwood TS-930S transceiver \$980
Kenwood Model MC-60A amplified microphone \$75
MFJ Model MFJ-941D Versa Tuner II antenna matching unit \$60
MFJ Model MFJ-931 artificial ground \$60
Ten-Tec Model 605 single paddle electronic keyer, never used \$60
Butternut Model HF6V 6 band vertical antenna \$80
Heathkit Model V-7A Vacuum Tube Voltmeter \$10
All equipment in excellent condition and with manuals.
For information call John, K2AGI at 908-464-5671

FOR SALE:

MFJ-287 Speaker Microphone for HT
Epson FX-85 9-pin printer with manual
Panasonic KX-P1124 24 pin printer with manual
(Both only used to print Sunday morning sermons.)
Call Ernie, N2EFR at 908-665-0141

Annual NPARC Auction Coming Up February 21st.

Mark your calendars and start gathering your goodies to sell at our
AUCTION - FLEA MARKET.

The auction will be held the same place as last year and run in the same fashion.

The doors will open at 6:00 PM for sellers and the auction will start at 7:00 PM.

The auction will run for the first two hours and then we will switch to a flea market operation where you can haggle with the customers yourself.

The location is the New Providence Borough Hall, across from the library.

An advertising flyer is included with this issue of the Spark Gaps so please help spread the word.

If you have any questions please contact either Bay Rowan at 908-464-5090 or Rick Anderson at 908-464-8911.

1991 Holiday Dinner a Big Success

Through persistent efforts of Bay Rowan our annual Holiday Dinner came off in great shape. To begin with, the food was excellent and in ample supply. Opening with a fresh fruit and salad layout we then had choices of four hot entrees and many tried some of each. Although some of us tried to clean them out of barbequed ribs the suppliers kept them coming. There were plenty of parfaits available for dessert and even Warren had all he could handle.

As the meal was winding up we had a very brief presentation of the new officers for 1992 and then a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Valerie Lockhart for her "voluntary activities above and beyond the call of duty in support of Field Day 1991" where she had "enthusiastically prepared and graciously distributed succulent nourishment to hardworking operators."

After these ceremonies a magician with two assistants put on an excellent floor show which was followed by a table to table go-around performing closeup slight of hand with cards.

There was much socializing and plenty of time for it.

Club Roster Coming

Since the 1992 club dues have been due for four months now we have deleted fifteen names from the club roster and we hope to have a new current roster out to everyone with the next issue of the Spark Gaps. At the end of the year we had 108 active members and without a doubt we will be back up over 100 again before long.

New Officers Elected

At our last business meeting of 1991 the slate of officers selected by the nominating committee was elected unanimously. Barry Cohen who served as president exactly 20 years ago has been reelected as President for 1992. Walt Creuz, W2CIY is our new Vice President, Bob Barns, KB2IKC is the new Secretary, John Sheetz, K2AGI continues as Treasurer and Guy Brenner, K2EFB is our Activities Manager. If you want to contact any of these people their phone numbers are always on page 2 of the Spark Gaps.

Spark Gaps Volume Numbers

The first issue of the Mountain Spark Gaps was published on April 11, 1966. That issue was labeled as Vol. 1, No. 1. From that time through November 1973 the issues were labeled up to Vol. 8, No 8. The labeling was dropped in 1974. If it had been continued up to the present time we would now be on Volume 27 for the year 1992 so we are reinstating the numbering system with this January issue.

From time to time we will try to pull some interesting excerpts from past issues in a manner similar to what Scientific American has always done.

The club program announced in that first issue of the Spark Gaps was a talk on "Good Operating Procedures for the Amateur" by Hayden Evans, K2BZT. At that time Hayden had worked more than 330 countries. The two-meter phone net met on Friday night at 2100 on 145.8

MHz. (this was AM phone) Plans were being made for Field Day and the For Sale column listed a BC-348 (with speaker) in excellent condition for \$40. That was for sale by a present club member Jim Palmquist, N1DRN who was WB2EKA at that time.

Silent Key's Equipment

There will be an estate sale very early in February (before the next issue of the Spark Gaps) including electronic equipment that belonged to a Berkeley Heights ham. The equipment is mostly high quality audio instrumentation such as General Radio and similar manufacturers. If you are interested in such items keep in touch on the club frequency (145.75 MHz) or attend the club meetings. John, K2AGI will have particulars.

Welcome New Members

Three more people joined our club at the last meeting of the year on November 25th. They are Rich Fellingner, N2LPS of Short Hills, Harry Schwill, DL6CL of Berkeley Heights, and Joel Tompkins of Chatham who is working on his license.

This brings our current active membership to 93. For those who knew we had over a hundred members, we lost 15 at the end of the year when they did not renew their membership. Undoubtedly we will be back up over the 100 mark again this year.

We wish to extend our greetings to our new members and look forward to their participation in our club activities.

HOME AMATEUR MECHANIC

by Andy, WA2DKJ

A couple of weeks ago I was making use of the restroom here at the home QTH and was bothered once again by the poorly painted, repainted, and rusty vent fan cover next to my knee (Yes...I do visit more frequently than every couple of weeks!).

I don't know what drove me to do it, but I decided to repaint the fan cover; this time properly.

The first thing I did after unscrewing the cover from the wall was to take it to C&F radiator in Far Hills, NJ. Seems a little strange, but there is a reasonable explanation. Bob, the owner of C&F has a large glass beading cabinet which he has often let me use in the past to clean many of the automotive parts I have worked on. Since I was repairing some parts from my VW Golf anyway (after hitting a deer; minor damage to car; deer got up and ran away), the cover was piggybacked onto the car job.

Glass beading is a process which blows fine glass beads, about .002" diameter, at an object with compressed air. The air/bead jet is enclosed in a box which retains the beads allowing them to be recycled. This is like the effect seen at the beach where pieces of broken glass are worn by the sand to the point of being smooth all over, the jet of beads erodes the paint and any rust on the metal. The paint and rust are weaker and more brittle than the base metal and therefore clean base metal is left almost completely uneroded. Glass beading is quite similar to sandblasting, but the abrasive particles are smaller and not as sharp resulting in a smoother,

less worn surface.

Bob is a nice guy and the sole employee at C&F. He rents time on the glass bead booth at a reasonable rate and it sure does make for a better finished product. If anyone has a restoration project in the works, Bob would be more than happy to rent time on the beader to someone other than myself.

As for my fan cover, about three coats of rustoleum acrylic enamel spray (one primer, two flat white) brought the appearance back to that when new. I cured the paint after each coat in my kitchen oven at the lowest setting (about 175 to 260 F) for about an hour or two after most of the solvent had evaporated. The finished product reached full hardness almost immediately upon cool-down as opposed to what would have taken weeks after painting if allowed only to cure at room temperature.

It is wise to let the majority of the solvent evaporate before elevating the cure temperature as some of my tests with wet paint being put immediately into the oven resulted in blistered paint. In addition, the paint can become sticky when heated, so a support fixture such as a board with a few nails put partially in one side will keep the curing paint from contacting the oven racks. This avoids screwing up the paint job and leaving schmutz on the racks. The wood support fixture won't burn at the previously mentioned temperatures, so give these tips a try on your next restoration project.

Become Famous – Write for the Spark Gaps!

Wouldn't you like to see your name in print? Here is your chance. We know that a lot of our members are doing interesting things but it is like pulling teeth to hear about it from them. Think about it, what have you been doing lately? Don't you think the rest of us might be interested in what you are doing? We can take articles in any form but of course "machine readable" material is the easiest for us to use. If you own or have access to a computer you finally have an excuse to use it for something practical. Just sit down and bang out a paragraph or two on any little activity you might have done lately that we would like to hear about. Have you fixed anything? How did you do it? Maybe you even created something. Have you helped someone else do something. Have you learned anything new? Or is there something you would like to do but don't quite know how? Write up your problem and see who has the answer. If you are into cooking maybe you found a great recipe you could share. (Andy bakes bread) You could even write about an activity pertaining to Amateur Radio! If you ever listen on 145.75 MHz you will hear an endless stream of varied items being discussed. There is a lot going on. Let's get with it and express yourself. If you think you have a problem with putting something in writing please give me a call. We have a bunch of people with writing experience too.

Give it a try and see how proud you will feel when you see it in print!

Your Editor,
John, K2AGI