

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

VOLUME 47 NO. 07 July 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings

Mon. 8/13 & 8/27 7:30 PM
New Providence Municipal Center

**Brian, KA2MPG, has volunteered to
give a presentation titled
“Staying on Time and Frequency”
At our 8/13 meeting. He will discuss
techniques to compensate for drift in
crystal oscillators.**

**James, KB2FCV, will describe his
EME experiments at the 9/10
meeting.**

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.
When Schools are closed,
Meetings are held in the Recreation
Department Meeting Room in Borough Hall

Club Officers for 2012

President: N2KDK Paul Campano
908-508-9595
Vice Pres.: K2MUN David Berkley
908-500-9740
Secretary: K2JV Barry Cohen
908-464-1730
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: K2JV Acting

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

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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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOO Rick Anderson
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for June 2012

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2QOO, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for the
past 29 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this June, 95 deg. F
(June 20, 21, 29)
Last June (2011) maximum was 93 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this June, 81.7
deg. F
Minimum temperature for this June, 47 deg. F
(June 4)
Last June (2011) minimum was 52 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this June, 60.2
deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 8 deg. (73
- 65 deg.) 6/11
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 29 deg.
(83 - 54 deg.) 6/7

Average temperature this June, 71.0 deg. F
Average temperature last June, 70.9 deg. F

Number of days this June with daily maximum
temperatures of
90 deg. or higher - 6; last June - 4.

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this June - 2.82" rain.
Total precipitation last June - 2.8" rain.

Maximum one day precip. event this June;
June 22; 0.58" rain.
Measurable rain fell on 12 days this June, 7
days last June.

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Rick Anderson

7/8/12

243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908) 464-8911

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

FIELD DAY 2012



Assembling the VHF Beam



Preparing to Raise the Tower



Rotor in Place



Base Ready to go



Success



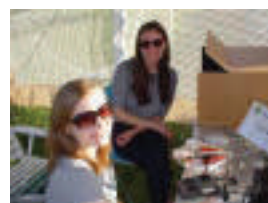
BIRD Watt Meter?



Guy, K2EFB, and XYL of W2FMI



GOTA Station



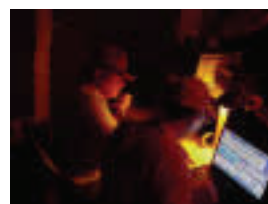
Lauryn, WW2OLF at the GOTA Station



Literature Table



Al, K2AL, Cooking



Night Phone Operation



WB2QOQ at VHF Station

As you will notice, these photos are low resolution. If anyone has better ones, please send them along as JPG files. The higher the resolution, the better.

Results from the FM SPRINT Contest

Station	2 mtrs	440 MHz	6 Mtrs	222 MHz	Points	Zips	Score
N2XJ	19	6	6	4	63	28	1764
W2FMI	15	8	7	1	56	23	1288
K2YG	12	2			20	9	180
K2MUN/R	9	4	1		27	13	351
W2PTP	15				19	10	190
KC2WUF	13	7	4	2	55	20	1100
NJ2HN	17	3		5	44	19	836
WB2QOQ	22	9	6		64	29	1856
K2AL	23	9	5		63	30	1890
W6PAM/R	15	8	4		53	17	901
KC2CFL	19	6			39	14	546
N2OCS	7	3			15	8	120
KC2YNC	6	7			26	7	182
KC2OII	5				5	3	15

SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

Land-Mine Detection

Land-mine detection is critical for military and civilian personnel in war zones. Student researchers at Poland's Military University of Technology have created an application that uses a phone's built-in magnetometer to detect magnetic fields around buried land mines, show the location and notify the user. The application has a 75% accuracy rate. This is all well and good, but what about the unfortunates that activate the remaining 25%. Also, what does one do about those mines constructed of non-metallic substances? It seems that a little more work is required.

Co-Pilot

A car co-pilot developed by MIT researchers may provide an interim step between cars driven by people and cars that drive themselves. The MIT system includes a laser range finder and camera to spot obstacles, and software to compute their locations and identify safe zones. The system is currently being tested and, if it proves effective, it should show up in new cars in a relatively short period of time. Mercedes already has a system now on their cars that measures safe distances between two cars and alerts the driver to being dangerously close given the cars speed. This MIT system takes this development one step further.

Driving & Texting

Texting while driving is known to be dangerous. Some studies have shown this practice to be more dangerous than drunk-driving. I can certainly attest to this as I have not had any near misses on the road from a drunk driver in quite some time, but I have had numerous close encounters with drivers who are either texting or talking on their cell phone. But cheer up folks there may be help on the way. Researchers in India have found a system to detect when someone is texting, and once detected, jams the phone. The device uses a radio-frequency identification chip to find out if the vehicle is moving and whether the driver is texting. Unlike similar devices, this technology can tell the driver from the passenger and jam only the driver's phone. Hooray for science!

As a contributing editor of this publication, I would like to make a plea to the readership to volunteer their talents by contributing articles for publication herein. As I recall, when Frank (K2EZR) volunteered to take over the editorship of "Mountain Spark Gaps" there was a pledge from the membership to supply all sorts of aid to Frank in supplying material for publication. To date no material has been forthcoming as promised and Frank has been basically left in the lurch. I would think it would be nice if just one member, other than the two who publish every month, would fulfill their promise. Gee, I cannot imagine why it is so difficult to get people to volunteer for club assignments.

Jim WB2EDO