

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)**

VOLUME 55 No.8 July 2022

**Regular Meetings
Second & Fourth Mondays
8/8 and 8/22
Zoom until school starts**

**Upcoming Events
Digital Net Mondays at 9:00 PM
PSK on 80 or 10 meters
CW training Net, Thursdays at 9:00 PM**

**Guy Brennert (K2EFB) Memorial Service
Presbyterian Church of New Providence
Sunday July 7 at 1:30**

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 2022

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-406-6914
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2OSR: Sam Sealy
973-462-2014

—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
Contact K2JV, Barry

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:
WB2OOO Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for June 2022

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2OOO, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 40 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this June, 95 deg. F
(June 25)
Last June (2021) maximum was 98 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this June, 80.0 deg. F
Minimum temperature this June, 53 deg. F
(June 19,20)
Last June (2021) minimum was 51 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this June, 61.2 deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 7 deg.
(68 - 61 deg.) 6/22
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 29 deg.
(95 - 66 deg.) 6/25

Average temperature this June, 70.6 deg. F
Average temperature last June, 72.8 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this June- 3.65" rain
Total precipitation last June- 3.66" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this June-

June 1, 1.35" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 12 days this June, 12 days last June.

YTD Precipitation - 24.81"

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Rick Anderson
7/21/2022
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

President's Column July 2022

First, a reminder about Guy Brennert K2EFB's memorial service:

The memorial service for Guy Brennert , K2EFB (SK), will be held Sunday, August 7 at 4p.m. at the New Providence Presbyterian Church at 1307 Springfield Avenue. Guy was a long time member of NPARC and we elected him to Honorary Life Member of NPARC status. Per Guy's daughter-in-law's request, we would like to know if you plan to attend via email to K2AL (k2al@arrl.net) or W2PTP (pwolfmeyer@att.net). Most importantly, try to attend.

At meetings in July, we welcomed a new member-- Jay Morreale, KD2ZRO and guests/potential members: KD2ZRN, Renata, KD2ZRR, Dan, and KD2ZMM Russ (who was also with us at Field Day). Glad to have you all attend.

As Tim Farrell pointed out at our first July meeting—be thinking about volunteering to be an NPARC officer. We need you!! Also, for future planning, mark down the first Saturday of December for the holiday luncheon at The Vintage Tavern in Gillette (formerly Chimney Rock); James KC2FCV is getting the event scheduled.

Our second meeting of July featured our own Tim Farrell KD2EKN on “scouting and ham radio”. I have asked Tim to put the slides on the reflector—they show background and organization of BSA in New Jersey, and, more importantly, ways we can get involved with JOTA, Merit Badge Counseling, Morse Code interpretation strip training/evaluation as examples. Our involvement can also help the future of our hobby by working with potential hams. Check out the slides and the websites noted on them.

I would be remiss not to recognize Tim for his multiple roles and extensive work in Scouting. He is, among other things, Assistant District Commissioner of the Skylands District and Merit Badge Counselor for 6 Merit Badges. We have other club members involved in scouting: Billy KD2JRI is a very active Radio Merit Badge Counselor and Stu KA2HZP has been active in a number of scouting events (and I'm sure there are others I just don't know about...)

August meetings are ZOOM only and are on August 8th and August 22nd—the latter feature a DMR presentation.

So stay cool and radio-active on the nets...

73 for now, Wolf W2PTP, 201-404-6914, w2ptp@arrl.net

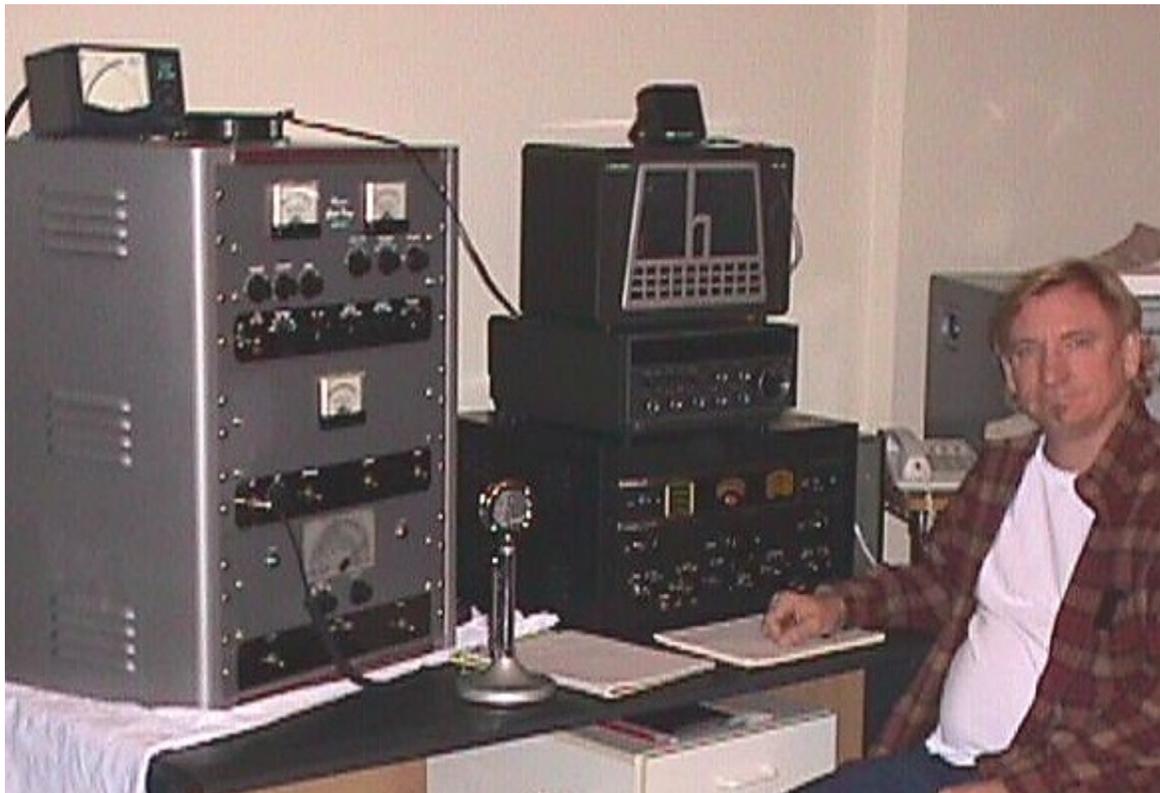
Those Plucky Hams

Jim Stekas - K2UI

Once I got my novice ticket I spent almost every spare moment on the air or working on my rig. My station was largely composed of the unused equipment of the older brothers of friends who left the hobby. I couldn't fathom how anyone exposed to ham radio could lose interest. But then I was off to college and ham radio took a back seat, not to studies, but to the guitar. That would last about 10 years or so, at which point packet radio renewed my interest in ham radio again at the expense of the guitar. And so my focus has oscillated between radio and guitar with a period of about 20 years ever since. Here are some "plucky" hams who have achieved fame in the guitar world.

Amateur extra Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, is an accomplished guitarist, composer and record producer who has been a member of The Eagles since 1975. His introduction to ham radio came at 12 years old when his family moved from Ohio to an apartment in Fresh Meadows in Queens¹. Joe noticed a rooftop antenna that would rotate every Saturday. Curious, he followed the coax feed line to the apartment of Jim Walden, W2IEY. Walden invited him into his shack, made some QSOs with distant stations and Joe was hooked. He received his novice ticket, WV2KAC, in 1961. Using a BC-348 surplus receiver, built a DX-20 CW transmitter, and set up shop on 7152 with his only crystal.

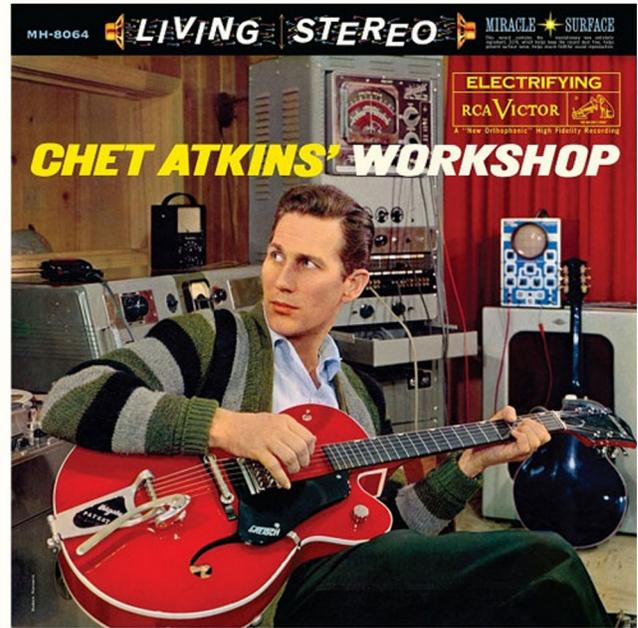
Walsh big supporter of the ARRL and is still active 60 years later, especially on 75m AM phone. He has a nice collection of vintage tube gear that he uses on the air, including a Collins KW-1 1000W AM/CW transmitter.



¹ About 2 miles from the neighborhood where I grew up!

Chester “Chet” Atkins was a legendary Nashville guitar player and music producer known as “Mr. Guitar” and “The Country Gentleman”. During his youth Chet suffered from a severe case of asthma which limited his physical activity. But it didn’t stop him from playing the guitar and by the time he was a teenager he was an accomplished player. Listening to his brother play with Les Paul on a one-tube radio that he had built himself convinced him to aim for a career in music. He dropped out of high school to play at WNOX in Knoxville, and never looked back. Atkin’s career extended beyond playing the guitar. He also produced and recorded music and was the force behind the “Nashville Sound” that increased the popularity of country music. Over his career he won 14 Grammy awards and was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973.

Atkin’s had a lifelong interest in tinkering with electronics. He built his own basement recording studio and was a regular customer at electronics parts stores around Nashville.² Chet was licensed in 1962 as WA4CZD, and was active on CW for a few years. He acquired the vanity call W4CGP (as in “Whiskey 4 Certified Guitar Picker”³) in 1998.



2 <http://www.cmt.com/news/1670129/chet-atkins-exhibit-conjures-fond-memories-for-steve-wariner/>

3 “Certified Guitar Picker” is a designation that Chet personally created to honor guitarists of the highest caliber. Only five have received the designation.

Finally we come to W6DOE, Clarence “Leo” Fender. While not a guitar player, Fender created the guitars and gear that powered popular music from the rock-and-roll era to today. From his early days Leo had a love affair with radios and electronics. While still in grammar school (circa 1920) he built his first crystal set. By the time he graduated from high school he has gotten his ham ticket, W6DOE, and had created a business building and leasing PA systems.

In 1938, Fender’s Radio Service opened for business, and Leo’s electronics skills became widely appreciated. He developed a good reputation among musicians for modifying and repairing amplifiers. Seeing a market opportunity, Leo began building and selling his own amplifiers.

Fender acquired a lap steel guitar business and invented a new pickup for it. He renamed the company Fender Electric Instrument Corp in 1946 and began experimenting with conventional electric guitars. In the 1950’s Fender introduced the solid body Telecaster and Stratocaster guitars revolutionized rock-and-roll. Fender also introduced a family of vacuum tube amplifiers with features like “tremelo” and “reverb”, many of which are still in production more than 50 years later.⁴



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4 <https://chasingguitars.com/fender-history/>

5 By Mr. Littlehand - Flickr: Fender Guitar Factory Leo and early models, CC BY 2.0, commons.wikimedia.org