

# Mountain Spark Gaps

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

July, 1987

### Nets:

FM Phone 147.030 MHz	Sundays at 9:00 p.m. EDT	Bill King, W2LTJ
RTTY 145.750 MHz	Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EDT	John Sheetz, K2AGI
Westlink 145.750 MHz	Sundays at 7:30 p.m. EDT	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Westlink 147.030 MHz	Whippany Rptr. Simulcast	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Rusty CW 28.150 MHz	Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EDT	Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

### MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JULY

- July 25: NPARC Pool Party/Picnic - see column on right for details
- July 27: The "last" of the "Surprise Meeting" meetings! We now have developed a plan of assigning people to find good speakers for our meetings. You can look forward to some interesting topics from now on.
- August 10: NPARC business meeting

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 \* NPARC Meetings are held in the meeting \*  
 \* room of the New Providence Memorial \*  
 \* Library on Elkwood Avenue at 8 PM on the \*  
 \* second and fourth Mondays of each month \*  
 \* unless otherwise noted. Business meet- \*  
 \* ings are held on the second-Monday \*  
 \* meetings and speakers will be scheduled \*  
 \* for the fourth-Monday meetings. \*  
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### NPARC CALENDAR

- July:  
 25: NPARC Pool Party/Picnic  
 27: NPARC Meeting
- August:  
 10: NPARC Business Meeting  
 22: Hamfest: RMARC (Oakland)

### The Mountain Spark Gaps

Editor ..... Tom Brown, KA2UGQ  
Distribution ..... John Sheetz, K2AGI

### PICTURE OF THE MONTH



### ANNUAL NPARC PICNIC SCHEDULED

The third annual NPARC pool party/picnic at Al Hirsch's house in Warren (see map on last page) has been scheduled for Saturday, July 25 (raindate July 26) at 1 PM. All members and their families are invited.

Members should bring their own main course (hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.) and can cook using the outdoor grille. In addition to the main course, please let Al know about any additional item you would like to bring (salad, dessert, ice, soda, chips, and the like). To make this a club activity, everyone is requested to bring something within their specialty.

The picnic will start at 1 PM at Al's house in Warren (see map on last page). The POOL WILL BE OPEN so BRING YOUR BATHING SUITS, towels, and sun-tan lotion.

If you would like to attend the pool party/picnic, please contact Al Hirsch, K2SKV at 469-6374.

--From K2SKV



## HAMFEST WATCH

August 22 (Saturday): The 11th annual Ramapo Mountain ARC flea market from 8 AM to 1 PM at the American Legion Hall, 65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ. Buyers \$2 (XYL/harmonics free), tables \$7 (tailgaters \$5). Sellers come at 6 AM. Door prizes, refreshments. Talk-in on 146.49 (+1 MHz) and 146.52 (simplex). More info: Sol Silverman, KA2VBZ at 652-1882 or Frank Lee, KA2ALS at 337-2290.

## NPARC CLASSIFIEDS

If you would like to place a FREE ad in the Mountain Spark Gaps, contact Tom Brown, KA2UGO at 464-7958 or at any NPARC club meeting.

## THE SEASON OF VIOLENT STORMS IS HERE!

People may not realize it, but they already have a reliable warning system in their home. Television sets and portable radios make excellent tornado detection devices, according to the Perth County 4H newsletter. If a radio is tuned to 550 kHz, lightning will cause intermittent static. A tornado will cause continuous static.

To use a television set as a tornado detector, warm up the set and tune it to channel 13. Turn the volume down and turn the brightness control down until the screen is almost black. Switch over to channel 2 and leave the volume turned down. Lightning will produce momentary light bands of varying widths across the screen of a black and white television set and colored bands on a color set.

Should this occur, switch off the set, take a portable radio and seek shelter immediately. [Or in the case of lightning, disconnect your antennas to TV's and the radios in your shack. TV antennas can be disconnected easily if a double-pole knife switch is installed in the TV twinlead where it enters the house.]

How does this TV detection scheme work? Channel 2 has a frequency of about 55 MHz. Lightning and tornadoes generate a signal near this frequency which overrides the brightness control. Channel 13 is at the high end of the VHF band and is therefore not affected. That's why the darkness must be set on channel 13!

The next time a storm threatens your area, try this trick - it might save your life [and your TV's and Ham gear!]

--From VE3AMZ

## "CQ" ORIGIN

In past issues of "Monitoring Times" they have tried to track the origin of the term "Ham". A letter was received from James Van Dalsem of New Albany, NY that suggests that the origin of "CQ" has deep roots.

While acknowledged as meaning a general call to anyone listening [CQ could mean "seek-you"! -Ed], CQ had apparently been the first used by Marconi, who devised an extensive

list of Morse shorthand which substantially reduced keydown time required for common terms and phrases sent on a handkey.

Jim's explanation suggests that Marconi, being a native-spoken Italian, derived CQ from the Italian work "cuique" meaning "whom-ever".

--Via KA2RAF

## HF PACKET BBS'S UNDER AUTOMATIC CONTROL LEGALIZED

The FCC announced at the ARRL national convention that they had granted the ARRL request to permit for a six month period of approximately 50 amateur packet stations around the country to conduct unattended automatic operation while transmitting third party traffic on frequencies below 50 MHz.

The amateur stations included under this special temporary authority will be able to participate as relay stations in a long haul HF net called Skipnet. This net will operate on a single frequency in the 80, 40, 30, and 20 meter bands and stations will relay traffic via packet throughout the country. If these operations are successful, the ARRL may decide to request a permanent rules change.

--From ARRL Bulletin NR 60

## CODE PRACTICE ON 2-METERS

If you need help with your code skill, there is a CW training net every Monday and Thursday evening at 7 PM on the WA2SNA repeater on 146.49 MHz (147.49 MHz input). Once the group has assembled there, everyone will QSY to a simplex frequency for code practice. If you are a beginner looking to upgrade to 13 WPM or a veteran looking for a little practice [Ahem, some of you members!], tune in and copy some code. Ralph, WA2STO is the Net Manager.

--From 8/87 RMARC newsletter

## 20 METER BEACON STATIONS

The following beacons transmit on 14.1 MHz 24-hours a day. Each station identifies at the 100 watt level, transmits a carrier for 9 seconds, drops to 10 watts for 9 seconds, drops to 1 watt for 9 seconds, drops to 100 milliwatts for 9 seconds, then identifies at 100 watts. The process then repeats with the next station.

Station	Time	Location
4U1UN/B	--:0	United Nations, NY
W6WX/B	--:1	Stanford University
KH6O/B	--:2	Honolulu, HI
JA2IGY/B	--:3	Mt. Asama, Japan
4X6TU/B	--:4	Tel Aviv, Israel
OH2B	--:5	Helsinki, Finland
CT3B	--:6	Madeira Island
ZS6DN/B	--:7	Transvaal, S. Africa

10 Meter beacon stations:

Frequency	Call	Location
28.205	DL0ISI	West Germany
28.2075	WD4HES	Englewood, FL
28.215	GB3SX	London, England



28.220	5B4CY	Cyprus
28.2225	HG2BHA	Hungary
28.230	ZK2MHF	New Zealand
28.235	VP9BA	Bermuda
28.2375	LA5TEN	Norway
28.240	OA4CK	Lima, Peru
28.245	ZS1CTD	South Africa
28.260	VK5WI	Australia
28.2725	TU2ABJ	Ivory Coast
28.280	VY5AYV	Venezuela
28.285	VPBADE	Antarctica
28.290	VS6TEN	Hong Kong
28.295	VU6BCN	India

--Via WB2PRS from AMRAD BBS

**NPARC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

It was suggested by a few members that the club put together some sort of emergency readiness committee. Members of the club with any portable or handheld radio equipment would be able to assist and form a communications net in the event of a large-scale power outage or other emergency situation during the snowy winter months or stormy summer months.

Bob Latter has offered to get an emergency readiness information packet from the ARRL and will report on it at the next business meeting. In the meantime, please write down on a sheet of paper the following information and pass it to Bob, W2YFM at a club meeting:

- Do you have a handheld rig? What band(s)?
- Can you operate HF gear in your car?
- Do you have VHF/UHF gear in your car?
- Do you have a generator or batteries for emergency power at home?
- When are you usually at home (not at work)?

A database will be maintained in the future so that emergency operations can be coordinated so that we may all be prepared and ready if we are ever needed.

Tom, KA2UGQ mentioned that some of our club meetings have been getting less interesting and some members have not been showing up due

to the lack of an interesting program and/or speaker. John, K2AGI suggested that the meeting programs be handled on a roundtable basis - one member would be responsible for a given month's program. Most of the members agreed and so, starting with our August meeting, we have some club members who will be planning the meetings and scheduling a speaker for their respective month. SO, NOW YOU CAN COME TO THE MEETINGS and hear the WIDE VARIETY of topics for beginners and experts alike!

On the subject of Field Day, a nice article by Tony Lockhart, KB2BBP appeared on the front page of many of the local newspapers. Some newspapers also had a picture of the packet setup. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Well, the photographer from the newspaper who took pictures said that they didn't come out! So, at the last minute a few members dug out some pictures of last year's field day setup...and so there you have it. By the way, the article will appear in the next Spark Gaps because of the lack of space in this issue.

Field Day scores have been tallied by John Sawina, NA2R and will be published next month both in the Spark Gaps and probably QST as well.

**CHARTER MEMBER - SILENT KEY**

Bill Blair WB2OTL passed away on Saturday July 11, 1987. Bill was a charter member of our club when it was formed in January 1965. He was an Honorary life member since he moved to Arizona in 1973. When he was still here in New Jersey he was always active on our two-meter net which took place on AM in those days.

Bill participated in many club activities and also provided a public service of monitoring and recording fire and police communications.

Those in the club who knew Bill are saddened to hear of his passing and extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

