

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS  
NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974  
ARRL Affiliated Club #0213  
JULY 1988

NEXT MEETING - CLUB CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hopefully everyone has recovered from field day and it is time to start thinking about what we'll do next. The July issue of Ham Radio magazine has a very interesting article for a proposed club project. How about a two-meter FM receiver using three IC chips on a board that is 2-1/4 by 3-1/2 inches! If you have been unable to monitor the "club frequency" or listen to the Whippany repeater here is your chance. Maybe you already monitor one or both of these and you want to hear the weather on 162.55 MHz.

For all of you who miss the "good old days" of home brew projects here is a rare opportunity. Remember - you won't be all alone trying to do something by yourself. Lots of others will be installing resistors backwards so you will have plenty of sympathy!

Come to the meeting on Monday July 25th and learn all about it. Complete information will be handed out and we can put in a group order for the hard to get parts.

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ANNUAL PICNIC COMING UP FAST!

Saturday, July 30 is the day for our annual club picnic. Again through the courtesy of Martha and Al Hirsch we will get together at their yard and pool in Warren. All members and their families are invited. We advise against bringing any youngsters who would not know how to swim as there is no protection around the large pool. We will start to gather around 1:00 PM so there will be some time to swim before we fire up the grill. In case of rain we'll try to have the picnic on Sunday July 31st.

Attendees should bring their own main course (hamburgers, hot dogs etc.) which may be cooked on the outdoor grill. In addition to the main course please call Al (469-6374) to confirm one additional item which you would like to bring such as salad, dessert, ice, baked beans, chips & pretzles, appetizers, buns etc.

For the swimmers, please bring your own suits, towels and sun-tan lotion. It would also be advisable to bring a patio or beach chair.

Harry will bring the Bocci balls so get warmed up for the competition! Don't forget to call Al Hirsch at 469-6374.

For instructions on how to find Al's QTH please see the map included in this edition of the Spark Gaps.

FIELD DAY ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

Well, we did it again! Another great field day this year. John, NA2R is still recuperating (he went to the Pocono's) so we don't have the final scores yet but it looked pretty good by the time we packed up. This is the first year that we have run in the three station category. We had the normal phone and CW stations running continuously and then a third station which operated 2-meter phone when conditions were good and it switched over to HF CW at other times. Of course, in addition we had an excellent novice station and Tom, KA2UGQ ran the usual packet station on two-meters.

The main power source this year was a beautiful 5-KW Honda generator furnished by NA2R which performed perfectly all the way through. Things were shut down for a short period early Sunday morning when a thunder storm came through but no damage occurred.

The attempt to put up a delta-loop with a balloon for support was not too successful because of the wind velocity which kept pushing the balloon down almost to the ground. With that much wind we might have been better off with a kite!

Of course the backbone of the entire operation was none other than Pete, N2EXG who kept the palates and stomachs of everyone well satisfied with a great menu. We were undoubtedly the only field day operation in the whole country to sport a genuine refrigerator brought to the site to keep the food cool and fresh!

In case anyone questions anything about our operation we had several video-tapers out there shooting anything and everything. We have already had the pleasure of seeing the results of one of these at our last meeting where Jim, NJ2F showed us his documentary both after and before editing. Modern technology is giving us opportunities we never had in the past.

Speaking of modern technology, the computer dupe checking was a real innovation too. Those who are familiar with computers (and keyboards) took to it like a duck to water. Others who know how to use a pencil (that's a thing with lead on one end which makes marks on paper that is not fan-folded!) still liked to search over hen-scratches to see if we had already worked "that station". Who knows what it will be like by next year? When we get the computers set up to read the CW directly we won't have to type in the call and we'll know whether it is a dupe before we can even jot it down.

Anyway it was another great field day. Now if we can just remember where we put all the stuff we took down we are all set for next year!



HAM OF THE MONTH - JOHN SHEETZ, K2AGI

(Editor's note: This is what happens when you assign someone to write a column for the Spark Gaps - he comes right back after you!)

We want you to know this ham a little better. He has been described as a "colorful character" and his name is John Sheetz. You may know him as a knowledgeable and active member of NPARC. He has been our Treasurer since 1976 and presently handles this newsletter. He joined our club in 1965 and participated in the first Field Day. He was Activities Chairman in 1969 and President in 1970.

Here are a few personal facts about K2AGI. John was born and grew up near Cleveland, Ohio. He served in the Army in the European Theatre during WW2 primarily as a Topographic Draftsman in the Engineers and Quartermaster Corps.

With one year of college completed before the war, John went back to Purdue to get his degree in Electrical Engineering in 1949. He worked in Cleveland for Ohio Bell for 16 years in various divisions of the Engineering Department. During that time he was sent to the Bell Labs for a 22 month advanced training program where among other things he learned about the Labs itself. In 1965 he transferred from Ohio Bell to Bell Labs - at that time going to work at 435 West Street in New York City. He completed his career with the Bell System in December 1984 and has been retired since.

John was first licensed July 30, 1948 as W8DBR and has been an active ham up to the present. When asked if he remembered his first receiver and transmitter he remarked "Sure, I still have them!" And now you know his secret, John never throws anything away. The receiver was (and is) a Hammarlund HQ-129X and the transmitter was a converted ARC-5 army surplus rig. Hams of that era had a ball converting all sorts of surplus equipment for amateur radio use.

John's radio shack features 2-meter rigs including a Heathkit HW-2036 and a Kenwood TH-215A HT. His main interest has always been in RTTY. He copied his first Armed Forces Day RTTY message in 1953 on a model 14 typing reperforator. He operates in the HF bands with a Hammarlund HQ-180 receiver and a Hammarlund HX-500 transmitter. The HF RTTY operation uses an ST-6 demodulator and Teletype Model 28 equipment. (Computers make too much noise). On two meters he does use a Heath H-89 computer with a Flesher demodulator for RTTY. If you work RTTY on two meters you can join John in the net he runs at 8:00 PM on Sundays on 145.75 MHz. On the HF bands John uses an all band dipole with an antenna tuner (just like the club used on field day) and on two meters he uses a four element vertical collinear folded dipole antenna of his own design. These antennas are on a 60 foot tower and he has a Ringo Ranger antenna on top of another 40 foot tower so he can monitor Whippy while he is operating on the club frequency.

John's long time passion in RTTY operation has been collecting RTTY pictures. Many of you have seen some of these at our past Holiday Dinner parties. He now has over three thousand, many of which are still on paper tape. He has a long term project to get these transferred over to computer disks but he says the technology advances faster than he can get them transferred! His XYL, Coby, can attest to the number of tapes he has as they are pushing them out of living space!

John is also wrapped up in computers for all sorts of uses and of course he keeps our club records on them as well as producing this newsletter. He has been through many computers, and like his ham gear, he still has all of them. He started with a KIM single board computer, picked up a Sinclair along the way and then worked into the Heath H-89 by starting with an H-19 terminal and converting it to a computer. He also built an Apple II computer from a bare board and a load of parts. He then won a prize at a computer convention which led to the attainment of a Heath Z-100 computer which now runs MS-DOS. Several printers are interfaced randomly between most of these computers.

Among other things K2AGI has written articles on RTTY that have been published in the RTTY Journal, QST and a book edited by Wayne Greene.

Also if you have participated in our fox hunts you have seen the "bird cage" doppler scan antenna John built for the top of his car. His biggest problem with this system is that at two different times he "lost" part of the doppler scan system, first the controller which he found two years later and lately the eight elements that go on top of the car. He gave up on finding the elements for the last hunt and made a new set just in time.

-by Mike Shepnew KA2UGR-

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NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JUNE 30, 1988

Balance Forward	1/1/88	791.16
Income		
Dues Received		522.00
Interest		27.83
Auction		238.60
ARRL Rebates		4.00
Contributions		5.00
Patches		7.50
Total Income		804.93
Expense		
Postage		143.92
Food & Refreshments		3.48
Contributions		150.00
Miscellaneous		15.00
Total Expense		312.40
Balance	6/30/88	1283.69



The following is reproduced from the ARRL "FIELD FORUM" for July 1988:

**WANTED: NTS LOGO**

ARRL has a logo. Special Service Clubs have a logo. ARES has a logo. Why not NTS? Well, now it will! It's about time, considering NTS has been serving Amateur Radio and the public since 1947!

Are you an artist? Know someone who's an artist? Spread the word - on traffic nets, packet bulletin boards, on street corners - we're looking for an NTS logo design. Not just any will do. It must be a design that depicts the true spirit of NTS: pride, service, tradition, and innovation!

Entries will be judged on how well it symbolizes the NTS spirit, and aesthetics. The design must include some specific details: the ARRL diamond must be prominently featured, the words "National Traffic System" must be incorporated, and the design must be legible when reduced and embroidered in a size of roughly 4-6 inches.

All original designs must be submitted on 8-1/2 x 11 in. white paper to Richard Palm, KlCE, Field Services Manager, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, by October 1, 1988. Don't forget to include your name, address, phone number, and call sign with your submission. All entries will be presented to the Volunteer Resources Committee for initial screening. VRC will select three best designs for presentation to the full ARRL Board of Directors at its 1989 Annual Meeting. The Board will then select the winning design. The decision of the Board will be final.

The winner will receive an engraved plaque, an ARRL Operating Manual and recognition in QST, FIELD FORUM, and Section Leader.

Enter today!

**NPARC CLASSIFIED**

**For Sale:**

- Kenwood TR-2600A 144 MHz synthesized, hand-held transceiver.
- Kenwood TR-3600 430 MHz synthesized, hand-held transceiver. (In order to operate on US frequencies the microprocessor must be reset for 440 MHz)
- Kenwood ST-2 AC to DC base station stand including quick charger.
- Kenwood SMC-30 Speaker-Mike.
- Kenwood VOX microphone and headset.
- Two dry cell packs for above transceivers.
- Two Kenwood SM-1 mobile stands.
- Two Kenwood plastic protective cases.
- Kenwood 120 volt battery charger (wall type).
- Kenwood 220 volt battery charger (wall type).

All above equipment is like new and in perfect working condition. For further info call George Hanchett, W2YM at 273-2438.

**ON THE AIR ACTIVITIES:**

- FM Phone Net Sunday Evening 9:00 PM EDT  
Listen on 147.03 MHz, Transmit on 147.63  
Net Control: Bob Latter W2YFM
- RTTY Net Sunday Evening 8:00 PM EDT  
60 WPM Baudot on 145.75 MHz  
Net Control: John Sheetz K2AGI
- Rusty CW Net Wednesday 9:00 PM EDT  
28.150 MHz  
Net Control: Floyd Harvey KA2DDG
- Westlink Report Sunday 7:30 PM  
145.75 MHz and 147.03 MHz by KA2UGQ

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

- President: Bob Brown W2EME
- Vice President: Dick Brodeur N1ETC
- Secretary: Tony Lockhart KB2BBP
- Treasurer: John Sheetz K2AGI
- Activities Mgr: John Sawina NA2R

