



MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



JULY-AUGUST 1990

New Providence Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974-0813
ARRL Affiliated Club No. 0213

FIELD DAY A BIG SUCCESS

After much trepidation about forecasted thunderstorms etc. we had a terrific Field Day. The weather turned out to be nearly perfect (just a couple of sprinkles) and the temperature was just right. With much advance preparation and guidance by Andy, WA2DKJ, and his station managers, Jim, KB2FCV, Adam, KB2GEG, and Tony, KB2BBP, the entire setup went almost like clockwork. And of course we are all indebted again this year to Barry, K2JV, not only whose call we used for the operation but who kept all of the hungry mouths and stomachs well satisfied. The menu went from Yugoslavian sardines with Vidalia onions for an appetizer to strawberry shortcake with whipped cream or ice cream for dessert! In between there was a steady supply of stomach stuffers available. Some of the participants even found time to operate. The bands were hot and contacts were being made in every form. The Novice station was very active and gave a good demonstration of how well our Novices are doing toward upgrading their licenses. It's hard to try to describe the entire operation without leaving someone out. Often a dedicated operator would be plugging away all by himself without even a logger. Tom, KA2UGQ, had his packet station ticking away making con-

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC SET FOR JULY 28th

The time has rolled around again for another one of our fabulous club picnics. This one is scheduled for Saturday, July 28th with a rain date of July 29th. As in the past our picnic will be hosted by Al and Martha Hirsch with swimming pool and all. Starting time will be around 1:00 PM.

Bring your own main entree such as hot-dogs, hamburgers, steak, chicken or whatever you prefer. In addition each party is to supply one item of food to be shared by all. In order to coordinate the selection of food items **BE SURE TO CALL** Al or Martha at 469-6374 to confirm your contribution and also let them know how many will be in your party. The club will supply beer and soft drinks. Grills will be available for cooking.

If you plan to swim please bring your own towels. Bath house facilities are available for dressing. Al reports that the water temperature is now 81 degrees, so it should be perfect.

A map showing the location of Al's QTH is included with this issue of the Spark Gaps. If you have any problem finding the location we will try to monitor 145.75 MHz. In case of rain either monitor 145.75 or call 469-6374. Let's all get out and make this the biggest one yet.

tacts. Andy succeeded in making several contacts using denatured alcohol as fuel to run an internal combustion engine which ran an automobile generator to power to the station.

Beautiful antennas were high in the air all over the place. Bob, W2YFM's good old PE-75 generator purred right along for the entire twenty-four hour stretch keeping the lights on and the stations working. About twenty people were actively involved in "working" Field Day and about five more club members managed to get out and observe the operation. With 101 present club members it is too bad that more did not manage to at least come out and see the action.

ANDY NAPOLITANO, WB2WGM, HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL

Andy, WB2WGM, was a charter member of our club and served as Secretary-Treasurer in 1966, President in 1968 and Vice President in 1969. He recently suffered from a brain tumor and was hospitalized for about three weeks. He returned home on July 6th. Some of us have already spoken with Andy and he is doing quite well, all things considered. Andy lives in Woodcliff Lake and his phone number is 391-7638. If you were a member of the club back in the beginning you might wish to give Andy a call. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

**THE PREZ SEZ:
SOME RANDOM JOTTINGS ON
OUR 1990 FIELD DAY**

We were lucky with the weather - lots of thanks to members who lent equipment - the catering was excellent and an important part of the event - why did there seem to be more members present at set-up and take-down time than actually operating? - is there some way to eliminate inter-station interference in such a relatively confined area? - I hope everyone has collected whatever expenses they had for the event from the treasurer - anyone with equipment that belongs to the club for field day (tents, antennas etc.) should list it and give it to the club secretary for reference next year - should we formally thank the High School for the use of the site?

On quite another matter I trust all the members are aware that the secretary has a batch of certificates (suitable for framing) with the club and ARRL logos and a text in large Old English script saying "The American Radio Relay League in recognition of the courage and perseverance required to overcome the seemingly insurmountable odds against the establishment of two-way amateur radio communications " _____ " is awarded the coveted First Contact Club certificate of merit". So if you work a ham who claims you are his or her first contact be sure to get a certificate from the secretary and send it with your QSL. Those of us who have been hamming for years will probably regard this as pretty corny but to someone who has just made their first contact I'm sure this will end up on the wall of their shack.

73 KB2BBP

FIELD DAY SCORES IN

Andy, WA2DKJ, reports the following results from Field Day:

- Total Score for 1990: 3214
(Total Score last year: 3384)
- 588 QSO's on phone
- 150 QSO's on CW
- 126 novice QSO's
- 6 natural power QSO's
- 6 packet QSO's
- Bonus Points:
 - 200 emergency
 - 100 publicity
 - 100 locating in a public place
 - 100 originating message
 - 10 points for message relay
 - 100 points for natural power
 - 100 points for packet
 - 100 points for Novice station working class C or D stations.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Warren Mahland K2BIV 20th
- John Myrick NQ2V 21st

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Al Perkins K2QKV 4th

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Attila Balaton 6th
- Dick Mead KA2FUG 6th
- Luis Rodriguez WA2BUY 6th
- Mike Arlein KB2FKA 7th

NEW PROVIDENCE

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
JUNER 30, 1990**

Balance Forward 1/1/90...	1486.86
Income	
Dues Received	84.00
Interest.....	39.66
Auction	428.25
ARRL Rebates.....	7.00
Total Income.....	558.91
Expense	
Postage.....	128.20
Food & Refreshments	83.82
Field Day.....	266.56
Contributions+Dues	15.00
Total Expense	493.58
Balance 6/30/90.....	1552.19

CLUB OFFICERS

- Pres:..... Tony Lockhart KB2BBP**
- V. Pres: Andy Stillinger WA2DKJ**
- Secretary:.....Pat Casey N2FXA**
- Treasurer:.....John Sheetz K2AGI**
- Activities Mgr:.....**
Warren Mahland..... K2BIV

ON THE AIR ACTIVITIES:

- FM Phone Net Sunday Evening 9:00 PM Listen on 147.03 MHz, Transmit on 147.63 Net Control: Bob Latter W2YFM
- RTTY Net Sunday Evening 8:00 PM 60 WPM Baudot on 145.75 MHz Net Control: John Sheetz K2AGI
- Rusty CW Rag Chew - Thursday 9:00 PM 28.150 MHz, KB2GEG Net Control
- Packet BBS 145.01 KA2UGQ-4 (Berkeley Hts.)
- SYSOP Tom Brown KA2UGQ

MEETING SCHEDULE

Club meetings 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 PM in the New Providence Memorial Library meeting room, Elkwood Avenue. Anyone is welcome. Note: if our normal meeting night is a holiday we usually meet the next night.

PERPETUAL REMINDER

If you are renewing your membership in, or joining the ARRL always remember to do so through our club. We receive a \$2 rebate for each renewal or a \$5 rebate for each new membership if you handle it through the club. When your renewal comes due just send the form along with a check made out to NPARC to John Sheetz and the club will take care of the rest. If you want to join the ARRL John Sheetz also has the necessary membership forms.

SECTION NOTES by Rich
Moseson, NW2L, SM/NNJ
CLUB CHALLENGE FOR
THE '90S

The President and the nation's governors have set a goal making America pre-eminent in math and science by the end of the decade. We as Amateur Radio operators are in a unique position to help.

We have at our fingertips state-of-the-art technology that can add new meaning to physics, algebra and geometry; build interest in geography and social studies and improve language arts and communications skills. Plus, we add in one secret ingredient ... FUN!

In my travels around the country producing education broadcasts for CBS News, I've had the opportunity to meet and interview dozens of educators, from classroom teachers to national education leaders. Along the way, I've picked up some tips that can help us meet our own stated goal of bringing Amateur Radio back into our schools. Among them: 1) Schools are hungry for innovative programs such as we can provide; 2) Schools are becoming more receptive to help from outside groups, and 3) Schools are increasingly discovering the value of community volunteers.

A few more facts: 1) The fastest-growing population segment in Amateur Radio is people over 65, mostly retirees. 2) When NNJ Affiliated Club Coordinator WA2QYX contacted schools with "inactive" radio clubs, virtually every principal said he or she would love to have the club reactivated. And 3) While most of us are not wealthy and our clubs often operate on shoestrings, a search of some at-

tics and basements will probably turn up enough unused equipment to nicely outfit a school with a club station.

We have the ingredients for success, so why isn't it happening? There's just one missing link - - YOU. Those principals who want their radio clubs revived say they've tried without success to get help from the community.

Individually and collectively, we must be willing to put some time and effort into our future - - and our nation's future. Forget ham radio for a minute. For many children, there is immense value in the simple presence of a caring adult, someone who's not being paid to be there, just someone who's interested in THEM and in what they can do. Now imagine how much more you can do for them if you give them a reason to be interested in learning, give them the opportunity to build something, to talk to someone in Outer Moldavia, or for that matter, in the next state. The excitement is palpable ... and contagious.

Here's a plan to help our children, help our schools and help ourselves. Your club is the hub around which the plan is built, which is why I've dubbed

it the Club Challenge for the '90s: 1) Choose one person as your club's educational coordinator and contact person; 2) Get commitments from retirees and others available during the day to be active in the program; 3) get commitments from other club members to help with initial demonstrations and setup; 4) Contact a nearby school and offer your help in forming a community partnership to enhance science and math education; 5) contact local businesses and/or service organizations to line up financial support for equipment purchases, etc.; 6) make contact with selected teacher(s) to determine how amateur radio can be worked into their curriculum or organized into an after-school club. Then, 7) DO IT! And stay with it. You'll be surprised how good it makes you feel.

I titled this a "Club Challenge." But it's a personal challenge, too -- to each and every one of us. Let's expand the traditional definition of amateur radio public service and use our hobby, our knowledge and our enthusiasm to help develop young minds. (And let me know how it goes.)

73 de Rich NW2L, SM/NNJ

CLIMATOLIGICAL DATA FOR NEW PROVIDENCE FOR JUNE 1990

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 9 years.

Maximum temperature for June, 90 deg.F (June 29th)

Minimum " " " , 47 " " (June 5th)

Average temperature for the month, 71.5 deg.F; which is 2.0 deg. below the monthly average temperature for June for the past 9 years.

Heating degree days, 5

Heating degree days last June, 12

Heating degree days last month (May), 164

Cooling degree days, 200

Cooling degree days last June, 234

Cooling degree days last month (May), 6

Total precipitation for the month, 3.16 in., and 25.4 in. for the year. Even though we have had some hot weather in May and June, the highest temperature this year so far took place in April, 95 deg.!

SUMMER BREAK FOR SPARK GAPS EDITOR!

This will be the last issue of the Spark Gaps until September. We do not have any formal programs scheduled in July and August but we will continue to meet twice each month as usual on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For those of you without calendars the dates are July 9th and 23rd and August 13th and 27th. Now if you can remember where you have put this issue of the Spark Gaps you can look here to recall when we have a meeting!

We will try to come up with some interesting topics for each meeting. If you have any ideas or would like to present some item we are anxious to hear from you. What have you been doing in ham radio? Do you have a problem we could discuss? Have you tried packet or RTTY or any other special mode? Or do you want to know what you need to do it? Tony asks whether there is a way to eliminate inter-station interference on Field Day. Bring your ideas and let's hear them. Demonstrations are always great. What could you demonstrate? Remember, we don't always have to stick strictly to what we think of as amateur radio. We are all interested in electronics and technical things. Andy, WA2DKJ, gave us a terrific demo of his home-brew electronic distributor for his car. Some of us even have computers and you might have found something you can do with them!

If you are able to remember when we have a meeting you might try to remind your buddies about it too. We have a lot of members who say they forgot about the meeting night.

This issue of the Spark Gaps will again be distributed directly at the July 9th meeting to those present and the remainder sent out in the mail shortly thereafter. Your editor would like some feedback on what schedule you prefer for the distribution of the newsletter. This schedule has been an experiment for a few months.

Our first meeting in September will be on the 10th, a week after Labor Day. Maybe we can get the September issue out to you in time to remind you about the new season.

Have a good summer. K2AGI

NEW "REPEATER??" HEARD ON 145.755 MHZ

For a couple of weeks now everyone in our club who uses 145.75 MHz has been hearing strange sounds on the frequency. A carrier comes on for about six seconds and ends with some sort of a beep. Every ten minutes we hear the I.D. as NY4Z/RAP which is listed in the Callbook as belonging to Bernard H. Berger of Riverdale, NY. In monitoring the frequency for over an hour we logged the carrier and beep at an average occurrence of once per minute. This was so bothersome to the RTTY net on July first that we had to give up after about a half an hour. Obviously the signal comes on the air without monitoring to see if the frequency is in use. At one point in time we heard a voice on the frequency and Rick, WB2QOQ, managed to contact the owner (operator) on the frequency. Rick was informed that this was a 25 watt transmitter on the top of a 40 story building located in the Bronx. It is being used to control a group of 440 MHz repeaters in

the area. The licensee, Bernard H. Berger, agreed to move the transmitter up by 5 kilohertz within a week or so. As of July 8th the frequency does not seem to have been changed. Back at about the time of field day we heard another repeater on the "club frequency" and it was sending the I.D. of WB2WTJ/R which is listed in the Callbook as belonging to Vito R. Iacopelli of Brooklyn, NY. Our club has been operating on 145.75 MHz for over 20 years and this is the first time that we have had a problem with an uncontrollable carrier coming on. When the club was first formed in 1965 we operated on 145.8 MHz (AM) because that was the frequency that resulted when using war surplus crystals available at that time for something like 35 cents! The Bergen Amateur Radio Association operated on the same frequency for the same reason. We had very little problem with sharing the frequency as our nets occurred at different times and there were very few stations with mutual interference. At one point we had some new club members join who lived closer to Bergen and they had problems with interference. At that point we decided to move down 25 kHz so we bought new crystals and we have been on 145.75 for many years.

NEXT ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER



PICNIC AT K2SKV
6 MOUNTAIN TRAIL

MNEY

