

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area



N2XJ

Club Callsign

VOLUME 42

June 2007

NO. 6

Field Day on June 23rd & 24th at Summit Red Cross & Governor Livingston High School No meeting on Monday, June 25th

President's Column by James Kern, KB2FCV



Once again, that "last rainy, wet, weekend in June" is fast approaching and that means it is time again for another ARRL Field Day. I participate casually in several contests each year but Field Day is clearly my favorite contest of all. Field Day has its roots in emergency preparedness as Hams across the country setup portable temporary stations as a 'drill' to practice emergency communications. It has evolved into an event that still carries out its intended function as well as adding elements such as a gathering of friends, barbequing, operating, the outdoors, elmering, trying new things and more.

Trying new things... one of my favorite parts of field day. At past NPARC Field Days we have certainly had our share of new things to try. Years back, a few members setup a fast scan television station! While I didn't get to make a QSO myself, I was able to witness a mode of communication I have never seen before in operation. Other years we've had a satellite setup or two. I as well as several other hams were able to make our very first satellite QSO! Just last year I made my first Hellschrieber QSO ever. Ok, well, Ralph was at the Class F station on the other end but it was fun and interesting none the less. Finally, a dear friend of mine who I met on my very first NPARC Field Day back in 1988 taught me how to send CW on a Vibroplex Bug. One thing is for sure about Field Day, you always take home a little more knowledge about something and perhaps open a new facet in amateur radio for you to explore.

Summer is just about here and we will be starting our club project soon. The Software Defined Radios are on the way and our soldering irons are at the ready to put the latest kits together. Who knows? Maybe one of these Field Days we'll run all SDR radios from the kits put together by NPARC members...

73, James KB2FCV

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30 - 10:00 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence.

4th Monday each month: 7:30 - 9:00
Informal Project Meeting, 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.

Club Officers for 2007

President: KB2FCV James Kern
908-219-4016
Vice Pres: KQ2E Bruce Havourd
908-277-2861
Secretary: WB2EDO Jim Brown
973-829-1892
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-464-1323
Past President: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-464-1323

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency

145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net

Murray Hill Repeater at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
with PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control: K2AL

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net

Various evenings 8:00 to 9:00 PM
Various Modes 145.75 MHz
Info Contact: AB2WF Scott

Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/nparc>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

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Editor: WA2DKJ Andy Stillinger
Editor Emeritus: K2JV Barry Cohen
Contributing Editors:
KC2RLM Ralph Milnes
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Field Day at Two Locations

Our club will have stations at two locations again this year. The Class F station, the one that's set up at an official Emergency Operation Center, will be at the Summit Red Cross building on Springfield Avenue in Summit. The building is between the center of New Providence and the center of Summit.

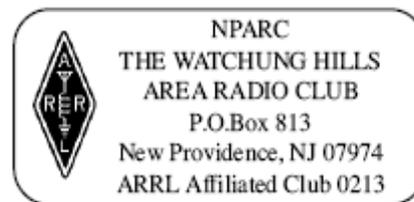
The larger operation will be behind the Governor Livingston High School. The school is on the top of the hill just off of Mountain Avenue and Glenside Road in Berkeley Heights.

No June Meeting on the Fourth Monday the 25th

Due to the impending exhaustion from our Field Day activities and since the Salt Brook School will be closed, we have decided not to have a meeting on the fourth Monday in June. Arrangements are being made for use of a room in the New Providence Municipal Building for our July and August meetings.

Meetings on July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27

There will be club meetings during the summer months even though the Salt Brook School is closed. We will meet in the "Activities Room", where we have had previous meetings, in the New Providence Municipal Building. The Municipal Building is on the corner of Elkwood Avenue and Academy Street across from the library. Since the Software Defined Radio kits have been delivered, we will finish distributing the kits start construction in July. Even if you haven't ordered a kit, please come to the meetings and enjoy the company. We should have some refreshments and there will be other topics besides the SDR project being discussed.





Climatological Data for New Providence for May 2007

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 25 years.

Maximum temperature for this May, 91 deg. F (May 31)	Last May(2006) maximum was 90 deg. F.
Minimum temperature for this May, 39 deg. F (May 7)	Last May(2006) minimum was 42 deg. F.
Average temperature this May, 65.5 deg. F	Last May, 63.1 deg. F.
Total precipitation this May – 2.08" rain	Last May – 3.37" rain
Greatest precipitation day this May – May 16, 0.66" rain.	
Measurable rain fell on 7 days this May.	

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Rick, WB2QOQ



Dayton Report by Nick, KC2ONP

This year the New Providence Amateur Radio Club sent six of their members and family off to the Dayton Hamvention run by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association at the Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio. The caravan consisted of Barry Cohen K2JV, Frank Mcanneny K2EZR, Nick Esposito KC2ONP, Vince Lobosco KC2IZK, James Kern KB2FCV, and his wife, Kieran.

We began our trip on Thursday May 17, 2007 at around 7 AM in two separate cars. We crossed New Jersey, through Pennsylvania, less than an hour in West Virginia, and finally across the state of Ohio to the small suburb of Fairborn, OH which houses the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Along the way we encountered many other hams on their way to Dayton and spoke with them on many of the local repeaters. We also had some trouble with the HF mobile rig that sits in Barry's van that I was hoping we would have been able to operate. We also noticed that James had a rear tire that deflated a few times but eventually stayed filled.

We arrived at the Comfort Inn in Fairborn at around 7 PM about 12 hours after we left New Providence. We unpacked quickly and headed into Dayton to have dinner at Old Hickory, a barbeque restaurant that the NPARC group in Dayton usually visits for dinner one evening. We got back to the hotel and slept until 6 AM when we got up and got ready for first real day of the Hamvention.

The flea market began at 8 AM and it was a sea of everything you could imagine. With individuals selling their goods outside in the massive parking lot and vendors and manufacturers inside there was plenty to see and do. It took me at least a full day in total to see the entire flea market and I could have spent hours on end inside the arena at the different manufacturers playing with their rigs that they had on display. The ARRL had a nice corner to themselves with representatives such as Joyce Birmingham, Bill Hudzik, Bill Moore, and Jim Haynie (The "President Emeritus" according to his card).

On Friday Barry along with Henry Feinberg and another man from Connecticut participated in an educational forum which included many teachers in the audience to find ways that they could incorporate

ham radio into their class. Also earlier that day there was a forum with the astronaut Bill McArthur who was on the ISS one afternoon before our contact and we made a QSO with him. On the note of these forums, on Saturday there was a forum regarding SDR which I was disappointed that I did not attend and another forum on youth in amateur radio which I did get to attend which was very interesting.

Throughout the hamvention we saw many familiar faces such as Bill Wadsworth W2ZKE, Andy Stillinger WA2DKJ, and Bob Melville WB3EFT, who earlier this year returned from a trip to the South Pole. Andy and Bob were selling in the flea market and the others were met just walking in the arena and outside in the flea market.

I believe it is almost impossible to leave Dayton without buying anything and that proved true this year. As far as I know everyone came home with something such as an EZ Hang or as little as a few adapters from the flea market. I know I also walked away with some knowledge in the area of HF radios that I did not know before. In my never ending research on many of these rigs there are a lot of options and layouts that you might like or you might not like. I also came away with the parts for a 40, 20, 15 meter triband dipole that I will put together. Barry and I have a few new projects including the dipole and now his Kenwood HF mobile that is intermittent from his van.

We left after the prizes were given out on the last day, Sunday. Nobody won anything which was unfortunate. We finally got on the road at around 2:45 PM and drove across Ohio to stop at Mendhelson's cafeteria right near the border with West Virginia for dinner. We then basically drove straight through the night to arrive in New Providence at around 2 AM on Monday. For about 30 minutes I had a great conversation with a ham from Pennsylvania on one of the repeaters and James and I both earned the Worked All Tunnels award for the Dayton hamvention trip. There are four tunnels that you pass through and if you make a QSO with someone else in all of the tunnels you achieve the WAT award.

Dayton Hamvention is a great representation of the amateur community and if you have not attended it yet I strongly feel that you should do so. Maybe next year we can get a group together to travel out to Germany to Friedrichshafen for the annual hamfest held there in June that is the second largest in the world (Dayton is the largest). Hamfests are great experiences for a ham with any interests.

73 for now
Nick Esposito KC2ONP

