

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

VOLUME 48 NO. 6 June 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings

Mon. 7/8 & 7/22 7:30 PM
NP Rec. Dept. Workroom

Emergency Response Team
New Providence Fireworks
Wednesday 7/3

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

Informal Project Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
4th Monday of each month 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.
When Schools are closed,
Meetings are held in the Recreation
Department Meeting Room in Borough Hall

Club Officers for 2013

President: K2MUN David Berkley
908-500-9740
Vice President: K2WUF David Bean
973-747-6116
Secretary: K2HLA Hillary Zaenchik
908-244-6202
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-404-6914

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
First & Third Mondays 9 PM
Details as announced.

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster K2MUN David Berkley
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2UI, Jim

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOO Rick Anderson
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for
May 2013

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2QOO, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for the
past 32 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this May, 95 deg. F
(May 31)
Last May(2012) maximum was 93 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this May, 73.0
deg. F
Minimum temperature for this May, 35 deg. F
(May 14)
Last May(2012) minimum was 42 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this May, 51.0
deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 3 deg.
(57-54 deg.) 5/19
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 33 deg.
(74-41 deg.) 5/2

Average temperature this May, 62 deg. F
Average temperature last May, 65.8 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this May - 5.1" rain
Total precipitation last May - 5.13" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this May; May
8, 1.64" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 11 days this May,
19 days last May.

=====
Rick Anderson
6/7/13

243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908) 464-8912

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

Elevation: 380 ft.

Field Day 2013



Brian, Cameron & Kim



Paul & Hillary



New Club Tower



Overall View

Thanks to Stu, KA2HZP for the photos.



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

By K2MUN

Last month I talked about the history of Field Day. Now, Field Day 2013, has come and gone.

Before I talk about exactly what happened, I want to briefly mention forecasts. Not just weather, which is certainly important for comfort and safety but, also, propagation forecasts.

The most easily available discussion of propagation is from the ARRL in the form of Tad Cook's regular column "The K7RA Solar Update" which is available on the ARRL website (see, for example: <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-268>) or via free e-mail subscription. However, as regularly mentioned in the column, there are other more technical sources for propagation information, including detailed forecasts of how our day-to-day ham radio communications are going to be affected by that magical source of atmospheric ionization and noise, the sun.

There is good news and bad. The bad news is that the sun is still a mystery and space weather forecasts are not yet even as good as those that tell you it's a great day to barbecue just to have lightning cook your burgers. The good news is that we are learning a lot through new instruments, primarily satellite based (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/index.html). This solar sun spot peak is the most studied in history and some of the mysteries are yielding to intense investigation. So, what does that mean for our day-to-day ham radio hobby and what did it mean for Field Day. In this column I'll discuss Field Day but in future columns I hope to dig into how we can use the results of modern Solar science to better understand what is happening on the air.

There was some gloom and doom in the forecasts but, in fact, the HF bands ranged from okay on Saturday through wild and wooly Saturday night into Sunday. I was at the site from setup at 9:00 AM Saturday through the clean up on Sunday. In the middle of Sunday night 40 meters and 80 meters were both solid "CQ Field Day." Finding a clear frequency was such a challenge that around 2 AM it was faster to hunt and pounce. Our great signals, courtesy of Frank, K2EZR, and Barry, K2JV, who shot the lines for the dipoles, meant that we were usually first answered in the piles. VHF did it's part as well, although the openings tended to be short.

I think I'll stop naming people here because I'll run out of room and I'm sure I will miss more than I will get right. There were many critical contributions in providing other equipment (generators, cables, antenna lines, electrical parts, computers, backup equipment, etc.), lots of muscle for hauling, setup and teardown, not to mention the many operators and loggers who

Careful pre-planning (overseen by Paul, W2PTP our Activities Manager) saw the stations all up and ready to go a couple of hours early, including the VHF beams on Rick's (WB2QOQ) new tower. There is a video of the tower raising (from Stu, KA2HZP, a new member) that we will post on the website along with a number of his Field Day photos. The station managers, Rich (N2AUG) and Bruce (KQ2E) the HF station managers; Brian (KC2ZSZ - with a major assist from Barry, K2JV), GOTA, and Rick VHF, provided equipment and setups that gave solid performances throughout. We can't forget the tasty food and plentiful liquid (a lot of water and soda, primarily) that were guided by Al, K2AL with food runs and other help from Sam, KC2OSR, and Brian, KC2ZSZ.

I think I'll stop naming people here because I'll run out of room and I'm sure I will miss more than I will get right. There were many critical contributions in providing other equipment (generators, cables, antenna lines, electrical parts, computers, backup equipment, etc.), lots of muscle for hauling, setup and teardown, not to mention the many operators and loggers who were all key elements in making this the most enjoyable Field Day I have attended. I stayed throughout because it was fun!

At least 50 people attended, about 40 of those holding calls, at one point or another throughout the weekend. Some of the 'extra point' activities also contributed to the interest including an educational module on PSK and an amazing string of more than 20 QSO's run solar powered.

Each year at Field Day I have learned many new things and have watched great operators at work. This was the first year I tried using a contest keyer. It certainly makes CW operation painless although I miss the dreams of sending endless "CQ FD de N2XJ" and neurons permanently set to "2A NNJ".

The results aren't in yet but well over a thousand QSO's, dominated by SSB but with a solid contribution from CW, lots of points from GOTA and many extra point activities, have added a little bit to Field Day history from NPARC. If you didn't attend, you missed an excellent Field Day from beginning to end. Try your hardest to attend next year! This truly is an event not to miss.

SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

Beware of heavy Cell Phone Use

Here is an old subject that has been revisited with some updated study information. The question is, “do cell phones cause brain cancer?”

Scientists still cannot say for sure, but the latest study has found that heavy use of cell phones does increase the risk of cancer. The new study, a 10-year project by the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer, studied 12,000 people – some in good health, and some with either of two types of brain cancer. The results found no connection between moderate cell phone use and the risk of glioma or meningioma tumors. But for the heaviest users, there was up to a 40 percent higher incidence of these brain cancers. The cell phone industry, which helped pay for the study, proclaimed that the results proved that normal cell phone use is safe, but some scientists and consumer advocates say the study’s analysis was badly flawed. Because the period studied was 2000 to 2004, heavy users were defined as those who used their phone for half an hour a day, which is relatively little by today’s standards. Teens, known to be heavy phone users, weren’t studied, nor were people who’d used a cell phone for 15 years or more. It seems obvious that more research is needed, but it is equally obvious that the risk of heavy cell phone use is greater than many have believed in the past.

With all the published warnings regarding the detrimental effects on our eyesight of heavy usage of staring at tablet screens, our hearing listening to high volume heavy metal music, and now cancer risk from heavy use of cell phones, it seems the human race is destined to have generations of children that will grow up deaf and blind with brain cancer. Now that is really something to look forward to.

Software That Predicts World Events

Software that reads news articles and predicts world events may not be too far off. A University of Illinois researcher used the Nautilus SGI supercomputer to analyze millions of news stories. The software forecasted the revolutions in Egypt and Libya, and also narrowed down Osama bin Laden’s location to within 125 miles of where he was found. This definitely sounds promising, especially if it can predict the direction of the stock market.

Jim WB2EDO

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

In the 1700's personal hygiene left much room for improvement.. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

I planned to give the following to our Field Day Chefs but ran out of time. Perhaps someone can save it for 17 years until Cicadas come again.

Candied Cicadas

*1 lb cicadas
1 cup white sugar
2 tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp salt
3 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract*

Preheat oven to 350 °F. Spread cicadas in a single layer on a baking sheet. Roast for approximately 15–20 minutes, or until brown and thoroughly dried out.

Stir together sugar, cinnamon, salt, and milk in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat for eight minutes, or until the mixture reaches the soft-ball stage at 236 °F. Remove from heat, and stir in vanilla.

Add cicadas to sugar syrup, and stir to coat well. Spoon onto waxed paper, and immediately separate cicadas with a fork. Cool and store in airtight containers. (Recipe courtesy of Jenna Jadin)

Copied from Chemical & Engineering News