

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the  
Watchung Mountain Area



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

VOLUME 49 NO. 6 June, 2014

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Regular Meetings**  
7/7 and 7/21  
Mon. 7:30  
NP Senior Citizens Center

**Friday July 3, 2014**  
**New Providence Fire Works**

The NPARC Emergency Response Team has been asked to help with communications as in previous years.

Any other club members who would like to help are welcome.

## 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 At the NP Senior  
Citizen Center

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### Club Officers for 2014

President: K2MUN David Berkley  
908-500-9740  
Vice President: KC2WUF David Bean  
973-747-6116  
Secretary: KD2EKN Tim Farrell  
908-244-6202  
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr  
908-277-4283  
Activities: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer  
201-404-6914

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### 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.

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### Club Internet Address

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

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### MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Not Available



## **PRESIDENTS COLUMN**

### **By K2MUN**

June, 2014

This column is written just after Field Day — the weekend of June 28 - 29. Of course, Field Day starts much earlier with months of planning and cajoling. However, the weekend itself is the time for it all to come together. Antennas lifted into the sky; power and wireless logging connections put in place; stations assembled tuned and tested; PortaPotties delivered (on time) and, last but not least, FOOD. The dozens of participants have to be fed and the food always tastes great eaten in competition with the various insects and other people looking for the perfect burger.

This year was no different in broad strokes from previous Field Days. Take a look at the photos on our website: <http://nparc.org/Photos.htm>, in our lovingly assembled archive thanks to those who took the photos and to David Bean, KC2WUF, who ordered them carefully. More than a dozen historic and recent NPARC Field Days are documented starting with 1993. Also, take a look at the collection of past Spark Gaps newsletters, dating back to the first edition on <http://nparc.org/newsletters.htm>. Basically, things haven't changed much over the years, although my previous Field Day column traces the history of rule and other changes since Field Day was originated and can be found on <http://nparc.org/newsletters/May13MSG.pdf>.

No major changes were featured this year. We continue to operate 2A and to mount active VHF and GOTA stations in addition to the two main HF stations. Weather, as always problematic, but this time the days were sunny and warm encouraging time spent with the bugs (at least one member communed with them more than others, to his considerable distress) and very early bright morning sun. Unfortunately, the bands were only moderately cooperative. 10 meters, so happily active last year, never was open for business. The promised Sporadic-E was not in evidence and by sunset of the first day almost no FD contacts were beyond the Mississippi. Over night, a few hardy souls (myself among them) braved the sleep angels and worked the night shift where contacts further west were common — especially on CW.

It is too early to guess how our FD scores turned out, but given the band conditions and the usual struggles with equipment, extra points, etc., I'm sure it is a respectable showing. We hosted a very active GOTA station where a number of our new members, and some older ones, put their toes in the HF waters and, I hope, learned that swimming in these seas is both pretty straight-forward and fun!

Thanking people for this type of broad team effort is always dangerous but a few comments are certainly called for. The many people, especially station managers but others as well, who share their equipment and expertise with the rest of us are critical. Without them, Field Day would be a pale shadow of what it is. The meticulous planning by Paul (W2PTP) was evident at every turn and since it is well documented will also serve us well in future. Those who supply us with food (and drink) through planning, purchasing and preparing our repasts always deserve the thanks of those of us who ate so well over the weekend. Of course, all of you who turn out to put up, tear down and, most important, spend many hours of concentrated effort working the many hundreds of FD QSOs are a key element that makes Field Day what it is. Those of you who missed Field Day 2014; I hope you will plan better for 2015.

I personally had a great time and now have to put down my (metaphoric) pen and try to catch up on the sleep I didn't get over the past two days.

With Field Day 2014 in the books, we enter the Summer season for NPARC. After the interesting June programs for our meetings, Harvey Klein, WS2Q, on Remote Station Operation and Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, discussing his work as ARRL Hudson Division Director, Summer is the time for us to share the projects we've been working on. Although it is hard to bring in my fan dipoles, I do hope to put closure on my work to get on 40 meters with next month's column. See you next month.



**Fig. 1: Governor Livingston Field Day 2014 in all its Glory.**

## NPARC Website Updates

The NPARC Website has recently been updated to include scans of many back issues of Mountain Spark Gaps. These include the first issue (circa April 1966) up through 1987. These issues were found in a binder that Al Hanzl K2AL found in the estate of John Sheetz K2AGI (SK). The binder was brought to the 2013 Holiday Luncheon by Al and passed around leading to talk of the possibility of inclusion in our archive. The scanning and posting of the 160+ issues (1-4 pages each) and about 10 other documents to the NPARC website was performed by David Bean KC2WUF over a period of approximately 3 months. The newsletter archive can be found at: <http://nparc.org/newsletters.htm> or from the **Newsletters** link on the left hand index of most pages of the NPARC website.

Another change was in the Library section. The link to the past Presidents has been changed to include all the past Officers instead. The information was gleaned from all of the issues of Mountain Spark Gaps and therefore there are a few holes (especially 1988-2004). The new Officers page can be found at: <http://nparc.org/officers.htm> or via the NPARC Officers list item on the **Library** page that is a link on the left hand index of most pages of the NPARC website.

Finally, anyone in possession of any additional back issues of Mountain Spark Gaps not currently contained in the newsletter archive (or if you think you have a better version – i.e. no notes or other doodles as on some scans, or have a form still attached that was cut off some scans) are asked to contact David Bean KC2WUF to make arrangements for inclusion in our archives. Electronic copies are preferred, but physical copies (or originals) are also acceptable and will be happily returned after the scanning process is complete.

Thank you David, KC2WUF