

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

**NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area**



**Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI
Facebook: New Providence Amateur Radio Club
(NPARC)**

**June 2013
Volume 56 No. 6**

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
6/12/23 Business Meeting
6/25/23 Technical Meeting**

Upcoming Events

Digital Net Mondays at 9:00 PM — 28025

CW training Net, Thursdays at 9:00 PM—28050

Check www.nparc.org for details

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
**2nd & 4th Monday
of each month**
Watch for Emails

Everyone is Welcome
If a normal meeting night is a holiday,
we usually meet the following night.
Call one of the contacts below
or check the web site

Club Officers for 2023

President: K2UI, Jim Stekas
201-406-6914
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2MTN, John Zellhofer
973-462-2014

—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
Mondays 9 PM
28,084 — 28,086
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact KC2WUF, David

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence for April 2023

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

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp this April, 87 F (April 14)
Last April(2022) maximum was 84 F.
Average Maximum temp this April, 65.2 F
Minimum temp this April, 30 F (April 3)
Last April(2022) minimum was 32 F.
Average Minimum temp this April, 45.7 F
Minimum diurnal temp range, 8 F (54-46 F)
4/28; (53-45) 4/29; (58-50) 4/30

Maximum diurnal temp range, 32 F (74-42 F)
4/11

Average temp this April, 55.5 F
Average temp last April, 50.8 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this April-
7.53" rain
Total precipitation last April-
4.79" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this April-

April 29, 2.20" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 11 days this April
15 days last April.

YTD Precipitation - 17.35"

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Rick Anderson

5/13/2023

243 Mountain Ave.

New Providence, NJ

(908)464-8911

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

President's Column

NPARC had a very good showing at the New Providence Memorial Day parade. A wonderful addition this year was W2PTP's vintage Chrysler Newport, a beautiful all original work of art from Detroit.

WB2QOQ greeted half of the spectators along the route by name. Next year I will remind him to march on left side so he can greet the other half of the crowd.

Field Day will be upon us before we know it. The next (hybrid) business meeting on June 14 will be our last chance to run through the Field Day checklist. Be sure to attend.

73,
Jim - K2UI



NPARC TAKES PART IN NEW PROVIDENCE PARADE

It was a delightful spring day on Memorial Day Monday, where 13 members of the club took part in another New Providence Memorial Day Parade. This year we had the addition of a classic car, a 1956 Chrysler 2-door hardtop, in our parade unit; owned by Paul Wolfmeyer, W2PTP. As in many past years, our members gathered in the library parking lot, prior to motoring to the designated starting place on Central Ave. The bulk of members rode to Central Ave., in Rick's Toyota pickup truck. On Central Ave. we assembled the Club banner and took our position amongst the other groups taking part. The parade route, as always, followed Springfield Ave., from Central, through the center of town, to Academy St. We were greeted along the parade route, by the many residents enjoying the parade along the way. Some members visited the N.P. American Legion Post 433, after the parade; where hot dogs, salads, and drinks were provided. We had our own club table, and conducted club conversation; of course !

It was a successful club event, which has been taking place for quite a few years. We'll have to open the Archives and search for when the club began taking part in this parade !

Thanks to the following members who took part in the parade: David Bean, KC2WUF; Al Hanzl, K2AL; Tim Farrell , KD2EKN; Don Madson, K2DAM; Andy Meyer N2FYE, and wife, Robin; Ed Quinn, W2EWQ; Sam Sealy, KC2OSR; Jim Stekas, K2UI; Bob Willis, K2GLS ; Paul Wolfmeyer, W2PTP; Don Young, N2SLS; and Rick Anderson, WB2QOQ. Special mention to Bob & Paul, who have taken part in the parade for many years; traveling all the way from Mendham to take part !

Hope to see you next year! 73, Rick WB2QOQ

NPARC Propagation Tests – Preliminary Results

Jim Stekas - K2UI

The NPARC CW net meets every Thursday at 9pm on 10 meters (28050 kHz). Ground wave propagation on 10m gives good local coverage but does not extend much beyond 20 miles¹ of New Providence. This is not sufficient to cover many members regular and vacation QTHs.

In an effort to improve coverage of the CW net we have conducted propagation tests over the last few months. The tests are run during the 30 minutes before the start of the Thursday night CW net. Each week tests are run on three bands for 10 minutes each, followed by the CW net on 10m. (See the Reflector announcements for details.)

The tables below show aggregated signal reports by band. Rows correspond to transmitting stations, and columns show signal reports from receiving stations. RST signal reports are characterized by the following scores entered in the table:

- 3 - Strong Q5 signals. RST=599 or better.
- 2 - Weaker Q5 signals. Strength S5 – S8.
- 1 - Weak signals. Strength < S5.
- 0 – Nothing heard.
- Blank – No report logged.

10 / 12 Meters

10 meters provides fairly reliable local coverage. KC3LNB is a regular check-in from 40 miles away in PA using a Yagi antenna. Limited 12 meter testing was conducted but coverage should be very similar to 10 meters.

	10 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL	3	-			3	3	
K2CMW	3	3	-		3	3	
K2DAM	2	2		-	1		
K2UI	3	3			-	3	
K2YG	3	3			3	-	
KC3LNB	3	2			2	2	-

¹ KC3LNB is a regular check-in from 40 miles away in PA using a Yagi antenna.

15 / 17 Meters

There was limited testing on 17 meters but coverage should be similar to 15 meters. These bands don't seem significantly different from 10 meters.

	15 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL		-	3		3	3	
K2CMW		3	-		3	3	
K2DAM		1	0	-	2	3	
K2UI		3	3		-	3	
K2YG		3	3		3	-	

20 Meters

20 meters is the premier DX band and should not be used for local nets. Coverage from 20-150 miles is probably not very good anyway.

	20 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL		-	3		3	3	
K2CMW		2	-		2	3	
K2DAM		2	0	-	1		
K2UI		3	2		-		
K2YG		3	3		3	-	

40 / 30 Meters

The 40 meter band provides good local coverage and the ground wave should go out beyond 20 miles, so it is probably a better band than 10 meters. Limited 30 meter tests were conducted, but it is reasonable to expect coverage to be similar to 40 meters.

	40 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL		-	3		3	3	
K2CMW	0		-		3	3	
K2DAM	0		0	-	0	2	
K2UI	2	3	2		-		
K2YG	3	3	3		3	-	

80 Meters

We have run the CW net on 80 meters and K2YG was able to check-in from Nantucket. But , many members are not QRV on 80 meters, particularly those with antenna restrictions. So antennas are a bigger issue than propagation on 80 meters.

	80 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL	2	-			3		
K2CMW			-				
K2DAM				-			
K2UI	2				-		
K2YG	3				2	-	

160 Meters

Those NPARC members that are QRV on 160 meters generally rely on a capable 160m station on the far end. The 80 meter band offers whatever 160 meters does with less antenna challenges.

	160 Meters						
	K1DK	K2AL	K2CMW	K2DAM	K2UI	K2YG	KC3LNB
K2AL		-					
K2CMW			-				
K2DAM				-			
K2UI					-		
K2YG	3				1	-	

Summary Results

So far, 40 meters seems to be the best alternative to 10 meters. 80 meters might better from a propagation standpoint, but not many members are QRV on 80 due to antenna challenges.

Caveats

1. The tests so far have been conducted with operators at their home QTH. So there is almost no data from stations 20-200 miles from New Providence. Therefore, how far 40 meters would extend the CW net coverage has not been demonstrated experimentally.
2. The signal reports in this article have been gathered from e-mail, and are not complete. However, missing reports are probably less of a limitation than #1.