

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS
NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974
ARRL Affiliated Club #0213
JUNE 1988

FIELD DAY EARLY BIRD SPECIAL SPARK GAPS

This issue of Spark Gaps is being sent out earlier than usual because THIS MONTH it turns out that we will have only ONE MEETING at the library. The BIG event of the year, ARRL FIELD DAY occurs on Saturday and Sunday June 25th and 26th. The fourth Monday meeting would normally be on the 27th and if we have our normal participation in FIELD DAY we will all be recuperating on Monday!

Let's all turn out for the meeting on the 13th to get final details and instructions for FIELD DAY. We had a terrific time last year and this year promises to be even better. We are going to have FOUR stations set up and will be using computers for logging and dupe checking. Our SUPER MESS SERGEANT (N2EXG) has volunteered to again serve up a great menu with all-night coffee etc.

If you missed the GREAT BALLOON LAUNCH last year be sure and be there this time.

REMEMBER - NO MEETING MONDAY JUNE 27th.

THE NEXT SPARK GAPS WILL COME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANOTHER NOTICE ABOUT THE FIRST MEETING IN JULY WHICH WILL BE ON JULY 11th. So let's see all of you on JUNE 13th and then on JULY 11th. And of course at FIELD DAY on JUNE 25 & 26th.

HAVE A HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY TOO!

ARRL VHF QSO PARTY - JUNE 11-12

4U1UN will be operating from the United Nations on all bands 50 thru 2304 MHz including 2-meter FM and Packet. This is a separate DXCC country!

LAST MEETING REALLY TIMELY!

The day after our last meeting my copy of QST arrived in the mail. Did you see the cover? Right out of our club program! It was great to be able to see and hear all of the detail about the new OSCAR satellite that is supposed to be launched about the day you receive this issue of the SPARK GAPS. We had a terrific videotape of all the details of putting up our latest OSCAR and now we have nine pages of technical details covered in QST for June.

If you listen to KA2UGQ's relay of the WESTLINK report on Sunday evening at 7:30 on 145.75 MHz you have heard that the launch has been delayed to June 10th and if more problems develop it may be off for another week or so. Keep tuned to the ARRL bulletins for the latest details. Also there will be info broadcast by W5RRR on 3840 and 7165 and by W3NAN on 3860 and 14.295 at the time of launch.

NEW PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

As in years past, our club participated in this year's New Providence Memorial Day parade with a number of patriotic members. One thing different this year was the fact that we provided communications along the parade route, which the parade committee had asked us to do. Bob, W2YFM was stationed at the Methodist Church on Springfield Avenue and Pete, N2EXG was positioned at the reviewing stand in front of the Presbyterian Church also on Springfield. The progress of the parade was relayed via 2-meter handie-talkies using the club frequency. There were 44 clubs or organizations scheduled to participate in the parade and we were number 33. At least it's nice to know we were not bringing up the rear! Our procession consisted of two club members in the lead carrying the club sign with flags, followed by a group of high-stepping members, wearing NPARC patches and carrying handie-talkies or flags. Next came the red mini-pickup truck belonging to Rick, WB2QOQ, washed and waxed just for the occasion, on which were mounted flags and signs. Along side and behind the truck were the remaining club members on foot. There were 11 members participating in the event, but next year we hope to have more people joining in. This is probably one of the only events in town in which the town citizens get a chance to look at our membership, and what we do. The weather this year was pretty good, possibly a little warm, but at least we did not have the rain of the previous weeks. At the conclusion of the parade, a number of club members paid a visit to the New Providence Senior Citizens center where delicious hot-dogs, drinks, and desserts were provided free of charge to all. All in all, it was a successful club activity, and hopefully we can continue to support the town again next year. Thanks to all people who participated in the parade, especially those members from out of town. The following club members made this club event a success: Mike - KB2BTA, Pres - N2CXE, Floyd - KA2DDG, Bob - W2EME, Pete - N2EXG, Jim - NJ2F, James - KB2FCV, Rick - WB2QOQ, Carl - N2XJ, Harry - W2YEZ, and Bob - W2YFM.

HAMFEST CALENDAR:

June 18, 1988
RARITAN VALLEY RADIO CLUB
Columbia Park, Dunellen
8:00 AM 'til 2:00 PM
Sellers: \$6.00 Lookers: \$4.00
Spouse and children free
Advance tickets \$3.00 from any club member
Details: KA2TSM 201-763-4849

STUFF FOR THE BACK SIDE OF PAGE ONE!!!!

When I finished typing everything I could think of and then formatted it into columns (43 spaces wide) I only had 54 column inches of material. I need about 12 inches of source material for each of two columns on a page so this meant that 48 inches would only fill up two complete pages and I was nowhere near having enough for a third side. Then I thought maybe I'll just print two sides, each one on a separate sheet of paper (so I have a blank side for the post office info) and send this thing out that way. Then I wanted to squeeze in the last five inches of column stuff that I already had so I decided to put something (anything) on the back of the first page. So this is where I am right now!

We need the general club info in here somewhere because this thing usually goes out to some new people who don't know all about the club. About a week ago I was monitoring both Whippany and 145.75 and I heard a fellow calling on the output of Whippany. I didn't realize this at first and then I told him to move to 145.75. In a couple of minutes he came up on 145.75 and told me that he had just gotten a new HT when he was in Hong Kong and he was trying it out. He said he had been a ham for 30 years but hadn't been on the air for many years and was not familiar with present day operation. I explained how repeaters worked etc. and asked him where he was. It turned out that he was less than a mile from me. His call is W2EYN and his handle is Norm. I told him I would send him one of our club notices so he could come down and visit the club at a meeting. He has been on the air several times since then but he has been using alkaline batteries in his HT. In Hong Kong they apparently sold him both alkaline and nicad batteries. Well the last time I talked to him he was going to get the nicads charged up and try it with them. I am sure he is going to need an outside antenna as his rubber-duddy won't make Whippany. If anyone has a spare two-meter antenna lying around maybe he could use it.

Anyway my point was that I need to put the general club info in each issue of the Spark Gaps so that newcomers to our club will know who and what we are and where and when we meet.

A few people have still not renewed their dues for 1988. If you are one of these I am putting a membership renewal form in with this copy of the Spark Gaps. If I don't hear from you (\$) I will say 73 right now! Sorry about that but at 25 cents per copy we can't really keep sending out free issues! (Do I sound like Wayne Greene?)

Well anyway - I think I have enough here to put on the back of page one. There has to be a better way to get out a club newsletter and I wonder who has found the golden solution? All suggestions gleefully accepted.

Hope to see you all at the meetings and at Field Day. 73 de K2AGI.

ON THE AIR ACTIVITIES:

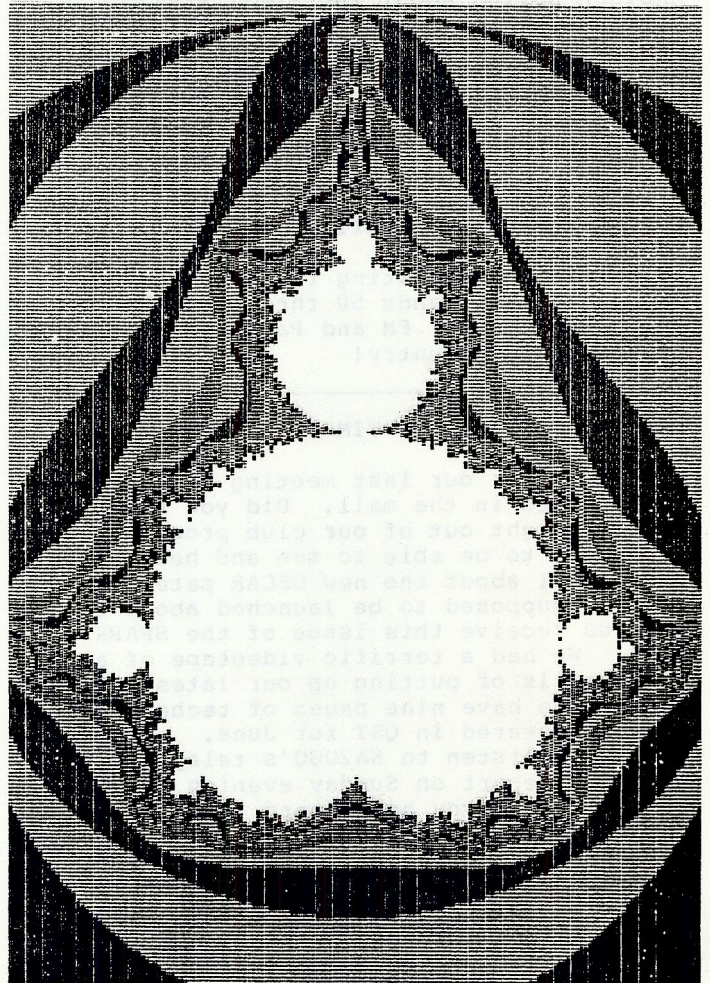
FM Phone Net Sunday Evening 9:00 PM EDT
Listen on 147.03 MHz, Transmit on 147.63
Net Control: Bob Latter W2YFM
RTTY Net Sunday Evening 8:00 PM EDT
60 WPM Baudot on 145.75 MHz
Net Control: John Sheetz K2AGI
Rusty CW Net Wednesday 9:00 PM EDT
28.150 MHz
Net Control: Floyd Harvey KA2DDG
Westlink Report Sunday 7:30 PM
145.75 MHz and 147.03 MHz by KA2UGQ

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Bob Brown W2EME
Vice President: Dick Brodeur N1ETC
Secretary: Tony Lockhart KB2BBP
Treasurer: John Sheetz K2AGI
Activities Mgr: John Sawina NA2R

MEETING SCHEDULE

Club meetings 2nd and 4th monday of each month at 8:00 PM in New Providence Memorial Library meeting room, Elkwood Avenue. The "2nd monday" meeting includes club business and the "4th monday" meeting is usually a "formal" program with a speaker and refreshments. Anyone is welcome.



THE MANDELBROT SET
(actually the white part)
Plotted by K2AGI

For Sale: Kenwood TS-520 transceiver. Covers ham bands 160 thru 10 meters. In mint condition - has never been used to transmit! Cost new \$800 asking \$500. For further details or to make offer contact Jim Palmquist, N1DRN at RFD 1, Kaime Rd., Chichester, NH 03263 or telephone at (603) 435-6082.

Don't forget the FREEBIES at Barry Cohen's shack (miscellaneous and partially finished equipment) going in the dumpster soon if no one claims it. Includes a Hewlett-Packard oscilloscope! Call Barry at 464-1730.

Run your classified ads here - if you think no one will see it what are you doing now???

 WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Ron Loneker, Sr. KA2BZS joined our club on May 23. If you attended field day last year you may have heard the high speed data coming out of the CW tent. That was really Ron making contacts. He also provided the balloons that held up our delta loop! We are glad to have Ron join us and are looking forward to some more great CW operation this year.

 TREASURER'S REPORT (FOR END OF MARCH!)

I just realized that I have never gotten around to publishing the quarterly financial report for the end of March so here it is. The next one will be for the end of June (right after field day) so we will get caught up.

Since we collect dues right around the end of the year and into the next year our annual statements are always distorted by the splitting of the income between two years. Al, K2QKV suggested collecting dues in September so that we would have them all in by the end of the calendar year. What do you all think of that idea. (Now I will find out who reads the SPARK GAPS!)

NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MARCH 31, 1988

Balance Forward 1/1/88 791.16

Income

Dues Received (this year)	448.00
Interest	12.16
Auction	236.60
ARRL Rebates	2.00
Contributions	5.00

Total Income 703.76

Expense

Postage	56.32
Total Expense	56.32

Balance 3/31/88 1438.60

John Sheetz, K2AGI, Treasurer

VIDEO RECORD OF CLUB ACTIVITIES PROPOSED

Dick, K2ASM has volunteered to do some videotaping of our field day activity. He got to talking with me about it on two-meteters and in thinking what to do with such a videotape it occurred to me that we used to have a slide projector set up at our holiday dinners with slides of field days past and the members in their shacks. With today's technology we should be doing the same thing with a video camera. This adds motion plus sound and is easy to display at a get together. We then got onto the idea of somehow going around and getting some live shots of each member in their shack with some narration or station description by each person. If there are others in the club who have video cameras or whatever you need to make a live videotape with sound let us know and maybe we can divide up the job between enough people that it can be done without too much work for anyone. The other thought that came up was that maybe this is the only way you can ever see my whole shack in one shot! The camera can have a fish-eye lens and it can pan 360 degrees! Let us know.

 K2QKV REPORTS TYPO IN LATEST ROSTER

Al, K2QKV found that the telephone area code for Paul Wickliffe, KB2BBQ was listed as 210 instead of 201. Sorry about that. In checking back it has been that way for a long time and no one had spotted it. You always hear that something is caused by computer error! Well my computer never makes an error! It is only the guy putting the stuff into it that can screw it up. I have had people's names spelled wrong and they never tell me about it. Apparently for most of us "close" is good enough! The real problem with computers is that once you put in something wrong the computer can spread the error all over the place with little effort. I retired three and a half years ago and mail still comes to my old work address. I contact the organizations that send me the mail and they can't even tell me where they get the mailing list. If I could only get to the source of these things I could stop them. Often they spell my name wrong and when I get more than one item with that misspelling on it I know it is really all from the same source.

 HEY! PEOPLE DO READ THE SPARK GAPS!!

Would you believe that there were positive responses to three requests in the last issue of the SPARK GAPS? Ernie sold his keyboard which was advertised in the FOR SALE column, a computer programmer was interviewed for the JOB OPPORTUNITY advertised and I got a response to the LOST RECORDS item looking for the names of some of the past officers of the club.

That's great to have so many dedicated readers and now how about some contributors? What would you like to see in the SPARK GAPS? What ham project have you been working on? Tell us all about it and get your name in print as an author!