

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS
NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974
ARRL Affiliated Club #0213
JUNE 1989

FIELD DAY IS THIS MONTH!!!
24TH AND 25TH OF JUNE

NPARC PARTICIPATES IN
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Let's all attend the next club meeting and get lined up for Field Day. There are a lot of final details to iron out and possibly some questions to be answered. This is our biggest activity of the year so let's all join in. There is room for everyone young or old, licensed or not. We have our chef all lined up so the most important part is already taken care of! We need lots of operators day and night. Loggers don't even need a license so there is room for everybody.

At our last meeting we saw the video tape about the Courage HANDI-HAM System. This is an organization that helps handicapped individuals get their ham licenses and obtain specialized equipment to operate their stations. They have done an amazing job with a wide diversity of handicapped individuals. They say that donations to non-profit agencies have dropped and also starting this year they are having to charge a \$10 membership fee to all members including the handicapped. They are also looking for volunteers to help local handicapped people become hams and set up their stations. We will discuss what our club would like to do in the way of contributions and help. We can make a contribution on behalf of the club and any individuals are also welcome to make their own personal contributions. Of course these are tax deductible. We have literature describing the details which will be available at the meeting.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PICNIC
SATURDAY AUGUST 19TH
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 20

Al Hirsch, K2SKV has notified us that the date for our annual picnic is all set. He and Martha will have their place all ready. They have a slight problem with a leak in the pool but hopefully it will be fixed by picnic time.

A food coordinator is needed to make sure that everyone doesn't bring the same kind of beans. We will look for a volunteer at one of our meetings.

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. Note: If our normal meeting night is a holiday we generally meet the next night.

This Memorial day was considered one of the top 10 days of the year as far as the weather was concerned, which made it an ideal day for the annual New Providence Memorial Day Parade. There were nine club members participating in the event this year, not quite as many as last year, but those that were present did an excellent job of representing the club. Our entry in the parade, as last year, consisted of our club sign, decorated with flags, carried by Jim and Scott. Behind them were our members on foot with handie-talkies, wearing their club patches; followed by the little red pickup truck driven by Rick. The truck was washed and waxed the previous day, just for the occasion. Signs and flags were affixed to the sides and rear of the truck. There seemed to be more spectators along the parade route this year, which was much appreciated. The members were cheered in a number of locations along the way. The group used 145.75 MHz. for communications along the parade route. Bob W2YFM, was involved in setting up a PA system in front of the Methodist church for a presentation, and he kept us informed on how the parade was progressing. Our group was #35 in the parade lineup, so we were quite a ways back. There also was a Morse code audio oscillator on the front of the truck, and a key located inside the truck, and cw was sent along the route. After the parade a number of people went over to the senior citizens center for free hotdogs, drinks and goodies. It turned out to be a successful club event, and next year it would be nice to see more participation from the membership. Thanks to the following members for making the event a success. Press N2CXE, Floyd KA2DDG, Bob W2EME, Jim NJ2F, Jim KB2FCV, Scott KB2GDN, Rick WB200Q, Carl N2XJ, and Harry W2YEZ.

MEETING ATTENDANCE PAYS OFF!

At a recent club meeting Gordon Dart brought in a circulating pump motor for a heating system. He asked who in the audience had such a heating system at home. Dick Wolff, K2ASM held up his hand and was given the motor. Believe it or not, about a week later Dick's wife Marian, KA2EAH told him that something had fallen out of the furnace. Dick took a look and found that one of his circulating pump motors had literally disintegrated and was on the floor in pieces. He popped in the gift motor and it all worked fine. Now that is a real case of timing and a few other things! It just shows that you never know what you are going to gain by attending a meeting.

DUNELLEN FLEA MARKET
SATURDAY JUNE 17TH

The Raritan Valley Radio Club is again sponsoring their annual flea market in Columbia Park, Dunellen. Starting time is 8:00 AM. Admission \$4, spouse and children free. Seller's spots (no tables) \$6. This is an all outdoors affair selling directly from your car so you don't have to lug your stuff in and out of anywhere. (good for big transformers etc.!) Refreshments are available. Talk-in on 146.025/625 and 146.52. For reservations call Dave, KA2TSM at 763-4849 or John WA2C at 968-5070.

SUSSEX COUNTY ARC HAMFEST
AUGUSTA, NJ
SUNDAY JULY 16

The Sussex County Amateur Radio Club's 11th annual hamfest will be held starting at 8:00 AM on Sunday, July 16th at the Sussex County Fair Grounds, Plains Road off Route 206, Augusta, NJ. Registration \$3.00. Sellers: indoors with table \$7.00, outdoor tailgating \$5.00. Talk-in 147.90/30 and 146.52 simplex.

SPRING FOX HUNT DRAWS LARGE TURNOUT!

Where was everyone on Sunday May 21st? It was a beautiful day. As the starting gun was about to go off K2AGI and crew already had the fox hunt sewed up - only one car participating! Just at the last minute (maybe a minute late) competition showed up in the form of W2EME with N2EFR in the car. From there on it was quite a hunt. The primary problem in this hunt was to find any signal at all. It turned out that the fox, NJ2F, had prepared all equipment in advance and got out to the den only to discover that he had no microphone! In typical ham expediency the fox decided to make do with a battery operated HT! Luckily he did have a quarter wave mag-mount whip on the trunk of the car so the HT was patched into that. The two hunt cars took off in a blast from the Bell Labs parking lot heading generally east (sort of). Every once in a while a signal could be heard out of the noise. Once in a while in a particular spot we could actually copy the signal. By the way, K2AGI was accompanied by Bob Barns as the doppler interpreter and John, W2WKL checking the maps. Since this is being written by K2AGI I can give you more intimate details of our adventures than of W2EME and N2EFR. We worked our way east through Summit and then down to Route 22. We continued east to 82 and went down to Kean College. By this time we figured that the signal was sort of behind us. We circled around several times and each time we crossed under or over the Garden State Parkway we thought "gee whizz, he wouldn't be on the parkway?" We were in the Clark and Cranford area and we were actually able to read the signal most of the time. This is the closing in part of the hunt. We were confronted with one-way streets which caused a bunch of maneuvering around to go the "wrong way". Obviously

when you come to a one-way street the signal is in the wrong-way direction. We have now been cruising for about an hour and a half. We are in territory we have never seen before. (This is where the fox always hides) Not really knowing where we were we were buzzing along beside a big river (turned out to be the Passaic) and the S-meter was actually starting to go up! Whipping around a bend the signal was pinning the meter and suddenly Bob Barns reported that it was behind us. We had gone right by the fox! A quick U-turn and back a few hundred yards we saw the signal suddenly jump from front to rear! There along the bank of the river where people were fishing was a strange car with a quarter wave whip on the trunk! So it was 2:45 and we pulled in with something like 35 miles racked up on the odometer. We were in Winfield - did you ever hear of that? If you look on your map right between exits 135 and 136 on the GS Parkway right across the river there is a "peninsula" and the fox was on the bank of the river. About a half-hour later, just as the two-hour deadline was approaching, around the bend came a car with a funny looking antenna sticking out of the window. Bob and Ernie had come in just under the wire. To the best of my knowledge this is the first hunt in which none of the participants had any clues or other help in finding the fox. Now you see what the rest of you all missed? Start working on those D-F antennas for the great fall fox hunt. We usually have one around October so you have plenty of time. Let's get with it. If you don't know what to do just ask someone who has been out on a hunt. It's really a ball.

SWAP AND SHOP GOODIES

FOR SALE:

Solid state frequency counter, Weston Model 1250. 5 digit LED display good to 32 MHz. Plus a 300 MHz prescaler which will extend range of counter up to 300 MHz. Counter is small size and operates from 117 volts AC. June Special Price \$65. Call Rick, WB2QOQ at 464-8911.

WANTED FROM OUR AUCTION:

Would like to contact the person who bought all of Bill King's loop antennas. Would like to purchase one of them. Please contact Dick Wolff, K2ASM either on the Whippany repeater or at 663-1415. If you can't reach Dick please call John Sheetz at 464-5671 or on 145.75 MHz.

FOR SALE:

Cush-Craft A-4 Tri-Band Beam, 4 elements, 18 ft. boom, 20-15-10 meter coverage, 9 dB gain. Includes manual and 9-foot heavy duty mast. Good condition, needs a few plastic caps for traps which are readily available. Call Ernie Kolb at 665-0141.

MOBILE 2-METER RIG WANTED:

Bob Barns (who expects to become a ham very soon) is looking for a 2-meter mobile rig. If you have one, or know where he can get one, give him a call at 464-6785.

MYSTERY SIGNAL ON 2-METERS

While monitoring the "club frequency" 145.75 MHz I have been hearing noise bursts that sound like a squelch tail. I am suspicious that there is a synthesized transmitter somewhere that is going on the air before its synthesizer settles down and reaches the intended operating frequency. I had a definite case of this about a year ago from a couple of fellows operating packet up at 145.770. That time I heard the actual signal with another receiver at the same time that I would hear the burrp on 145.75. The other station demonstrated the same condition by just pressing the push-to-talk button on his transceiver. Obviously the transmitter was coming on the air while the synthesizer was still pulling on to frequency and it was sweeping by 145.75 as it did it.

I have borrowed Jim Stekas' "poor man's spectrum analyzer" which he demonstrated at one of our club meetings. I hope to hear the burrp on my monitor receiver and at the same time see what new carrier appears on the spectrum analyzer display. No luck so far. Of course by Murphy's law it turns out that whenever I am watching the scope the burrp doesn't occur. When I have everything shut down there is the burrp! My other problem is that the resolution of the spectrum analyzer as it stands is not narrow enough to separate two signals less than about a half a megahertz apart so the repeater portion of the 2-meter band is almost always just a big wide "signal". Maybe we can sharpen up the resolution. It is a lot of fun to watch the signals come and go on the 2-meter band. If anyone else has heard these blurps I would like to know about it because maybe it is just something very local to me.

K2AGI

PERPETUAL REMINDER

If you are renewing your membership in, or joining the ARRL always remember to do so through our club. We receive a \$2 rebate for each renewal or a \$5 rebate for each new membership if you handle it through the club. When your renewal comes due just send the form along with a check made out to NPARC to John Sheetz and the club will take care of the rest. If you want to join the ARRL John Sheetz also has the necessary membership forms.

Postscript:

Thanks to Rick WB2QOQ for writing up the Memorial Day Parade report. If other members of the club would submit items for the Spark Gaps I could fill the rest of this page. Keep it in mind. Thanks es 73 de K2AGI

K2AGI GETS NEW PRIMARY FREQUENCY STANDARD!

On the Friday before Memorial Day weekend I had a pacemaker installed to stabilize a drifting local oscillator. I went into Overlook hospital on Thursday, got the pacemaker on Friday and came home on Sunday! My pacemaker has been programmed for 60 beats per minute and it appears to be very precise. It sends a negative pulse to the heart which has a repetition rate of exactly one second (in my case) and a duration of .5 milliseconds. This is a very fast rise and fall time pulse which has an amplitude of about a quarter of a volt at the surface of the skin. I will bring my oscilloscope to the club meeting and let you all see what a precise "heartbeat" I have. I have yet to send my waveform over the telephone to the doctor but that is coming up. I'll have further update reports in future issues. Keep tuned.

de K2AGI

ON THE AIR ACTIVITIES:

FM Phone Net Sunday Evening 9:00 PM
Listen on 147.03 MHz, Transmit on 147.63
Net Control: Bob Latter W2YFM

RTTY Net Sunday Evening 8:00 PM
60 WPM Baudot on 145.75 MHz
Net Control: John Sheetz K2AGI

Rusty CW QSO Wednesday 9:00 PM
28.150 MHz, Call "CQ NPARC"

Ten Meter Sideband Nets
Wednesday Evening 8:00 PM, 28.410 MHz
Net Control: Scott Killian KB2GDN
Saturday Evening 8:00 PM, 28.410 MHz
Net Control: Adam Davis KB2GEG

Packet BBS 145.01 KA2UGQ-4 (Berkeley Hts.)
SYSOP Tom Brown KA2UGQ

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Harry Kundrat W2YEZ
Vice President: Tony Lockhart KB2BBP
Secretary: Pat Casey N2FXA
Treasurer: John Sheetz K2AGI
Activities Mgr: Jim Stekas NJ2F

SPARK GAPS EDITOR: John Sheetz K2AGI