

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area
VOLUME 43 March, 2008 NO. 3

N2XJ
Club Callsign



Meeting on Monday the 11th, 7:30 pm at the Salt Brook School featuring a presentation on batteries by K2JV and a talk about a trip to WOR by KB2FCV.

President's Column by James, KB2FCV



February has been a pretty busy month for 2008. We were pretty lucky with the weather for the most part except for one important day - February 22, the day of our auction. It was the first time I can remember in my 19 years of being an NPARC member that we've had to cancel the auction due to the weather. It wasn't an easy decision to make but we decided to play it safe and re-schedule for March 14th. Some other notable things for February: Several of our members contacted the Dulcie Island VP6DX Dxpediton. Also in February, yours truly hit the 20 year mark for being a ham! I received my Novice ticket in February of 1988. It's hard to believe that time goes by so fast; it doesn't seem like it was that long ago. Also, Barry K2JV gave a great talk on batteries for our first meeting of February after my slideshow of WOR transmitter photos and for the second February meeting, Andy gave a great demonstration of the N2PK Network Analyzer. It was interesting to inspect our Field Day filters. Thanks Andy and Barry for your talks.

Speaking of contacting VP6DX, Andy WA2DKJ and I had a mini-Field Day (Field Evening?) up at Governor Livingston High School on the last evening of operations of the Dxpediton. As some of you know, I run indoor antennas at my current QTH and they just weren't cutting it. After talking with Andy, he came up with the idea to head up to GL and attempt a QSO — at 9:30pm! We met up there near our usual Field Day location, got a dipole up in the air, and worked them running 5 watts on 40M and 30M CW! I'll add we did this with the blessing of the custodial staff. It was certainly a lot of fun and our efforts were rewarded by a few Smarties candies (one of my vices?). The Clipperton TX5C Dxpediton starts soon, so perhaps there will be another trip to GL!

(continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

March is here and our rescheduled Auction is coming up on the 14th. Spring also starts in March which means a few things - Hamfests and Field Day is just around the corner! Another event we are planning for is the June VHF Contest. More details on that soon, but it's never too early to start thinking about Field Day.

73, James KB2FCV

NAMES TO BE REMEMBERED

As a general statement it could be said that if you walked into any home in the United States and asked, who are the historical giants that have had an enormous impact on world history, you would undoubtedly get answers that would vary from Genghis Kahn to Li'l Abner. But ask, who was Jack Kirby, and you will get nothing but blank looks. His name ranks with those of Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, John Bardeen, William Shockley, Walter Brattain and Robert Noyce. The list is almost endless of those whose basic scientific concepts have had a revolutionary effect upon our everyday lives.

Jack Kilby was an engineer, who began work with Texas Instrument in 1958, with a background in ceramic-based silk screen circuit boards and transistor-based hearing aids. This year marks the 50th anniversary of his successful use of germanium mesa p-n-p transistor slices to form transistor, capacitor, and resistor regions. Thus the first germanium based integrated circuit was born. Using fine gold "flying wires," he connected them to demonstrate an oscillator function and a week later produced an amplifier. This success was followed up by Texas Instrument's first commercial offering, the Type 502 Solid Circuit Microelectronic Binary Flip-Flop, and as "they" say, "the rest is history". For his efforts Jack Kilby received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in 2000.

However, Jack was not alone in his success with the integrated circuit concept as another gentleman at Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation named Robert Noyce was successfully completing his work on a silicon based integrated circuit. Both these individuals applied for patents in 1959. Noyce received patent # 2,981,877 and Kilby received patent # 3,138,743. Therefore, Robert Noyce is considered to be the inventor of the integrated circuit, but in truth it was a flat-out tie.

Jack Kilby, who passed away in 2005, holds patents on over sixty(60) inventions and is also well known as the inventor of the portable calculator (1967). In 1970 he was awarded the National Medal of Science. Robert Noyce, who passed away in 1990, with 16 patents to his name founded Intel, Incorporated, the company responsible for the invention of the microprocessor, in 1968. But for both men the invention of the integrated circuit stands historically as one of the most important innovations of mankind. Almost all modern products use chip technology.

James M. Brown
WB2EDO

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30 - 9:15 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence.

4th Monday each month: 7:30 - 9:15
Informal Project Meeting, 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.

Club Officers for 2008

President: KB2FCV James Kern
908-219-4016
Vice Pres: KQ2E Bruce Havourd
908-277-2861
Secretary: WB2EDO Jim Brown
973-829-1892
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2IZK Vince Lobosco
908-322-4512
Past President: K2AL Al Hanzl
908-464-1323

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency
145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net
Murray Hill Repeater at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
with PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control: K2AL

K2AGI Memorial Digital Net
Various evenings 8:00 to 9:00 PM
Various Modes 145.75 MHz
Info Contact: AB2WF Scott

Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974

©NPARC 2008 All Rights Reserved

ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

Editor: KQ2E, Bruce Havourd

Editor Emeritus: WA2DKJ, Andy Stillinger

Contributing Editors:

KC2RLM, Ralph Milnes

WB2QOQ, Rick Anderson



Regular Meeting Dates for the Next Few Months

Courtesy of Al, K2AL

The following dates are approved for use of the Salt
Brook School Cafeteria for NPARC meetings:

April 14 & 28

May 12 & 27 (Tuesday)

June 9 & No second meeting location scheduled so far

Climatological Data for New Providence for February 2008

The following information is provided by Rick, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 26 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this February, 64 deg. F (February 6)

Last February(2007) maximum was 47 deg. F.

Average Maximum temperature this February, 39.4 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this February, 8 deg. F (February 11)

Last February(2007) minimum was 5 deg. F.

Average Minimum temperature this February, 25.3 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 2 deg. (31-29 deg.) 2/16

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 30 deg. (62-32 deg.) 2/18

Average temperature this February, 32.4 deg. F

Average temperature last February, 25.3 deg. F

Number of days, this February, with temperatures 32 deg. or above — 23

Number of days, last February, with temperatures 32 deg. or above — 14

Number of days, this February, with temperatures below 32 degs. — 4

Number of days, last February, with temperatures below 32 degs. — 14

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this February — 6.22" rain/melted snow, 8.75" snow

Total precipitation last February — 0.85" rain/melted snow, 6.38" snow

Maximum one day precip. event this February — February 13, 2.5" rain;
Feb. 22, 6.25" snow.

Measurable rain fell on 10 days this February.

Days with Precip. 1.00"+ = 4

=====

Rick Anderson

3/12/08