

# Mountain Spark Gaps

New Providence Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 813  
New Providence, NJ 07974

March, 1986

## Nets:

FM Phone 145.750 MHz Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EST Bill King, W2LTJ  
RTTY 145.750 MHz Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EST John Sheetz, K2AGI  
CW 28.150 MHz Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EST Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

**Monday, March 10:** Regular business meeting. Ned Hines KA2EEB will be talking on Antennas: How and why antennas work and the effective installation of antenna setups.

**Monday, March 24:** Regular fourth-Monday meeting. There will be a short period of questions and answers, descriptions of member's construction projects, and other topics of current interest.

NPARC meetings are held on the second and fourth-Mondays of every month in the basement of the New Providence Memorial Library (Elkwood Road, across the street from the New Providence Municipal Center) at 8:00 PM.

## NPARC SHOULDER PATCH IDEA

Pres Conrad N2CXE has developed a round backing with a safety catch for attaching to the "famous" NPARC shoulder patches. With this add-on, you can easily pin your patch to any shirt or jacket. If you would like to have a round backing for your shoulder patch, simply bring it to one of the NPARC meetings or send it through the mail to Pres. If you don't yet have a shoulder patch, they are \$1.50 (\$3 for two!) and can be obtained from John Sheetz K2AGI at any meeting.

RTTY PICTURE OF THE MONTH  
The Bug



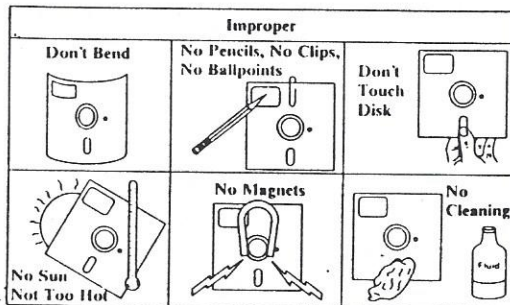
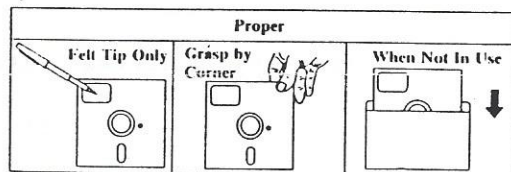
## NOVICE COURSE TO BE HELD

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club plans to hold a 12-week course leading to a Novice license. Sessions will start Saturday, March 8, at 10:00 AM in the meeting room of the New Providence Memorial Library on Elkwood Avenue.

All those interested should contact either Bill King W2LTJ at 377-5653 or Bob Latter W2YFM at 665-0479. There is NO age requirement -- ANYONE may obtain an Amateur Radio License. Come to the course and join the fun of Amateur Radio!

## FLOPPY DISK CARE AND FEEDING

Floppy disks are very susceptible to damage by mishandling and improper storage. Here is a good set of guidelines for handling floppy disks to prevent data from being damaged:



## PACKET RADIO IS DELT BLOW BY FCC

*(The following is reprinted with permission from GATEWAY - The ARRL Packet-Radio Newsletter - Volume 2, Number 12, page 2.)*

When the Federal Communications Commission adopted and released its Report and Order in PR docket 85-105, members of the Commission apparently had not taken to heart the motto; -- "That government is best which governs the least."

In its recent Report and Order, the Commission found that neither the speed with which a message is transmitted, nor the operating mode, justified any deviation from the rule requiring that the control operator of an Amateur station be present at the control point whenever a station engages in third party traffic. If allowed to stand, this will have a direct and detrimental effect on the future of packet radio, particularly PBBS/Gateway operation. Any digipeater serving a mailbox, handling NTS traffic or any other public service third party traffic will require a control operator be present. This is spelled out in 85-105 where the Commission states "...we affirm our present rule that requires the control operator be present at the control point whenever the station is engaging in third-party traffic."

We received the following report from NI6A about this dilemma. "We have already gotten mixed reactions here in the Bay area. One club that sponsors a mailbox and had their trustee request a change of callsign. Another mailbox group has cancelled their order for a new TNC and radio, and are wondering if they should do anything until further rulings are given. More than one NTS traffic handler has told me 'I guess this is the end of NTS and Packet.' Our group which runs two digipeaters and one mailbox (and was planning one more of each) has mixed feelings. Some members want to continue the status quo while others want to go off-the-air."

Over the past few days since PBBS activity on the HF bands seems to have dwindled considerably. It seems as though some PBBS operators are already concerned over the Commission's response to third party traffic. PBBS operators are reminded that you cannot leave a radio on-the-air, if it is attached to an unattended device, if that station is engaged in the transmission of messages that were not originated by that station.

What will be the response from the ARRL to 85-105? The ARRL is deeply concerned about the FCC action in the matter of the automatic-control docket. At its most recent meeting in Newington, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to oppose the restrictions on packet radio and imposed by the FCC. According to minute 53 of its annual meeting the board states:

"53) On motion of Mr. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Ferdinand, it was VOTED that the President take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to cause FCC Docket 85-105 to be amended to correct its restrictive and crippling effect on the development of packet radio and packet-radio emergency communications caused by requirements for the control operator to be present at domestic intermediary relay points for the transmission of third-party traffic."

Accordingly, the ARRL will file a Petition for Reconsideration on or about February 24th. Additionally, President Price, Executive Vice President Sumner and Washington Area Coordinator Williams will travel to Washington to discuss the matter with the Commissioners or members of their personal staff.

*(The following information is outdated as the deadline was February 24th)*

If you plan to file for reconsideration, it would be a good idea to coordinate with ARRL beforehand. Please contact:

Perry Williams, W1UED  
ARRL HQ, 225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111

At a minimum, please send a copy of any such filings to Mr. Williams.

Our direction seems well defined and our task enormous. If we are to turn the tide on this archaic regulation we must stand united and inundate the Commission with our comments and objections.

Perry Williams, W1UED, may have summed it up best when he said; "It is clearly a place where technology has outdistanced regulation -- and technology has lost!"

Perhaps, but I think not.

Ed Raso, WA2FTC -- GATEWAY Editor



## HAMFEST WATCH

**March 14 (Friday):** The Splitrock Amateur Radio Association's first annual Hamfest, VFW Post 3401, Tabor Road (Route 53), Morris Plains. Starts 7 PM. Admission \$1. Sellers tables \$7. Suggest advance booking. Free parking. Talk-in on 146.385 (+600). For information: SARA, P.O. Box 3, Whippany, NJ 07981.

**March 22 (Saturday):** The Chestnut Ridge Radio Club's 9th annual Flea Market, Education Building, Saddle River Reformed Church, East Saddle River Road and Weiss Road, Upper Saddle River. Tables \$10 first, \$5 each additional. Tailgating \$5. Contact John Meagher W2EHD at 768-8360.

**March 22 (Saturday):** Shore Points ARC invites everyone to Springfest '86, 9 AM to 2 PM, Atlantic County 4H Center, Egg Harbor City. Indoor selling space and covered tailgating. Sellers \$5 per day (bring own table). Buyers \$2.50 advance, \$3 at door. Talk-in on 146.985 and 146.52. For information: SPARC, P.O. Box 142, Absecon, NJ 08201.

**March 23 (Sunday):** The Delaware Valley Radio Association's 14th annual Flea Market, Amateur Radio and Computer equipment, 8 AM to 2 PM, New Jersey National Guard, 112th Field Artillery Armory, Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrence Township. Advance registration \$3 by March 10. \$4 at door. Sellers bring own tables. Talk in on 146.07 (+600) repeater. For registration and/or spaces send SASE to KB2ZY, Box 441B, RD-1, Stockton, NJ 08559

**April 6 (Sunday):** The Old Bridge Amateur Radio Association's annual indoor/outdoor electronic Flea Market, Knights of Columbus Hall, Pine Street, Old Bridge. Sellers contact Bob Navin N2DFJ at 251-6449 or Sam Ugliarolo WB2HAE at 583-2158. Talk-in on 147.12 (-600)

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## CW NET - DON'T FORGET

Don't forget to check into the Rusty CW net every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on 28.150 MHz! Net coordinator is Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG.

## NPARC CLASSIFIEDS

For sale by Bay Rowan W2GKF:

Gasoline generator - Output 115 volts AC, 300 watts. Made by Jacobsen Manufacturing, Ravier, Wisconsin. \$75

For sale by Bob Brown W2EME:

o Model 15 KSR Teletype terminal - Free to any club member who will use it to get on RTTY

o Teletype Model 14 series paper tape reader and puncher.

Contact Bob at 464-7958 for more info.

For sale by Bill King W2LTJ:

QST Magazines from 1930 to 1966! Make an offer and take all of them. If you are interested, call Bill at 377-5653.

WANTED by Bill Lott KA2VHB:

Antenna tuner. Contact Bill at 464-4299.

If you would like to place a WANTED/FOR SALE ad in the Mountain Spark Gaps, please contact Tom Brown KA2UGQ on the club frequency or call 464-7958 and relay the information.

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## UPGRADES

Congratulations to George Hanchett W2YM and Lin Hulin W2GZZ for upgrading to EXTRA class!

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## UPCOMING NPARC MEETINGS/EVENTS

April 14: Power transmission line radio control and power RFI/TVI.

April 26: Set clocks ahead one hour!

May 12: RF radiation hazards/RF radiation safety in the ham shack.

June 9: Field day planning meeting

June 28-29: **FIELD DAY**

September 8: Lightning protection for the home and the ham shack.