

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)**

**May 2013
Volume 56 No. 5**

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

5/8/23 Business Meeting

5/22/23 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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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence for March 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 temperature this March, 64 deg. F
(March 22)
Last March(2022) maximum was 73 deg. F.
Average Maximum temperature this March, 49.8 deg. F
Minimum temperature this March, 24 deg. F
(March 20)
Last March(2022) minimum was 18 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this March, 33.1 deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature [range, 6 deg.\(43 -37 deg.\)3/13](#)

Maximum diurnal temperature range, [28 deg.\(58-30 deg.\)3/21](#)

Average temperature this March, 41.5 deg. F
Average temperature last March, 42.7 deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this March- 3.27" rain/
snow melt; 2.30" snow
Total precipitation last March- 2.53" rain/
snow melt; 2.60" snow

Maximum one day precip. event this March-

[March 4, 0.88" rain.](#) Mar. 7, 1.5" snow.

[Measurable rain fell on 13 days this](#)

[March, 12 days last March.](#)

Measurable snow fell on 3 days this March, 2 days last March.

YTD Precipitation - [6.55"](#)

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Rick Anderson

4/24/2023

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

Activity is proceeding apace to prepare for Field Day. We are well along with lining up support for advertising and bonus points (K2AL), outfitting the food tent (KC2OSR), and we have managers identified for the VHF (WB2QOQ + K2AL) and HF (N2TO + KB2FCV) stations. Training sessions for operating the FD stations have also been given (KC2MTN).

We have been conducting some propagation tests before the weekly digital and CW nets on 10m. Between 8:30 and 9:00pm net control calls CQ on 160, 80, and 40m and signal reports are exchanged. The test results show the following:

- 160m seems to have the worst coverage. Few of us can put out a good signal on 160m
- 80m is better than 160m, but not that much better. Antennas are a challenge on 80m.
- 40m seems to offer the best coverage of all the bands tested.
- 10m coverage is a bit worse than 40m.

For stations in New Providence and adjacent zip codes everyone is 599+ above 160m.

There has been a very good response to the NPARC rig survey. Our members seem to acquire radios in the manner cat fanciers acquire cats. They have either one, two, or a great many. NPARC should easily be able to fill our two tables at the Sussex hamfest.

73,

New Providence Memorial Day Parade



NPARC members are invited to participate in this years Memorial Day Parade, taking place on Monday, May 29. Our club has participated in this town event, for many years, though it was cancelled two years; during the Covid pandemic.

This is the one public event where hundreds of town's people get to see the club members, and a good attendance from our members is most welcomed.

The Gator Gadget, a Handy Soldering Aid

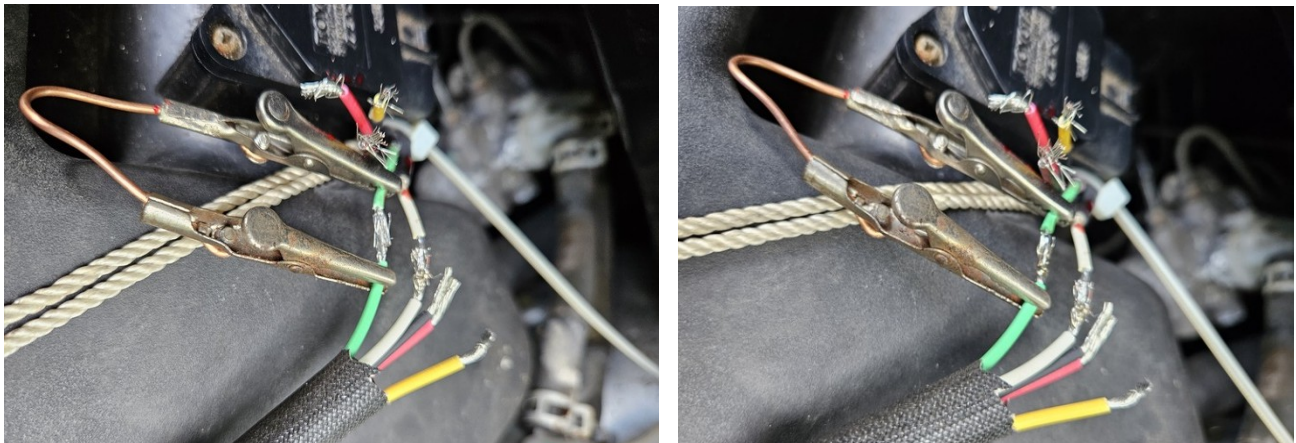
Jim Stekas - K2UI

When my kids were in elementary school one of the events we looked forward to was the annual “Invention Convention”. Kids from K-6 displayed their inventions in the gym/auditorium/cafeteria for fellow classmates and parents. Inventions fell into two broad categories: those conceived and built by kids, and those created by parents. Invariably the kids showed far more imagination and creativity than the parents. But the parents showed high levels of conformity and neatness which invariably seduced the judges. I guess that’s to be expected in a modern school where proper margins and heading count for 50% of an assignment grade.

I previously described how I was victimized by Murphy’s law while working on my van¹. To repair a mouse gnawed cable I bought a replacement on Amazon, cut off one of the connectors and spliced it to the gnawed cable end. Murphy’s final insult was that I had spliced on the wrong connector!

To finish repairs on my I needed to splice some multi-stranded wires together in a tight space. I am used to the requirement of three hands when soldering, but this job required four hands. One to hold wire #1, a second to hold wire #2, a third to hold the soldering iron, and a fourth to feed the solder. In a pinch I find that holding the solder in my mouth solves the 3rd hand problem², but that would still leave me one hand short.

To solve the problem I channeled my internal third grader and came up with an simple but effective solution worthy of the Invention Convention. I call it the “Gator Gadget”.



The figure at left shows my Gator Gadget holding wires for soldering. The multiple strands are spread, interleaved, and pressed together. Releasing one of the two alligator clips allows fine adjustment of the wire overlap. The Gator Gadget holds the wires together firmly while soldering, allowing a good electrical and mechanical splice (right).

1 <http://nparc.org/newsletters/Nov22MSG.pdf#page=6>

2. This dumb practice undoubtedly contaminated my body with lead and closed off any prospect of winning the Nobel Prize.