

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



Volume 27

MAY 1992

No. 5

Notes From Dayton Hamvention Attendees

Dayton in the Rain
by Al Hirsch, K2SKV

The 1992 Dayton Hamvention is now history.

All of the NPARC gang that went agree that our field day in NJ will now have to share the honor of being called the event that is held on the last rainy weekend of the month - with Dayton. Yes. it rained. Three days of rain. Barry, K2JV, was talking about converting his van to an ark.

The TV news said that about 40,000 people were expected to be in attendance. I think that's about right. Whenever it rained (frequently), all 40k quickly moved inside to the Icom exhibit. They were giving away the most stuff. I didn't want to get my feet wet, so I just picked them up off the ground when I got near the door and rode with the crowd and landed smack in the middle of Icom. Would have preferred Yaesu - but you go

Continued on page 4

Packet Cluster Network and Field Day

For those of you who were unable to attend the Morris Radio Club meeting about a month ago, we have obtained Rich Wujciak, K2RW, to put on his excellent talk describing the Tri-State DX Packet Cluster Network. By now we have all heard packet and if you want to know what it is coming from and where it is going Rich can tell you. This will be the subject of our Main Program meeting which is being held on TUESDAY May 26th because of the Memorial Day holiday. Mark your calendars.

At our first meeting of the month, on Monday May 13th we will be reviewing our plans for this year's field day. It is coming up sooner than you might think. It is the next to the last weekend in June on the 20th and 21st. This is only 3 weeks and 4 days after our last May meeting so we have to GET GOING!

Fox Hunt Planned for Sunday May 17th

In view of the fact that May 10th is Mother's Day we have decided to move our scheduled Spring Fox Hunt a week later to May 17th. This also happens to be the same day as the Warminster Hamfest but you can't win 'em all. With activities piled up as heavily as we have had them there really hasn't been time to promote a hidden transmitter hunt. If you want to take part in this activity you really have to put some time in on preparation before the day of the hunt! If you would like to try your hand at hunting but have not "gotten around" to preparing any equipment we are sure that there are perfectly good pieces of the needed gear among our club members. Be

sure to come to the meeting on May 11th and express your desires. We'll try and find something for you.

This will be a "conventional" fox hunt done in the same manner as we have done in the past. We will add one bit of additional information and that is that the maximum radius from the starting point will be drastically reduced. There is little use in everyone racing to an area ten miles away and then spending two to three hours going in

Continued on page 3



**New Providence
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 813
New Providence
NJ 07974-0813
ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

All of our club members wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Bob Crawford, W2JLH, who lost his wife Marlon on Friday April 24th.

Meeting Schedule

Our club meetings are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 PM, in the basement meeting room of the New Providence Memorial Library, Elkwood Avenue. This is one block north of Springfield Avenue and one block east of Passaic St. Anyone is welcome. Note: if our normal meeting night is a holiday we usually meet the next night.

On the Air Club Activities:

Club Operating Frequency
145.75 MHz simplex phone
FM Phone Net
Sunday Evening 9:00 PM
On the Whippany repeater
Listen on 147.03 MHz,
Transmit on 147.63
Net Control: Bob, KB2IKC

RTTY Net

Sunday Evening 8:00 PM
60 WPM Baudot, 145.75 MHz
Net Control: John, K2AGI

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

Club Officers for 1992

President:

.....Barry Cohen K2JV
(908) 464-1730

Vice President:

.....Walt Creuz W2CIY
(201) 635-7920

Secretary:

.....Bob Barns KB2IKC
(908) 464-6785

Treasurer:

.....John Sheetz K2AGI
(908) 464-5671

Activities Manager:

.....Guy Brenert K2EFB
(908) 754-3204

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Editor-in-Chief:

.....John Sheetz K2AGI

Contributing Editors:

.....Rick Anderson WB2QOQ
.....Bob Barns KB2IKC

Mailing Address:

P O Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974-0813

Climatological Data for New Providence for April 1992

The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 10 years.

Maximum temperature for April, 81°F (Apr. 21st)

Minimum temperature for April, 28°F (Apr. 13th)

Average temperature for the month, 49.9°F; which is 2.0 deg. above the average temperature of 51.9° for April for the past 10 years.

Heating degree days for April, 460

Heating degree days last April, 354

Heating degree days last month (Mar.), 812

Heating degree days this heating season, at the end of April, 4857, which is 393 degree days more than at the same time last year.

Total liquid equivalent precipitation for the month, 1.74 in.
No snow fell during the month of April.

Hamfests

SNJ ARES, NTS & SKYWARN Section Repeater System.

Saturday May 9th, Cherry Hill, NJ. National Guard Armory, Haddonfield Rd. Sellers 6 AM, public 8 AM to 3 PM. Admission \$2 with SASE or \$3 at the door. Spouses and children under 12 free. Flea market spaces \$3.

Warminster ARC

Sunday May 17th, Wrightstown, PA. Vendors 6 AM, public 7 AM. Admission \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Talk-in 147.69/09

Hall of Science ARC

Sunday May 17th, Hall of Science Parking Lot, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, New York. 9 AM. Sellers 7:30 AM. Buyers \$5, Sellers \$8 per space.

Bergen ARA - Hudson Division Convention

Saturday June 6th, Teaneck, NJ. 7 AM to 4 PM. Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. 1000 River Rd., Rte 4 at the University exit. Admission \$5, spouses and children under 12 free. Tables \$30. Talk-in on 146.19/.79, 146.10/.70. Contact Jim Joyce, K2ZO, 201-664-6725; no calls after 10 PM.

Newington Amateur Radio League

Sunday, June 7th, Newington High School, Newington, Connecticut. 9 AM to 2 PM, Admission \$3, Tables advance \$10, at door \$15.

Raritan Valley RC

Saturday June 13th, Watchung Hills High School, Warren, NJ. 8 AM to 2 PM. Admission \$5, Sellers Indoor Tables \$12, Outdoor Spaces \$7. Indoor table registration must be pre-paid and received by June 1, 1992. Make check payable to R.V.R.C. and mail to Guy, KE2CG, 240 Grant Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854. (This is where we sold George Diehl's equipment last year.)

Memorial Day Parade Coming Up

The annual New Providence Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday May 25th. We need all of the participation we can get. Rick, W2OKO, will have "the little red truck" all decorated and needs communicators to walk and ride. As we did last year, everyone is requested to wear one of our "official" yellow club hats with the club emblem stitched on the front and to wear white shirts and dark blue trousers.

Gathering time for the parade will be at 9:30 AM on Central Avenue near Pearl Street. Look for the #23 sign at the curb. We will be using the club frequency, 145.75 MHz for parade communications.

Armed Forces Day Saturday May 16th

If you are interested in some unusual cross band operating or in receiving a special QSL card or certificate see the details on page 128 of QST for May.

The 43rd anniversary of this annual event is an opportunity even for SWL's to obtain a certificate for successfully receiving the Armed Forces Day Message from the Secretary of Defense.

The message will be sent in CW at 25 words per minute on several frequencies starting at 0240Z on May 17th. This is 10:40 PM EDT on May 16th. This year two RTTY broadcasts will be transmitted. The first will start at 0310Z May 17th (11:10 PM EDT, May 16th) and will be sent at 60 words per minute using 170 Hz shift. The second will begin at 0340Z May 17th (11:40 PM EDT May 16th) and will be sent at 100 words per minute using 170 Hz shift. All rules are given in the May issue of QST.

Happy Birthday to You! MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tony Lockhart KB2BBP 16th
Doug Phillips 18th
Harry Kundrat W2YEZ 20th
Andy Stillinger WA2DKJ 23rd
Bob Crawford W2JLH 25th
Dave Barr KD2YG 30th

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Barry Cohen N2JV 2nd
Jim Stekas NJ2F 3rd
Rick Anderson WB2QOQ 6th
Charlie Byers N0ONI 7th



Fox Hunt - continued from page 1

circles there. You might as well start going in circles right near where you start!

If you don't have any equipment why don't you come out anyway and ride along with someone else and enjoy seeing how it is done? Maybe the bug will get you and you'll say, "I'm sure I could do it better than this."

At our meeting on May 11th Bob Barns, KB2IKC, will be taking down the names of those who intend to participate on May 17th. Please be sure and let him know if you are going to join in the fun. We need your name and phone number in case, there is a change in schedule due to weather or otherwise.

Swap and Shop

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-930 transceiver with automatic antenna tuner \$980, MFJ -931 Artificial Ground, Ten-Tech Model 605 single paddle electronic keyer, never used \$60, Butternut HF6V 6 band vertical antenna \$80. All with docs. Call John Sheetz 908-464-5671.

FOR SALE: Heathkit Oscilloscope IO-14. Calibrated DC to 8MHz with 5" flat screen CRT. Good working condition. 10-1/2" w x 14-1/4" h x 20" deep, weight 40 lbs. \$75
General Radio 722-M precision variable capacitor. 1000 pf total range. + - 1 pf in capacitance removed from 0 to 1000 pf. Accuracy + - .1% or + - .4 pf. \$35
SWAP GOLF CLUB: Have mashie(5) swap for niblick(7), men's right hand. Call Harry Kundrat 908-665-1873.

FREE: Cana bulbs, beautiful three to four foot tall flowers.
FOR SALE: Clamshell type cartop carrier \$25 or best offer.
Call Bay Rowan, 908-464-5090.

WANTED: Gonset G-76 all band AM transmitter/receiver. Also looking for any popular AM transmitter such as a DX-60 or DX-100. Call Charlie Krauss at 201-361-7460.

FOR SALE: Windows 3.0, original package, disk and manual. Never used. \$20. Norton Backup, version 1.2 with disks and manual \$10. Call Bob Mendelson 908-464-5244.

FOR SALE: 84 Meg, Seagate ST-296N, half-height SCSI hard drive with controller \$200. Works in PC, XT or AT. Call Bob Barns 908-464-6785

On the Air Class Passes First Year

It's hard to believe but what started out as an experiment just over a year ago has been going that long. Bob, KB2IKC, and John, K2AGI have been running on the air classes, first in the fundamentals of MS-DOS itself, and then in Quattro Pro, an integrated spreadsheet program. Our dedicated students have included Walt Creuz, W2CIY, Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ, Chuck Snyder, W2HSA and Bill Wadsworth, W2ZKE. The class has met virtually every Wednesday night and usually runs about two hours. We experimented in assigning "homework" and even in giving quizzes.

The Quattro Pro segment is about wrapped up and we are open to suggestions as to if and what we might cover next. Some possibilities might include a word processing program, database programming, computer aided drafting for such things as schematic drawing, programming in the BASIC language, Windows 3.1, money management programs or whatever might be of interest.

If you are interested in participating please get in touch with either Bob Barns or John Sheetz. You will need to have two meter FM capability to operate on 145.75 MHz.

Historical Society Lawn Sale

The New Providence Historical Society will be sponsoring its annual craft and collectibles lawn sale on Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 AM to 4 PM. The sale will take place at the Historical Society Salt Box Museum, 1350 Springfield Ave. There will be over 30 vendors present, a bake sale, and a rummage sale. Refreshments will be available. All are invited to attend this fund raising event.

HEADLINES RUN AMUCK, YOU CAN TOO.

I discovered a file of misbegotten newspaper headlines on a computer bulletin board. (I'll be happy to send the file upon request.)

Four examples are:

**GRANDMOTHER OF EIGHT
MAKES HOLE IN ONE
ASBESTOS SUIT PRESSED
FLAMING TOILET SEAT
CAUSES EVACUATION
AT HIGH SCHOOL
MANY ANTIQUES SEEN AT
D.A.R. MEETING**

I have tried my hand which resulted in the following:

**CAMPBELL SOUP
TO CAN EXECUTIVES
HOGS AND
PORK BELLIES SOAR
MANY FAVOR
ACCIDENTAL DEATH
AND DISMEMBERMENT
PROGRAM**

Let's try running a contest—members can submit (to me) their creations in this genre and the best 3 or 4 will be published (with attribution) in the next Spark Gaps. The decision of the judge (me) will be final.

Bob, KB2IKC

Dayton – Continued from page 1
with the crowd.

On Friday night we all went to the Old Hickory Bar-B-Q place, as usual. In my opinion, the prize for the best rib-picking went to Carl Felt, N2XJ, with Jim Caldwell, K4JPM, a close second. Bay, W2GKF, selected the wine so most of us drank beer.

The gang split up on Saturday night and went to various places. Martha, KA2PNF, and I went to the Shucking Shack and gorged on Chesapeake Bay oysters and CatFish. The others missed out. Harry, W2YEZ, admitted that he made a mistake by not joining us. Next year, Harry.

During the rain squalls, we sat in on some of the seminars. Most were very good. I tried the session featuring Wayne Greene, W2NSD, but it turned into a sales pitch for his new book, so I left.

We had a couple of prize winners. Bay got the big one and Jim, KB2FCV, was lucky too. But all of us got some real bargains, "reel gud" stuff. I got a new mic for my 2-meter rig. Give me your opinion after you hear it on 145.75.

The flea market is now about the size of New Providence, and I don't think any of us got to see it all. By expanding, there seemed to be more room to move around. Maybe that was because of the rain, or the fear of it, or because Icom was giving away stuff.

There is no parking at the Hamvention site, except for the handicapped, staff, and exhibitors. So we paid \$3.50 to park across the road in the

Continued on page 5

Dayton - Continued from page 4

largest clay pit in Ohio. After a day of rain, the tow trucks were making their operators rich as they pulled cars out of the ruts. We got out OK.

After that experience, however, we chose to drive 3 or 4 miles down the highway to the Salem Shopping Mall. There is room there, on good pavement, for 2 or 3 thousand cars. It's free and the shuttle buses run about every 5 minutes. Way to go.

Harry had us booked into a motel in the eastern portion of Ohio, about a gas tank full of driving to the Hamvention - BUT NICE! So, if you're going next year, be sure to book early.

Notes from Carl Felt, N2XJ

For me, the highlight of the Dayton Hamvention this year was attending the "Youth in Amateur Radio" Forum conducted by Carole Perry, WB2MGP, the Staten Island school teacher who was "Ham of the Year" in 1987.

Six outstanding young hams ranging in age from 11 to 16 spoke of their love for amateur radio and how they happened to become hams. All were enthusiastic and spoke well. Of the group, Angie Fischer, KB0HXY, of St Louis won the "Young Ham of the Year" award. She became a ham at ten, helped establish the Gateway to Amateur Radio Club - an organization geared to helping youngsters become hams. She also set up a weekly Youth Net on a St Louis repeater which encourages upgrading and participation in amateur radio events and public service activities.

And, in case you're worrying over the future of our great

hobby, stop worrying! Two young hams, age 8 and 7 were introduced from the floor: Robert and Tony Kosakowski. The older, KA3WTG, has worked 274 DX countries and his kid brother, KA3WYS, has already worked 171 plus over 600 stateside contacts!

From Bill Wadsworth, W2ZKE

Departed 4/22 with stop in St Clairsville, Ohio overnight. Arrived Fairborn, Ohio 4/23. Heading for the arena the 94 repeater indicated that there was paid parking to the east of the arena and it fills early. The stories about no arena parking were not true. In the evening after dinner proceeded back to the arena with K2JV and the van so it could be parked and be ready in the AM.

Departed 5 AM Friday for the arena and parked close to the east end. The convenience was worth the \$5 parking. The Pub was open at 4:30 AM with limited food selection but satisfactory. You could even find a seat! Waited out a thunderstorm in the car listening to 20 meters, dead, and about 8 AM the weather cleared. Proceeded to cover flea market area since the van crew had not arrived yet. The vendor spaces were not all occupied and appeared not to be sold. The van crew arrived a little late due to a mixup in bus transportation. After set up the selling appeared slow but as the day progressed things began to move. The weather got colder and again cloudy with threat of rain. In cruising the flea market and vendor exhibits, it became obvious that there was no way one could cover everything unless you spent 100% of your time at it. The van was removed for the night.

Departed 5 AM Saturday 4/25 for the arena and breakfast at the Pub and more flea marketing. Weather was turning colder with wind and rain. The selling improved as the day progressed in spite of the weather and, as a whole, was quite successful. Covering the indoor exhibits was quite an effort but well worth it. Was tempted into a Yaesu 5200 dual band rig with remote capability. Closed the selling about 1600 hrs in the rain. The whole Dayton experience was really worth it and could be called mind boggling.

Departed for New Jersey 0610 hrs Sunday 4/26 and talked myself hoarse on 2 meters with others going home. Maintained schedules on 40 and 80 meters along the way. The trip home took 11-3/4 hrs. running time!

And Finally, From Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ

Why can't the Dayton Hamvention be held the "last rainy weekend" in May? It seems it rains every other year. Does this mean the 1993 Hamvention will have good weather? From indications so far... there seems to be a few gamblers ready to go next year... and I guess I'll be one of them.

So there you have it folks, reports from the survivors of Dayton 1992. If you want to go next year, start getting ready. There's nothing else like it in the world.

Other Dayton Hamvention attendees included: Barry, K2JV, Jim, KB2FCV, Bay, W2GKF, Barry, W2CGX, Pres, N2CXE, Warren, K2BIV, Rick, KT2Q, and John, NA2R. We have not heard from them but we assume they survived.