

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC - The Radio Club for the Watchung Mountain Area



**N2XJ**

**Club Callsign**

**VOLUME 42**

**November 2007**

**NO. 8**

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**Field Trip to Info Age Marconi Site This Saturday, November 10th  
Meet at 8:30 am in Center of New Providence  
at  
The New Providence Shopping Center Parking Lot  
(see article below)**

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**Meeting on Monday the 12th, 7:30 pm at the Salt Brook School  
featuring  
A Presentation by Jim Ahlstrom, N2ADR,  
and his homebrew SSB Exciter which uses  
Software Defined Radio Techniques**

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## **President's Column by James, KB2FCV**



50 Years ago October 4th marked an event that kicked off the space race. Russia launched Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite. The little 2 foot sphere beeping away up there in space changed the world. To celebrate the event, Amateur Satellite AO-51 was put into a special mode for a few hours to transmit the Sputnik telemetry and broadcast a message to anyone listening. My friend Rob, N2VWP, and I were able to capture one of these transmissions on video and I will soon be sharing that with NPARC members at an upcoming meeting.

Shortly after the Sputnik special event there was a crystal radio contest held by the Birmingham Alabama Crystal Radio Group. Thanks to a little inspiration and help from Andy WA2DKJ, I was able to get the beginnings of a 'high performance' crystal radio set.

(continued on page 3)

## Meeting Schedule

**Regular Meeting:** 7:30 - 10:00 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 - 9:00  
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.

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## Club Officers for 2007

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: K2AL Al Hanzl  
908-464-1323  
Past President: K2AL Al Hanzl  
908-464-1323

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## 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

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## Club Internet Addresses

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/nparc>  
Reflector: [nparc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:nparc@mailman.qth.net)  
Webmaster: KC2RLM, Ralph

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## MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: WA2DKJ Andy Stillinger  
Editor Emeritus: K2JV Barry Cohen  
Contributing Editors:  
KC2RLM Ralph Milnes  
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

## New Member - Joel Miller, W2TQ

Joel signed on with our club this past summer as we were in full swing with the software defined radio receiver project. He seemed particularly interested in how we were doing the board assembly and soldering of the surface mount components. His research on the web found several videos and descriptions of soldering which he kindly shared with the other kit builders. It seems that both Joel and our club got a good deal on his membership.

Welcome to NPARC, Joel.

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## Field Day Results reported by Barry, K2JV

I think we all did our best!!!

The Field Day results are on the ARRL Members Only website, and NPARC is right up there near the top.

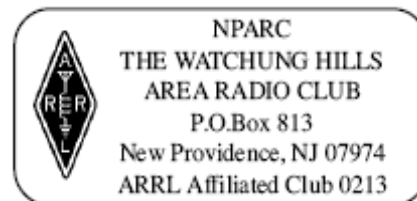
The 1F station was #2 in the whole country this year, and #1 in the Hudson Division.

The 2A station was #2 in the Hudson Division.

That's a 1 - 2 punch, and we all should be very pleased.

73 es CUL de Barry K2JV

[editor's note: The ARRL website lists the K2JV 1F station as 2nd out of 32 total entries in that class. N2XJ 2A entry was 98th out of 477 total in class.]



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## November 12th meeting - Presentation of SSB Exciter with SDR Techniques

Jim Ahlstrom, N2ADR, decided to further the cutting edge of our hobby and put together a phone transmitter that uses computer capabilities in place of traditional hardware. Jim's "software defined radio" exciter talk should be an excellent follow-on to our members' receiver work this past summer. Please come to the meeting this Monday. This will be a good opportunity to see how our hobby is progressing.

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## Meeting Schedule for the Next Few Months from Al, K2AL

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

<b>2007</b>	November	12	&	26	
	December	10	&		No second meeting, but there will be a Holiday Luncheon
<b>2008</b>	January	14	&	28	(cafeteria not available, location to be determined)
	February	11	&	25	
	March	10	&	24	
	April	14	&	28	
	May	12	&	27	(Tuesday)
	June	9	&		No second meeting location scheduled so far

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## President's Column - continued from page 1

It's pretty amazing some of the work and design that has gone into something as simple as a crystal set. It's pretty amazing to hear the difference between a crystal set most people are familiar with and what some of these enthusiasts have come up with.

Stay tuned for some upcoming events at NPARC. On the 10th of November NPARC members will be heading to the Marconi site in Wall, NJ where some historic events in radio and technology happened. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Luncheon on December 8th! Be sure to check the NPARC website for upcoming events!

73, James KB2FCV

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## Upcoming Club Events

December 8th is our annual Holiday Luncheon at Charlie Brown's restaurant in Chatham Township. See the announcement and form at the end of this newsletter. The luncheon will start at about 12 pm. The restaurant opens at 11:30 am for any early arrivals.

An NPARC club auction is in the works for February 2008. So far the plan is to have it in the New Providence Municipal Building gymnasium as it was last year. It will most likely be on a Friday evening toward the end of the month. An auction committee will be forming shortly. If you'd like to be on the auction committee or just help out, please let any club officer know.

Barry, K2JV, is working on gathering data from lithium batteries and he's finding some interesting results. Though it's not definite, we may get the chance to hear his findings at the November 26th meeting.

## **Crystal Set Contest Results** by Andy, WA2DKJ

James, KB2FCV, and I entered the Birmingham Alabama crystal set radio contest in the beginning of October with our homebrew un-amplified AM receivers. Although the scores have not been finalized, it appears that both James and I came in about low mid-pack of 16 entrants. James copied 26 AM broadcast stations and I copied 50. The winner logged 170 AM stations received. It was a fun, interesting and educational contest. The contest in October was the "Sprint" event that took place over a long weekend. There is a longer contest coming up in January that is usually ten days long. Though the January dates have not been finalized by the Birmingham group yet, they should be posted shortly. See the website: [www.crystalradio.us](http://www.crystalradio.us) for more information. From comments heard on our club frequency, we may have Bill, W2ZKE, James, and I entering in the January contest, so if you have interest, there are members who can help with any questions you have. Please consider entering even if you aren't a contester. The contest is really just a catalyst to get people to put something together and see how impressive an un-amplified receiver can be.

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## **Field Trip to Info Age/Marconi Radio Site**

On Saturday, November 10, at 8:30 am, we are gathering at the northwest corner (near Chen's) to carpool/caravan to the Info Age site in Wall Township, NJ. We should arrive at Info Age by about 10 am. Return time is to be determined by how long people want to stay.

This is the location of the Marconi Radio Company (later RCA and military groups) overseas radio communications station in the early part of the 20th century. Now at this site are: a rather extensive radio history museum; the "hotel" in which the Marconi company radio operators lived; the Diana radar site (first? moon radar reflection); a collection of military vehicles; an Amateur Radio club (not sure which); a marine disaster display (may not be open); and various other interesting things. I have been told that just to spend 30 seconds at each exhibit in the radio museum would take 2 hours. There is no official sequence planned for this visit, although I have been told that going through the museum at a brisk pace, then seeing some of the other "attractions" and returning to the museum for those who want a closer look may be the best way to allot time.

There is no food facility within the site. There is a limited supply of soft drinks @ \$1, but don't count on it. Pack a snack or lunch, or do lunch later on your way back.

The site is located at 2201 Marconi Drive, Wall Township, NJ for those who want to check out google maps. This is not far from exit 7A on Route 18. The suggested route is to take the Parkway south to Route 18 (which looks like a fairly complex transition), thence to exit 7A on Route 18, and then local roads. I will endeavor to send out more precise directions. I plan to drive and have room for 3 others (4 in a pinch). Perhaps we should ask for those willing to drive to send a message to the e-mail reflector, and indicate if they have a time at which they must return.

Please visit the Info Age website: [www.infoage.org](http://www.infoage.org) which has a lot more accurate info than I have provided. Check into the rather extensive history of the area available on the website. There be ghosts there, names we know.

I hope a lot of NPARCers will take advantage of this trip.

73, Dave, K2YG

## Climatological Data for New Providence for October 2007



The following information is provided by WB2QOQ, who has been recording daily weather events at his station for the past 25 years.

### TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this October, 82 deg. F (October 8)      Last October 75 deg. F.

Average Maximum temperature this October, 67.6 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this October, 35 deg. F (October 29)      Last October 31 deg. F.

Average Minimum temperature this October, 54.2 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 5 deg.(55-50 deg.) 10/25

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 19 deg.(60-41 deg.) 10/31

Average temperature this October, 60.9 deg. F      Average last October, 52.4 deg. F

Number of days this October, with temperatures 80 deg. or above: 1      Last October: 0

Number of days this October with temperatures of 70 deg. or higher: 12      Last October: 4

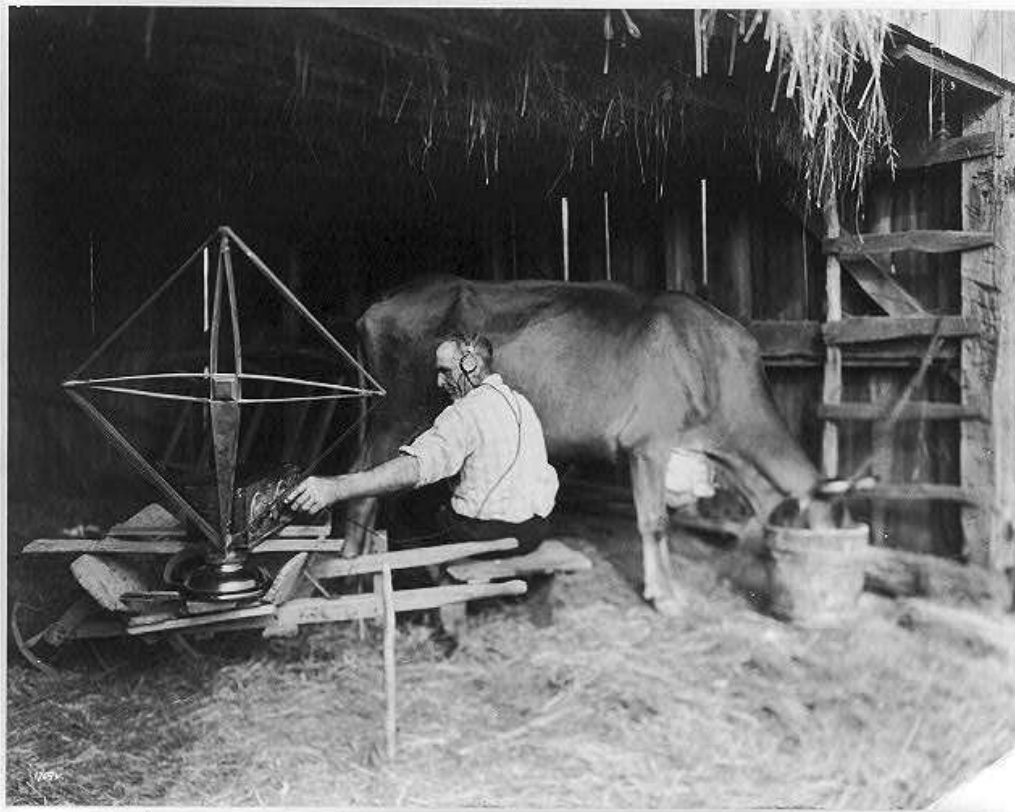
### PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this October: 5.72" rain      Last October: 9.28" rain

Maximum one day precip. event this October (Oct 27th): 2.2" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 10 days this October.

Days with Precip. 1.00" + = 2



At left is a picture of our Treasurer, Dave, K2YG, operating the CQ World Wide DX contest from his newly-renovated home on Nantucket. Dave was fortunate to have help with the logging this year.

-or-

Check out Apple's newest iPod

NPARC - AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
**2007 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, December 8th, 11:30 AM**

Our Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at

**Charlie Brown's Restaurant**

**across from Hickory Tree Shopping Center in Chatham Township  
on Southern Boulevard**

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**Luncheon will be served at 12:15**

A cash bar will be available starting at 11:30.

*Lunch will include,*

Open Salad Bar

*AND your choice of one of the following entrees:*

- 1) 10 oz Ranch Steak
- 2) Hibachi Chicken
- 3) Tomato Basil Tilapia

*bread, vegetables, dessert and soda/coffee/tea will be included*

TOTAL COST IS \$23.50 PER PERSON (STUDENT Club Members: \$11)

Keep the top portion of this form so you will remember when and where!

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Cut on dashed line and return the bottom portion of this form.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BEFORE NOVEMBER 30th!**

Enter the names of those who will be attending, (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$23.50 per person, STUDENT Club Members \$11

Make check payable to NPARC

Your Telephone Number:

Send with this reservation to:

Dave Barr, Treasurer  
29 Montrose Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901

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