

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



Volume 27 NOVEMBER 1992 No. 10

The Annual Holiday Dinner

This issue of the Mountain Spark Gaps announces the 1992 year end dinner party of the NPARC. I'm glad, because I like this event. Apparently everybody does, because it's been a tradition for such a long time.

The NPARC was formed in December 1964, the constitution and by-laws adopted in January 1965, and the first annual year end dinner was held in December of 1965.

All of the original members decided that we would get together so that the families of the hams in the new club could meet one another. So I made a reservation at the William Pitt Inn in Chatham (now gone) and we had a dinner. There were 12 or 14 of us, including families, and we sat at a long table in the main part of the restaurant. As I recall, joining me were Arden Johnson, WB2GPG, Jim Palmquist, WB2EKA, Andy Napolitano, WB2WGM and

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Last Meetings of the Year

Election time is here and the Nominating Committee has come up with a proposed slate of officers for 1993. Here it is:

For President: Walt Cruz, W2CIY
For Vice President: Jim Kern, KB2FCV
For Secretary: Bob Barns, KB2IKC
For Treasurer: John Sheetz, K2AGI
For Activities Manager: Terry Wampler, WD4IGL

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. Elections will be held at our business meeting on November 9th.

At our final meeting of the year, on Monday, November 23rd, Al Perkins, K2QKV, and Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ, will show and describe collectible radios and components from their private collections. Come and see a \$1000 old radio, and a giveaway 1992 radio already listed at \$30 to collectors.

Greetings to all for the Holidays and the next issue of the Spark Gaps will be out around January 8th or 9th.

Holiday Dinner Features "NASA Space Ambassador"

Included with this issue of the Spark Gaps is your Holiday Dinner Reservation form. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better get-together this year. We are privileged to have an outstanding space science educator, Dr. Jeannine Duane, WB2MBW, give us first-hand information about our space program and tell us how we are acquainting our students with the space age in which they live.

We feel that this should be an excellent program for all ages so we are making an attractive offer for our Student Members to attend the dinner at a very reasonable cost. Dr. Duane has an excellent record of getting the message across to students. A typical quote: "She has an outstanding...record of accomplishment in education. ...Jeannine has gone more than the extra mile in motivating technical careers. Significant results have been attained among the thousands she has reached - educators as well as students."

She will display artifacts from the space shuttle along with a detailed model. Don't miss this opportunity to get the inside story.



New Providence
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 813
New Providence
NJ 07974-0813
ARRL Affiliated Club 0213

Meeting Schedule

8:00 P.M.

2nd & 4th Monday of each month
Downstairs meeting room
New Providence Borough Hall
360 Elkwood Avenue
(Across from the Library)
One block north of Springfield Ave.
and one block east of Passaic St.
Anyone is welcome.
If normal meeting night is a holiday
we usually meet the next night.
(Check the Spark Gaps)

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.)
Computer Course
145.75 MHz FM phone
Wednesdays 8:00 PM

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 Brennert K2EFB
(908) 754-3204

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Editor-in-Chief:
..... John Sheetz K2AGI
Contributing Editors:
..... Rick Anderson WB2QOQ
..... Bob Barns KB2IKC
..... Al Hirsch K2SKV
Mailing Address:
P O Box 813
New Providence, NJ 07974-0813

Climatological Data for New Providence for October 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 October, 76°F (October 16th)

Minimum temperature for October, 30°F (October 20th)

Average temperature for the month, 51.6°F; which is 3.3 degrees below the average temperature of 54.9° for October for the past 10 years.

Heating degree days for October: 388

Heating degree days last October: 268

Total liquid precipitation this October: 1.07"
Precipitation October 1991: 1.85"

Swap & Shop

Free

Firewood, all you can haul. First come - first serve.
Call John Sheetz 908-464-5671

For Sale

Icom IC-725 all band transceiver also Astron regulated power supply. All in original cartons. Call John Spillane 908-464-5037

Software for Sale

All programs have original manuals.
NEW: Toolworks, NY Public Library Desk Reference, ver. 1.02
Microsoft, Money, Financial Organization Made Easy, vers. 1.0 & 2.0
Publishers, Powerpak, Scalable Fonts for WordPerfect, ver. 2.0
QUE, Right Writer, Grammar Checker, ver. 5.0
Individual Software, Cartoon-A-Day Calendar Plus, ver. 1.0
Microsoft, Windows, ver. 3.0
USED: Symantic, Norton Backup for DOS, ver. 1.2
Symantic, Norton Backup for Windows, ver. 1.2
Bloc Publishing, Disk Vision Disk Manager ver. 4.0
Softklone, Mirror Modem Data Communications, ver. 1.0
Symantic, Norton Utilities, ver. 4.5
New programs, \$15 each, Used \$5 each.
Several Software books also available.
Call Bob Mendelson, W2OKO, 908-464-5244

For Sale

Konel KR-153SB single sideband marine radiotelephone transceiver 10 channel, crystal controlled, 1 to 20 MHz, 150 watt. Will operate on either SSB or AM. Uses two 6146's. Complete with power supply, mike and KAC-150 remote motorized antenna matcher/coupler. \$90.
Call Bay Rowan, 908-464-5090.

For Sale

Pouring insulation (UL listed flame retardant fibera). Eleven bags = 330 sq ft coverage at 3" thickness (R-11). Also faced and unfaced fiberglass insulation, various widths and thicknesses. (Very reasonable)
Model 15 RTTY machine, a thing of beauty (and it works) free.
Two gold colonial living room chairs, asking \$50 each.
Wurlitzer electronic organ (dual keyboards).
Call Bob Brown, 908-464-7958 (home) or 201-701-1823 (business).



Birthday Pileup,
4 Pairs and a Triple!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jason Killian KB2JAY 13th
Chuck Snyder W2HSA 13th
Terry Wampler WD4IGL 16th
Don Oberman N2KEW 23rd
Curtis Brittle KB2LLZ 24th
Guy Brennert K2EFB 25th
Don Smith KA2EGD 25th
John Morgan KB2IFD 26th
Artie Van Valkenburg 29th

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Mendelson W2OKO 8th
Harry Schwill DL6CL 9th
Walt Creuz W2CIY 10th
Larry Eckenrode KD2NT 14th
Phil Finnegan 17th
John Sawina NA2R 17th
Carl Felt N2XJ 18th
Jim Josenhans WB2LEH 19th
Pat Casey N2FXA 25th

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tom Brown KA2UGQ 2nd
Joe Painter W2BHM 2nd
Ralph Conn WA2DTO 3rd
Gordon Hanford WA2KXN 3rd
Jason Schell 3rd
Mike Rigal KB2NUE 6th
Molly Reed N2JJY 7th

Annual Holiday Dinner

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their families. There may have been one or two others. We ate, talked (and drank, modestly), and had a good time.

The next year, things got bigger. Again at the William Pitt, we occupied the glass porch room, all to ourselves, and about 22 or 24 attended. I again was the program chairman, and entertained the group by playing a tape (audio) that I had concocted from bits and pieces that I had recorded off of the 2-meter net during the year. I dubbed conversations, out of order, scrambled other pieces, added reverb, and did some 2-track mixing so that the tape suggested real far out QSO's. I still have that tape.

We repeated the dinner one or two more times at the William Pitt, but then I invited Ralph V. L. Hartley (of the Hartley oscillator) to be our guest speaker at our year end dinner, and the response via reservations was overwhelming. Since Mr. Hartley lived in the Summit Hotel, then the Suburban, and didn't get out very much, we held our dinner at the Hotel. We had the big glassed in room across the front - and it was full! I guess we had 45 or 50 people. Mr Hartley was a real hit and was elected an honorary member on the spot. I had made a number of photo copies (on our Xerox®TM brand office copier) of his oscillator patent for distribution, and a number of people had Mr. Hartley autograph a copy of the patent. Incidentally, Mr. Hartley attended several regular meetings of the club before he died. I picked him up at the hotel and escorted him to the meetings.

By this time, the dinner event

was well established and has been repeated every year since. We met variously at the Black Eagle, in Berkeley Heights, where the new King's market now stands. (The place burned down a few hours after we had our dinner, and I had paid in cash!) We also met at the Villa in Summit, at Linda's Firesite Inn in Berkeley Heights and for several years at Wally's Tavern on the Hill (now September's). We had many pleasant times at the King George Inn in Warren (the old fireplace was nice).

Eventually we moved to the Afton in Florham Park; then to O'connors in Watchung, and now to September's on the Hill. (I sort of remember that we had one of our year end dinners at Snuffy's - when it was still Snuffy's. Am I right?)

So, I can hardly wait for this year's affair. Maybe Terry, WD4IGL, can fix up some way for us to see his video tapes of club activities during the happy hour. What do you think?

AL, K2SKV

Flea Market Bonanza

On Sunday October 25th Bob Barns and Bay Rowan went to Dublin, PA for the annual R.F. Hill Amateur Radio Club hamfest. It is usually the last one of the season for this area. The weather was chilly but clear. Attendance was high with about 1100 buyers attending. Both indoor and outdoor sellers were there to take care of all of the hams' needs.

Surprise! Surprise! On Monday the 26th Bay received a call from Linda Erdman, KA3TJZ, telling him that he had won the major door prize at the hamfest. Bay, astonished, asked what it

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NPARC Members Provide Race Communications

The Overlook Hospital Foundation, of Summit, sponsored their annual "Overlook Hustle" footrace on October 18. Their request for assistance with communications, brought out 13 of our club members on the day of the 5 mile race. Our task was to report on the status of course marshalls, along the race course, before the race began; assist in the simultaneous starting of the stop watches; report the status of the first 3 male and female runners at each mile station; and lastly, keep alert for any trouble along the course which would call for medical assistance. With 13 members, we were able to cover the event very adequately. At mile station 1 we had George, W2YM, and Jim KB2FCV; at station 2 there was Joe, W2BHM and Joel, KB2PDW, at station 3, John, K2AGI with Bob, KB2IKC, at station 4, Andy, WA2DKJ, and at the start/finish line area, Mike KB2NUE, and Rick WB2QOQ. We all used 2 meter HT's, which provided flawless communications. A new addition this year was an ATV (Amateur TV) experiment, sponsored by Terry, WD4IGL. Terry, along with Chris, KB2OOW, and Mike, KB2OCG, provided remote video coverage at locations along the race course. There was a large TV monitor, and associated equipment, at the start/finish area, where the public could view the video coverage. Cameron, KB2IRS, provided ATV support at that location. The race went very smoothly, and the officials were quite pleased with the communications. I would like to thank all who made this event a success.

Rick Anderson, WB2QOQ.

Flea Market Bonanza

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was. She put her husband, Warren Erdman, K3ZXQ, on the phone. He explained that the prize was an ICOM 728 all band transceiver (includes 160M) complete with full general coverage receiver (500 KHz-30 MHz). Bay, having fallen off his chair, retrieved the phone and promptly made arrangements to run out to Allentown on Tuesday morning to pick up his prize. It is now being admired in his shack. If you'd like to see it, give Bay a call. Maybe he'll bring it to a meeting.

Many thanks to Warren, who is president of the R.F. Hill Club, and his wife. They live at 2220 Hill Rd., Perkiomenville, PA 18074. Their phone is 215-679-5764, in case the incredulous wish to confirm this story book happening.

This is not the first big prize Bay has won. This Spring he won an Icom IC-2SAT handheld at Dayton and a few years ago at the Dunnellen hamfest he won a Tempo S-1 handheld. Anyway, our heartiest congratulations to Bay, W2GKF.

Field Day Scores are Out

NPARC participated in the 1992 Field Day exercises in Category 2A. QST indicates that there were 484 entries in the 2A category. Just how this figure was obtained is not clear. Under the 2A Battery category they show 21 entrants. Under 2A non-commercial they show 518 scores and under 2A commercial they show 17 entrants.

Anyway, NPARC placed 225th out of 518 in our category.

In the Northern New Jersey section there were 12 entrants in our category. Out of these 12 we came in 6th from the top. The average score was 3005.

NNJ Club	Rank	Score
Raritan Valley	18	7266
NJDXA	79	4356
Splitrock	94	4056
Irvington - Roseland	105	3900
Tri-County	134	3540
NPARC	225	2544
Piscataway	235	2478
Old Bridge	280	2054
Fair Lawn	316	1838
Raritan Bay	359	1586
Telephone - Employees	367	1542
Neptune	474	898

Spark Gaps Minor Anniversary

I just discovered that with this issue I am starting my fourth year of production of the Mountain Spark Gaps by means of a "desktop publishing" program. Actually I took over the publishing job with the March 1988 issue after Tom Brown, KA2UGQ, had done such a great job for several years.

From March 1988 through September 1989 I assembled the Spark Gaps on my Heath H-89 computer using CP/M and printed the masters on a daisy-wheel printer. This was really not much more than an automated typewriter operation.

With the October 1989 issue I made the big step to a highly computer controlled operation. I had finally obtained my PC compatible in July 1989 and by October I felt I was ready to take the plunge into desktop publishing. Looking back at those early issues I can see that I have learned a lot since then. Why an electrical engineer would ever wind up doing all of this is beyond me. Maybe I'll demonstrate it at a club meeting sometime.

Yours truly, John Sheetz, K2AGI

NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 1992 HOLIDAY BANQUET

Friday, December 11th, 6:30 P.M.

Our annual Holiday Banquet will be held at "Septembers on the Hill"
154 Bonnie Burn Road, Watchung, NJ.

The social hour will begin at 6:30 with buffet dinner at 7:00.

**This year we are proud to present
Dr. Jeannine M. Duane, WB2MBW
a national faculty member of
The Challenger Center for Space Science Education.**

Please see this issue of the Mountain Spark Gaps for further details.

*We are having a Buffet Banquet Dinner with a wide selection of choices.
The opening Salad Bar will include Tossed Salad with Dressings, Cole Slaw,
Pasta Primavera, Julienne of Beets, Three Bean Salad and Fruit Salad.*

*Then there will be Decorated Platters of Imported Ham, Roast White Meat Turkey,
Roast Sirloin of Beef and Imported Swiss Cheese.*

*We will have a choice of Four Hot Entrees:
Seafood Creole, Chicken Parmigiana, Barbecued Ribs, London Broil*

*Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter
Parfaits for Dessert and a choice of Coffee - Tea or Sanka™*

TOTAL COST IS \$18.50 PER PERSON (STUDENT Club Members: \$10.00)

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

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

RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

Please reserve dinners as follows:

Names: (will be shown on cards which you can use to reserve your place at a table)
(PLEASE PRINT)

(\$18.50 per person) Make check payable to NPARC
STUDENT Club Members \$10)

Your Telephone Number

Send with this reservation to:

John Sheetz
5 Hansell Road
Murray Hill, NJ 07974-1626

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