

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain area



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

VOLUME 46 October 2011

NO. 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings

Mon. November 14 & 28 7:30 PM
Salt Brook School

Upcoming Events

CQ-WE Contest
Nov. 12-13

Details at: <http://cqwe.cboh.org/>

Holiday Luncheon
12/3 Chimney Rock Inn
Valley Road, Gillette

Berkeley Heights Kid's Day
January 8, 2012

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—10:30 PM
2nd Monday of each month at the
Salt Brook School Cafeteria
Springfield Ave. and Maple St.
New Providence

Informal Project Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
4th Monday of each month 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.
When Schools are closed,
Meetings are held in the Recreation
Department Meeting Room in Borough Hall

Club Officers for 2011

President: N2KDK Paul Campano
908-508-9595
Vice Pres.: K2MUN David Berkley
908-500-9740
Secretary: K2JV Barry Cohen
908-464-1730
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2OSR Sam Sealy
973-635-8966

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

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster K2MUN David Berkley
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2UI, Jim

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Editor: K2EZR Frank McAneny
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson
WB2EDO Jim Brown

Climatological Data for New Providence for September 2011

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2QOQ, who has been recording
daily weather events at his station for the
past 29 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this September, 86 deg.
F (September 4)
Last September (2010) maximum was 91 deg.
F.

Average Maximum temperature this September,
74.7 deg. F

Minimum temperature for this September, 46
deg. F (September 16)

Last September (2010) minimum was 48 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this September,
61.1 deg. F

Minimum diurnal temperature range, 3 deg.
(71 - 68 deg.) 9/23, 9/28

Maximum diurnal temperature range, 22 deg.
(73 - 51 deg.) 9/15.

Average temperature this September, 67.9
deg. F

Average temperature last September, 67.9
deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this September - 6.75"
rain.

Total precipitation last September - 4.58"
rain.

Maximum one day precip. event this Septem-
ber; September 6; 3.4" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 13 days this Septem-
ber, 9 days last September.

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Rick Anderson

10/11/11

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

THIS JUST IN!
Field Day 2011

N2XJ is #1 in NNJ 2A with a score of 6,120 and 2,062 QSOs

We are 47 out of 387 for 2A, nationwide.

183 out of 2632 for all categories combined.

Many thanks to all who participated. I had a great time and am still smiling about it four months later.

73,
Lou
WK2I

Thanks again to Lou for picking up the Field Day coordination ball at the last minute. Well done by all!

MISCELLANEA

Barry and All,

Greetings from Boston! I have been here for just about a week now and am only just starting to feel like a real college student here at Northeastern University.

After about five hours of driving time on August 31, my family and I made it to Move-In Day with a car full of stuff for my dorm room. I am participating in the honors program here so I am living in the Honors Freshman Residence Hall, International Village. There are hundreds of rooms, lots of people and I've been told there is no need to leave except to go to class (If you want to be antisocial). My roommate is a Computer Science major from Bayside, NY (Queens) and the guys next door to me (but still technically in my suite) are from Suffern, NY and Madison, CT and both are Mechanical Engineers like myself.

For the first week before classes the freshman have had a lot of different activities going on and still enough time to just relax, meet new people, and explore Boston. The Honors Students spent a day at a piece of property that Northeastern owns outside of the city where we did team-building activities and went up into the trees on their high ropes course. All freshman though read a book over the summer titled Better by Atul Gawande, a well-known surgeon here at Mass General Hospital. We discussed the book in a session and then one night, Dr. Gawande came to speak to us, answer our questions, and sign books. I have gotten out into many parts of the city by foot, trolley, and bike and gotten to know my surroundings a little bit better. It seems that every time I am out and about, I see something new and exciting. There are a lot of interesting people here from around the globe and I am getting to meet a lot of them through daily encounters.

Moving forward, classes will be starting tomorrow and I am very excited to start learning.

Summer has been fantastic but it is time to get down to the real reason why I am here. As I said before, I am planning on majoring in Mechanical Engineering and so I am taking Calculus 2, Chemistry, Intro to Engineering, Engineering Design, and American Architecture. I've got 18 credit hours this semester, which is probably a lot but I should be able to handle it and I will let you know how it goes.

Everything is working out fantastically so far and hopefully I will have some time to turn on my HT over the next couple of weeks and tune around up here. I hope all is resolved with the power issues back home and if there is a meeting on generators coming up (as per the chatter I have seen on the reflector) I would love to hear what you have to say. My family ran one for almost a week while we were without power and we ran our hot water heater, refrigerator, lights, sump pumps, garage doors, and a few other outlets. If I am correct we have a large (not very portable) 7.5 kW generator and it served us well. Once again, I hope all is well and hopefully next update I will have some pictures.

Sincerely,

Nick Esposito KC2ONP

This letter should have been included in last month's Spark Gaps, but I ran out of room.

MISCELLANEA

On Friday, October 14, members of NPARC participated in a meeting of Cub Scouts At Mountain Park School in Berkeley Heights and introduced them to ham radio. Great thanks go to Bill WA2CG who dealt with the continuous parade of kids to the microphone, patiently decoding words spoken into the microphone that were incomprehensible even standing next to the speaker. Holding down the school end were Michael, KD2APR, Barry, K2JV, David, K2MUN, and Paul, N2KDK.



SCIENTIFIC TIDBITS

Spark Plug Replacement

Engineers in Japan have developed lasers that are small and durable enough to go inside car engines and ignite fuel more efficiently than do standard spark plugs. With lasers, the fuel combusts more evenly and quickly, reducing the amount of polluting emissions and burning the fuel more efficiently. The researchers said their laser is the first multibeam system that's small enough to fit in a cylinder head and could be made inexpensively in volume. The laser is made from a ceramic, which is more durable than a crystal-based laser.

Tiny Scope

A new lens-free microscope is small enough to fit in the palm of a hand, yet powerful enough to create clear 3-D images of tiny samples. Researchers at UCLA recently showed off the microscope, which consists of an array of digital sensors that view and greatly magnify images on a small computer chip. Because of the automation on the opto-electronic chip, it will greatly speed up research, and its small size will likely lead to cost savings on equipment.

Electronic Spin Storage

Researchers at Ohio State University built a magnetic device that successfully stored and retrieved data for the first time using electrons' directional orientation, or their spin. The technique could double the amount of data a computer stores as well as boost its processing speed and reduced its energy consumption. The researchers said the use of "spintronics" could result in smaller computing devices with smaller batteries.

It would seem that we are shrinking all electronic devices to the point where they may in the near future disappear altogether.

Jim WB2EDO