

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)**

October 2024

Volume 57 No. 10

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
at New Providence Municipal Center**

October 14 - Flex Radio (Zoom only!)

October 28 - TBA

Upcoming Events

**Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM – 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs – 28.050 or 7.030 MHz**

Check announcements in the Reflector 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 2024

President: K2UI, Jim Stekas
908-868-4970
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
Secretary: K2AL: Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2QSR, 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

Digital Net
Mondays 9 PM
28.084 — 28.086 MHz
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control KC2WUF

CW Training Net
Thursdays 9 PM
28.050 or 7.050 MHz
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Acting Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - August 2024

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 temp. this August, 95 F (August 1)
Last August(2023) maximum was 89 F.
Average Maximum temp this August, 81.3 F

Minimum temp this August, 53 F (August 21)
Last August(2023) minimum was 59 F.
Average Minimum temp this August, 64.6 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 5 F (69 - 64 F) 8/8
Maximum diurnal temp range, 25 F(95 - 70 F) 8/1

Average temp this August, 73.0 F
Average temp last August, 72.5 F'

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this August— 9.99" rain
Total precipitation last August— 5.96" rain

Maximum one day precip event August 18, 4.73" rain.
Measurable rain fell on 13 days this August
10 days last August.

YTD Precipitation – 39.67"

=====
Rick Anderson 9/22/2024
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

On September 9, John Stoneman, KC2THY, from the NJDXA gave a presentation on the art of QSL-ing in the 21st century. The NJDXA runs the incoming QSL bureau for the second call district, which includes all US calls with the number 2. Not surprisingly, John's talk focused on exchanging QSL's cards via the outbound ARRL and inbound NJDXA bureaus. This is the cheapest way of exchanging QSL's with DX stations. It is also the slowest. Visit the NJDXA [website](#) and make sure you have your credits current so you don't miss out on any DX QSL's.

At the second meeting of the month, on September 23, Mary Royer Esq. of Stickel Frahn & Lloyd discussed estate planning, including how to saddle our heirs with our ham equipment. For hams and non-hams alike, Mary emphasized the importance of having:

1. A Last Will and Testament for the distribution of property.
2. Power of Attorney to handle financial transactions.
3. Health Care Proxy to make medical decision in an emergency.

Sam Sealy, KC2OSR, organized the donation and shipment of tools and equipment for a training center in Malawi. Check out the article in the issue.

The Executive Committee is considering the purchase of two new, up to date transceivers for use at club events, especially Field Day. Our requirements wish list is:

- In-production and < \$1500 new.
- 80-6m Coverage
- 100 Watt TX with built-in autotuner
- RF direct sampling SDR architecture
- Digital filters.
- Waterfall display.
- USB control and data interface

After minimal discussion, two rigs quickly came to the top of the list: ICOM IC-7300 and Yaseu FT-710.¹ A quick comparison of these rigs appears at the end of this issue. If you have info to help us make a selection send your comments to NewProvARC@gmail.com. We will compile them, share them, and make a final selection with a vote of the membership.

Below is the schedule of NPARC meetings for the rest of the Salt Brook school year.

Dates in boxes are days when school is closed and meetings will be via [Zoom](#).

Sept 9, 23	Oct 14 , 28	Nov 11, 25	Dec 9
Jan 13, 27	Feb 10, 24	Mar 10, 24	Apr 14 , 28
May 12, 26	Jun 9, 23		

73,
Jim – K2UI

¹ Tri-County Radio Club has done their own trade-off study and decided on the FT-710.

Popular Contests in October 2024

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
California QSO Party	10/5 Sat Noon - 10/6 Sun 6pm	CW Phone	CA: Serial # + County Non: Serial # + state/prov	QRP/LP/HP Bands: 160-10m See: cqp.org
Oceania DX SSB	10/5 Sat 2am – 10/6 Sun 2am	SSB	RS/Serial Number	LP/HP Bands:160-10m See: www.oceaniadxcontest.com
Makrothen RTTY	10/11 Fri 8pm - 10/12 Sun 12pm	All	4 Character Grid Square	LP/HP 80-10m. Note 8hr on/off cycle. See: Makrothen rules
Nevada QSO Party	10/11 Fri 11pm- 10/13 5pm	CW SSB Digital	NV: rs(t)+NV+county Non: rs(t) + ARRL Section	QRP/LP/HP All Bands See: nvqso.com
Oceania DX CW	10/12 Sat 2am – 10/13 Sun 2am	CW	RST/Serial Number	QRP/LP/HP Bands 160-10m See: oceaniadxcontest.com
Arizona QSO Party	10/12 Sat 11am- 10/13 Sun 1am	CW Phone	AZ: rs(t) + county Non: rs(t) + state	QRP/LP/HP Bands:160-10m See: azqp.org
Pennsylvania QSO Party	10/12 Sat noon- midn 10/13 Sun 9am- 6pm	CW Phone	PA: Serial # + county Non: Serial # _ ARRL sect.	QRP/LP/HP All Bands See: paqso.org
S Dakota QSO Party	10/12 Sat 2 pm- 10/13 Sun 2 pm	CW Phone	SD: rs(t) + county Non: rs(t) + state	QRP/LP/HP Bands:160 – 2m See: sdqsoparty.com
JARTS WW RTTY	10/18 Fri 8pm- 10/20 Sun 8pm	RTTY	RST + Operator's Age	LP/HP Bands: 80-10m See: jarts.jp
New York QSO Party	10/19 Sat 10am to 10pm	CW SSB Digital	NY: rs(t) + county Non: rs(t) + state	QRP/LP/HP All Bands See: nyqp.org
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	10/19 Sat 11am- 10/20 Sun 11am	CW	4 Character Grid Square	QRP/LP/HP Band: 160m See: www.kkn.net
Illinois QSO Party	10/20 Sun 1pm - 9pm	CW SSB Digital	IL: rs(t) + county Non: rs(t) + state	LP/HP (no QRP) Bands: 160 – 2m See: w9awe.org
CQ Worldwide DX SSB	10/25 Fri 8pm – 10/27 Sun 8pm	SSB	RS + CQ Zone	QRP/LP/HP Bands: 160-10m See: cqww.com

* State QSO Parties allow out-of-state stations to contact only in-state stations for that specific contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists.

** No WARC bands in any contest.

There are many more contests every month including weekly and monthly repeating contests with a variety of abilities required, such as slow speed cw contests. Check www.contestcalendar.com or contest specific websites for more information.

Electronic Gear for Malawi

Heather Speas – K4DH

Members of the New Providence Amateur Radio Club collected electronic gear and tools to be transported to Malawi to support the opening of a learning center in the village of Embangweni. Don Jones, 7Q6M / K6ZO, of West Virginia, is coordinating the project. Don plans an extended stay in Malawi through May, 2025, and plans to schedule QSO's with as many NPARC members as possible while he is there.

Items collected by the club (photo right) included a Weller soldering station and accessories, a heat shrink system, substitution boxes, analog and digital multi-meters, and assorted strippers and crimpers.



Equipment was shipped via UPS to the West Virginia staging area. At left, UPS associate Rashin Patel poses with NPARC members Sam Sealy, KC2OSR, Gene Shiwotsuka, N6JIV, and Al Hanzl, K2AL.

Check out [7Q6M at QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com)

73 Heather, K4DH

IC-7300 vs FT-710

Jim Stekas – K2UI

Below is a side-by-side comparison of IC-7300 and FT-710 basic features and specifications. We plan to gather more info and comments to guide our purchase of new NPARC Field Day rigs.

Feature	IC-7300	FT-710 AESS	Comment
Price	\$1000	\$945	DX Engineering price Sept 30, 2024
QST Review	Aug 2016	Aug 2023	IC-7300 is 7 yrs older
Dimensions (in.)	4.0 × 9.4 × 10.7	3.1 x 9.4 x 9.7	
Bands	160 - 6m		
Display	4.3" Color touchscreen		
USB Interface	USB-A	USB-A	CAT control + modulation
	n/a	USB-B	Mouse/Keyboard
Speaker	Internal	Int/External	AESS includes SP-40 passive speaker.
Transmit			
TX Power	2 - 100 W	5 – 100 W	
Auto-tuner	SWR < 3	SWR < 5	
Receive			
Noise Floor	-133 dBm	-135 dBm	Equal sensitivity setup. Preamp: 7300/off 710/P1
DR (20kHz)	103 dB	107 dB	
DR (2kHz)	94 dB	107 dB	
Speaker	Internal	Int/External	AESS includes SP-40 passive speaker.

Both rigs have excellent receivers, but the FT-710 clearly edges out the IC-7300 with lower phase noise and higher dynamic range.



The IC-7300 front panel is 1" taller than the FT-710, so it has more real estate available for easily accessible controls. On the NPARC 7030 kHz CW net my biggest problem is dealing with QRM falling within the 250 Hz filter bandwidth. What is needed is the ability to quickly null the offending signal with a quick turn of a knob. In this, and other cases, ergonomic factors are more important than hard performance measures.

References

1. Sherwood Tables at www.sherweng.com
2. QST Product reviews.