

Mountain Spark Gaps

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

October, 1986

Nets:

FM Phone 145.750 MHz Sundays at 9:00 p.m. EDT Bill King, W2LTJ
RTTY 145.750 MHz Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EDT John Sheetz, K2AGI
Westlink 145.750 MHz Sundays at 7:30 p.m. EDT Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
CW 28.150 MHz Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EDT Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

October 15 (Wednesday): Beginners Night.
Several club members will speak on how to get going in the world of Amateur radio; what modes to operate, what equipment to buy, where to buy it, effective inexpensive antennas, etc. This will be a fantastic opportunity for new novices and would-be novices to learn what is available with Amateur Radio and how to set up their station correctly.

October 27: Regular fourth-Monday meeting

November sneak-peak: NORAD (NORTH American Defense) program - details in November Spark Gaps!

NOTE: NPARC Meetings will now be held in the meeting room of the New Providence Memorial Library at 8 PM the second and fourth Mondays of each month unless otherwise noted. (See page 2)

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 11: ARRL VEC Exams
13: Columbus Day
15: NPARC Meeting - "Beginners"
26: Turn Clocks Back One Hour
27: NPARC Fourth-Monday Meeting
31: Halloween

UPGRADES

Paul Wickliffe, KB2BBQ upgraded from Novice to Technician Class in September. Congratulations, Paul!

RTTY PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Always agree with someone before you explain to him why he is wrong.

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The Mountain Spark Gaps

Editor Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Distribution John Sheetz, K2AGI

HAMFEST WATCH

October 11 (Saturday): Second Annual Cranford Computer Expo will be held at Union County College Cranford Campus, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ, 9 AM to 4 PM. Flea market, vendor exhibits, and workshops. Admission FREE, sellers \$4/spot. More info: Call 276-7301 or 276-2600

NPARC CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED by Mike Macioce (635-5650):

Simple Ham equipment to get started.

For Sale by Fred Boenig, W2KHL (647-3509):

- Heath SB102 with CW filter, power supply, speaker, microphone, and manuals.
- Hammarlund HQ-129X Receiver with matching speaker cabinet and manual.

For Sale by Bob Willis, K2GLS:

- Drake T4X Transmitter, S/N 10913; R4B Receiver, S/N 8276B Complete with Power Supply, BUD Low Pass Filter, B&W Antenna Switch, Drake Model 707 Microphone, JJ-3B Key, and MS-4 Speaker. Excellent condition, in original cartons with all manuals. Asking \$250.00
- Heathkit SB-10 Single Sideband Generator for use with Heath TX-1, Apache, Transmitter.
- Calrad Compact Speaker Model 20-20B Walnut Cabinet.
- Meissner Signal Shifter with Signal Spotter.
- EICO 315 Signal Generator and EICO 425 Oscilloscope.
- Regency HF Bands Signal Booster.
- NEW Q Met SWR Meter with forward and reverse meters.
- Assorted Plug-in coils, crystals, meters, speakers, etc.

Please contact Bob Willis at 543-2454 (Home) or 386-4666 (Work) for further information, or Elizabeth L. Willis at 543-6914 to make offer or see equipment.

For sale by Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ (665-1873):

Antenna of Joe Gitz, KD2BC (SK).

JAS-1 SATELLITE HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

The JAS-1 Satellite Handbook is now available from Project Oscar. Originally available only in Japanese from JAMSAT, the English language edition is an exact translation. Packet enthusiasts and others will find much of interest within the pages of this handbook.

It is priced at \$10 from: JAS-1 Satellite Handbook, Project Oscar, INC., P.O. Box 1136, Los Altos, CA 94023-1136.

--From WB6GFJ

NPARC CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION

On Friday, December 12, there will be a gala Christmas party at The AFTON in Florham Park featuring WOR Radio's airborne traffic reporter George Meade with his "Eye in the Sky" show. The show features an aerial view of the New York/Metropolitan area from the copilot's seat of a helicopter 1000 feet up, and George's colorful narrative. This enjoyable presentation will be of great interest to Amateur and guest alike. Tickets will be sold to NPARC members, their families and guests first. They will then be offered to a limited number of friends from other radio clubs in the area. We have kept the cost down to \$16 so that members will be able to invite several guests. This price includes choice of entrée, two vegetables, fruit cup, rolls & butter, mixed green salad, dessert, and tea or coffee.

To be sure of receiving tickets to this very special event, fill out the application on page 4 of this issue immediately. The dining room size limits the number of available seats and we expect our friends in other clubs to quickly buy up left-over tickets. We cannot guarantee a seat if you do not act promptly. Forms will also be available at NPARC meetings.

Remember the date: Friday, December 12.
Cash bar at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM.

--From W2EME

ARRL VEC PROGRAM

Know of anyone who is thinking of upgrading? Does someone you know want to go for their novice license? Don't forget that the NNJ VE Board is alive and well and has sessions the second Saturday of each month. Exams are conducted at Union County College in Cranford, NJ. FCC form 610 applications with copy of existing amateur license and \$4.25 check payable to "ARRL VEC" should be received at least 30 days prior to exam date. Walk-ins are permitted but at risk of limited test materials. Novice form 610 applications are exempt of the \$4.25 fee. Contact Carl Felt, N2XJ at 635-7686 for more information and/or 610 forms.

The next two sessions will be October 11 and November 8.

SIGNS FOR ARRL HQ

The Newington Police Department has agreed to the posting of seven signs around town to point the way to ARRL Headquarters. The signs will particularly benefit those approaching HQ from the Berlin Turnpike (US Route 5). They should be installed in about a month. Once they're up, HQ will see about getting similar signs installed in West Hartford, to assist those traveling on Interstate 84.

--ARRL Letter, July 7, 1986

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Treasurer John Sheetz, K2AGI reported that the current club balance was only \$23.80. Some of the reasons for this include the \$100 deposit to reserve The Afton for the holiday

party, several increases in postage, and outlays for Field Day. (See financial statement on this page) In light of this, the dues have been raised to the following amounts:

Students \$2 Regular membership \$10

This increase was inevitable because costs have been increasing for many years.

We have been informed that we can no longer use the New Providence Municipal Building for our regular Monday night meetings, so Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ has reserved our old meeting room at the New Providence Memorial Library for the next 11 months. This, the original meeting site has become our "new" site.

Late news: A mysterious check made out to the New Providence Amateur Radio Club for \$50 was received from "Anon Y. Mous, New Providence, NJ 07974". Thank you, Anon!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 1986

Balance Forward 1/1/86	\$139.42
Income	
Dues Received	\$363.00
Interest	8.04
Auction	199.35
ARRL Rebates	18.00
Patches	15.00
Miscellaneous	5.00
Total Income	\$608.39
Expense	
Postage	\$151.55
Food & Refreshments	147.00
Field Day	72.72
V. E. Program	16.50
Contributions	105.21
Social Activity	100.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Total Expense	\$617.98
Balance 9/30/86	\$129.83

--From K2AGI, Treasurer

TRANSMITTER HUNT INFORMATION

The Annual NPARC Transmitter Hunt has been scheduled for Sunday, November 2. The Rabbit, Bill Wadsworth, W2ZKE stated that we will abide by the usual hunt rules, however, the transmitter will be impossible to find.

--From W2ZKE

A.R.R.L. UPDATE - LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE LEAGUE

In an effort to provide even more service to ARRL affiliated clubs, the Club Services Department has been formed at ARRL Headquarters in Newington. Its mission is to work more closely with ARRL's affiliated clubs, emphasizing their role as an effective grassroots force in the areas of amateur radio instruction, new-ham recruitment, and public information dissemination. The department will be responsible for the Affiliated Club Program, the Audio/Visual area, grassroots new-ham Training Program, and the local Pub-

lic Information program. If you have any questions about the new department drop a line to department head Curt Holsopple, K9CH.

The ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee On Digital Communications has worked up a list of features needed in VHF/UHF digital radios and will approach VHF/UHF experimenters for some help. Progress has been made on networking protocols, but there is still much work ahead. Additional information can be found in the report on the Fifth ARRL Amateur Radio Computer Networking Conference from League HQ.

Electronics, communications, and aerospace companies often produce in-house training tapes. Many of these are high-quality productions with content of interest to hams. If you, or your company, use such tapes, why not help everyone, and update the Leagues training library at the same time by getting the OK to donate a copy of the tapes to the League so that the Leagues A/V service may duplicate and distribute them nationally.

Have you upgraded your license recently? If you did, the Gettysburg office of the FCC says that it will take 16 working days, about three weeks in "real time", to process your new license. Add an additional week or two for processing by the Volunteer Examination Coordinator, and you have a realistic time frame for expecting your ticket.

If you have upgraded, and are thinking of changing your callsign at the same time, remember that licensees who upgrade are eligible to request a callsign change at the time of that upgrade. Your callsign will not be changed unless a specific request is made at that time. Item 2E, "change of callsign", should be checked. After the request is made you will be issued a new callsign by the Commission. You are not allowed to request a specific callsign. You always have the option to retain your current callsign.

Effective January 1, 1986, only the June 1984 and later editions of FCC Form 610 may be used to obtain an amateur license. Applying on earlier editions of the form after January 1 will delay issuance of your license. FCC says that your application will be returned without action requiring you to refile on a current form.

--ARRL UPDATE is a service of Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director

COMPUTER OPERATED AMATEUR RADIO STATION

Larry, "Tree" Tyree, N6TR, of Beaverton, Oregon, used what may have been the first completely automated computer operated amateur radio station during Field Day this year.

N6TR made a number of CW contacts using a Z80-based computer and some experimental software which ran a TS-430 transceiver using battery power without the need for any human assistance. The software tunes the receiver, locates the station to call (it only answers CQs so far), completes that QSO, prints out a record of the contact, and continues to scan for a new QSO. N6TR notes that there is still a long way to go before it can come close to matching a human operator!

--ARRL Letter, July 7, 1986

CABLE TVI, OR NOT TVI. THAT IS THE QUESTION.

By Bob Brown, W2EME.

Last month I was providing a talk-in for our speaker, Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, from the home QTH. I then went mobile to rendezvous with Steve at one of the Bell Labs entrances. Curiously, a Suburban Cable TV truck with bubble green machine lights flashing flagged me down as I pulled into the entrance claiming that I was interfering with a cable-ready TV set on Berkshire Drive, Berkeley Heights, operating on cable channel 18. They had picked up my transmissions on a scanner. (By the way, in New Jersey it is illegal to carry an operable scanner in a car or TV cable truck without a permit). There was a "1 to 1 correlation between my transmissions and the interference." This interference had persisted for several weeks, and several customers on that street had complained to the company. The FCC was also about to be notified as soon as the customer could locate a big enough antenna tower to pin the blame on. (Mine qualifies easily).

It turns out that cable channel 18 operates on our 2-meter Ham band, and as some of our own members have discovered, unless both the cable system and TV set are properly shielded against off-the-air pickup, they will most definitely be subject to interference from any properly operating 2-meter rig in the immediate vicinity. I was interfering with a set well over 1/2 mile away; strange even with the worst of TV's.

A test was arranged with the cable company, and the New Providence Club was ready. When the cable company arrived at my house their representative was somewhat shocked to be greeted by a squadron with mobile and hand-held 2-meter units, namely, John Sheetz K2AGI, Floyd Harvey KA2DDG, Bay Rowan W2GKF, Rick Anderson WB2QOO, Tom Brown KA2UGQ, Harry Kundrat W2YEZ, and Bob Latter, W2YFM. The company representative was reluctant to allow the NPARC members to participate until it was made quite clear to him that without the club members I would cancel the test, since I was reluctant to be "nailed" as the sole cause of a problem brought about by their insistence on operating on our 144-148 MHz band. At that point the mobile units convoyed to Berkshire Drive, while W2YFM offered his support at the W2EME base station. Fortunately, no W2EME transmission resulted in interference. Only when a 25-watt mobile unit was stationed directly in front of the customer's house did any problem result. The cable company theorized that when they tightened the coax connections on their customer's set the problem was ameliorated. Only the cable company knows about the alleged "complaints" from all the other Berkshire Drive customers.

After the tests were concluded, some of the participants returned to W2EME's for cider, cookies and a discussion of the test result. Thanks to the 7 members who responded, it turned out to be quite a non-event.

-From W2EME

XYL CORNER - RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The following is from Scotty Snyder (XYL of Bud KB2GN) and was one of the desserts at the NPARC Pool Party at Al Hirsch's (K2SKV) house:

Scotch Short Bread

4 1/2 cups flour
1 lb butter
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 teaspoons almond flavor

Cream the butter. Add sugar. Cream together. Add flour slowly. Add vanilla and almond extracts. Knead, adding small amounts of flour as necessary. Knead well. Divide into three. Pat dough into three pie pans. Wave and prick with fork. Bake at 325 degrees until golden, about 40 minutes. Cut into wedges while hot. Makes about six small wedges per pan.

--From KB2GN, via K2AGI

CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President Bill Wadsworth, W2ZKE
Vice President Mike Shepnew, KA2UGR
Secretary Paul Meinschein, WB2JVG
Treasurer John Sheetz, K2AGI

Activities Bob Brown, W2EME -
Education Bob Latter, W2YFM
Field Day Bay Rowan, W2GKF
Legal Al Hirsch, K2SKV -
Property Bob Latter, W2YFM -
Publicity Harry Kundrat, W2YEZ -
Refreshments Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG
Regulations Bob Latter, W2YFM
Roster John Sheetz, K2AGI
V. E. Coordinator Carl Felt, N2XJ

"Mountain Spark Gaps" newsletter:
Editor Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Distribution John Sheetz, K2AGI

Club chartered: January 11, 1965
Incorporated: May 1969

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL affiliated club, ARRL #0213
P.O. Box 813
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