

Mountain Spark Gaps

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

October, 1987

Nets:

FM Phone 147.030 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
Westlink 147.030 MHz	Whippany Rptr. Simulcast	Tom Brown, KA2UGQ
Rusty CW 28.150 MHz	Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EDT	Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

October 26: TRAFFIC HANDLING

John King KA2F, the northern-New Jersey STM has prepared a slide and tape presentation on traffic handling in Amateur Radio. This presentation has been quite successful and interesting at other clubs' meetings and should be of interest to everyone. Thanks to Pete Holmes N2EXG for arranging this meeting.

November 9: NPARC business meeting

* NPARC Meetings are held in the meeting *
* room of the New Providence Memorial *
* Library on Elkwood Avenue at 8 PM on the *
* second and fourth Mondays of each month *
* unless otherwise noted. Business meet- *
* ings are held on the second-Monday *
* meetings and speakers will be scheduled *
* for the fourth-Monday meetings. *

NPARC CALENDAR

October:

- 11: "Professor Quiz", 1st quiz program on radio, 1936
- 18: First commercial long-distance telephone line opened, 1892
- 25: Daylight savings time ends
- 26: NPARC meeting: Traffic Handling
- 31: Halloween

November:

- 9: NPARC business meeting

December:

- 3: NPARC Christmas Party!

LOONEY TUNE-UPS



NPARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the annual New Providence ARC Christmas party will again be held in the Afton in Florham Park (off Hanover Road). The price will be \$16 per person and there will be a cash bar available. Please make note of the date: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Our speaker this year is Jim Barrett, the vice director of engineering at AT&T in Morris Plains. Jim has a very interesting presentation about the trouble with sharks eating AT&T's undersea lightwave cable. The talk is not a technical one, but rather one which should prove to be interesting to all members and their families. Jim will have colorful slides and colorful stories and will make the party interesting. FORMS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT SPARK GAPS, but we encourage you to call BILL KING, W2LTJ and make your reservations NOW! Bill may be reached at 377-5653.

--From W2YFM, W2LTJ, et al.

HAMFEST WATCH

Still watching...

NPARC CLASSIFIEDS

For sale by Bob Brown, W2EME (464-7958):

* * * SUPER SPECIAL BARGAIN * * *

Teletype model 15 RTTY terminal in excellent condition. Also available is a paper tape punch machine to save received text or pictures. Super special bargain price: \$1.00!

If you would like to place a FREE for sale or wanted ad in the Mountain Spark Gaps, contact Tom Brown, KA2UGQ at any club meeting or by calling 464-7958 (leave message on recorder).

PRB 1 - FINALLY PUT TO USE

A federal judge has relied on PRB 1 to avoid a local height limitation as applied to an Amateur Radio antenna. Andrew B. Bodony, K2LE, had brought suit in US District Court for the eastern district of New York to overturn denial by the Village of Sands point of his application for a building permit for an 86 foot tower, retractable to 23 feet in height. In granting partial summary judgement in Bodonys favor, district judge Jacob Mishler found PRB 1 to be a proper exercise of FCC authority and found that the village was precluded from applying its 25 foot height limitation on accessory buildings to Bodonys proposed antenna. This court test of PRB 1 represents the first time a local zoning ordinance as applied to an Amateur Radio antenna has been declared invalid on the basis of PRB 1, and further strengthens the position of Radio Amateurs fighting unreasonable local ordinances.

--From ARRL Bulletin 77

ANY GOOD RESTAURANTS AROUND?

A few weeks ago on the Sunday night net there was a discussion of a few good restaurants that have been visited by club members. Pres Conrad N2CXE invites anyone to send information on restaurants that they enjoy to Tom Brown KA2UGQ so it can be published in the Spark Gaps.

--From N2CXE

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS - NEW!

A new Leading Edge IBM-compatible computer has been added to the collection of goodies in the shack of KA2UGQ. Look forward to a new snazzy-looking newsletter for November!

ARRL UPDATE - THE LATEST FROM THE LEAGUE

The ARRL Board of Directors recently voted to respond to the FCC question on secondary callsign issuance by seeking to become a secondary callsign coordinator under very specific conditions. First some background.

From March to June of this year I took a survey of over 900 League members of the

Hudson Division. I asked if the FCC should give up the issuance of secondary callsigns 61% did not like that idea. I asked if someone other than the FCC should offer secondary callsigns if the FCC gave them up. 74% said no. I asked if the ARRL should take on this function. 74% said no. But this was with a caveat. The comment seen on over 60% of the forms from those who said no was "if someone other than the FCC has to issue secondary callsigns, it should be the League.

At the July Board meeting FCC Private Radio Bureau deputy chief Ralph Haller, N4RH, made a very convincing case before the board for the FCC giving up issuance of secondary callsigns. It became quickly obvious that the FCC is determined to stop issuing anything other than the original license and call-sign. Someone else will, eventually, issue secondary, or upgrade, callsigns.

Reluctantly, I joined the rest of the Board in voting to apply to administer the program. But only under circumstances that would safeguard both the system and the League. Our proposal would not allow for multiple callsign issuers. Imagine the fun of having three or four administrators issue the same callsign to as many different people! The League would become a contractor to the FCC and would sign a contract that would protect us against law suits, start-up problems and other gremlins that are bound to creep into the system. Any profits would have to be applied to League programs.

The initial cost upon application would be \$25.00 for a callsign of your choice (providing that someone else doesn't have it of course) that would expire with your original FCC callsign. You would have to renew the secondary callsign every five or ten years at a projected cost of \$10.00.

The FCC would be able to update it's own data base for monitoring purposes but the FCC would continue to keep the on line system for the field offices to use.

These are just some of the proposals that the League has made to the Commission. Is it a sure bet that the League will be chosen to handle the program? No. At least a dozen others have applied to administer this program and the Commission must choose carefully. Stay tuned.

If you have an idea that you think would improve the way the League works or an idea that would improve our hobby please take a minute or two, jot it down and send it to your ARRL Director. His address is on page 8 of each month's QST. He wants to hear from you.

--From WA2DHF, Hudson Div. Director

NEW MEMBER!

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club would like to welcome Mike McGovern, KC2KE, who joined us earlier this month.

It has been estimated that over 4 million "junk" phone calls -- live or recorded solicitations -- are made every day in the United States. But don't worry; most of them come to my house.