

# MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS



Volume 27    OCTOBER 1992    No. 9

## Welcome to New Members

Well, we really have a flock of new members and a new old member! We want to welcome Bill Christie who Harry, W2YEZ has been working on for some time. Bill joined on Sept. 15th.

Jim Caldwell, K4JPM, of Birmingham, Alabama, a long time member and past President of our club has signed up again. Welcome back Jim.

At our big meeting on September 28th, when 42 people attended, we gained five new members! These were: Louie Lagos, Amanda Matthews, James Matthews and Aaron Zahn, all of Chatham and Diane Reid, N2OFA, who is the XYL of Joe Reid, K2JAO.

## New Ham Arrives

Joe, N2KRP, announced the arrival of a new Ham, David Blank, at 4 AM on Tuesday September 15th. Joe was at our meeting on Monday the 14th so he didn't get much sleep that night! Our congratulations to Joe and his XYL Gale on their new arrival.



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

## Home alarm systems to be described

At our Main Program Meeting on October 26th Charles McCue, of New Providence, will tell us about ways and means of protecting our homes against all sorts of hazards. Not only is this a source of peace of mind but you may often find that your homeowner's insurance premiums may be reduced. Some of these systems now operate by RF, thus requiring very little wiring but you might like to find out how this could react with your transmitters.

BARRY, K2JV, HAS RETURNED FROM BULGARIA and we are sure to hear some interesting tales from him at our first meeting of the month which will be on TUESDAY, October 13th. Let's all show up for this meeting and welcome Barry back. (Wear your badges!)

## Summit Race Requests NPARC Help

The annual "Overlook Hustle", a 5 mile and 1 mile run, and 3 mile walk will take place on Sunday, October 18th in Summit. The event is being sponsored by the Overlook Hospital Foundation. The race, in which we are assisting, will start on DeForest Ave. and follow a scenic, 5 mile course through Summit, with a 3 mile cutoff for walkers. Our club has been asked to assist with communications throughout the race, in the same manor we have in previous years. The exact course will follow a slightly different route this year, due to the bridge construction currently under way in Summit. Our job consists of having 5 or 6 members, each with a 2 meter Handie-talkie positioned along the race course at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th mile locations, and the start/finish line. As the race progresses,

each club member would relay back to the finish line the status of the race, and which runners are in the lead positions. This information will then be made available to the officials. This event would again demonstrate the effectiveness of Amateur Radio in providing public service communications for such a local event, and certainly give our club some publicity. Our club has provided assistance in the form of communications for both the New Providence 10 K race and the Berkeley Heights race this year. I will be looking for approximately 6 members who would assist in this project. All you need is a 2 meter handie-talkie. The race starts at 2pm on Sunday October 18th, and will take only a couple of hours of time at the most. Please contact me if you have an interest in assisting in this event.

Rick Anderson WB2QOQ,  
908-464-8911, or 145.75 MHz.

Note that First Meeting is on TUESDAY

## 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

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## Climatological Data for New Providence for September 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 September, 87°F (Sept. 9th)

Minimum temperature for September, 47°F (Sept. 23th)

Average temperature for the month, 68.1°F; which is 3.1 deg. above the average temperature of 65.0° for September for the past 10 years.

Heating degree days for September, 28 Heating degree days last September, 112 The number of days in the month of September over the past 10 years in which the temperature was 90°F or higher: September '91 - 2 days; September '89 - 2 days; September '83 - 4 days.

Total precipitation this September, 3.46". Precipitation September 1991, 5.02". Average precip. in Sept. during the past 10 yrs. 4.15".

Total precipitation for 1992 33.5".

Total precipitation last year at this time 36.72".

## Hamfest Schedule

**BARA Annual Fall Hamfest**, Saturday, October 10th,  
8 AM to 2 PM - Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ

Admission \$2 - Sellers \$10 per space.

For info call Jim Joyce, K2ZO (201)664-6725 (not after 10 pm)

Shore Area Ham & Computerfest, Sunday, Oct 11, 8 AM - 3 PM.  
Allaire Airport, Wall Twp, New Jersey. Buyers \$5 advance purchase (two drawing stubs), \$6 at the door (one stub). Sellers \$10 per 8 ft. wide space, first come first serve basis. Indoors \$25 per table, reservation required. Info: Al Jackson, 908-922-8121.

**TCRA Hamputer-Fest** Saturday October 17th will be held in a NEW LOCATION. The Tri-County Radio Association hamfest will be held at Union Catholic Regional High School at 1600 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. Reservations must be in by October 9th to Dick Franklin (908)654-4943. Tables \$10, Tailgating \$8. You must reserve space for either.

## Hall of Science ARC Hamfest/Computerfest

Sunday October 18th, 9 AM to 3 PM

New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St, Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, NY. Donation \$5 at the door, sellers \$8 per space.

## Swapshop

For Sale

Kenwood TH-25AT two-meter FM Transceiver (handi-talkie). 2.5 watts output. Receives 141-163 MHz. Weighs 14 ounces. With battery, antenna, charger and manual. Like new. \$220.  
Call Bay Rowan 908-464-5090

For Sale

Hewlett Packard Model 608C signal generator. 10 to 480 MHz with 0 to 95% amplitude modulation at 400 & 1000 Hz and calibrated output from .1 microvolt to 1 volt. \$90.  
Call Harry Kundrat 908-665-1873

## NPARC = QRP

When Doug Stivison, NR1A, mentioned during his most interesting talk at our last meeting that most 2-meter voice communication is QRP, it sure struck a familiar note at this QTH.

Early in the history of NPARC, oh, about 25 years ago, a club net was started on 2-meters. It met at 9 PM on Friday night on 145.80 Mc with Arden Johnson, then WB2GPG and now K8SDZ, as net control. The net was on AM of course, and talk about QRP! Most of us used Gonset Communicators (Gooney Boxes), Heath Twoers (Lunchboxes), modified ARC-5's, or as in Arden's case, a Heathkit Pawnee complete with a VFO. Most Gonssets came in bright yellow from local CD units, but I owned my own in a shiny silver case. The antenna was a 19 inch piece of wire with a coax plug on one end which fitted into a coax socket on top of the box. Even with that quarter wave whip I heard most of the members of the net, and was heard by a few, and probably by others on their tube-type TV sets. Eventually I got a Telrex 5-element beam up on the roof and joined the big leagues.

We bought crystals as a group from JAN Crystals in Florida because they had very cheap war surplus crystals for certain frequencies. It turned out that they had a batch cut for 8100 kc which in our case would multiply by 18 (3 x 3 x 2) to give us 145.8 Mc. (We didn't have MHz in those days!) If I recall correctly these crystals were under a buck apiece.

We soon learned that having the same frequency marked on the crystal case didn't ensure that we would all be on the same frequency when we plugged these crystals into our

various types of transmitters. Even so we usually drifted past the net frequency occasionally, and tweaking with fine wires twisted around the crystal terminals helped. The selectivity of my Gonset, however, was such that a few kc one way or the other showed little movement of the green magic eye tuning indicator and I heard most signals. Eventually I built the ultimate, a W2AZL converter with a 417A low noise tube in the front end and used it with my Hallicrafters SX-96. What an improvement. However, switching from receive to transmit was a chore.

Although all of this sounds primitive compared to today's mini handhelds, remember that operation of any kind at such a high frequency, 144 Mc, was a real step forward for us, made possible after WW II by the development of some real good tubes.

We usually had 8 or 10 on the net and had some real great QSO's. I've got a tape of several of the nets that I used as raw material for an edited tape that was played as the program at our second annual NPARC year-end dinner, held as usual at the William Pitt restaurant in Chatham.

We later decided that too many members of the club went bowling on Friday night, or out to dinner, or had religious obligations, so we moved the net to Sunday night. We're still at it and I guess Doug's definition of QRP still applies to us. At least it does to our 145.750 daily "net" and probably to the Sunday repeater net. After all, we usually have a few like W2GKF who forget to push the right button and then transmit on the output, and that's real QRP.

de K2SKV.



## October Birthdays

Bill Christie 5th

Steve Meltz N2QLQ 21st

Bill Wadsworth W2ZKE 23rd

Bob Carter 24th

## November Birthdays

Paul Mathews N2ZK 5th

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## Wow! More Upgrades

On Saturday September 12th Mike Rigal, KB2NUE, passed his Advanced Class license test and Joel Tompkins, KB2PDW, passed his General Class test.

It seems like these new licensees aren't happy at the starting level too long! Our congratulations to both Mike and Joel for their hard work. They were both trying to make the grade before they got tied down with school work and it paid off. Even now they are talking about upgrading further!

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## License Course Rolling

Carl Felt reports that our license classes are well under way. An initial sign-up of 15 candidates has resulted in a regular attendance of about eight to ten students. A large percentage of the students are also taking the code instruction. Everyone involved in this project has done an outstanding job. We are looking forward to the successful completion of the course and the licensing of all of the students.

## Badge Response Overwhelming!

At the time I made the offer of free badges for prompt payment of dues I had no idea of the tremendous concern I was going to create.

To start with, we had a record attendance at the first meeting of September which was the first opportunity to personally submit your dues with the membership renewal form. As the deadline of September 30th approached I had two and three people a day showing up at the door of my house, personally delivering their dues. I had phone calls from people who wanted to verify that the "check they had put in the mail" had arrived safely! I had letters and notes from people who are unable to attend the meetings wanting to know if there was some way they could get a badge.

As of the end of September 72 people have already paid their dues. We have had two formal resignations and 39 have not yet renewed. From past experience I would estimate that we will lose about 15 members so I am expecting to receive renewals from about 24 more members. I have not made an actual comparison but I am quite sure that we are well ahead of where we were at this time last year. This has always been a dragged out job and I really appreciate your early response. Thanks.

I had never realized that the offer of a badge could accomplish so much. Maybe I should offer a special badge for all of the students who complete the license course and also pass the code test. We might get a 100% class!

John, K2AGI

## New Radio Club Formed

A nucleus of licensed hams at the Chatham High School are in the process of forming a new school radio club. It will be called the Chatham High School Amateur Radio Club.

The first official meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 6th. A lot of leg work has been done to establish the club in accordance with school regulations.

The charter officers are: President, Joel Tompkins, KB2PDW, Vice President, Mike Rigal, KB2NUE, Treasurer, Mike Hinchliff, KB2OCG and Secretary, Chris Daniels, KB2OOW. The Faculty Advisor will be Paul Chaput and the Trustee will be Jim Kern, KB2FCV. At the present time 12 members are already signed up.

The main purpose of this club is to encourage licensing of new amateurs in the school, and to provide a school club station for current hams. Dues have been set at \$5 per school year.

Initial plans are to build a ground plane as a temporary VHF antenna and eventually a "cactus-j" which several of the members are already using successfully. Present equipment includes a keyer, a Heathkit HW-16 (courtesy of Joe Reid, K2JAO), an Icom-2SAT (From Joel, KB2PDW), a homebrew receiver (from Tom Tompkins), an antenna tuner, miscellaneous tools and parts.

Some of the plans at the present include a field trip to W1AW, involvement in contests and building equipment such as keyers, receivers, etc. A club library of reference books and magazines will probably be established.

If anyone is aware of avail-

able equipment or reference material, donations of ANY type would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Joel, KB2PDW

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## Survival Under Packet

If you check back to this issue of the Spark Gaps from last year you will notice that we have just completed a year of survival on our long used frequency of 145.75 MHz enduring the incessant blasts of packet from K2EK. We have also heard from several other voice operators looking for a new operating frequency where they have been driven out by either packet or some other form of automated transmission.

To date we are not aware of any of our club members actually taking action to reduce the problem by putting up directional antennas having a null toward K2EK and no experimentation has been done to see if any kind of audio filter could remove or reduce the annoying sounds. Apparently we have decided to put up with things as they are at the moment.

We do know that our staying active on the frequency has probably curtailed some possible packet stations in our area from using K2EK. If we had moved off of 145.75 there are undoubtedly several stations in our vicinity who would now be using K2EK. Apparently with the growth of activity due to the code-free licenses there are a lot of people looking for clear spots to operate simplex phone on two-meters. Does anyone have any new thoughts on the idea of doing anything about the problem as it stands today? We have not discussed this at a club meeting for a long time.

## Headlines Run Amuck, You Can Too.

No new ones recieved from members this month! Keep your eyes open and send in the good ones. In the meantime, here's a few more from the master list.

### LA BURIES DEAD, SEEKS MORE VICTIMS

### ANTIQU STRIPPER TO DISPLAY WARES AT STORE

### EYE DROPS OFF SHELF

### TEACHER STRIKES IDLE KIDS

### DEALERS WILL HEAR CAR TALK FRIDAY NOON

### QUARTER OF A MILLION CHINESE LIVE ON WATER

### DRUNK GETS 9 MONTHS IN VIOLIN CASE

Bob, KB2IKC

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## WD4IGL/ATV

A new television station has been very active lately right in our own back yard. Terry, WD4IGL, has been experimenting with TV coverage of some local sporting events. He has aquired a television "crew" who take part in relaying TV coverage from one point to another. In some cases he has even tried this from a mobile camera! Terry is using normal (fast scan) TV signals into a 425 MHz amateur transmitter.

His first full scale attempt was to cover a 5 kilometer foot race in Berkeley Heights. He started out by sending pictures back to the race starting point from a location about a quarter of a mile down the road. He then tried to imitate the ABC mobil news crew by standing up through the sun-roof opening in his car and shooting pictures while a helper drove the

car. Just how you can keep a camera aimed at a moving object and at the same time keep a directional antenna shooting at a receiving location is quite a wonder. Now we need a videotape of Terry doing his thing through the roof of the car.

His second video venture was to cover a combination bicycle and roller blade race on the unopened stretch of route 24 in Chatham. Terry was assisted by his son Mark and by Chris, KB2OOW.

Now if Ernie, N2EFR, can just get that camera in one of his RC planes we should really have a story for the front page!

You've got to admit that the members of our club have highly diversified interests in the various aspects of amateur radio.

And by the way, Terry also put on a demonstration of his TV transmission for the members of our license course at one of their recent meetings.

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## Have You Paid Your Dues?

If you are among the 39 people who have not yet paid their dues for 1993 please find your RENEWAL FORM and take care of it. I would like to get this out of the way because I have enough other things to do!

Your Treasurer, K2AGI

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## Advanced Notice

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Holiday Dinner which will be on Friday, December 11th. It will be held at Sep-tembers on the Hill, the same place as last year. Full details and a reservation form will be included with your November edition of the Spark Gaps.

## NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 30, 1992

Balance Forward 1/1/92 1,786.52

#### Income

Dues Received ..... 704.00  
Interest ..... 43.86  
Auction ..... 365.79  
ARRL Rebates ..... 12.00  
Contributions ..... 247.00  
Patches & Hats ..... 35.50

Total Income ..... 1408.15

#### Expense

Postage ..... 331.09  
Food & Refreshments ..... 534.17  
Field Day ..... 21.86  
Contributions+Dues ..... 250.99  
Patches & Hats ..... 50.41  
Miscellaneous ..... 35.00

Total Expense ..... 1223.52

Balance 9/30/92 ..... 1,971.15

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## Club Finances

Above is our quarterly Financial Report as of the end of September. Questions often arise as to how we are doing or how is our "budget." We have some items which are very predictable and others which are totally unpredictable. On the income side, dues and interest are fairly well known. The two large factors which are quite unpredictable are contributions to the club and returns from the auction. The major source of contributions has been from estates of deceased members. Our auctions, for partly similar reasons, have varied widely in their return. Our income so far this year from these two sources is a little over \$600. Last year the same two categories produced only a little over \$230. The trick here is that the members decide what they want to spend and in so doing determine what dues they want to pay! (balanced budget) Do we need a Congress to do this for us?