

Mountain Spark Gaps

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

September, 1986

Nets:

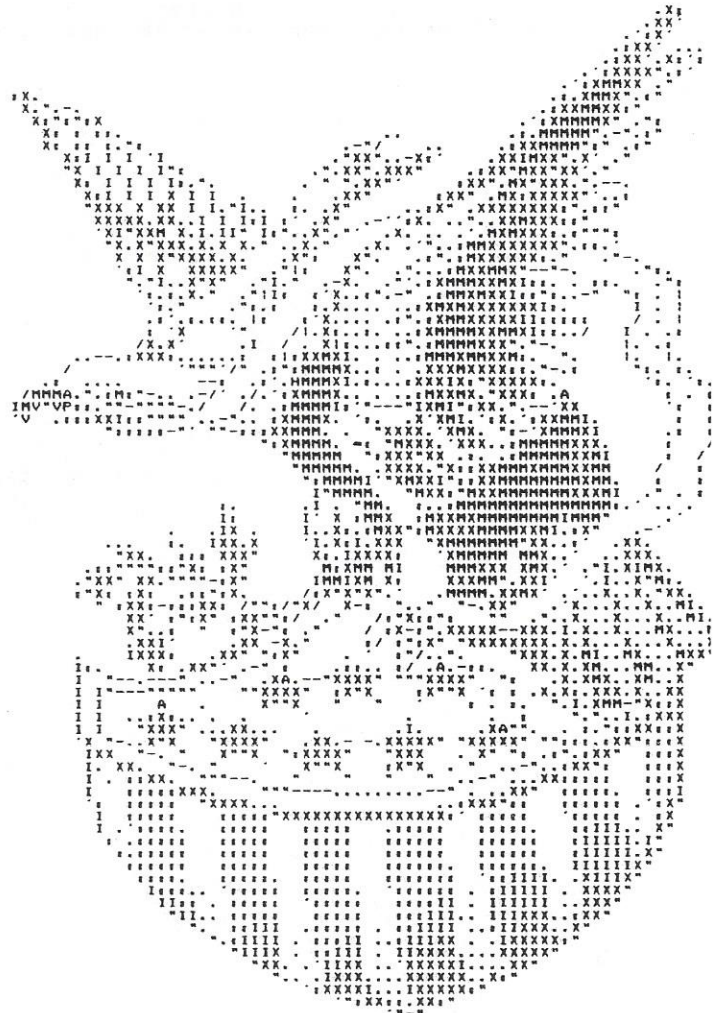
FM Phone 145.750 MHz Sundays at 9:00 p.m. EDT Bill King, W2LTJ
RTTY 145.750 MHz Sundays at 8:00 p.m. EDT John Sheetz, K2AGI
Westlink 145.750 MHz Sundays at 7:30 p.m. EDT Tom Brown, KA2UGG
CW 28.150 MHz Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. EDT Floyd Harvey, KA2DDG

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

September 8: Don Smith, KA2EGD will speak on Lightning Protection for the Home and Hamshack.

September 22: ARRL Hudson Division Vice director Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF will be speaking on various topics, including some of his escapades at CBS. Steve is also running for Director in the up and coming ARRL election.

RTTY PICTURE OF THE MONTH



NPARC Meetings are now held in the New Providence Municipal Building, off Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ every second and fourth Monday evening at 8:00. The meetings take place there downstairs where the annual NPARC Auction is held. Plenty of parking is available in the lot next to the building. Please use the front (Elkwood Avenue) entrance.

NPARC CALENDAR

- September:
- 1: Labor Day
 - 7: Grandparents Day
 - 8: NPARC Meeting: "Lightning"
 - 22: NPARC Fourth-Monday Meeting; Patent for Ice Cream Cone applied for, 1903
 - 23: First Day of Autumn

- December:
- 12: NPARC Christmas Party at Afton

The Mountain Spark Gaps

Editor Tom Brown, KA2UGG
Distribution John Sheetz, K2AGI

HAMFEST WATCH

September 14 (Sunday): The South Jersey Radio Assn will hold their 38th Annual SJRA hamfest at the Pennsauken High School parking lot, off Readington Avenue off Route 130, 8 AM to 4 PM. Admission \$2.50 advance, \$3 at door. Tailgating \$5/space (bring your own tables). VE testing available as well as refreshments & food. Talk-in on 145.29 (-600). More info: J.W. Sammis, W2YRW at (609) 429-0103.

September 20 (Saturday): The Maple Shade ARC will be hosting their 1st Annual Hamfest at the Maple Shade High School on Coles Avenue, 8 AM to 2 PM. Talk-in on 146.52 (simplex) and 223.02/224.62. Refreshments available. Donation \$5/carload [Required "Donation" hi hi -Ed], which includes one tailgating spot. Additional spaces \$5. More info: Howard Weinstein, K3HW at (609) 596-3304.

September 21 (Sunday): The Long Island Mobile ARC Outdoor Hamfair at the New York Institute of Technology, Northern Blvd., 9 AM to 3 PM. Activities include computers, dealers, Hi-Fi Stereo, ARRL information, TV, satellite communications, VHF tune-up clinic (get your rig checked), and [ahhhem] CB equipment. Admission \$3. Wives, children, and sweethearts FREE. Sellers car space \$5 (admits driver), enter at 8 AM. Free parking, food, and refreshments available. Directions: Long Island Expressway (495) to exit 39 north, 2 miles on Glen Cove Road, right turn onto 25A Northern Blvd., 1 mile east on the right.

October 4 (Saturday): The Orange County ARC will be holding its hamfest and auction at John S. Burke Catholic High School, 9 AM to 3 PM. Admission \$3, tables \$7, tailgating \$3. Setup 8 AM. License exams available, starting 9 AM. Talk-in on 167.76 and 146.52 (simplex). More info: Bob, WB2ENA at 767-6698.

October 5 (Sunday): Bucks County Drive-in Theatre, Route 611, Warrington PA, 7 AM to 4 PM rain or shine. Tailgating \$6/space, advance registration. More info: HamaRama, PO Box 311, Southampton, PA 18966.

October 5 (Sunday): The Yonkers ARC is sponsoring their hamfest at the municipal parking garage, 9 AM to 4 PM. Admission \$3. Activities include a frequency clinic, mini-theatre, satellite TV, etc. Refreshments, parking, and free coffee available. Talk-in on 146.865 (-600) and 445.15/440.15. More info: Yonkers ARC at (914) 969-1053.

NETS TO LISTEN TO

145.750 NPARC Club Frequency:
Westlink Report: 7:30 PM Sunday Nights, KAZUGQ net control.
RTTY Net: 60 WPM Baudot, 8:00 PM Sunday Nights, K2AGI net control.
FM Phone Net: 9:00 PM Sunday Nights, W2LTJ net control.

147.000 (-600) WA2EXP Repeater: Technical net, 7 PM to 9 PM Sunday Nights.

147.000 (-600) WA2EXP Repeater: Florida Link-up -- talk to your friends on the W4AB Repeater in Fort Lauderdale, Florida [146.91 (-600)] through WA2EXP in Manhattan, NY. 5 PM Sunday Nights. NC2F net control.

147.045 (-600) W2EXQ Repeater: QCWA Homebrew News and Information Net, 10:00 PM Tuesday Nights. W2DME Net Control.

147.315 (+600) WA2RXQ Repeater: AMSAT Net, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM Tuesday evenings

3.855: AMSAT Net, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM Tuesday evenings (also on 147.315 above)

--From KAZUGQ

ARRL UPDATE - LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE LEAGUE

Are license fees returning for Amateur Radio licenses? Not if the FCC has its way. On June 25 the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in General Docket 86-285 proposing a broad fee schedule ranging from \$20 for certain renewals to \$6,000 for a hearing on a TV station license to \$18,000 for some space station applications.

But a footnote (#81) exempts amateur radio licenses from any fees. It states "We note that section 8 (d) (1) of the Communications Act, . . . by no means includes all of the services exempt from fees. This explicit statutory language was necessary to exempt specific users in the private radio services that would otherwise be subject to charges. By its failure to establish a specific fee, the statutory schedule of charges exempts whole categories of radio services, such as are going to be exempt.

If your local zoning board decides to enact anti-antenna regulations that you feel restrict your right to have a tower, drop a line and a BIG S.A.S.E. with \$3 postage to ARRL Headquarters at 225 Main Street, Newington, Ct., 06111, and ask for their PRB-1 package. It contains a copy of the FCC document that preempts the local zoning board's right to deny you a proper tower as well as other helpful legal documents should you decide to try to change the zoning board's mind.

The unofficial "QRP portable" category for the June VHF QSO Party has been made official for the September Party. Finding no opposition, the ARRL's Contest Advisory Committee set this QRP category at 10 watts to coincide with many of the popular lower-powered multi-mode rigs available. This category is to encourage backpacking type operations from locations generally accessible only by foot. It may have its greatest impact in the West where operations from rare grid squares, or "gridpeditions," have really taken hold.

Thinking of putting up a repeater in the New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut area? All FM voice repeater/RTTY mailbox/Packet digipeater frequencies between 29 and 1280 MHz are allocated by the Tri-State Amateur Repeater Council. You can contact them via their president, Gary Kantor, WA2BAU, at P.O.

Box 6743, Eastport Station, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206. The purpose of repeater coordination is to keep interference to all users to a minimum. In addition, the FCC, in a recent Rule Making, stated that "Repeater coordination is needed due to the explosive growth in VHF/UHF usage in the past 10 years". No such thing as a clear channel anymore.

Win-some-lose-some department: In April, 1986, it was reported that WIAW would get some new amplifiers to replace the 20 year+ models currently being used. In May, the famous WIAW rhombic antenna incurred extensive vandalism. The 50-foot tower support in the "back 40" of ARRL headquarters was crashed by loosening up of the turnbuckles. The Newington police were called in to investigate and the "corpse" was removed to prevent injury to inquisitive neighbors. Bringing the rhombic back up to operational speed with increased protection could be costly. Options are under review.

Thinking of "going back to school this fall" and studying to upgrade? If so make sure that your study material is up-to-date. It would be a shame if you were studying last year's questions.

ARRL UPDATE is a service of ARRL HUDSON DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR STEVE MENDELSON, WA2DHF

--From WA2DHF

OSCAR-12 (JAS-1) SATELLITE INFO

Japan has launched their first Amateur Satellite, JAS-1. In addition to functioning similarly to many of the past amateur satellites, JAS-1 is also an orbiting packet radio bulletin board system. The following frequencies are used:

Linear transponder: Mode JA

Uplink passband: 145.90 - 146.00 MHz
Downlink passband: 435.80 - 435.90 MHz
Beacon frequency: 435.795 MHz
Translate frequency: 581.80 MHz

The passband is 100 kHz wide. The transponder has an output of 1 watt PEP. Ground stations will need an uplink power of 100 watts EIRP. The sidebands are reversed, i.e., the uplink is LSB and the downlink is USB. There is a 100-mW CW beacon switchable to PSK when needed.

Digital transponder (packet): Mode JD

Uplink channel 1: 145.85 MHz
Uplink channel 2: 145.87 MHz
Uplink channel 3: 145.89 MHz
Uplink channel 4: 145.91 MHz
Downlink channel: 435.91 MHz

The data format is HDLC. The protocol is AX.25 Level 2 Version 2 (standard packet radio protocol). The data transfer is 1200 baud for both uplink and downlink. There are four 145-MHz band input channels using Manchester-coded FM for the uplink. Ground stations will need 100 watts EIRP. There is one downlink channel in the 435-MHz band using PSK; the output is 1 watt RMS.

The satellite sends telemetry on the CW beacon and also as 2400 baud PSK data. Tom

Brown, KA2UGQ has extensive information on the telemetry including a computer program written in C to decipher the data. If you would like to know what all the numbers the satellite sends mean, contact Tom for a copy of the document.

--From KA2UGQ

THE DON'TS OF Ni-Cad BATTERIES

[From Worldradio, September 1986, page 26]

By Lee Bunch, WB7CYD

1. Don't deliberately discharge packs to zero.
2. Don't continue to use your HT after the low battery indicator comes on.
3. Don't use a wall charger for more than 15 hours per charge.
4. Don't do a 15 hour slow charge on a battery that is only slightly discharged.
5. Don't charge your pack in freezing temperatures or in direct sunlight.
6. Don't continue to charge a battery if it gets warm during charging. Check for a shorted cell or a misadjusted charger.

--Idaho newsletter, Boise, ID

ELECTRONIC TRIVIA

Alessandro Volta judged a battery by the flash he saw when he touched its wires to his eyelids! Andre Marie Ampere showed that when current flowed through a suspended wire loop, the loop became magnetized and acted like a compass needle and pointed north.

--W5YI Report

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.

HEARD ON THE AIR (clean)

Some people remember the time when they could get a 1-pound steak for a dime. Old people remember remember that they had to work an hour for that dime.

If you believe you can do something, you probably can. If you believe that you can't...you are more than likely right about that, too.

The
New Providence
Amateur Radio Club