

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS
NEW PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P. O. Box 813, New Providence, NJ 07974
ARRL Affiliated Club #0213
SEPTEMBER 1989

CLUB CALENDAR

- Sept 11, Monday, regular club
business meeting.
- Sept 25, Monday, regular club program
meeting.
Subject: Lightning Protection
- Oct 10, TUESDAY, regular club
business meeting.
(Monday is a holiday)
- Oct 15, SUNDAY, Fall Fox Hunt, 1:00 PM
- Oct 23, Monday, regular club program.
Subject:
- Nov 13, Monday, club meeting, Elections.
- Nov 27, Monday, last meeting of the year.
- Dec 19, TUESDAY, annual Holiday Dinner
Afton Restaurant, 6:30 PM

"RIG NIGHT" CLUB MEETING A BIG SUCCESS

We had an excellent response at our last August club meeting. Several people brought in their HF transceivers and we put them all through their paces. As observed on Jim Stekas' spectrum analyzer the harmonics and spurs were well down in level and the Bird wattmeters showed good power output from them all. With about a half a dozen rigs there it was a surprize that we had no two alike! Some of the boob type rigs had to be lifted up on the table by two people and the tiny Icom 735 ran away with by far the most power output! You members who don't show up for the club meetings just don't know what you are missing. These things are very informal and there is a lot of audience participation with on the spot questions and discussion. We have well over a hundred members now and we usually have about 25 at a meeting. Maybe it is a good thing we don't have a hundred! We would certainly run out of refreshments!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sept 17, Pennsauken, New Jersey
Sponsored by South Jersey Radio Association
Time: 8 AM - 3 PM.
Pennsauken High School parking lot.
Free parking, tailgating \$5 per space.
VE exams (all classes register at 9:30 AM).
Talk-in 144.69/145.29. Admission \$4.

Sunday October 15 Electronic Hamfest and
Computerfest - Hall of Science Amateur
Radio Club. At the Hall of Science parking
lot (off of 47th Ave & 111th St, Flushing
Meadow Park, Queens, NY.
Open 9 AM to 3 PM - Sellers 7:30 AM
Buyers \$3, Sellers \$5 per space
VE information: Anne Fanelli 718-847-0155

NEW PROVIDENCE ARC BULLETIN BOARD
SYSOP TOM BROWN KA2UGQ
NOW RUNNING UNATTENDED!

The latest bulletin on Tom's packet BBS (Bulletin Board System) is that he has left for college and the machine is running unattended for about a month. After the installation of a new Remote Bulletin Board System software Tom will be able to run it from his dormitory!

Tom is providing a terrific service to many of us in the area: Ernie, N2EFR, Rick KT2Q, Larry KD2NT as well as John W2WKL who is on Prince Edward Island for the summer.

BOB MENDELSON, W2OKO IN HOSPITAL

Bob, W2OKO called me a couple of weeks ago to say that he could not make the club picnic as he had been in Overlook Hospital for about six weeks. He suffered a brain tumor followed by some minor strokes. He expected to be in a rehabilitation type location for a while. A call to Overlook indicated that he is no longer there.

We all wish him a speedy recovery and if I hear of his whereabouts I will pass the word on to club members.

SWAP AND SHOP

FOR SALE:

40 ft. crank up, tilt over steel tower. Includes cement filled 12 ft. long, 4 inch dia. steel ground post. Crank-up winch and tilt-over winch. Antennas can be lowered and brought down to ground level. Tower needs a good painting, has rust on it. Top section will accept 1 1/4 to 1 3/8 inch mast. Just dig hole and plant.
Summer Sale Price---Only \$200

FREQUENCY COUNTER- Weston model 1250, 32 Mhz capability with 5 digit LED display. 110 Vac operated. Very good shape. Manual included.---Only \$70.
"Included at no additional cost"
300 Mhz Prescaler- K Enterprises
Extends the operating range of the counter to over 300 Mhz. 110 VAC operated. Very good shape. Manual included.
\$70 for both, or best offer.

220 Mhz FM Transceiver- Midland 13-509. 12 channel capability. Xtals for two frequencies installed. 10 watt Xmitter. Very good shape, used in shack, not mobile. Manual included. \$99 or best offer.

FREE

Dunlop Steel Belted Radial Tire
Mounted on Toyota rim. 165SR13 - Good tread

FREE

Partial bail of Salt Hay.
Weed free hay, great for use with seeding new lawn this month or next.

Above items available from Rick Anderson
WB2QOQ 145.75, 147.03 rpt or 464-8911

"SCANNER LAWS" STATE AND FEDERAL

The New Jersey state Senate and Assembly have a bill before them that would repeal the Garden State's law prohibiting the mobile use of radios capable of tuning police and fire transmissions. The Assembly Bill is No. 4557 and the Senate Bill is No. 3593. These are bills to repeal the provision of NJS 2A:127-4 which prohibits the use of such receivers. The current law makes it a misdemeanor to have such a radio in your car. The bill currently resides in the Transportation and Communications Committees of both the Senate and the Assembly. It will remain there and die by the end of the year if it isn't brought up for a vote in the main chambers. It is suggested that you write the legislators and request that the bill be considered for the agenda.

The members of the Senate Transportation and Communications Committee are as follows:

- Newton E. Miller, Chairman
10 Furler St., Totowa, NJ 07512
- John Penn, Vice Chairman
25 Maple St., Somerville, NJ 08876
- Robert E. Littell, Member
47 Church St., Box 328, Franklin, NJ 07416
- D. Bennett Mazur, Member
448 Main St., Fort Lee, NJ 07024
- George A. Spadoro, Member
197 Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

The members of the Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee are:

- Walter Rand, Chairman
514 Cooper St., Camden, NJ 08102
- Thomas F. Cowan, Vice Chairman
895 Bergen St., Rm. 300
Jersey City, NJ 07306
- Francis J. McManimon, Member
2465 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ 08610
- C. William Haines, Member
223 High St., Mount Holly, NJ 08060
- James R. Hurley, Member
P. O. Box 809, Millville, NJ 08332

FOR ACTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WE HAVE A MESSAGE FROM OUR HUDSON DIVISION DIRECTOR STEVE MENDELSON, WA2DHF (I downloaded the following from KA2UGQ's packet BBS. - K2AGI)

A.R.R.L. UPDATE..LATEST FROM THE LEAGUE-SPECIAL NEW JERSEY EDITION

The ARRL will actively seek alternative relief at the Federal level from state and local so-called scanner laws.

In its filing on the Part 97 Amateur Radio Rules rewrite the League asked the FCC to adopt a rule, tentatively numbered 96.415, for permitted apparatus. The rule, as requested by the League, would read;

"Notwithstanding any state or local law to the contrary, and except as may be specifically prohibited by the laws of the United States, any station apparatus may be used in an amateur station, fixed, mobile

or portable, whether or not such apparatus is incidentally capable of operation on frequencies assigned to another service."

The proposed rule, dealing with the possession of radio receivers capable of reception of Police or other Public Safety communications, would restate the Federal Government's pre-emption where local laws are in conflict with Federal law. This conflict arises when state statute and local laws are applied to permit the seizure of amateur radio equipment in the possession of amateur radio operators and/or the arrest of the operators for possession of that equipment if the equipment is incidentally capable of reception of communications on frequencies other than amateur radio frequencies.

In New Jersey several amateurs have had their equipment seized because it was capable of receiving local government frequencies in addition to amateur radio frequencies. The New Jersey law, NJS 2A:127-4, states that any person who "installs or has in any automobile, a short wave radio receiver operative on frequencies assigned by the FCC for fire, police, municipal or other governmental uses, is guilty of a misdemeanor, unless a permit therefore has first been obtained from the chief of the county police, or from the chief of the police of the municipality, wherein such person resides."

Taken at its broadest term this law could mean that if you have ANY amateur radio equipment in your car it could be taken to be illegal. Why? Because New Jersey RACES is a governmental function and the law specifically bans the use of a receiver for such frequencies. This would make HF, VHF and UHF receivers illegal as RACES uses all of those bands.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits intentional interception of wire, oral or electronic communication, but specifically exempts, among other things, governmental, law enforcement, civil defense, private land mobile or public safety communications system, including police and fire, readily accessible to the general public. This is contained in 18 U.S.C. Section 2511(2)(g)(ii). The phrase "readily accessible to the general public" refers to the presence or absence of scrambling or encryption devices. Routine police or fire communications are not scrambled and are readily heard on amateur receivers with extended coverage.

This puts the Federal government and the state of New Jersey in opposition. The regulation of radio receivers and which frequencies may be included in receivers is an FCC, not state, function. Therefore the League will actively seek relief at the Federal level.

A.R.R.L. UPDATE..LATEST FROM THE LEAGUE-SPECIAL NEW JERSEY EDITION A service of ARRL Hudson Division Director Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AGAIN (NOW)!

Last year at this time we changed our normal dues collecting time from January 1st to September 1st. This was because some people were always jumping the gun and paying before the end of the year. When we made out the final annual financial report there was always a large variable on how we finished up the year depending on how many members had already paid their dues before January 1st. In hopes of having the year end financial report more truly reflect an annual position we voted to collect the dues as of September 1st hoping to have all of the dues in by the end of the calendar year. (We have a few members who need four months to get around to paying their dues) (And they are usually the same ones!

(Treasurer's note))

Another problem or grumbling situation has been the irritation of many members at having to fill out all of "the same information" each year on the Membership Renewal Form. With the advent of my keeping all of the membership records on my computer I concluded that with one blast of initial work (writing a program) that I could have the computer "Fill out your form for you". After a full day of struggling with the data-base program I have reached a starting point - I hope. If all goes as planned you should find enclosed with or attached to this issue of the Spark Gaps a personalized printout of your membership information as I have it in the records. All you have to do is look it over for errors or updates and mark it up as necessary. Return the form with your dues: \$6.00 for members or \$2.00 for students and you will be all set for the next year. Checks can be made out to "New Providence Amateur Radio Club" or "NPARC" is ok too. Membership cards will be issued as soon as possible after I receive your dues.

I am keeping my fingers crossed that this new system is going to make everyone happier. (You hardly have to write anything and I don't have to try to read some of the hieroglyphics!)

You may be surprised at what we keep track of but there is a reason for everything. Spouse's names are nice to have if we try to call you on the telephone and we can make out place cards for our Holiday Dinner or any other activity without having to bug you for that info. Of course the expiration date of your license will let us notify you before it is too late to renew. This used to happen more often when the licenses were good for 5 years but now it is even more likely that you will not be aware of something that only comes up every ten years.

If you are particularly put out by certain requests we can get along with just your Name, Address, Telephone and Call Letters. So far I haven't figured out any reason why we would need your Social Security Number! We don't plan to collect any taxes. And we don't plan to pay you any retirement benefits either!

I welcome constructive suggestions. I hope you like the new procedure.

Thanks in advance, your Treasurer, K2AGI

SUMMER PICNIC A GREAT FEAST

Our annual summer picnic turned out to be a great party in spite of the drizzly day. Al and Martha Hirsch had it all set up inside their closed in porch and the grill was just outside the door under the roof overhang. Twenty-one people showed up and we just fitted comfortably in the porch. An excellent variety of food and snacks was available along with cold drinks and hot coffee. The pool had just been filled after major repairs so the water was still on the cool side. We just looked at it! Thanks again to Martha and Al for their tremendous hospitality. We'll hope for better weather next year.

GRID SQUARE PROGRAM IN "BASIC" AVAILABLE

I have just revised and improved a program I wrote some time ago that will give you your grid square code if you can type in your latitude and longitude.

The grid square locator system pinpoints your worldwide location by using a TWO LETTER - TWO DIGIT - TWO LETTER descriptor. The first two letters locate you within a rectangle 20 degrees wide and 10 degrees high on the earth's surface. At our latitude (about 40 degrees) this represents a rectangle about 1059 miles wide by 692 miles high. This doesn't pinpoint your QTH very well! The two digits following the first two letters put you within an area two degrees wide by one degree high. This represents a rectangle 106 miles east to west by 69 miles north to south. For most of the VHF contests this is a practical size for different scoring zones. To really find out where you are the final two letters pin you down to an area five minutes wide by 2-1/2 minutes high. This equates to about 4-1/2 miles east and west by 3 miles north and south. Keep in mind that these figures for east-west dimensions only apply at our latitude. The north-south dimensions apply anywhere in the world.

If you would like to try out the program I can either give you a listing which you can type in to most any computer that will run BASIC. If you have a PC with GWBASIC I can give you a disk with the program ready to run. If you are really courageous you could call me on the phone with a modem and I will try to download it to you!

If I type in my latitude as 40,41,34,N and my longitude as 74,23,59,W the program immediately prints out "YOUR GRID SQUARE IS FN20TQ". I may try to list the program in the next issue of Spark Gaps.

de K2AGI

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Harry Kundrat W2YEZ
Vice President: Tony Lockhart KB2BBP
Secretary: Pat Casey N2FXA
Treasurer: John Sheetz K2AGI
Activities Mgr: Jim Stekas NJ2F

SPARK GAPS EDITOR: John Sheetz K2AGI