

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

**NPARC—The Radio Club for the
Watchung Mountain Area**



Website: <http://www.nparc.org>

Club Calls: N2XJ, W2FMI

**Facebook: New Providence Amateur Radio Club
(NPARC)**

April 2026

Volume 59 No. 4

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

at Salt Brook School

Apr 13 - Ed Wilson, N2XDD - Hudson Div Director

**Apr 27 - Paul Rapp, K2PER - Senior Citizen
Safety**

Upcoming Events

**Digital Net Mondays at 9 PM - 28.085 MHz (+/-)
CW Training Net, 9PM Thurs - 28.050 or 7.030 MHz**

Check announcements in the Reflector for details.

Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting: 7:30—9:00 PM
**2nd & 4th Monday
of each month**
Watch for Emails

Everyone is Welcome
If a normal meeting night is a holiday,
we usually meet the following night.
Call one of the contacts below
or check the web site

Club Officers for 2026

President: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-615-1262
Secretary: K2AL, Al Hanzl
908-872-5021
Treasurer: K2YG, Dave Barr
908-277-4283
Activities: KC2OSR, Sam Sealy
973-462-2014

On the Air Activities

Club Operating Frequency
145.750 MHz FM Simplex

Sunday Night Phone Net
Murray Hill Repeater (W2LI) at 9:00 PM
Transmit on 147.855 MHz
With PL tone of 141.3 Hz
Receive on 147.255 MHz
Net Control K2AL

Digital Net
Mondays 9 PM
28.084 — 28.086 MHz
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control KC2WUF

CW Training Net
Thursdays 9 PM
28.050 or 7.050 MHz
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: www.nparc.org
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2AL, Al

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

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Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - February 2026

The following information is provided by Rick, WB2QOQ,
who has been recording daily weather events at his station
for the past 45 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temp. this February, 50 F (February 28)
Last February(2025) maximum was 54 F.
Average Maximum temp this February, 36.9 F

Minimum temp this February, +2 F (February 8)
Last February(2025) minimum was 14 F.
Average Minimum temp this February, 21.8 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 3 F (37 – 34 F)2/20
Maximum diurnal temp range, 23 F(30 - +7 F)2/9

Average temp this February, 29.4 F
Average temp last February, 32.0 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this February - 2.25" rain/snow melt
17.7" snow
Total precipitation last February – 2.83" rain/snow melt
5.7" snow

Maximum one day precip. event this February-
February 20, 0.50" rain; February 23, 9.5" snow
Measurable rain fell on 7 days this February
4 days last February.
Measurable snow fell on 5 days this February

YTD Precipitation – 4.84" rain/snow melt; 34.8" snow

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Rick Anderson 3/9/2026
243 Mountain Ave.
New Providence, NJ
(908)464-8911
rick243@comcast.net
Lat = 40 degrees, 41.7 minutes North
Long = 74 degrees, 23.4 minutes West
Elevation: 380 ft.
CoCoRaHS Network Station #NJ-UN-10

April NPARC President's Report

Looking Ahead to Spring

Recap of February Auction

We recently held another successful auction in February. The event brought together 107 attendees and featured 53 items auctioned by 12 sellers. The Club's net proceeds from the auction amounted to \$1,923.51. A special thanks goes to Hillary, KC2HLA, for her dedicated efforts as our main auctioneer. We are also grateful to the estates of K2KYF and N2YMI, as well as to N6JIV and KC2CMW, for their generous donations of part or all of their sales proceeds to the Club. Additionally, we appreciate Marilyn (KC2OSR's XYL) for her help in recruiting six new members to our organization.



Upcoming April Presentations

Looking ahead, we have several interesting presentations planned for April. Notably, our Hudson Division Director, Ed Wilson (N2XDD), will be available to answer any questions you may have about the ARRL.

Upcoming Club Events

As we look forward to the coming months, the Club has several exciting events on the horizon. Field Day is approaching and will be held this year on June 27-28. This is a great opportunity for members to participate, showcase their skills, and engage with fellow enthusiasts. In addition to Field Day, the Club will once again take part in the New Providence Memorial Day Parade scheduled for May 25. These events promise to offer memorable experiences and foster camaraderie among our members.

ARRL America250 WAS

Back in 2014, the ARRL celebrated their 100th Anniversary with a W1AW Worked All States Award. This year, the League is commemorating America's 250th Anniversary with the America250 WAS award. Stations from all 50 states will be on the air as "W1AW/portable," and there will be two waves, so if you have missed some states, the second wave will begin in July. There is also a "Triple Play" award for working all the states on all three modes: Phone, CW, and Digital.

In the meantime, the wx is slowly improving, so check out your antennas and get on the air!

73,

AL - K2AL

President

The Hanzl Family : 92 Years on the Air

Ken Hanzl – W2IOC

For more than nine decades, the Hanzl family has been part of the amateur radio landscape, beginning with Alfred Hanzl, W2IOC (SK), who earned his license in 1934 at age 17. Like many early operators, Alfred built his own equipment and developed the technical skills that later shaped his professional life.

In 1941, while applicants lined up outside Western Electric's Kearny Works, a supervisor asked a simple screening question: "Is anyone here a licensed ham?" Those who raised their hands were hired immediately. Alfred did—and that moment launched his 41-year career at Western Electric, where he also took part in the company's radio contests and helped strengthen the Bell System's technical culture.

The Second Generation

Alfred's enthusiasm for radio passed naturally to his sons:

- Al Hanzl, K2AL, licensed in 1969 at age 15, entered the hobby during a time of major technological change. His career included work for manufacturers supplying Western Electric, continuing the family's connection to the Bell System.
- Ken Hanzl, W2IOC, licensed in 2015 after a 34-year Bell System career, chose his father's call sign as a tribute to the man who began the family tradition.

The Third Generation

The legacy continued into a third generation:

- Lauryn, W2OLF, daughter of Al, earned her license in 1999 at age 13, carrying forward the family's technical curiosity.
- Eric, K2ESH, son of Ken, represents the modern operator—active from his townhouse station and attic antenna, embracing today's digital tools and operating styles.

A Family Connected Through Radio

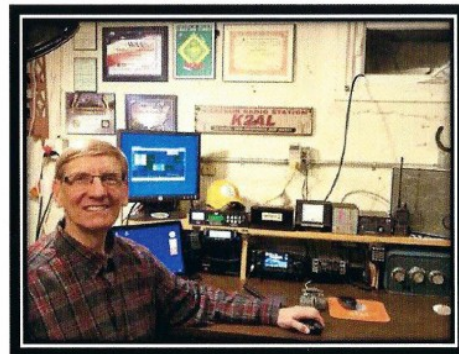
All four active operators—K2AL, W2IOC, W2OLF, and K2ESH—are proud members of the New Providence Amateur Radio Club, contributing to events, activities, and contesting efforts. Their shared enthusiasm strengthens the club and keeps the Hanzl name active on the bands.

From Alfred's hand-built rigs of the 1930s to today's multi-band contest stations, the Hanzl family's story reflects 92 years of continuous amateur radio tradition—a rare and remarkable legacy.

Alfred Hanzl, W2IOC (SK), is pictured here in 1936 with fellow Ham operators at Field Day. Alfred was licensed in 1934 at age 17.



Son Al Hanzl, K2AL, was licensed in 1969 at age 15. During his career Al worked for manufacturers that supplied products to Western Electric.



Popular Contests in April 2026

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites
EA RTTY Contest	4/4 Sat 8am to 4/5 Sun 8am	RTTY	EA: rst+province non-EA: rst + #	QRP/LP/HP 80 thru 10 See concursos.ure.es
Mississippi QSO Party	4/4 Sat 10am-10pm	CW SSB RTTY FT4/8	MS: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro FT#: sig+grid sq	No Power Categories 160 – 2 meters See www.arrlmiss.org
Louisiana QSO Party	4/4 Sat 10am-10pm	CW, SSB Digital	LA: rs(t)+parish Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See louisianacontestclub.org
SP DX Contest	4/4 Sat 11am to 4/5 Sun 11am	CW SSB	SP: Prov (1 let) Non: rs(t)+serial	QRP/LP/HP 160-10 meters See spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl
IG-RY RTTY	4/11 Sat 8am to 4/12 Sun 2pm	RTTY	RST + 4 digit year 1st licensed	LP/HP 80-10 meters See www.ig-ry.de
Missouri QSO Party	4/11 Sat 10am-12m 4/12 Sun 10am-4pm	CW, SSB Digital	MO: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-10, VHF-UHF See www.w0ma.org
New Mexico QSO Party	4/11 Sat 10am to 10pm	CW, SSB Digital	NM: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See newmexicoqsoparty.org
North Dakota QSO Party	4/11 Sat 2pm to 4/12 Sun 2pm	CW, SSB RTTY/ PSK	ND: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	No Power Categories 160 – 2 meters See ndarrlsection.com
Georgia QSO Party	4/11 Sat 2pm-12m 4/12 Sun 10am-8pm	CW SSB	GA: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-6 meters See gagsoparty.com
CQMM	4/18 Sat 5am to 4/19 Sun 8pm	CW	RST+continent EX tags: see web	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See cqmmdx.com
Michigan QSO Party	4/18 Sat 12n-12m	CW SSB	MI: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See miqp.org
Ontario QSO Party	4/18 Sat 2pm-11pm 4/19 Sun 8am-4pm	CW Phone	ON: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP<150/HP 160-2 meters See www.va3cco.com
Quebec QSO Party	4/19 Sun 9am-8pm	CW SSB	QC:rs(t)+qczone Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 160-2 meters See quebecqsoparty.org
Nebraska QSO Party	4/25 Sat 10am to 4/26 Sun 10pm	CW, SSB Digital/FT	NE: County Non: State/Prov	QRP/LP<150/HP 160-10m VHF-UHF See nebraskaqsoparty for FTs
SP DX RTTY	4-25 Sat 8am to 4-26 Sun 8am	RTTY	SP:rst+prov code Non:rst+serial#	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See www.pkrv.org
Florida QSO Party	4-25 Sat 12n-10pm 4-26 Sun 8am-6pm	CW Phone	FL: rs(t)+county Non: rs(t)+st/pro	QRP/LP/HP 40-10 meters See floridaqsoparty.org
BARTG Sprint 75	4-27 Sun 1pm-5pm	RTTY (75 baud)	Serial Number	QRP/LP/HP 80-10 meters See bartg.org.uk

Check www.contestcalendar.com or contest specific websites for more information on these and many other radio contests.

- State QSO Parties allow out-of-state stations to contact only in-state stations for that specific contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists.
- No use of WARC bands is allowed in any contests.

NCARA : National Collegiate Amateur Radio Association

Jim Stekas – K2UI

The newly formed National Collegiate Amateur Radio Association (NCARA) is meant to foster disciplined competition between college amateur radio clubs. It hopes to follow in the footsteps of the NCAA, which in a mere 120 years has morphed from intramural leagues into a multi-billion dollar mega-business. Today college athletes don't have to grovel for a pair of sneakers, they have agents and sign million dollar contracts with up front bonus money.

Given the prohibition of collecting payment for amateur radio the NCARA will start like the NCAA as an association of true amateurs. Given the FCC's total indifference to amateur radio, the NCARA C-suite is buzzing with activity developing their "Project 2030" which will professionalize college amateur radio. The board of directors is a group of twelve Gen-X geeks who have made billions trading crypto and who love nothing more than disrupting well established institutions.

I was lucky to be able to spend a week interviewing the driving force behind the NCARA, Johnny Moolah¹. The meeting occurred on Satoshi Nakamoto's yacht in the South China Sea at a point equidistant from 8 of the 12 countries for which Johnny holds a valid passport. A Brooklynite by birth, he still gets two onion bagels with lox and cream cheese delivered daily from Nickerbacher's in Bushwick. He holds a US Extra class ticket but generally operates remotely from his station in Nepal.

NPARC: How did you get started in ham radio?

JM: Well, my grandpap was a ham and he got me into it. I wasn't too motivated in the beginning but he offered me his 1947 Rolex Oyster if I finished at the top of NLI in the Novice Roundup. Jeez, that motivated the hell out of me and I topped NLI and came in second nationally. By the time I graduated from high school grandpap added Gucci loafers, a 4 caret pinkie ring, a silver Corvette, and a 100% Flex Radio station.

NPARC: So, what sparked the idea for the NCARA?

JM: College. There I am at "XYZ" University² trading crypto on my phone and raking in the dough. But then I put in a big effort in a weekend contest, make 1500 Q's and I have bupkis to show for it. It struck me that all the work we were putting in at the radio club should be worth something. I mean, we're knocking it out of the park contest after contest and making nothing while some snot nose girl in Iowa is making \$1M a month posting TikTok videos putting makeup on her cat.

NPARC: Where do things stand today?

JM: We are starting to sign some top college radio amateurs to consulting contracts with our Radio Regen hedge fund which is making a big push in the prediction marketplace. In a year or two Radio Regen will go IPO and NCARA will get a big funding infusion. Then we'll poach the top lawyers in the NCAA and set up a portal system. In five years a top college contester should be able to make over \$1M. That's TikTok cat video money. And Radio Regen profits will fund it all.

1 - Johnny Moolah is an alias to avoid capture by Interpol on charges of flooding Switzerland with Chinese cuckoo clocks.
2 - An elite university in Palo Alto that will remain unnamed.