

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)**

August 2026

Volume 59 No. 8

Regular Meetings

**Second & Fourth Mondays
at New Providence Municipal Building**

Aug 10 - Household Safety

Aug 24 - No Meeting

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 - June 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 June, 92 F (June 11)
Last June(2025) maximum was 98 F.
Average Maximum temp this June, 83.2 F

Minimum temp this June, 48 F (June 2)
Last June(2025) minimum was 48 F.
Average Minimum temp this June, 62.7 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 7 F (70 – 63 F)6/23
Maximum diurnal temp range, 30 F(78 - 48 F)6/2

Average temp this June, 73.0 F
Average temp last June, 72.2 F

There were 4 days this June with max temp $\geq$ of 90 F.

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this June – 2.63” rain
Total precipitation last June – 3.37” rain

Maximum one day precip. event June 22, 1.36” rain
Measurable rain fell on 10 days this June
15 days last June.

YTD Precipitation – 17.95” rain/snow melt

=====
Rick Anderson 7/27/2026
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

August NPARC President's Report

After a successful Field Day and an enjoyable Sussex Hamfest, we look forward to the remainder of the summer. Our last meeting at the Municipal Building is on Monday, August 10. We have once again reserved the Salt Brook School cafeteria for meetings for the next school year, starting September 14. And mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27 for our 2027 Annual Auction.

Once again, Don Jones, 7Q6M, is looking for donations for his technical school in Malawi. Don is looking for working ham gear and test equipment or components. Contact Sam, KC2OSR, if you have anything to donate.

If you want to get your feet wet in contesting, there are two North American QSO Party contests remaining this summer, CW this coming Saturday and SSB on August 15. With maximum allowed power of 100 watts and a simple exchange (state and name), these are “friendly” contests, good for both seasoned contesters and beginners alike. See <https://ncjweb.com> for rules and details.

And don't forget the NPARC on-air Nets. The traditional 2M FM phone net is on Sunday nights, the Monday Night Digital Net on most Mondays and the CW Training Net on Thursday nights. We have QSY'd to 40 meters for the CW net this summer and it seems to have enabled more stations to participate, so we are staying there for the time being. Watch the NPARC Reflector for details and announcements about the nets and other Club happenings. If you are not subscribed to our Reflector, I highly recommend you do so. Email me if you want to subscribe.

So enjoy the rest of the summer and CU at the meetings and on the nets.

73,
AL - K2AL
President

Popular Contests in August

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites
N American QSO Party CW	8/1 Sat 2 pm to 8/2 Sun 2 am	CW	NA: Name/State-DC- Prov-Country Non NA: Name	QRP/LP 160-10 m See ncjweb.com
WAE DX CW	8/7 Fri 8 pm to 8/9 Sun 8pm	CW	RST/Serial Number Optional QTCs. See rules.	LP/HP 80-10 m See www.darc.de
Maryland- DC QSO Party	8/8 Sat 10 am to midnight	CW Phone	MDC: county/city Non MDC: State (no rst)	Qrp/LP/HP 160-10 m See www.w3vpr.org
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	8/14 Fri 7pm - 4am 8/15 Sat noon - 8pm 8/16 Sun 4am - noon	RTTY	RST + Serial #	LP/HP 80-10 M ***8 hours on-8 hours off. See www.sartg.com
N American QSO Party SSB	8/15 Sat 2 pm to 8/16 Sun 2 am	SSB	NA: Name/State-DC- Province-Country Non NA: Name	grp/LP 160-10 m See www.ncjweb.com
Hawaii QSO Party	8/22 Sat 12 noon to 8/24 Sun 10 pm (30 hours)	Phone, CW, Digital	HI: rs(t) + district Non HI: rs(t)+state/prov	grp/LP/HP 160-10m See hawaiiqsoparty.org
Ohio QSO Party	8/22 Sat 12 noon to midnight	CW SSB	OH: rs(t) + county Non OH: rs(t) + state/ prov	grp/LP/HP 160-10 meters See www.ohqp.org
World Wide Digi Dx Contest	8/29 Sat 8 am to 8/30 Sun 8 am	FT8, FT4	4 Character Grid Square	grp/LP/HP 160-10 m See ww-digi.com
Kansas QSO Party	8/29 Sat 10a–10p 8/30 Sun 10a-4p	CW SSB Digi/ RTTY	KA: rs(t) + county Non KA: rs(t)+state/ prov/dx	grp/LP/HP 80-6 meters See ksqsoparty.org

Check www.contestcalendar.com for more contests and information.

* 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 WARC bands in any contest.

*** SARTG RTTY Contest (Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teletype Group) uses the “eight hours on, then eight hours off, then eight on, eight off and a third eight hours on” schedule. For us in EDT, the contest starts at 8pm Friday, stops 4am Saturday, restarts at noon on Saturday running until 8pm, then pauses again and resumes once more at 4am Sunday morning, finishing at noon on Sunday.

K2UI/VE3 – Haliburton, Ont DX-pedition

Jim Stekas - K2UI

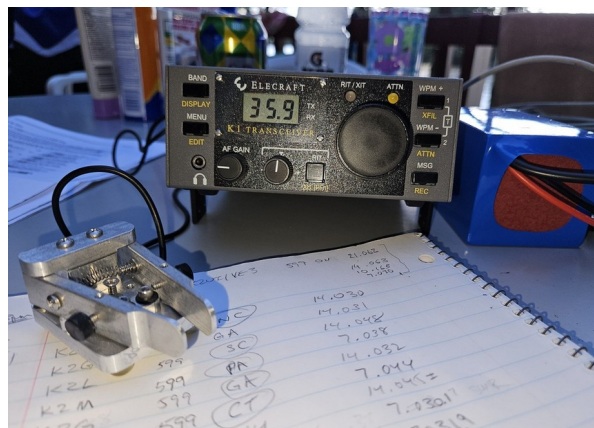
To celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA we thought it would be exciting to get on the air from our soon to be 51st state. We began our journey with a stopover in Bethel Woods¹ for a July 4th concert by the Doobie Brothers and Santana for a final infusion of American culture. The following day we set out on an 8 hour drive though New York and across the Thousand Island bridge into the Great White North.

Crossing the border we entered an alien metric world of kilometers, litres and degrees C. We never quite knew how far we had to go, how fast we were going, or how hot it was. Shortly after the roads turned to dirt we arrived at our log cabin² on lake Glamour.



Spending summers in a rustic cottage is something of a Canadian tradition. Running water for bathing and dishwashing (by hand) comes directly from the lake. Potable water is collected from a community faucet outside the town hall. Commercial electric power runs the lights and fridge but there is no TV or internet and limited cell-phone service. Recreation activities include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water skiing, etc.

The first step in getting on the air was putting up a 40m EFHW. As the photo shows, trees were plentiful and an arborist throw line got the far end of the antenna 50 feet high. The EFHW sloped down to the a railing near the operating position where the 9:1 match box was mounted. The path of coax from the antenna feed point to the rig was adjusted until my nano-VNA showed an SWR around 2:1.



The rig was an Elecraft K1 running 5 watts of CW off a Bioenno 6Ah LiFePO4 battery. Keying was done with a "Dirt Cheap Paddle" (DCP) acquired many years ago when it was truly cheap.

The K1 quite a marvel. It covers 40, 30, 20, and 15 meter bands and includes a built-in antenna tuner. Operation is full break-in CW and received signals sound very clean over a low noise floor. (Reminiscent of a Drake 2B).

1 - The concert venue where the 1969 Woodstock music festival was held.

2 - Called a "cottage" in Canadian.

13 Colonies

Station setup was completed Tuesday in time for the final 12 hours of the Thirteen Colonies special event. In four hours operating on 20+40m as K2UI/VE3 I managed to work 10 of the 13 colonies: NC, SC, PA, GA, CT, VA, NH, NJ, MA, RI. K2A (NY) had a bit of a pileup and I couldn't break through. Never heard DE or MD.

I tried very hard to work WM3PEN on 40m but he didn't respond to my call, or anyone else's for that matter. Perhaps he had his RIT on and couldn't hear anyone.



Go-Kit in Zip Drive Case

NPARC CW Net

With K2YG in Nantucket, the Thursday night CW net was moved to from 10m to 40m, 7036 kHz. Getting on frequency is easy with modern transceivers where VFO is derived digitally from a very stable quartz crystal reference oscillator.³ But the K1 VFO is voltage controlled using a 10-turn potentiometer to generate a voltage applied to varactor diodes in the VFO. Fortunately, W1AW was transmitting on 7047.5 kHz providing a convenient calibration reference. I found my display was 4 kHz off, so it was a simple matter to compensate for the error and get on the NPARC net frequency.

The net 7 participants were spread 5 states and provinces across the Northeast: NJ (K2AL, K1DK, KC3MIO), NY (AE3E), MA (K2YG/1), PA (KC3LNB), and ONT (K2UI/VE3). At the 9 pm start of the net signals were strong and all participants reported good copy. But as darkness descended QSB increased to multiple S-units and copy dropped to about 50% at my QTH by net end. Worse, mosquitoes came out for some nocturnal hunting. Even though I was slathered in Deet, those little blood suckers degraded reception at my QTH by the equivalent of one or two S-units. Perhaps we need another Q-signal, say QSM, to report degradation of conditions by mosquitoes.

Our normal 10m net conditions are very predictable, with good local coverage but poor for "long" range (>15mi). On 40m, conditions are very variable, spanning the range from very good to very poor, often over the span of one hour.



In the spirit of the NPARC CW Training Net I tried to get my granddaughter Charlotte started on the code. She instinctively put the paddle to her mouth like a microphone. Clearly she will mainly operate SSB when she gets her ticket.

Operating from Canada

Reciprocal operating agreements make operating from Canada a piece of cake. All that is required is that you sign portable from the province or territory you are operating from. Just operate within the frequency bands and power limits allowed by your FCC license in so far as they are compliant with the Canadian regulations. Consult the Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) band plans for details.

3 - On the digital net I typically find my IC-7610 to be within a few Hz from the K4 of KC2WUF.