

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)**

March 2026

Volume 59 No. 3

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

at Salt Brook School

Mar 9 - VNA Tutorial by N6JIV

Mar 23 - JCP&L on RFI (Tentative)

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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Editor: K2UI Jim Stekas
Contributing Editors:
WB2QOQ Rick Anderson

Climatological Data for New Providence - January 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 January, 50 F (January 9,14)
Last January(2025) maximum was 49 F.
Average Maximum temp this January, 33.1 F

Minimum temp this January, +2 F (January 31)
Last January(2025) minimum was +3 F.
Average Minimum temp this January, 20.1 F

Minimum diurnal temp range, 4 F (18 – 14 F)1/26
Maximum diurnal temp range, 27 F(33 - +6 F)1/17 1/21

Average temp this January, 26.6 F
Average temp last January, 27.5 F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precip. this January – 2.59” rain/snow melt, 17.1” snow
Total precip. last January – 0.78” rain/snow melt, 6.7” snow

Maximum one day precipitation events this January-
January 10, 0.51” rain; January 25, 10.5” snow/sleet
Measurable rain fell on 4 days this January
3 days last January.
Measurable snow fell on 4 days this January

YTD Precipitation – 2.59” rain/snow melt; 17.1” snow

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Rick Anderson 2/4/2026
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

March NPARC President's Report

Engaging Our Community and Looking Ahead

As we welcome the month of March, one of our main events this month is our participation in NJ Makers Day at the Chatham Library on March 20. This is a chance for us to showcase the world of amateur radio and inspire creativity in our community. To present a good and engaging program, we need to set up interactive demos, hands-on activities, and live contacts, all designed to engage makers of all ages and backgrounds but mostly middle and high schoolers. In past events we have set up on-air demonstrations of FT8 and CW. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer, please reach out. We need some fresh ideas as getting young people interested in ham radio presents a huge challenge.

I'm also delighted to welcome our newest members to NPARC, Dave KE2HIZ and Barry WB2ZDH (Barry also gave the club a great presentation on the electronics of power supplies back in February). Your enthusiasm and curiosity enrich our club, and we look forward to seeing you at meetings and events. And congratulations to Rich on his new vanity call KE2KE. Speaking of events, thanks to Sam KC2OSR, our tireless Activities Manager, we have some great programs lined up in the coming months. Sam's dedication ensures our gatherings are informative, fun, and relevant to both seasoned operators and newcomers.

A reminder to those that have not yet renewed, that 2026 Club annual dues are due, still only \$20.

The big on-air event this month is the DXpedition to Bouvet Island, 3Y0K, the number 2 most wanted DXCC entity per many lists. Bouvet Island is the "Mount Everest of Dxpeditions" and is the most isolated place in the world. Two of the last three attempts at landing on the island have been aborted due to bad weather and the 2023 activation was cut short. 3Y0K is planning a 21 day stay at a cost of over \$1.5M.

So, let's make March a month of learning, sharing, and connecting. See you on the air and at our next meeting!

K2AL
President

Call to NYU ARC Alums

Colin Phoon – AE3A

I recently became the new trustee of the NYU Amateur Radio Club (callsigns: W2DSC, W2NYU). Currently, there is a not-so-active "virtual" club membership (<https://www.qsl.net/k2ul/nyuarc/>). In the spirit of ARRL's Year of the Club, we are trying to reach as many alumni as possible for our "virtual" club membership. Goals this year include:

- updating the club membership
- updating the website, and
- re-establishing a "real" club at NYU.

If there are any NPARC members who are alumni (or current students or faculty) from NYU or Polytechnic Institute/Polytechnic University (Brooklyn) or if any NPARC members know anyone, please get in touch with Colin (AE3A@arrl.net or colinklp@optonline.net).

Thanks es 73,
Colin
AE3A

Popular Contests in February 2026

Dave Barr – K2YG

Contest Name*	Dates (EDT)	Modes	Exchange	Notes & Websites**
North Carolina QSO Party**	3/1 Sun 11am to 9pm	CW Phone FT4/8	NC: County Non NC: State (No RST)	80 – 2 mtrs QRP(5-10)/LP/HP See ncqsoparty.org
ARRL Int. DX 'Test SSB	3/6 Fri 7pm to 3/8 Sun 8pm	SSB	W/VE: RS and state/province DX: RS + power	160-10 mtrs QRP/LP/HP Rules at: arrl.org Note: Daylight Time starts during this contest.***
YB DX RTTY Contest	3/13 Fri 8pm to 3/14 Sat 8pm	RTTY	RST + Serial #	No power classes. 80 –10 meters. Rules at: rtty.ybdxcontest.com
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	3/14 Sat 11am to 3/15 Sun 11am	CW	4 character grid square.	160 meters only. QRP/LP/HP Rules at: www.kkn.net/stew
Oklahoma QSO Party**	3/14 Sat 11am - 9pm and 3/15 Sun 11am-6pm	Phone, CW, Digi (No FT)	OK: rs(t)+Cnty Non OK: RS(T)+ State/Prov/Cntry	80 – 6 meters. HP/LP/QRP Rules at: k5cm.com
Idaho QSO Party**	3/14 Sat 12n to 12m 3/15 Sun 10am-10pm	Phone, CW, Digi (No FT)	IDs: County Non ID: St/P/C (No RST)	160-10m QRP/LP 150w/HP. Rules at: idahogsoparty.org
TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	3/14 Sat 2pm to 3/15 Sun 2am (Saturday night)	CW	RST + Serial # + 4 character grid square	80 and 40 meters only. HP/LP/QRP. Rules at: radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs
Wisconsin QSO Party**	3/15 Sun 2pm-9pm	Phone, CW, Digi (No FT)	WI: County Others: St/P/C (No RST)	All Bands HP/LP/QRP Rules and abbrev at: warac.org
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	3/20 Fri 10pm to 3/22 Sun 10pm	RTTY	RST + Serial # + UTC (4 digits)	80 – 10 M HP/LP/QRP Single Op 30 hour limit Rules at: bartg.org.uk
Virginia QSO Party**	3/21 Sat 10am-12m and 3-22 Sun 8am-8pm	CW Phone Digital	VA: Ser # + Cnty Others: Ser# + S/ P/dx (No RST)	All Bands HP/LP/QRP Rules at: VA_QSO_Party/2026
CQ WW WPX 'Test SSB	3/27 Fri 8pm to 3/29 Sun 8pm	SSB	RS + Serial #	160-10 mtrs QRP/LP/HP Rules at: cqwx.com

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 state's contest. In-state stations may contact all contest stations. See websites for county abbreviation lists. State qso parties begin again in February.

** No WARC bands in any contest.

*** NPARC plans to enter Winter Field Day from Salt Brook School. Contact K2AL for details.