

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)**

VOLUME 55 No. 10 Oct. 2022

Regular Meetings

Second & Fourth Mondays

11/14 and 11/29

11/14 is annual Business Meeting

Upcoming Events

Digital Net Mondays at 9:00 PM

PSK on 80 or 10 meters

CW training Net, Thursdays at 9:00 PM

Holiday Luncheon 12/3

See President's Column

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 2022

President: W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
201-406-6914
Vice President: W2EMC Brian DeLuca
973-543-2454
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
Will be using PSK and RTTY
Net control K2YG

Club Internet Address

Website: <http://www.nparc.org>
Webmaster KC2WUF David Bean
Reflector: nparc@mailman.qth.net
Contact K2JV, Barry

MOUNTAIN SPARK GAPS

Published Monthly by NPARC, Inc.
The Watchung Mountain Area Radio Club
P.O. Box 813

New Providence, NJ 07974
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Contributing Editors:
WB2OOO Rick Anderson
W2PTP Paul Wolfmeyer
K2UI Jim Stekas

Climatological Data for New Providence for September 2022

The following information is provided by
Rick, WB2OOO, who has been recording daily
weather events at his station for the past
43 years.

TEMPERATURE -

Maximum temperature this September, 87 deg.
F (September 4,5)
Last September(2021) maximum was 82 deg.
F.
Average Maximum temperature this September,
74.3 deg. F
Minimum temperature this September, 45 deg.
F (September 24)
Last September(2021) minimum was 51 deg. F.
Average Minimum temperature this September,
59.0 deg. F
Minimum diurnal temperature range, 6 deg.(72
- 66 deg.)9/11
Maximum diurnal temperature range, 22 deg.
(80 - 58 deg.)9/10; (72 - 50)9/16

Average temperature this September, 66.7
deg. F
Average temperature last September, 67.3
deg. F

PRECIPITATION -

Total precipitation this September- 5.19"
rain
Total precipitation last September- 9.57"
rain

Maximum one day precip. event this September
-
September 25, 1.49" rain.

Measurable rain fell on 9 days this Septem-
ber, 9 days last September.

YTD Precipitation - 33.72"

=====
Rick Anderson
10/22/2022
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.

President's Column October 2022

Our Tuesday meeting (due to Monday school closure) at Salt Brook was somewhat lightly attended—but we did tend to use the correct door! It is #12 (although #14 was also open). I reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 NPARC Budget which the Executive Committee (your officers) developed. It is a deficit budget. We are not raising dues this year, but we may need to next year. If you have questions about it, please contact me.

Our November business meeting is November 14th at Salt Brook (with a hybrid option). This meeting constitutes our annual meeting, as required by the Constitution and By-laws. We plan to have officer elections. We have an almost complete slate at this time, thanks to lead Nominations member—Tim Farrell KD2EKN. The nominated slate is as follows:

President: Jim Stekas K2UI
Vice-President: Brian DeLuca W2EMC
Secretary: Al Hanzl K2AL
Treasurer: Dave Barr K2YG
Activities: open (Tim has a request out)

Thanks (very much) to all those members willing to step up to club leadership.

Our second October meeting was again an exciting one with K5WE Jeff Martin's presentation on his and son Scott's DXpedition to Chatham Island, off New Zealand. The presentation let us know what it took to make over 18000 contacts, averaging over 1500 per day. In September, it was not yet the end of winter—winds were strong and the salt air created significant antenna challenges. There are only two small villages on the islands and lots of sheep. Access is basically by one flight a week. There are two hams on the island, and one—who hadn't met Jeff—encountered Jeff by chance and loaned him fundsly when credit cards were not accepted at the store! Jeff has done a number of DXpeditions to highly desirable DX locations—we are grateful for his pursuits to make those locations available to us on the air. The recording of the presentation is accessible by the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cDNw1F07-1JJJDQ04T18fwYhFbTq5aFnT47fgldpdrh>

ezsWQ_LhN4sKvo1_wIv9Xt.QFn6wVn3rmzYb8UK

Passcode: 1RdDT6d.

In copying the link, be sure to copy all the way through ...Yb8UK

I will keep the recording available through Thanksgiving. Check it out if you were unable to attend the meeting.

So again, Business (Annual) Meeting on the 14th and Program meeting on the 28th Patrick KJ7ZSU on Geochron..

Also note that our Holiday luncheon is December 3 at Vintage Tavern (formerly Chimney Rock), 342 Valley Rd, Gillette at noon—more info to follow....

73 for now, Wolf W2PTP, w2ptp@arrl.net, 201-404-6914

Blasts From Junkbox Past Jim Stekas - K2UI

Most hams hold a nostalgic affection for their first decently performing rig. For me it was an HQ-110 receiver and a Globe Scout 90A transmitter. A combination that was perfectly adequate for CW operation in the 40m novice band. The Q-multiplier worked like a charm carving individual signals out of the din. How much better could a Collins mechanical filter be?

As a ham of a certain age, I also have a nostalgic affection for particular vacuum tubes that found their way into various homebrew projects. The 1969 Radio Amateur's Handbook included a description of "The Might Midget Receiver", a 3-tube superhet designed by Lew McCoy, W1ICP.

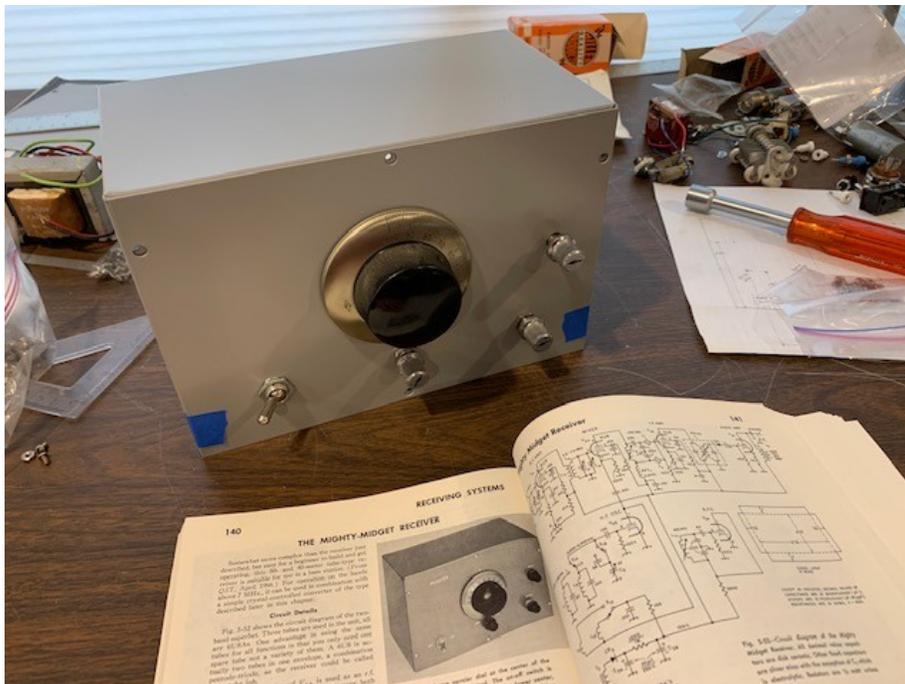


Figure 1: WA9WFA's Beautiful Recreation of the W1ICP Receiver

All three tubes were 6U8's, which contained both a triode and pentode, making it a six tube design. McCoy's rationale for using only one type of tube was that it minimized the number of spares. Brilliant! I set out collecting the required parts and built one. (The local drug store was happy to give me a few plastic pill vials to serve as coil forms. These days, I have a pretty good supply.)

What a thrill to copy CW signals on a receiver built from scratch. From that day forward I took every opportunity add another 6U8 to the junk box, and my summer job riding the city junk truck gave me plenty of opportunities. Every junked TV chassis found its way to my basement, excepting the yoke which the sanitation professionals harvested for the copper recycler. It was amazing how many parts could be salvaged from a single chassis, and more amazing still how few of them would ever find their way into a working radio. My junkbox overflowed.

Of all the parts salvaged only the tubes found much application in homebrew projects and radio repairs. For a college electronics course I gutted a radio chassis and built a shortwave superhet reusing the tube sockets, variable capacitor, pots, and solder terminal strips. Following Lew McCoy's approach, all the tubes in the radio were 6AU6 pentodes except for one 6C4 triode as a BFO. The radio worked well enough to allow me to follow SW news broadcasts reports on the revolution unfolding in Portugal.

With just a few types of tubes one could build a working shortwave receiver:

- 6U8 – combo triode + pentode. Perfect as an oscillator + mixer frequency converter.
- 6AU6 / 6BA6 - Equivalent pentodes (almost). The 6BA6 is AGC controllable.
- 12AT7 / 12AX7 - Dual triodes, good for audio amplifiers.
- 6AC5 - 1-2 watt audio output amplifier to drive a speaker.

This limited set would not be optimum for a 1960's receiver design, where a 6BE6 pentagrid converter was commonly part of the tube lineup. But two free 6AU6's out of the junk box would probably give better performance than a 6BE6.

References

1. "Mighty Midget" was a low power transmitter by W1ICP. QST, January 1966.
2. "A Mate for the Mighty Midget", receiver by W1ICP. QST, April 1966.
3. "The Mighty Midget Receiver", 1969 Handbook
4. Classic Radio, QST, Jan 2020
5. Picture from <https://www.qsl.net/wa9wfa/MateForTheMightyMidget.htm>