

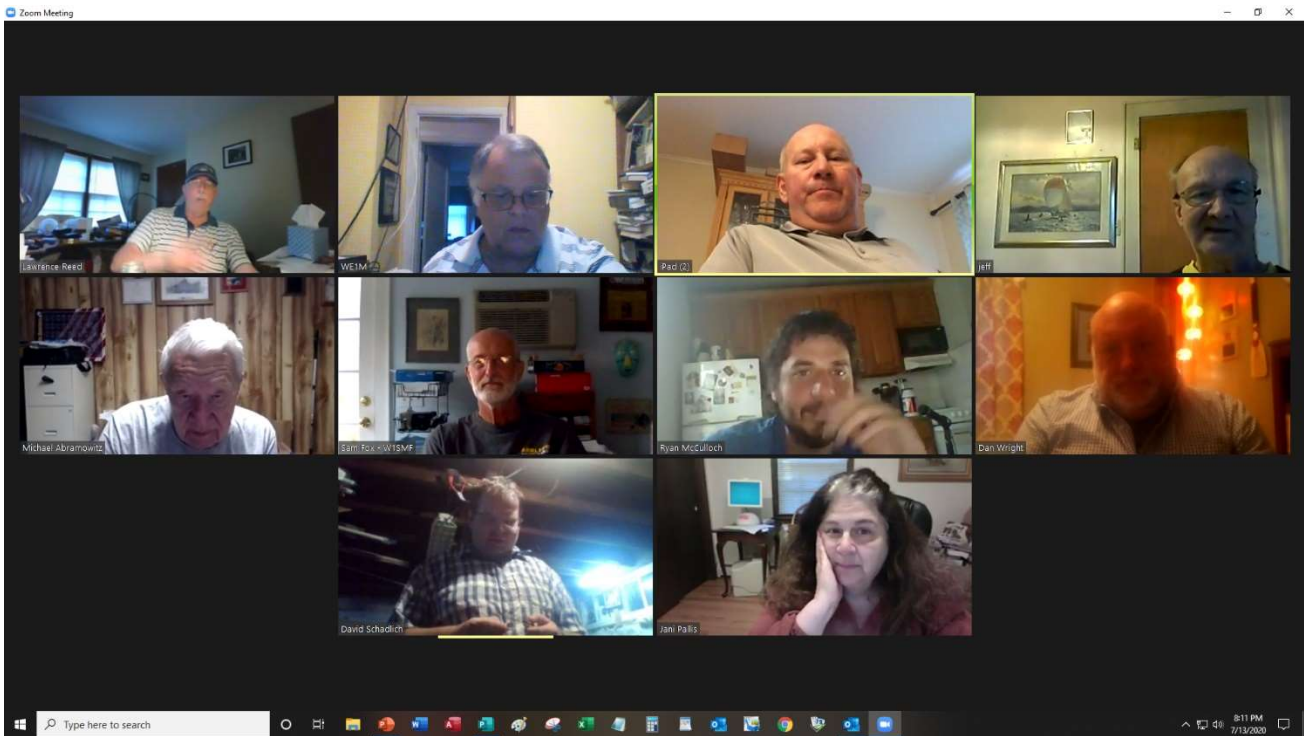
DIRECT CURRENTS

The Official Publication of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club, Vol XXV Issue VIII

MEETING INFO

Monthly video meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday August 3, 2020.

On July 13, 2020 we held our July monthly meeting on Zoom. This meeting was delayed from the first Monday of July to the 13th due to the Independence Day celebrations and travel the week prior. Attending the meeting were members Larry AB1JC, Gary WE1M, Ned KA1CVv, Jeff KB1LZ, Mike KA1EOU, Sam W1SMF, Dan N3DAW, David KB1LZ and Jani KC1MHU. We also welcomed visitor Ryan KC3NJF.



Our July Zoom meeting. July 13, 2020.

Larry AB1JC, Gary WE1M, Ned KA1CVv, Jeff KB1LZ, Mike KA1EOU, Sam W1SMF, Ryan KC3NJF, Dan N3DAW, David KB1LZ & Jani KC1MHU.



SUMMER FIELD DAY

We operated Summer Field Day June 26-27, 2020 from WAS as a 2A CT station. N1KT was used. The entire operation was headed by Dave KB1LTW and Jeff KB1LZ. Helping them operate were Sam W1SMF, Larry AB1JC, Ken NE1CU, Ned KA1CVv, Mike KA1EOU, Jim WJ1M and Brandon KB1THM. This was a “social distancing” field day. Sign-up sheets were required, as were masks and gloves but no food was provided. A minimum distance of six feet was required between everyone. Our two stations were located on the opposite sides of the classroom building. Operators took turns operating the stations, which we operated the entire contest.

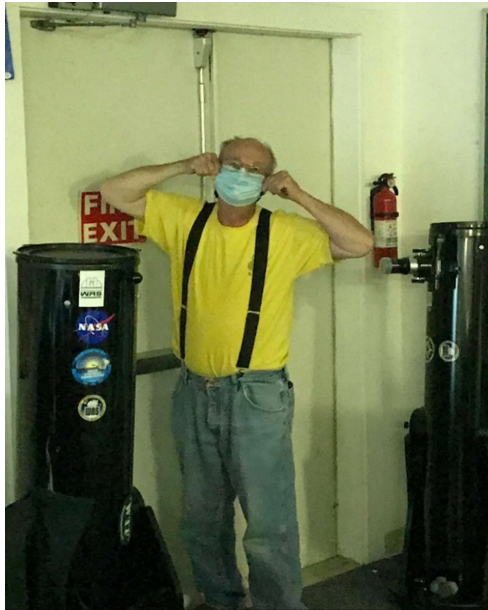
While we operated two stations, it seems that N3FJP software was having trouble with the new security issues of Windows 10 file-sharing. Unfortunately, because of this, we were unable to have both stations share one contact database. To get around this and get on the air, we made both stations mutually exclusive by band. This worked out fairly well until we had a time when only one station was active and its assigned bands were dead. The station had to switch bands to those assigned to the other station to make any contacts at all. But even so, it was still manageable.



Dave KB1LTW operates N1KT during our club's 2A CT entry. Larry AB1JC and Sam W1SMF enjoy each other's company.



Summer Field Day was scouted on Friday June 26 where we began to arrange tables and chairs, etc. Below are some pictures of that event.



Friday setup for Summer Field Day at WAS. Dave KB1LTW, Jeff KB1LZ and Barbara KA1SHN. Gary WE1M was the shutterbug



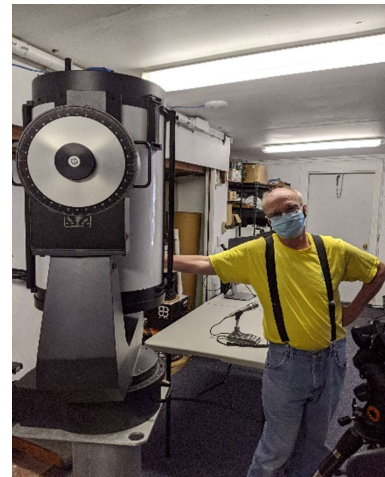
N1KT operated 2A CT from WAS. We put together Station A to the left and Station B on the right. One station utilized the 5 band trapped vertical antenna on the tower and the other station used the off center fed dipole antenna. Both ran high power utilizing our amplifiers. We operated SSB and digital modes.



Station A Kenwood TS-570G



Station B ICOM 7300



Clockwise from middle Left: Sam W1SMF, Mike KA1EQU, Jeff KB1LZ, Brandon KB1THM and YL Jamie and Sam W1SMF at the rig making Q's.





A full analysis of our Field Day effort should appear in the September issue of this newsletter. However, we do know that we made the following contacts (both stations added together):

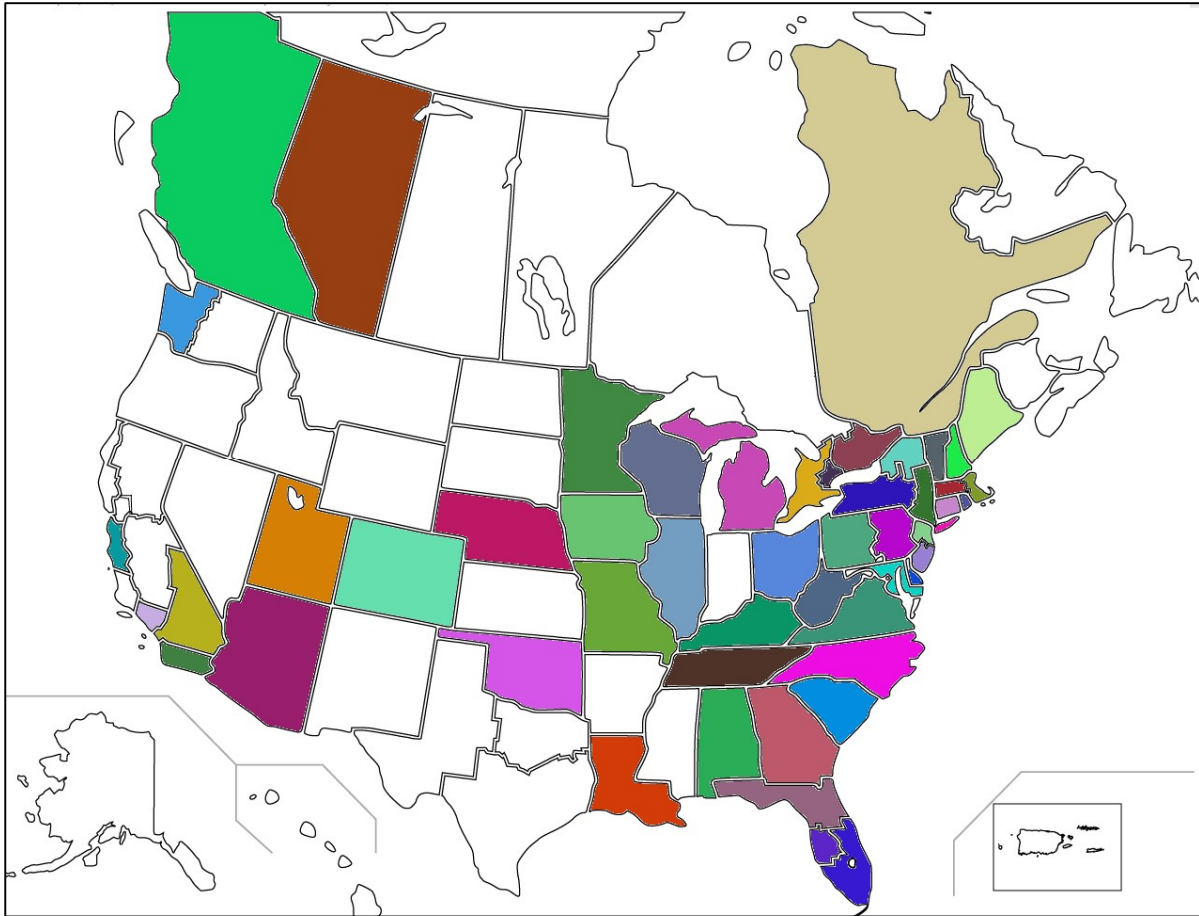
Total Contacts by Band and Mode:							
Band	CW	Power	Dig	Power	Phone	Power	Total
----	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
80	0	150+	12	150+	130	150+	142
40	0	150+	9	150+	234	150+	243
20	0	150+	7	150+	21	150+	28
15	0	150+	0	150+	42	150+	42
10	0	150+	0	150+	2	150+	2
GOTA	0	150+	0	150+	0	150+	0
	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	0		28		429		457

We made 28 digital contacts for 56 total digital points and 429 phone contacts for 429 phone points. Remember each phone contact is worth 1 point and we ran over 150 watts so no power multiplier. Add in our bonus points of Educational Activity 100, Social Media 100 and electronic submission of 50, this brings our estimated total points to 735. A very commendable score given our constraints this year!

Here is N1KT Station B, ICOM 7300

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:						
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%	
----	--	-----	---	-----	---	---
80	0	130	12	142	37	
40	0	210	9	219	56	
20	0	21	7	28	7	
	--	-----	---	-----	---	
Total	0	361	28	389	100	





Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
USA	360	93
Canada	27	7
England	1	0
Venezuela	1	0
Total = 4		

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
KB1LTW	156	40
W1SMF	133	34
AB1JC	91	23
KA1CVV	9	2
Total = 4		

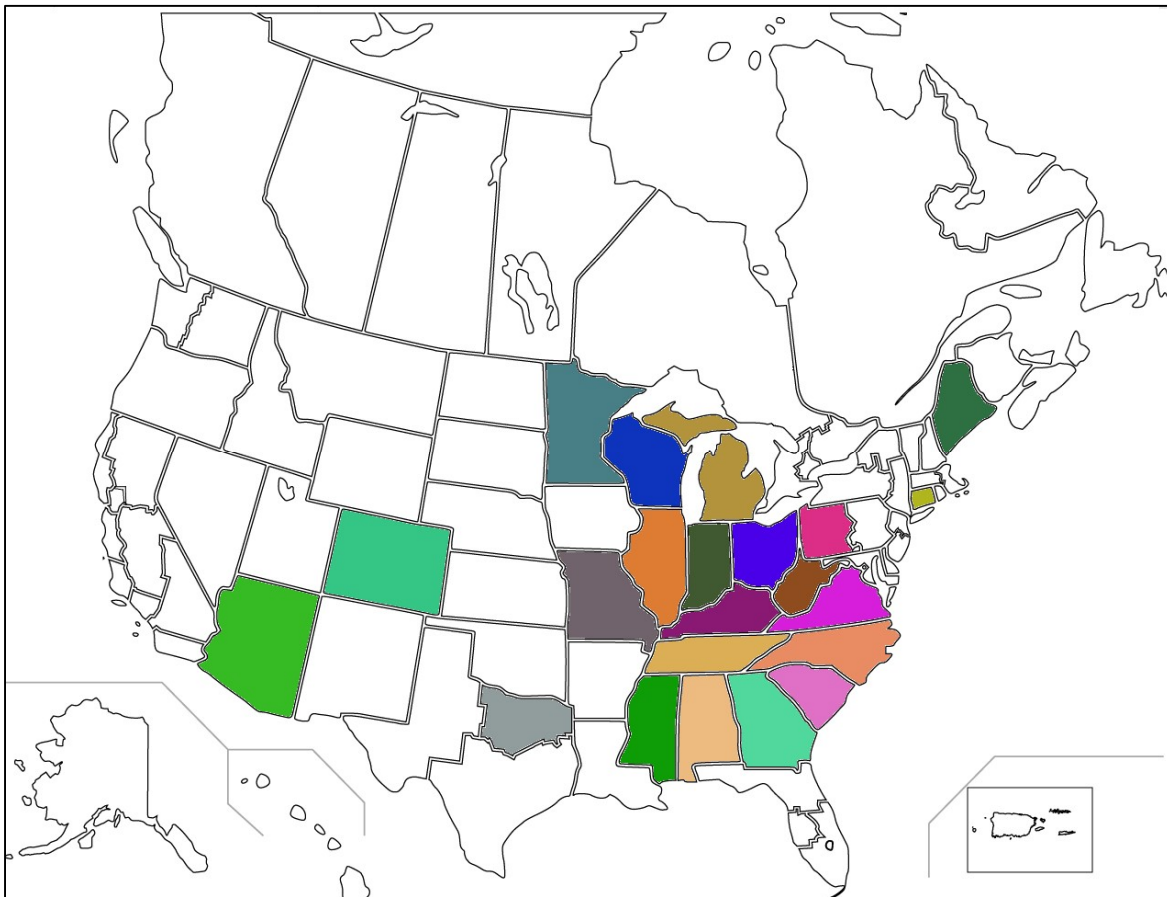




Here is N1KT Station A, Kenwood TS-570G

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	0	24	0	24	35
15	0	42	0	42	62
10	0	2	0	2	3
Total	0	68	0	68	100



Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
USA	67	99
Uruguay	1	1
Total = 2		

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
KB1LZ	65	96
WJ1M	3	4
Total = 2		



SUMMER FIELD DAY CLUB AWARDS

Our club recognizes superior effort on member's part in making contributions to our club's Field Day. We offer the Most Valuable Ham at Summer Field Day Award (MVHASFDA) and this year we are offering a one-time new award, the Most Valuable Ham Not at Summer Field Day Award (MVHNASFDA), which is awarded to the member who decided to stay at home to operate 1D or 1E and contribute his/her score to our club. This year we have co-winners of MVHASFDA and a winner of the MVHASFDA Honorable Mention. We also have a standout performance for MVHNASFDA.

This year's winner of the Most Valuable Ham at Summer Field Day Award is Dave KB1LTW

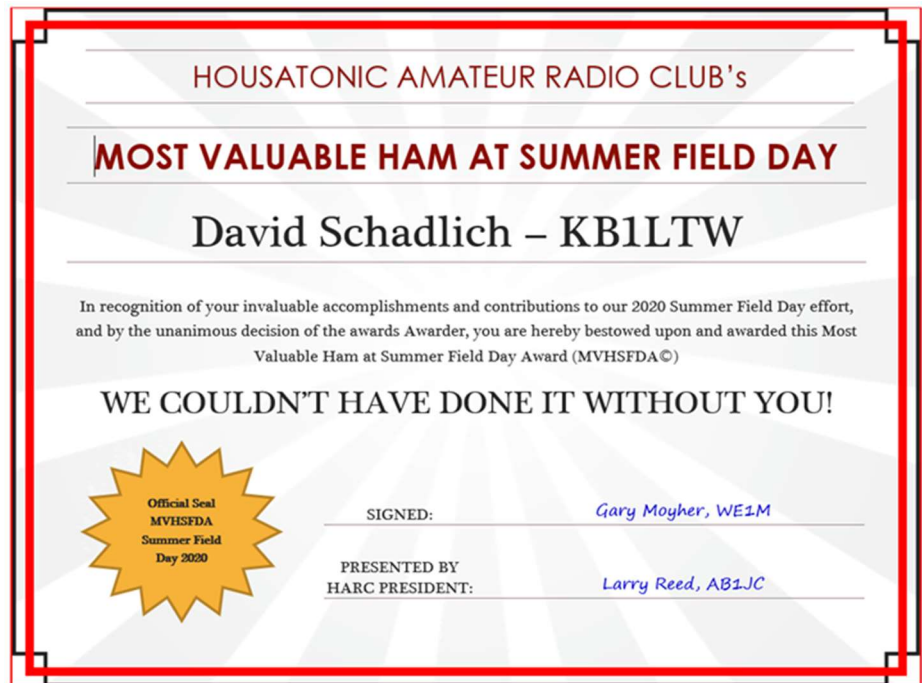


For opening up WAS, without his help we would not have had a Field Day, the MVHASFDA goes to Dave KB1LTW. Dave wins this club certificate and the ARRL Field Day cooler pictured below.



Field Day Cooler (2020)

Features the Field Day logo on top and ARRL logotype on front.



This year's co-winner of the Most Valuable Ham at Summer Field Day Award is Jeff KB1LZ



For helping to open up WAS, bringing a station, making contacts and helping to take down. He is co-winner of the MVHASFDA award.

Jeff wins this club certificate and the ARRL Field Day mug pictured below.



Field Day Mug (2020)

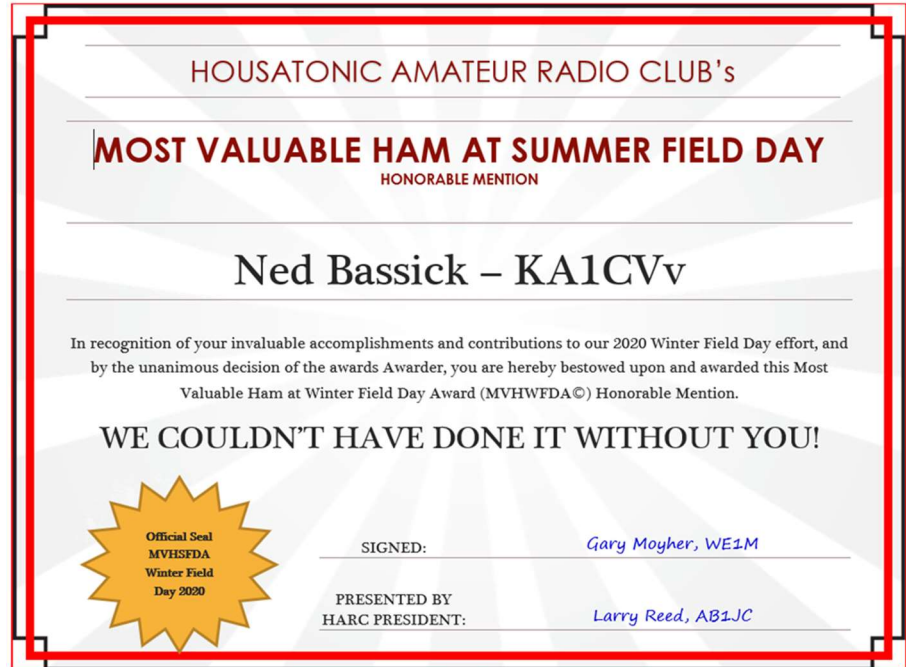
This top quality lovely speckled finish 13 ounce ceramic mug is in the style of the classic tin cup, large C shape handle for easy grip. Slightly flared top for less spillage, easy sip. Color: Navy Blue. Drink your coffee in style!



This year's winner of the Most Valuable Ham at Summer Field Day Award Honorable Mention is Ned KA1CVv



For helping with our Field Day effort and cooking Saturday morning breakfast for everyone. Ned wins the MVHASFDA, Honorable Mention award. Ned wins this club certificate and the ARRL Field Day pin pictured below.



Field Day Pin (2020)

The official 2020 Field Day pin...wear it proudly! Size 1.25" X 3/4".



This year's winner of the Most Valuable Ham NOT at Summer Field Day Award is Dan N3DAW



Dan N3DAW, who operated 1D MDC wins the Most Valuable Ham NOT at Field Day award.

For making 64 SSB, 213 Digital contacts for 1236 points & 100 Media Publicity and 50 electronic submission for 1386 total points.

He allocated his score to our club totals. By the way, he contacted 49 states and missed only CO.

Dan wins this club certificate and the ARRL Field Day pin pictured below.



Field Day Pin (2020)

The official 2020 Field Day pin...wear it proudly! Size 1.25" X 3/4".

Congratulations to all the winners above, you put in a GREAT effort on behalf of our club and earned recognition. Thanks.

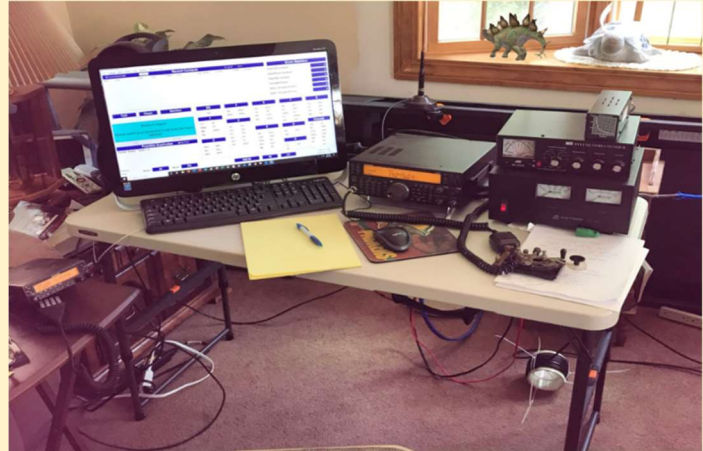


HOME FIELD DAY PHOTOGRAPHS

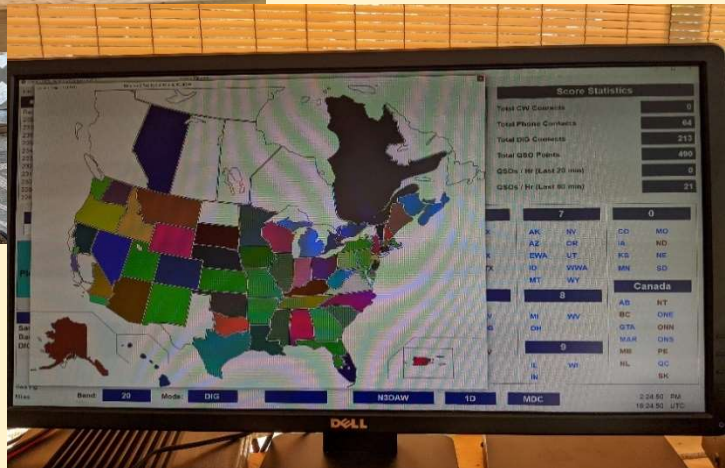
While we operated “social distancing” Field Day from WAS, asked our members who operated from home to take a photograph of their home station and send it in. Here are some photos of members Field Day Home stations.



WE1M 1D CT



N3DAW 1D MDC





KB1THM 1D CT

While no contacts from KB1THM were allocated to our club, it is a beautiful station.

COMBINED FIELD DAY SCORES

As you know, this year ARRL allowed home stations classes D and E to contact other home stations for points. Additionally, they will add the individual station scores from each club member to arrive at a total club score. Well, we decided to try our hand at summing up our member's individual stations scores. Here is what we have tabulated. N1KT operated 2A CT at WAS using high power. N3DAW operated at 1D MMC from Maryland at lower power and Gary WE1M operated 1D CT from home at lower power. This chart below tells the story. We estimate that we earned 2347 total club points.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ALL STATIONS N1KT, N3DAW & WE1M		
N1KT	N3DAW	WE1M
28 dig QSOs x 2 each = 56	277 dig QSOs x 2 each = 554	0 dig QSOs x 2 each = 0
429 ph. QSOs x 1 each = 429	64 ph. QSOs x 1 each = 64	88 ph. QSOs x 1 each = 88
Remember we ran over 150 watts so power multiplier is 1. 485 x 1 = 485	Remember he ran under 150 watts so power multiplier is 2. 618 x 2 = 1236	Remember he ran under 150 watts so power multiplier is 2. 88 x 2 = 176
BONUS POINTS	BONUS POINTS	BONUS POINTS
Educational Activity 100	Media Publicity 100	Electronic submission 50
Social Media 100	Electronic submission 50	
Electronic submission 50		
Estimated total points 735	Estimated total points 1386	Estimated total points 226
		Estimated Grand total 2347 Club points

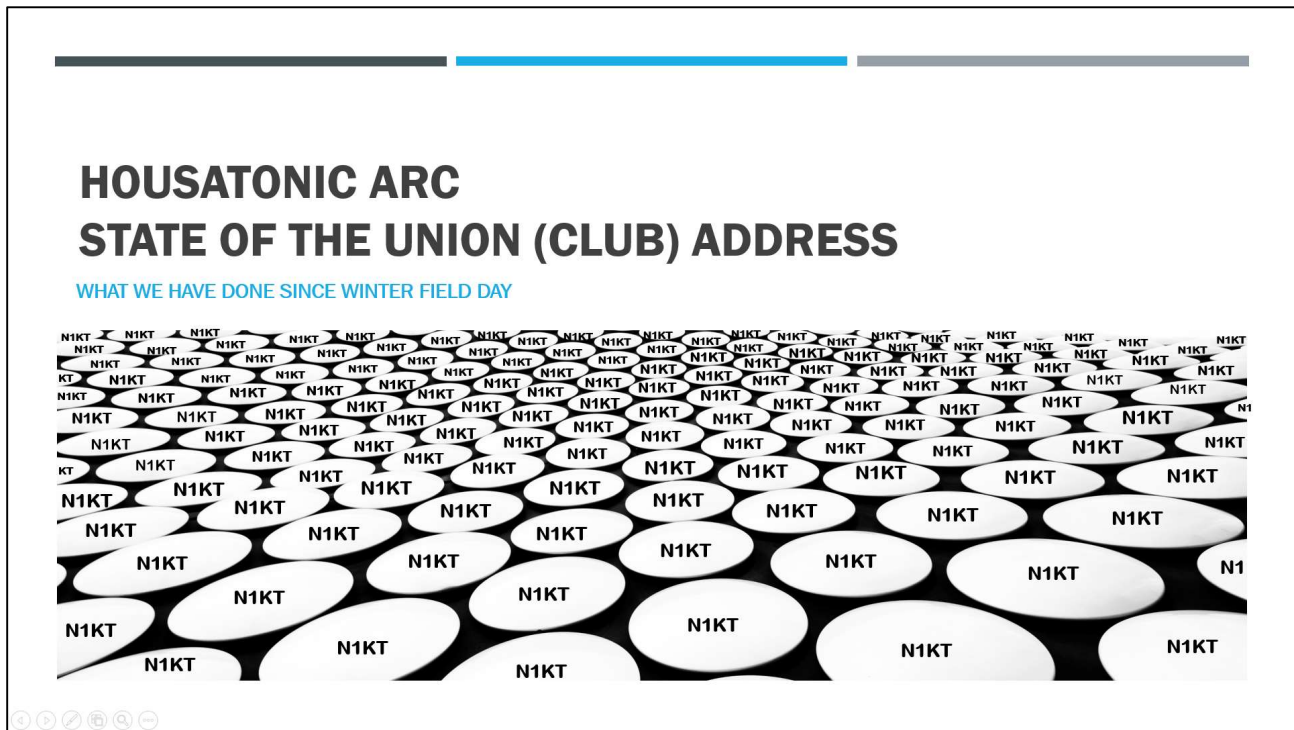


But the real story here is how much of an advantage the rules give you when operating 100 watts digital (considered lower power) over operating full power on phone. Example: N1KT made 429 phone QSOs on high power (over 150W). That's 429 Q's at 1 point each, with a power multiplier of 1 (for high power) equals 429 points. Now let's say N3DAW made those 429 digital QSO's. That's 429 Q's at 2 points each, with a power multiplier of 2 (for less than 150 watts) equals 429 x 2 (digital) = 858 x 2(power) = 1716. It's not even a contest here!

Yet it seems to be so much easier to make a digital contact these days. Computers make it easy to make digital and CW contacts. Very easy in fact. Having double the points for CW and digital seems to be an anachronism, and even more so (another 2x) when low power for digital is the normal. **We call on ARRL to revisit this point structure and bring it out of the 1980's and into the 21st century.**

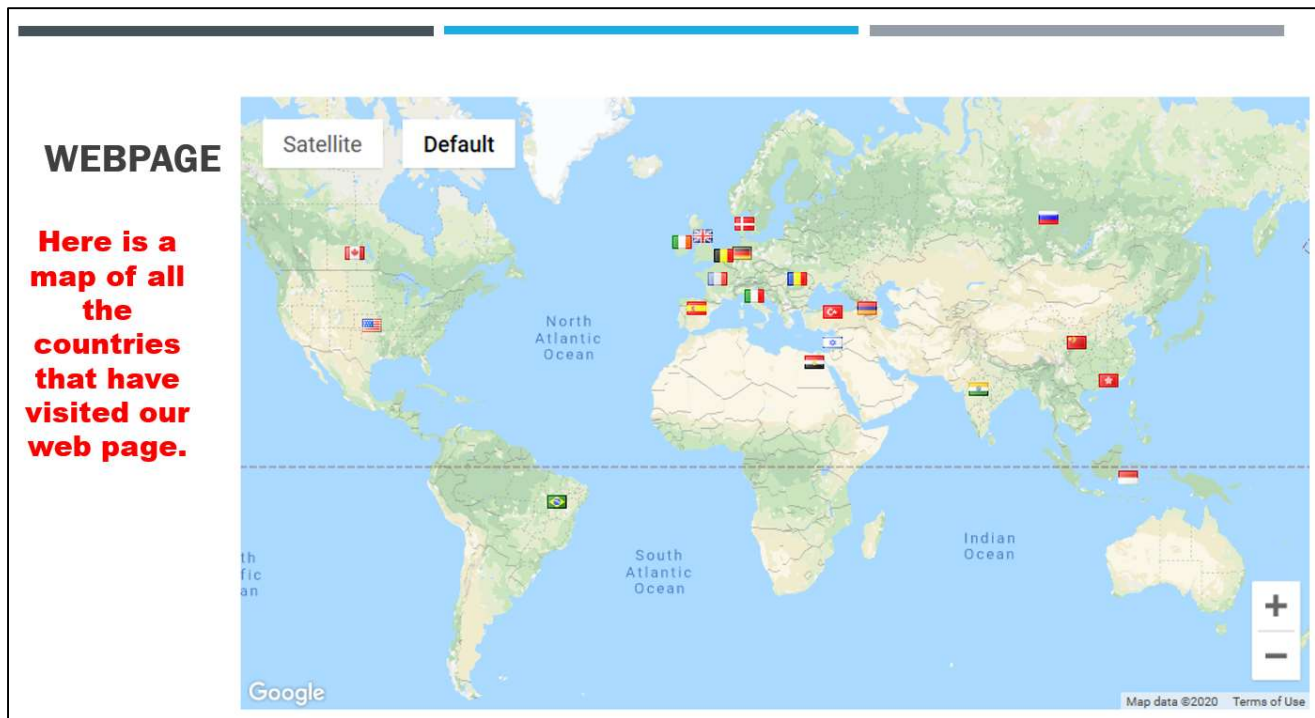
STATE OF UNION

Gary WE1M gave a State of the Union (Club) presentation on Zoom to all members at our monthly Zoom meeting on July 13th. It was at this meeting that our Field Day Award winners were announced (see above for award winners).



Opening Slide





A slide from our presentation.

ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES – OOPS!

We operated the ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes as K1WAS on Sunday November 17, 2019. We made 110 contacts, 49 sections worked, 34 remained, 36 states & 4 Canadian Provinces and Puerto Rico worked for 10,700 points. Not bad for our first sweepstakes! After consideration, we now believe that we did not submit our scores on time for this contest and we were never in the running. We will try this contest again this coming September.





ARRL DX SSB CONTEST- UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

We operated the ARRL DX SSB contest on Saturday afternoon March 7, 2020 for about 6 hours as N1KT. We ran both the Vertical antenna and the OCF dipole and switched between them via a coax switch in the tuner. After 6 hours of operation, we had 60 contacts, with 40 multipliers. Each country worked is a multiplier. We worked 32 countries (USA does not count for points, as it is not DX). We are awaiting ARRL to publish the results, however the raw scores are available. Based upon raw scores (as shown below), it looks like we are 25 out of 27 for Multi-operator Single transmitter, high power. But looking at it another way, we were first in CT in that category! Not bad for our first try at it and for only 6 hours work! This snippet was obtained at https://contests.arrl.org/rawscores.php

2020 ARRL International DX Phone Contest

Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power

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Rank	Category	Call Sign	QTH	Score
1	MSHP	NV9L	IL	2,359,860
2	MSHP	K3ND	EPA	1,647,000
3	MSHP	K2LE	VT	1,513,710
4	MSHP	K3MD	EPA	1,241,880
5	MSHP	W3MF	EPA	1,108,800
6	MSHP	W8PR	OH	1,058,229
7	MSHP	N7NR	SDG	1,031,715
8	MSHP	W3LL	MDC	928,455
9	MSHP	WT3Q	EPA	837,216
10	MSHP	N3XF	WPA	814,905
11	MSHP	K1KP	EMA	757,449
12	MSHP	NX6T	SDG	700,362
13	MSHP	K2RET	SNJ	640,068
14	MSHP	NW6P	SCV	640,032
15	MSHP	K2DM	NFL	581,526
16	MSHP	VA2UR	QC	465,600
17	MSHP	VY0ERC	NT	377,406
18	MSHP	WU2X	ENY	359,400
19	MSHP	WA2JQK	ENY	275,988
20	MSHP	W7VO	OR	236,262
21	MSHP	NR0T	MN	93,978
22	MSHP	W7YED	WWA	64,515
23	MSHP	W1OO	ME	14,448
24	MSHP	WM2T	ENY	10,011
25	MSHP	N1KT	CT	7,200
26	MSHP	W0ZWY	SD	2,664
27	MSHP	K3PH	EPA	1,083



SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

We have officially canceled our “Hams and Eggs” breakfasts until further notice. As an experiment, we are testing “social distancing” breakfasts. Below are pictures of our recent “social-distancing” breakfast at the Circle Diner in Fairfield.



*Circle Diner in Fairfield
July 11, 2020
Top LtoR: Ned KA1CVv,
Ken NE1CU, Larry AB1JC
and Jeff KB1LZ. Bottom
Larry AB1JC. Gary WE1M
was the shutterbug.*



USIP TO LAUNCH AGAIN

Our team has been asked by University of Bridgeport to launch another USIP balloon. Yes, this will include HAM, the High Altitude Monkey and be like last year's launch. Gary WE1M stated, "This will give us an opportunity to test our updated ATV amplifier we placed on the receiving antenna system."

When asked about his upcoming flight, it is rumored that HAM said he was excited to get back into the wild blue yonder and do the things he was printed to do!

We expect this launch to occur late this month or September. Our team is ramping up and refurbishment of the capsule, it's systems and the ground station will take place prior to flight.

OOPS!

There is a camera at WAS that looks horizon to horizon at the sky. It is supposed to enable us to scan the entire sky at once. Well a bird decided the camera was a great resting place. Judge for yourself!



Bird butt!



HAMFESTS

NUTMEG Hamfest – The Nutmeg Hamfest scheduled for this fall has been cancelled.

CARA Hamfest – The Western CT Hamfest in Newtown scheduled for August has been cancelled. The following appeared on the Candlewood ARC website:

Candlewood [sic] Amateur Radio Association (CARA) has canceled the 2020 Western Connecticut Hamfest due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive board and membership wish to keep everyone safe and feel that going forward with the event would not be in the best interest of our vendors and supporters. Thank you for your past and future support.

We will be back in 2021.

73

W1JGM

John Morelli

The flyer features the CARA logo (Candlewood Amateur Radio Association) and the ARRL logo. It is titled "SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 23, 2020" and specifies "Sunday, Doors open 8AM". The event is held at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main St, Newtown, CT. A large red "CANCELED" stamp is placed diagonally across the center of the flyer. Other text on the flyer includes "Sanctioned by ARRL", "FALL 'ARES' FORUM 10:30 IN THE HALL", "DEMONSTRATIONS", "MAJOR VENDORS", "INDOOR TABLES", "OUTDOOR TABLES", "TO BE HELD AT Edmond Town Hall 45 Main St Newtown, CT", "Hamfest.cararadioclub.org", "Contact: John Morelli (W1JGM)", "Hamfest@cararadioclub.org", and "203-447-0160".





UPCOMING CONTESTS

- Sept 12-14 VHF Contest
- Oct 24-25 CQ DX SSB Contest (hope to operate)
- Nov 7-9 Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 21-23 Sweepstakes SSB (hope to operate)
- Nov 28-29 CQ DX CW Contest
- Dec 4-6 ARRL 160 meter Contest
- Dec 12-13 ARRL 10 meter Contest (hope to operate)

OUR SKED

- Sept 7 Labor Day
- Sept 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Oct 12 Columbus Day
- Oct 20 Possum Day
- Oct 31 Halloween
- Nov 6, 7 & 8 Boxboro Hamfest in Marlborough, MA (new dates)
- Nov 11 Veteran’s Day
- Nov 13 Sadie Hawkins Day
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving
- Nov 21-23 Sweepstakes SSB
- Dec Resumption of Club Semi Annual Dinner
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 31 New Year’s Eve

JUST WONDERING

If you make a mistake in CW and apologize,
are you now sending remorse code?





**IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
2020 IS OUR CLUB'S 25TH
(SILVER) ANNIVERSARY!**

Yes, it's that time. It's our club's Silver Anniversary in 2020. Let's have a party! We will be discussing options among our membership over the next 6 months looking at all the party options. If you have any ideas you wish to implement, let a club officer know and we can discuss it. However, all options are still on the table. So far, going to an expensive restaurant and taking our XYL's is winning in votes. Hold a large picnic and cookout is in second place. Cast your vote soon. Don't delay.

- Go to a Casino
- Buffet dinner
- Gigantic pizza party
- Take a trip to 2021 Dayton Hamvention
- Rent a party boat
- Go deep sea fishing
- Go to expensive restaurant (steak and lobster)
- Hold a large picnic and cookout
- Run a Special Event Station

We can decide at any time and hold this celebration at any time.

NECROLOGY IN HONORARIUM

In Honorarium, we herewith list the names and call signs of those members and friends of HARC who are now Silent Keys.

- George Grosner – W1ASO SK
- Tony Vena – K1BUI SK
- Neil Lewbel – KA1PJQ SK
- Mark Orner, PhD - KA1RSE SK
- Thomas Wilson, PhD – WV1C SK
- Earl Dugan Sr. – KA1DCL SK
- Jay Albano – N1NRP SK
- Kevin Cellini – N1KGM SK





HARC INFO

The Housatonic Amateur Radio Club was formed in 1995 to foster the development of Amateur Radio and advanced Ham Radio operating techniques, both through theory and on the air practice. To provide a suitable environment of camaraderie and support within which members, spouses and their children can obtain a better understanding of amateur radio, gain a proficiency in the art of amateur radio, and to have some fun.

Club Officers for 2020

- President - Lawrence J. Reed, AB1JC
- Secretary Treasurer – Thomas W. Moyher ESQ, N1UNT
- Technical Officer – Michael J. Miciukiewicz, K1MJM
- Youth Coordinator – Jennifer L. Coderre, N1ZZY
- Director1 – Kenneth E. Johnson, NE1CU
- Director2 – David H. Schadlich, KB1LTW
- Webmaster – David H. Schadlich, KB1LTW
- Trustee – Gary T. Moyher, WE1M

Website www.N1KT.org/

The club call sign is N1KT. Our annual formal meeting is held on Winter Field Day, and an informal meeting is held on Summer Field Day. Both meetings are held during set up time prior to the event start.

Contact Information

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Fairfield County
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 CQ Zone 5
 ITU Zone 8
 10-X 67120
 SKCC# 3980

The Housatonic Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club.

QSL N1KT via WE1M, NE1CU or Bureau.

Send a QSL card and we will send our QSL card in return. We prefer an SASE, but it is not necessary. We QSL 100% returned.

“Direct Currents” is the official newsletter of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club. It is published monthly.

Gary T. Moyher, WE1M Editor
 Kenneth E. Johnson, NE1CU Assistant Editor

Contact the Editor at: WE1M.radio@gmail.com

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