



DIRECT CURRENTS

The Official Publication of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club, Vol XXIV Issue XII

MEETING INFO

Our annual formal meeting is held every Winter Field Day, and our informal meeting is held every Summer Field Day. Both meetings are held during set up time prior to the event start. Our next meeting (formal) is scheduled for Saturday January 25, 2020 during Winter Field day setup and will have a State of the Union Address. All members are urged to attend this meeting and event.



OFFICERS TO BE APPOINTED

Officers will be appointed at our annual formal meeting in January during Winter Field Day setup. If you would like to be an officer of the club, please let a charter member know!

CHRISTMAS BUFFET DINNER

Our semi-annual Tuesday night buffet dinner is scheduled for December 3 at 6:30 pm. It has been a real fun meal. Remember, members and their families are invited. Please RSVP your email and let Gary WE1M know how many, as he must make reservations. Cost is \$19.95/person (but can be \$25/person) if it is holiday season.

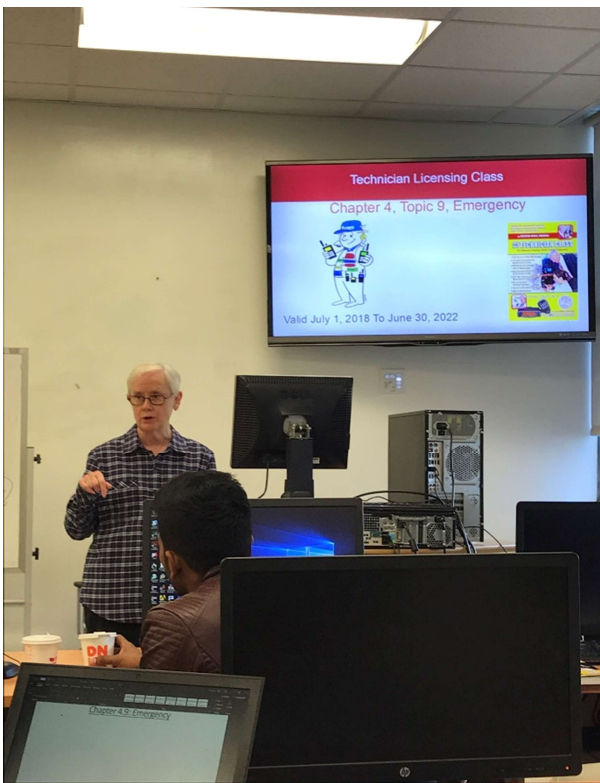
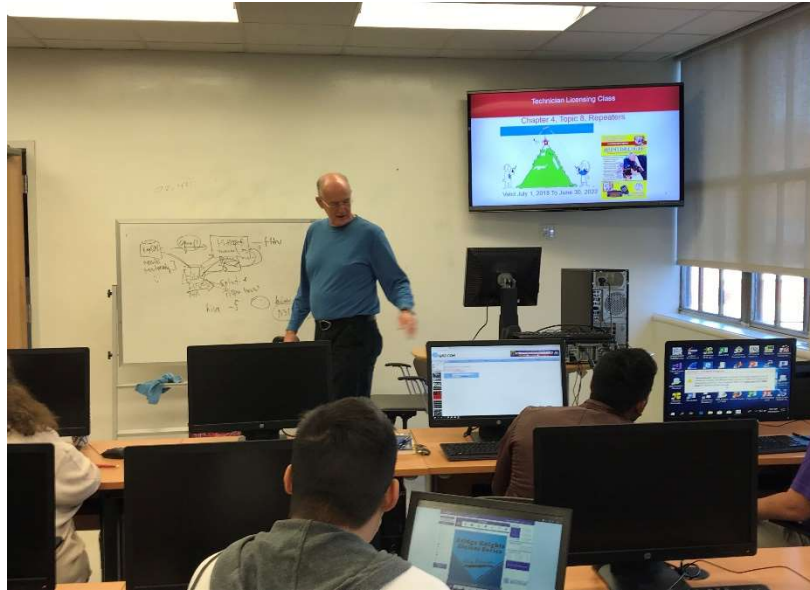
WINTER FIELD DAY NEXT MONTH

Winter Field Day is being held next month! Yep, it is just over a month away and we are looking for a chairman to run it! If you would like to take a turn at running a Field Day operation, let Larry AB1JC or Dave KB1LTW know. It really is easy. Winter Field Day is January 25 & 26, 2020. During the month of January and preceding WFD, we usually meet on the 224.960 N1LXV Repeater in Bridgeport, at 10 pm(ish) to discuss what we want and like. If you have 220 equipment and would like to join in the discussion, please join in the fun.

TECHNICIAN CLASS

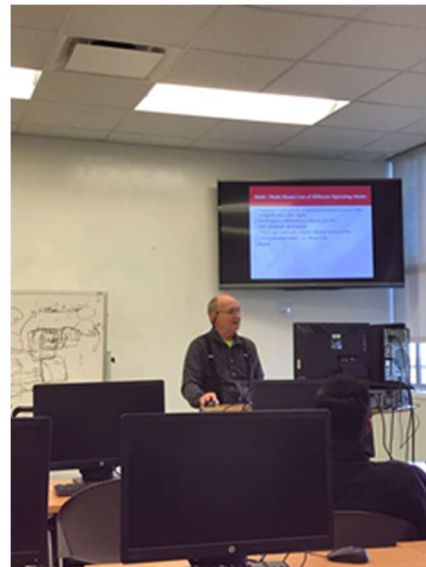
Our Technician class is held on Saturday mornings at the University of Bridgeport. Classes are at South Hall and began Saturday September 21 and are expected to end this month. Teaching the class are club members Gary WE1M, Larry AB1JC, Jeff KB1LZ, Sam W1SMF and Marilyn KB1YYO. Assisting is Mike KA1EOU. Sam W1SMF and his ARRL VE team will provide the final exams. Thanks to everyone who made this possible. More info next issue!

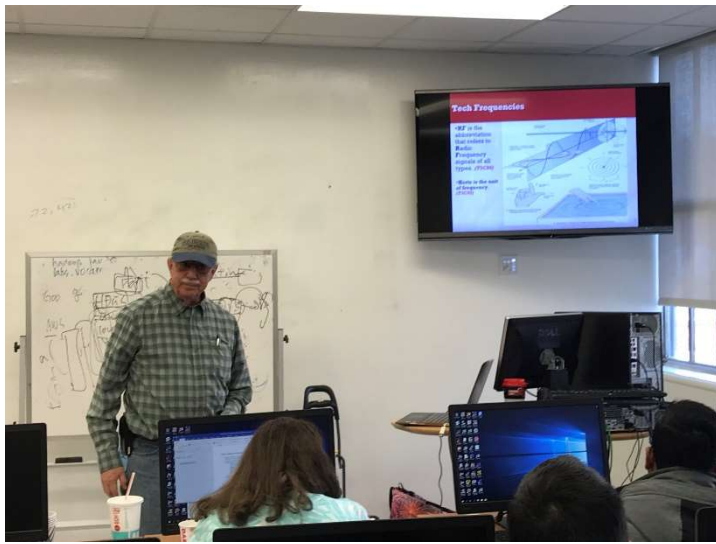




**TECHNICIAN CLASS
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019**

*Top: Sam W1SMF teaching the class about repeaters.
Left: Marilyn KB1YYO covers Emergency & Emergency Communications.
Bottom: Jeff KB1LZ teaching Multi-Mode Radios*





Larry AB1JC (left) teaches electronics chapter to Tech students at UB while Mike KA1EQU (right) looks on with approval.





UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUMENT PROJECT (USIP)

Club members are now advising University of Bridgeport students in a program called the Undergraduate Student Instrument Project (USIP). This is a NASA sponsored program through the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium, which involves launching a robotic monkey on a high-altitude balloon. Larry AB1JC & Gary WE1M are advising undergraduate University of Bridgeport students. The payload consists of two boxes, one the electronics payload (USIP electronics bay) and the other contains the robotic monkey named High Altitude Monkey (HAM), in honor of the first chimpanzee in the US Mercury Program in the 1960's. Both the USIP and the Monkey are constructed with Arduino Mega 2560 R3 processors and written in Arduino C code. Payload box to box communications utilizes Bluetooth technology. Ground to payload communications is accomplished via packet commands and telemetry via ham radio and APRS. GPS technology is used to fix its position while altimeters and pressure sensors monitor altitude & atmospheric pressure. The telemetry includes inside temperature outside temperature and battery voltages (among many) to monitor the health and status of the system. The system also includes ATV downlink to monitor HAM in real time so ground control can watch him in his flight. Commands can be initiated via computer console command processor or via push button via the Command Processor box. Typical commands include wave to the crowd, nod yes, nod no, scan the instrument panel and monkey pound chest! The command processor box also provides a "voice" to the monkey to augment the commands being performed. [It is fun to watch! – Editor]. Take a look at the small video put on the club web page to see how much fun it is to watch.



**High Altitude Monkey (HAM) is ready for testing.
October 23, 2019**





**USIP Test Flight
Discovery Museum
November 3, 2019**

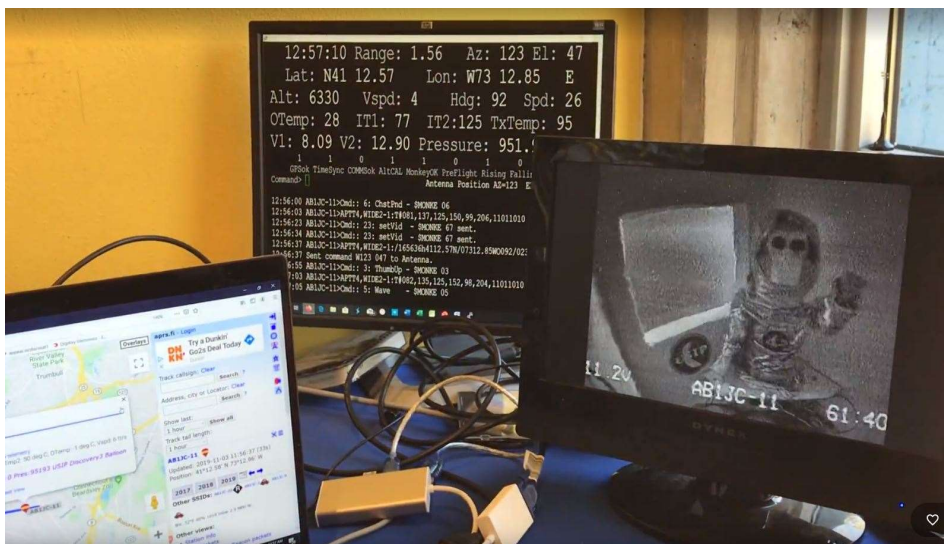


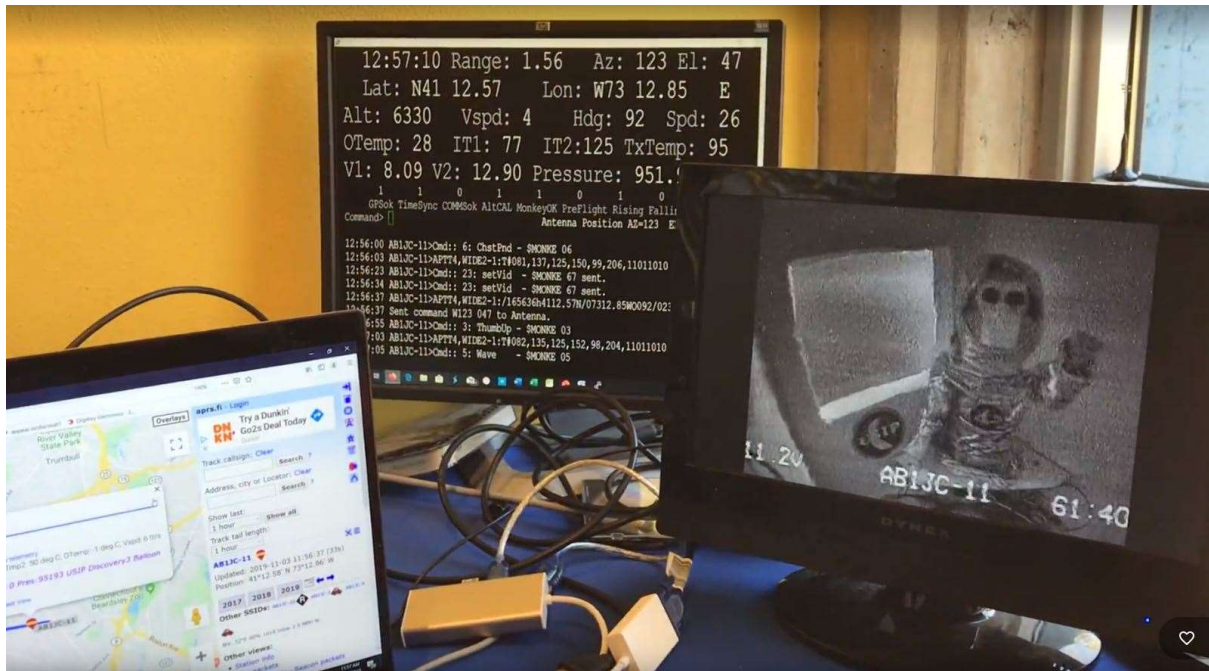
Pre launch





**Launch
&
Flight**

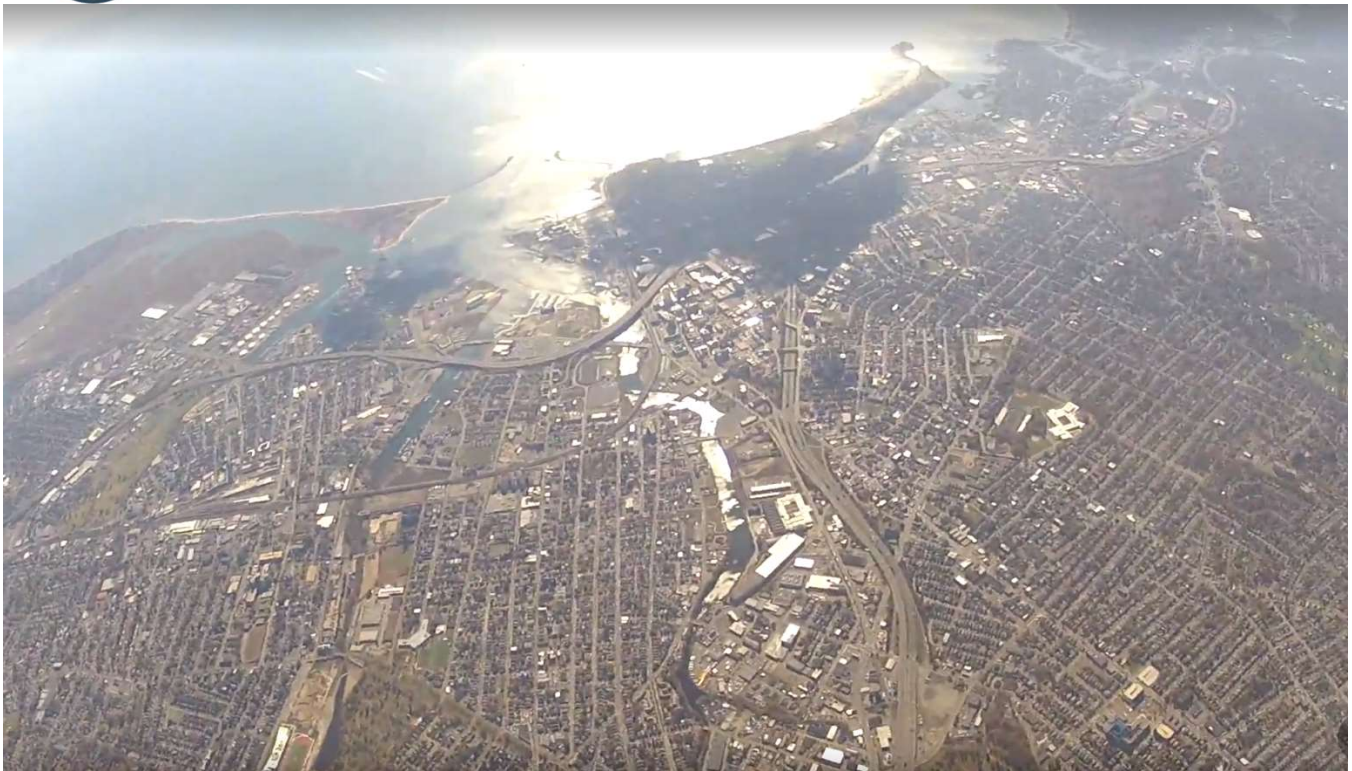




Amateur TV from 2000 and 6000 feet in altitude

Pictures taken during the flight. Notice the altitude of 6330 feet on the screen in the lower picture. He's over 1 mile up!





Bridgeport Harbor as seen from USIP GoPro camera mounted outside the gondola.



Discovery Museum from Altitude





*Shadow of the balloon package about to splash down at Silver Sands beach, Milford, CT.
Taken from GoPro movie.*



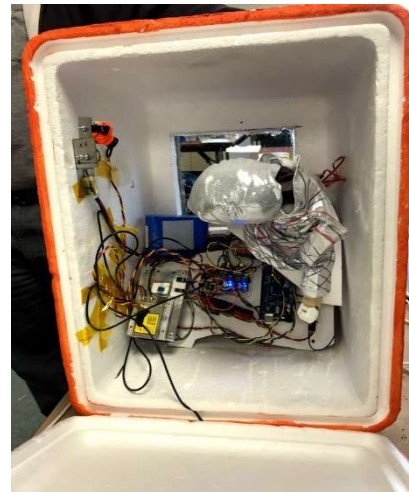
Payload laying on sandbar in 6 inches of water after splashdown. Wow, were we lucky!



Recovery at the Beach in Milford, CT



Post Flight Analysis



CLUB MEMBERS & USIP MAKE FRONT PAGE OF CT POST

The USIP launch made the front page of the Connecticut Post newsletter on Saturday November 10, 2019. While this was a test flight, a limited amount of press was invited. Shown below are Larry AB1JC, Sam KC1HOD and in the background Gary WE1M. Mike K1MJM and several technician students release the balloon.



ctpost News Sports UConn Nation Business Real Estate Entertainment Living Obituaries

UB, Discovery Museum test out high altitude balloon

Updated 4:53 pm EST, Friday, November 8, 2019



Photo: Brian A. Founds / Hearst Connecticut Media

IMAGE 3 OF 4

Retired Norden Systems engineer and mentor Larry Reid, left, of Shelton, and recent University of Bridgeport graduate Sam Zhang prepare for the test flight of a high altitude balloon from The Discovery Museum in Bridgeport recently. The payload included a 3D printed animatronic monkey.

USIP Balloon launch makes the Front Page of Connecticut Post newspaper November 9, 2019. Left Larry AB1JC and Sam KC1HOD ready the balloon. Note Gary WE1M in the background.

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Photo: Brian A. Founds / Hearst Connecticut Media

Right: Mike K1MJM and students ready balloon for launch.

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Photo: Brian A. Founds / Hearst Connecticut Media

IMAGE 1 OF 4

University of Bridgeport students and volunteers from the Discovery Museum teamed up recently to launch a test flight of a high altitude balloon at Ninety Acres Park. The official launch will be held during an event in Bridgeport later this month.

Left: Balloon Away!



“HAMS & EGGS” SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Saturday morning breakfasts are fun and full of ham talk. Good job Jeff, our Breakfast Maven.



**Saturday morning breakfast at
Crown Café
Madison Ave. in Bridgeport.
October 26, 2019**



*IMHO: Crown Café, Madison Ave. Bridgeport, CT. They have counter service where you order and then sit down at a kitchen table and there is plenty of room. They deliver to your table. Everything is “a la carte”, so expect to order toast, potatoes, and bacon in addition to your eggs. Eggs are 3 to an order, so it is a special order for 2 eggs! They try to be healthy, so everything is cooked in healthy “health oil”. Tastes fair. Prices average. **Rating: 2 QSLs.***



HAMFESTS

- Southington, CT - March 29, 2020.

Southington Amateur Radio Assoc. Flea Market

Ham Radio Equipment, Electronics, Computers, and more..

Sunday March 29th, 2020

8:00 AM to 12 PM

Southington High School

720 Pleasant Street, Southington, CT

OVER THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF HAMFESTS!!!



Exams for all classes available!
10AM
We ask you to register so we can get a head count - Email requested for confirmation and a guaranteed seat! Walk-ins are welcome! Good Luck!

- 6 foot of linear table space is \$15 in advance, checks must be received before the day of the Fleamarket. Day of the Fleamarket spaces are \$20
- Bring your own tables take \$5 off!
- Additional persons helping pay \$5.00 as general admission. (be fair!)
- Children under 12 free!
- Doors open for all vendors unloading - 6:15am.
- For further info contact -Bruce WA1RR
bsimpson123@comcast.net
- John WA1JKR 860-621-8791
- Web site info www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm

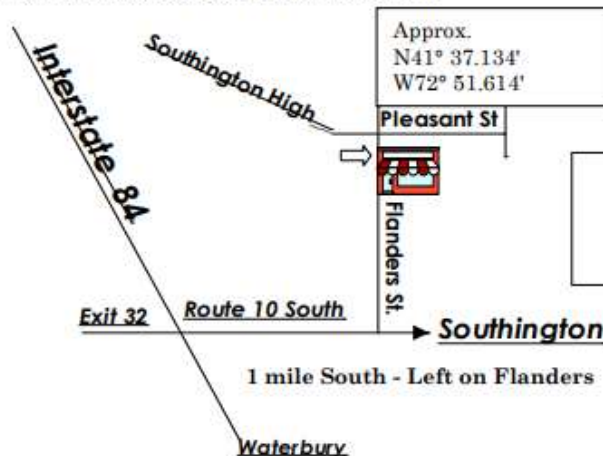
Admission \$5.00



Portions of our gate go toward a Scholarship remembering our Club's SKs.

Talk-in
147.345
444.200
PL - 151.4hz

**Quicksilver Radio
Radio Oasis
KJI Electronics**



TIP OF THE HAT

- Marilyn KB1YYO, Jeff KB1LZ, Sam W1SMF, Gary WE1M and Larry AB1JC for teaching the Tech class at UB.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

- Dec 8-9 – 10-meter contest

OUR SKED

- Dec 3 – Christmas Buffet Dinner
- Dec 25 – Merry Christmas
- Jan 1 – New Year’s Day
- Jan 25 – Club Meeting
 - State of the Union Presentation
 - Presentation of Awesome Breakfast Dude Award
 - Appointment of Club Officers for 2020
 - Winter Field Day Operation



WITH GREAT SADDNESS

The members of the Housatonic ARC mourn the passing of Kevin Cellini, N1KGM SK. Our condolences to his family. Rest in Peace Kevin.

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



**IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
2020 WILL BE 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 few 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. All options are on the table. Ideas floated so far are listed below:

- Go to a Casino
- Buffet dinner
- Gigantic pizza party
- Take a trip somewhere
- Rent a party boat
- Go deep sea fishing
- Go to expensive restaurant (steak and lobster)
- Take a cruise to Bermuda and party
- Run a Special Event Station

Keep thinking about it. We have at least a few months to decide.



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 2019

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

Housatonic Amateur Radio Club
Stratford, CT 06614
USA

HARC.N1KT@gmail.com

Fairfield County
Grid FN-31
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 and is published monthly. Gary T. Moyher, WE1M Editor.

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

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Keep Christ in Christmas!



*Unto Us
a Child is Born.*

