

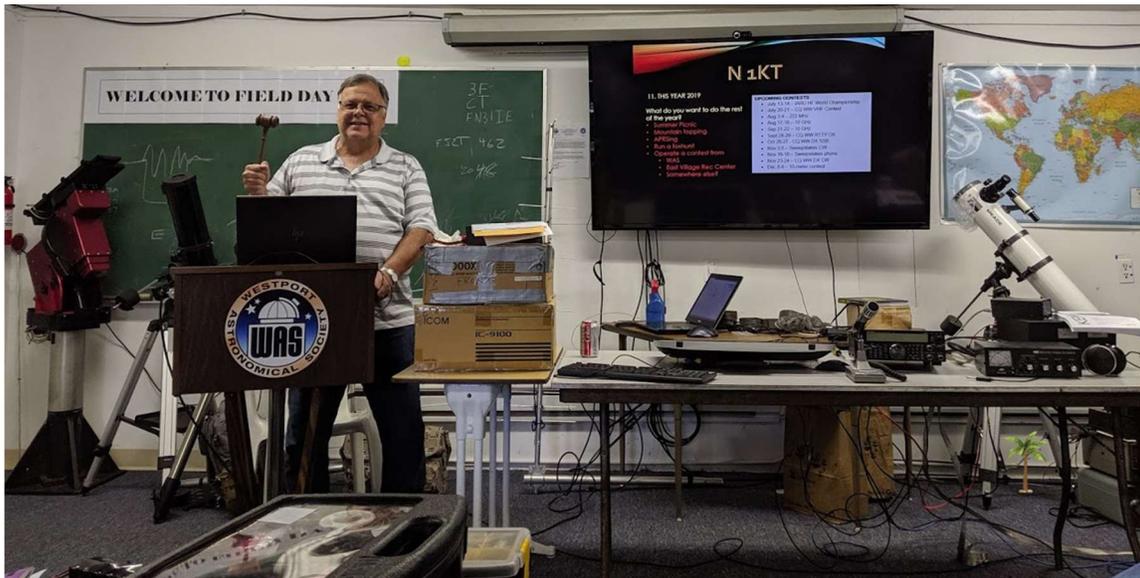
# DIRECT CURRENTS

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

## 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 2019 informal meeting was held June 22, during Summer Field Day setup. Trustee Gary WE1M addressed the membership and gave a semi-annual State of the Union address, reviewing all that our club had done since Winter Field Day (and believe me it was a lot!). Many members as well as non-members were in attendance.



*Gary WE1M gives his State of the Union (club) address during Informal Club Meeting at summer Field Day*

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.



**SUMMER FIELD DAY ANALYSIS**

Summer Field Day is over and our analysis has been done. While the official results will not be posted by ARRL until December, we here at Direct Currents are slightly quicker with an analysis of our performance. We made 200 CW contacts thanks to Frank W1ZAH and Emily N1DID. We also made 358 SSB contacts due to the hard

Score Statistics	
Total CW Contacts	200
Total Phone Contacts	358
Total DIG Contacts	27
Total QSO Points	812
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	0

work of K1MJM, W1SMF, KB1LZ, AB1JC, NE1CU, WJ1M, N1AK, KB1LTW and WE1M, and 27 FT8 contacts due to the hard work of W1LAG and AB1JC. (I hope I have not missed anyone.)

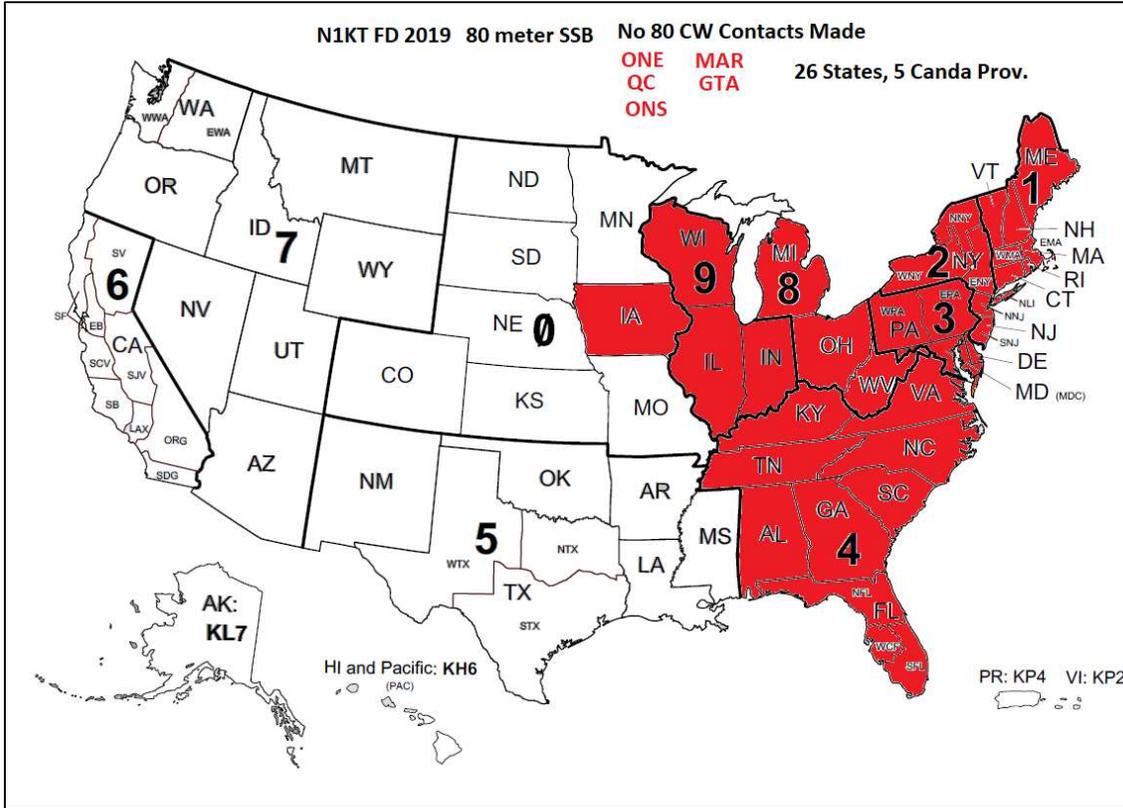
Here is the breakdown of contacts.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:					
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	26	318	0	344	59
40	43	23	27	93	16
20	131	3	0	134	23
15	0	7	0	7	1
10	0	3	0	3	1
2	0	4	0	4	1
Total	200	358	27	585	100

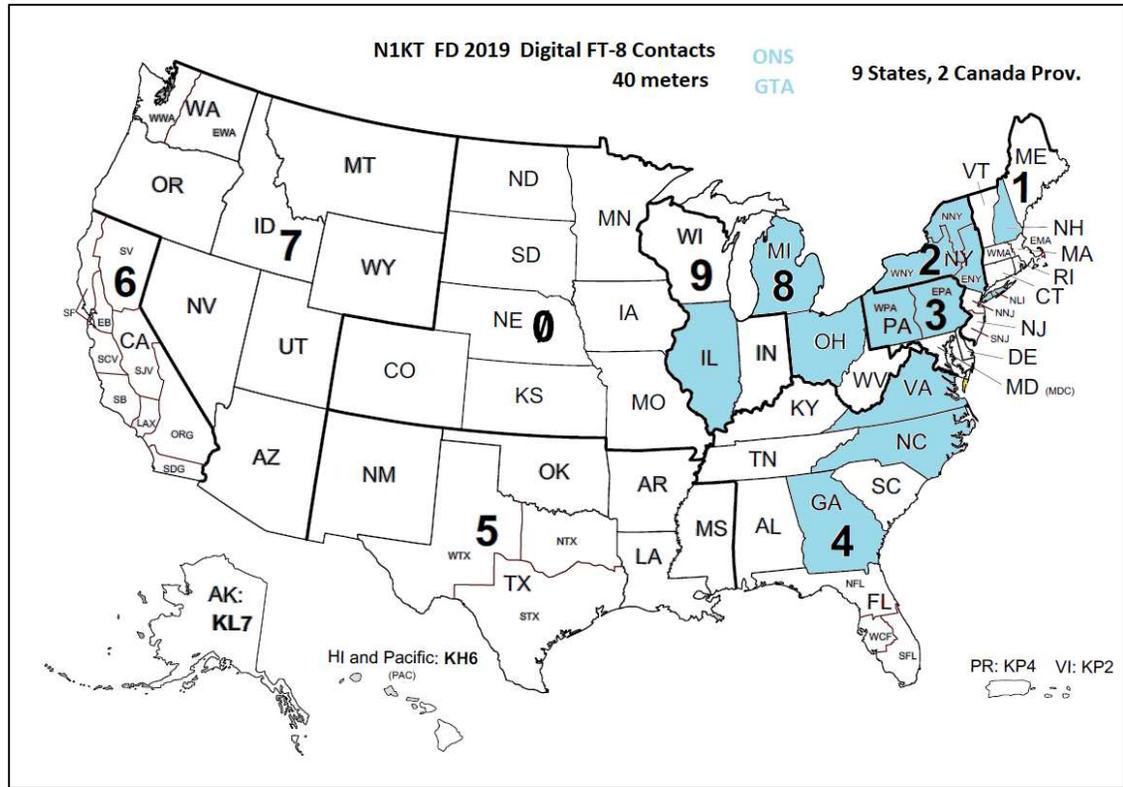
As you can see, 80 meters produced almost 60 percent of our contacts. This is because 80 phone was operational all night and open during the day as well. With the beam on 20 meters we were doing very well and at a record-breaking pace. Until the beam's SWR went sky high again Saturday night around 11:00 to 11:30 pm. This lowered morale but we rallied and stepped up the importance of bonus points to make up for it.





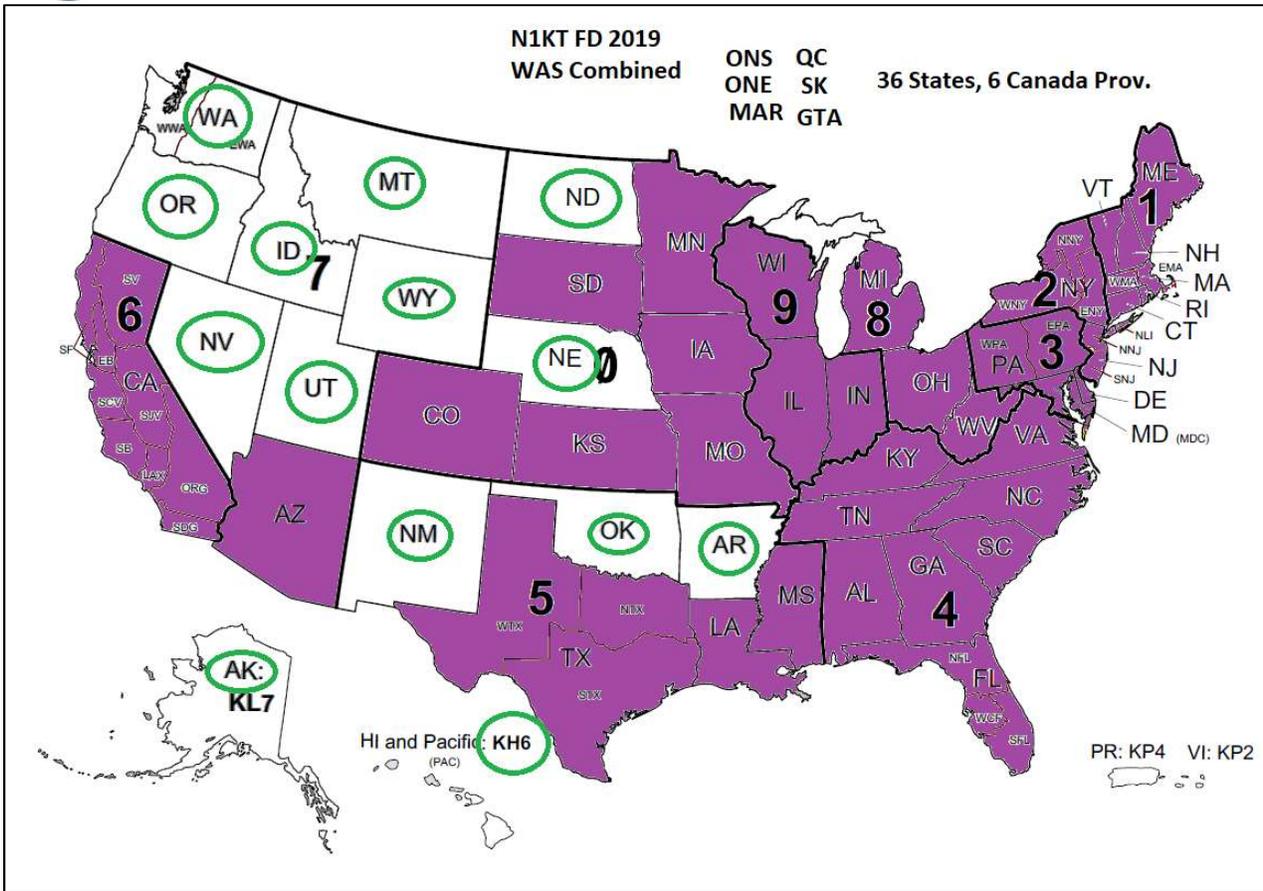


80 meters SSB (no 80 CW contacts made) 26 States 5 Canada

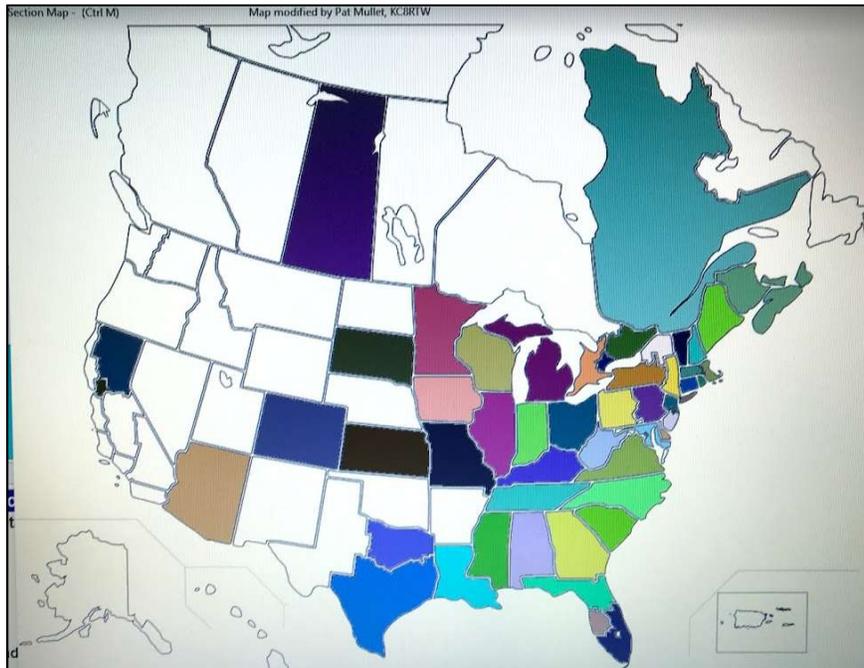


FT-8, 40 meter contacts (9 States 2 Canada)

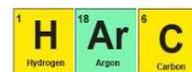




*Combined WAS All bands, all modes, 36 States & 6 Canadian Provinces*

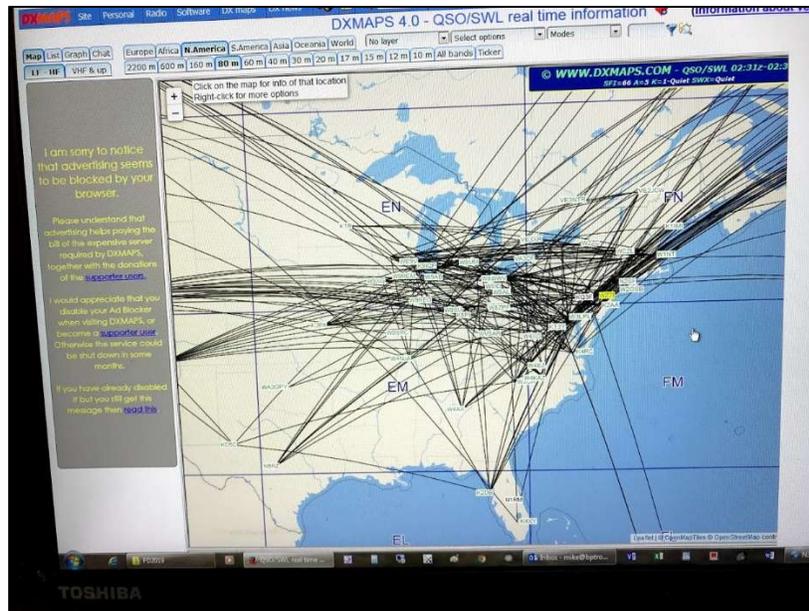


*N3FJP Section Map*

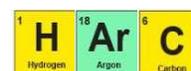


So, now the analysis begins. We will ponder what our 20 meter map, QSO and state totals would be from now until the end of time if we had our beam operational the entire Field Day. But we worked 36 states. Thirty-six states is certainly not our best, but with the beam down late Saturday night, we picked up the slack because we had two CW ops (thanks Frank W1ZAH & Emily N1DID) and we surged ahead with extra bonus points. Now we know why Frank and Emily are among those who won the MVHSFDA, and the same applies to those who stepped up with the bonus points. Thanks. (See further down this newsletter for MVHSFDA winners!) We are fortunate to have such dedicated op's at our Field Day. One thing is perfectly clear from this: Next year, if we do everything we did this Field Day to make up for the loss of the beam, and have the beam with our power to "reach out and touch" those distant states, then we should smash this year's record for number of QSO's, number of points AND have a good shot at beating our "states worked during Field Day" record. What say you? Are you ready to give this a try next year?

Our 80 meter contacts were made using the off center fed dipole, which was about 45 feet off the ground. While this may seem like it is high in elevation, it really should be at least a ¼ wavelength up, and that is about 60 feet. This shows in our WAS map for 80 meters. We worked only one state west of the Mississippi river. What is also interesting is the 80 meter propagation map at that time (see below). This shows the propagation that was happening with the ionosphere during Field Day on 80 meters. It 'kinda' matches our WAS map for 80 meters, doesn't it? Hmm. Perhaps the lack of height with our off center fed dipole antenna should not take all of the blame!



80 meter propagation map during FD



**SUMMER FIELD DAY 2019 PICTURES**



*Sam W1SMF assisted by Dave KB1LTW, doing the "Coax Dance" during FD shutdown.*

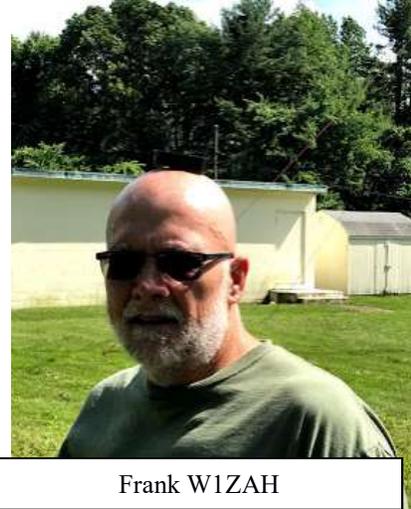


*Dave KB1LTW holding the "Limbo Wire". How low (frequency) can you go?*





Mike KA1EQU & Jeff KB1LZ



Frank W1ZAH

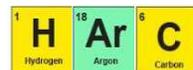


Dave KB1LW, Larry AB1JC & Frank W1ZAH in background



Sam W1SMF & Mike K1MJM

*Field Day 2019 at the Westport Astronomical Society*





Frank (no call) and Mike KC1EBF



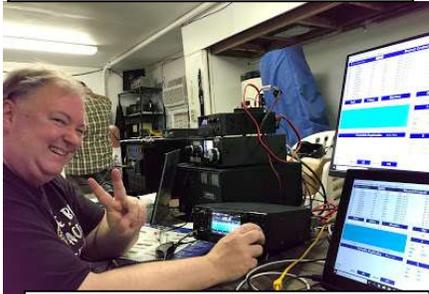
Jeff KB1LZ



Ken NE1CU, Mike K1MJM, Dan N3DAW & Larry AB1JC



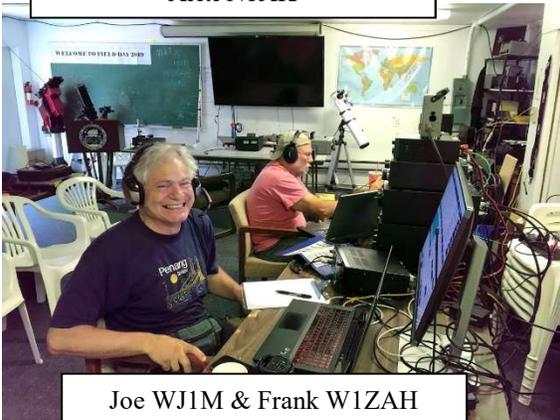
Larry AB1JC



Alex N1AK



Larry W1LAG, Frank W1ZAH & Marilyn KB1YYO

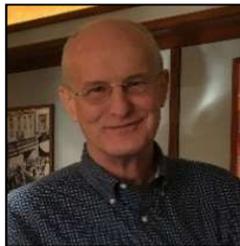


Joe W1JM & Frank W1ZAH



**5 WIN THE MOST VALUABLE HAM AT SUMMER FIELD DAY AWARD**

Summer Field Day is over and our Awards Awarder was dumbfounded! The competition for MVHSFDA© was so close, it was a photo finish. Even then, there were 5 hams who stood out from the crowd. So, having deserved this award by earning it, we are proud to announce the following 5 hams have won the Housatonic ARC's Most Valuable Ham at Summer Field Day Award.



**Frank W1ZAH.** For making the most contacts 125, and all were CW worth 2 points each. Points generated = 250.

**Larry AB1JC.** For making the most SSB contacts, 120. Points Generated = 120.

**Sam, W1SMF.** For making 96 SSB contacts = 96 points, sent a Message to Section Manager = 100 bonus and sent out 10 formal messages = 100 bonus points. Total points generated = 296.

**Dave, KB1LTW.** For making 87 contacts = 87 points. Performed an Educational Instruction = 100 bonus points. Total points generated = 187.

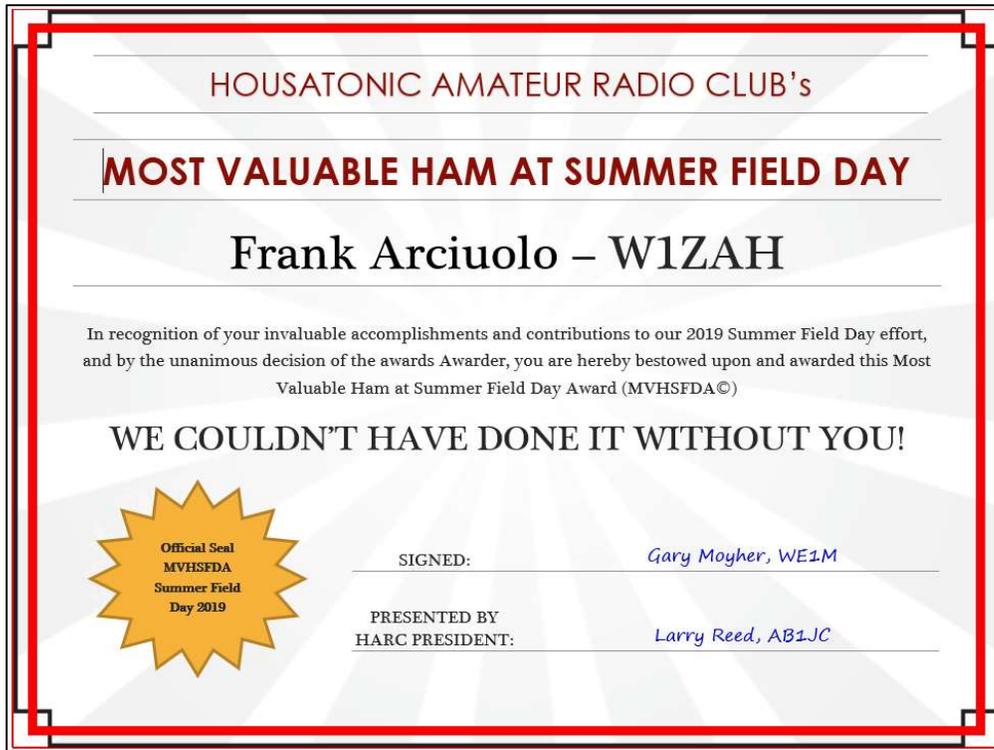
**Emily, N1DID.** For making 80 CW contacts worth 2 points each = 160 points, copied Field Day Message with W1LAG (1/2 of 100) = 50 points and ACK'd one of Sam's Messages. Total points generated = 210.

The MVHSFDA Award Winners were awarded this ARRL Field Day Pin and our Club's certificate.



Show your support for ARRL Field Day with official merchandise! Acknowledge your involvement in ARRL Field Day with a pin. Wear it proudly! Size 1 1/4" x 7/8".





One of 5 MVHSFDA Award Certificates awarded for Field Day 2019

Previous winners include

- 2015 - AB1JC for making over 100 SSB contacts
- 2016 - WD1M for making our first FD CW contacts
- 2017 - KB1LTW for making over 400 contacts
- 2018 - KB1LTW for making over 400 contacts with 400 watts and MA5B Beam



MVHSFDA award winners Sam W1SMF & Emily N1DID show off their certificates and Field Day 2019 pins.



**ARRL REPS VISIT OUR SUMMER FIELD DAY**

ARRL representatives Michelle Patnode, W3MVP ARRL Communications Content Producer and David Isgur, N1RSN ARRL Communications Manager, visited our Summer Field Day site on Saturday June 23 to check out our Field Day activities. They took some photos, recorded some videos for posting on the ARRL social media pages, and maybe even did some Facebook Live posts from our Field Day site. While we are not sure they accomplished this task, they certainly visited our site and were impressed. They toured our operating positions, climbed the tower to the dome to visit our VHF/UHF station (see pictures below) and sat down to enjoy our Big Y grinders. Larry AB1JC acted as host and explained the “State of the Union(club)” presentation. We believe they were most impressed with our Aerospace activities because they stayed over 3 hours! Gary WE1M sent them a follow-up email stating how we enjoyed their visit and invited them back again.

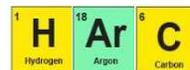
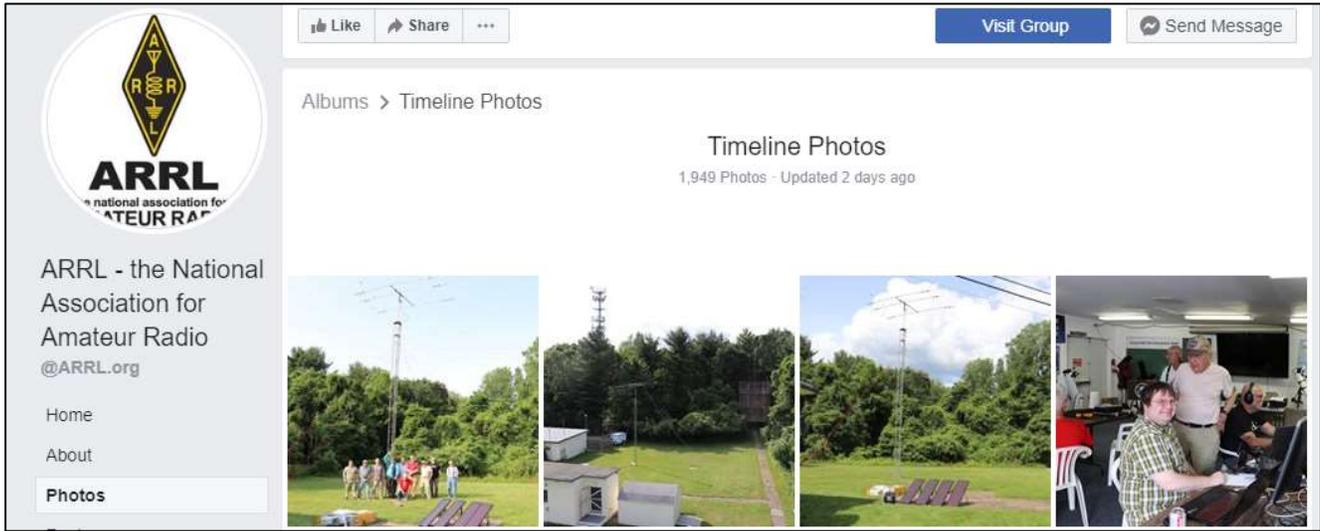


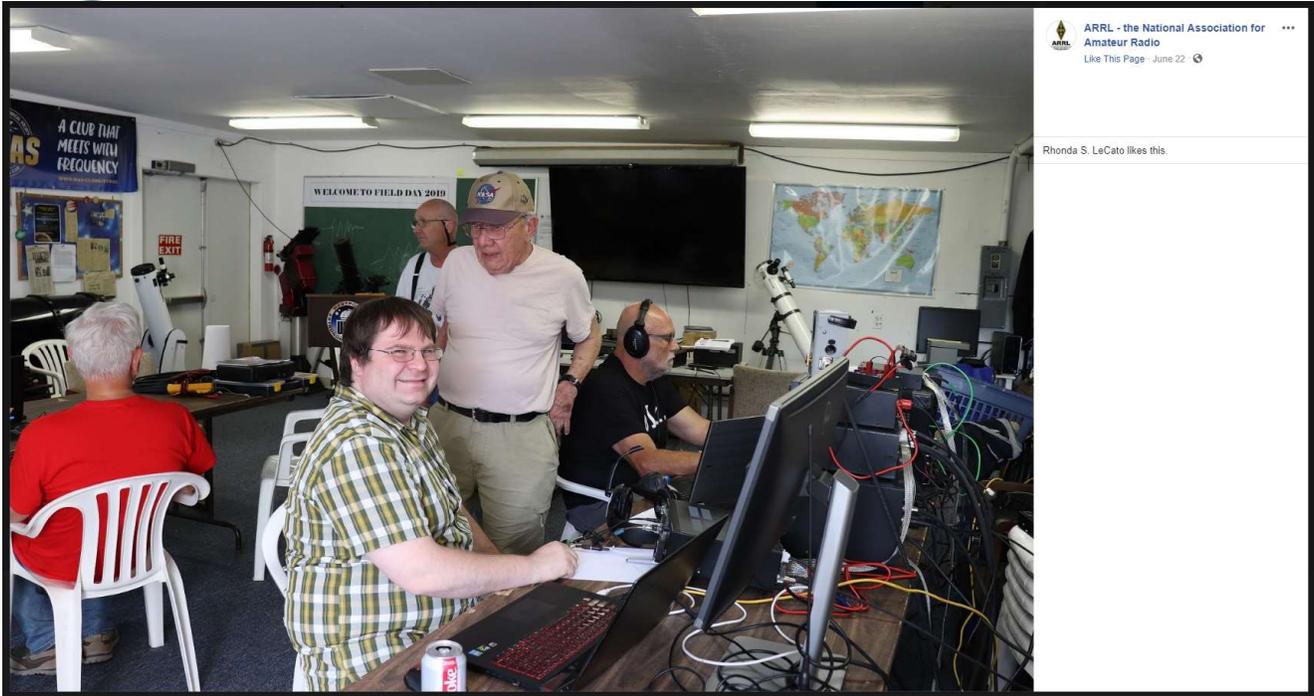
*ARRL Rep Dave N1RSN & Dave KB1LTW*

*Michelle W3MVP enjoys the view from the dome tower.*



Below are pictures of our Field Day operation that ARRL posted on Facebook Timeline:





ARRL - the National Association for Amateur Radio  
 Like This Page · June 22 ·

Rhonda S. LeCato likes this.



ARRL - the National Association for Amateur Radio  
 Like This Page · June 22 · Edited ·

A view from the top of the Westport Astronomical Observatory Tower

Rhonda S. LeCato and Kris Weh like this.

Photos from ARRL - the National Association for Amateur Radio's post in Timeline Photos





### TECHNICIAN CLASS

We will be holding a Technician class on Saturday mornings at the University of Bridgeport. This class is open to all UB students and First Responders. More details next issue!

### LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVATION

Due to work commitments and requirements to travel, this has been postponed until a later date.

### ARRL SWEEPSTAKES

We are planning to operate in the ARRL Sweepstakes in November 2019. WAS has been reserved for the weekend. This is a fun contest and we urge all members to participate. The phone portion of the contest runs November 16-18, 2019.

*“The contest is somewhat unique in that each station may only be contacted once and the number of different recognized locations (“multipliers”) is limited to the ARRL and RAC sections. Working all of the sections is called a “Clean Sweep” and allows the station to claim one of the coveted Clean Sweep coffee mugs – there are other awards, as well.”-ARRL*

More details next issue! Contact Dave KB1LTW or Gary WE1M to assist!



**KILOWATT 1 BARNUM SPECIAL EVENT STATION**

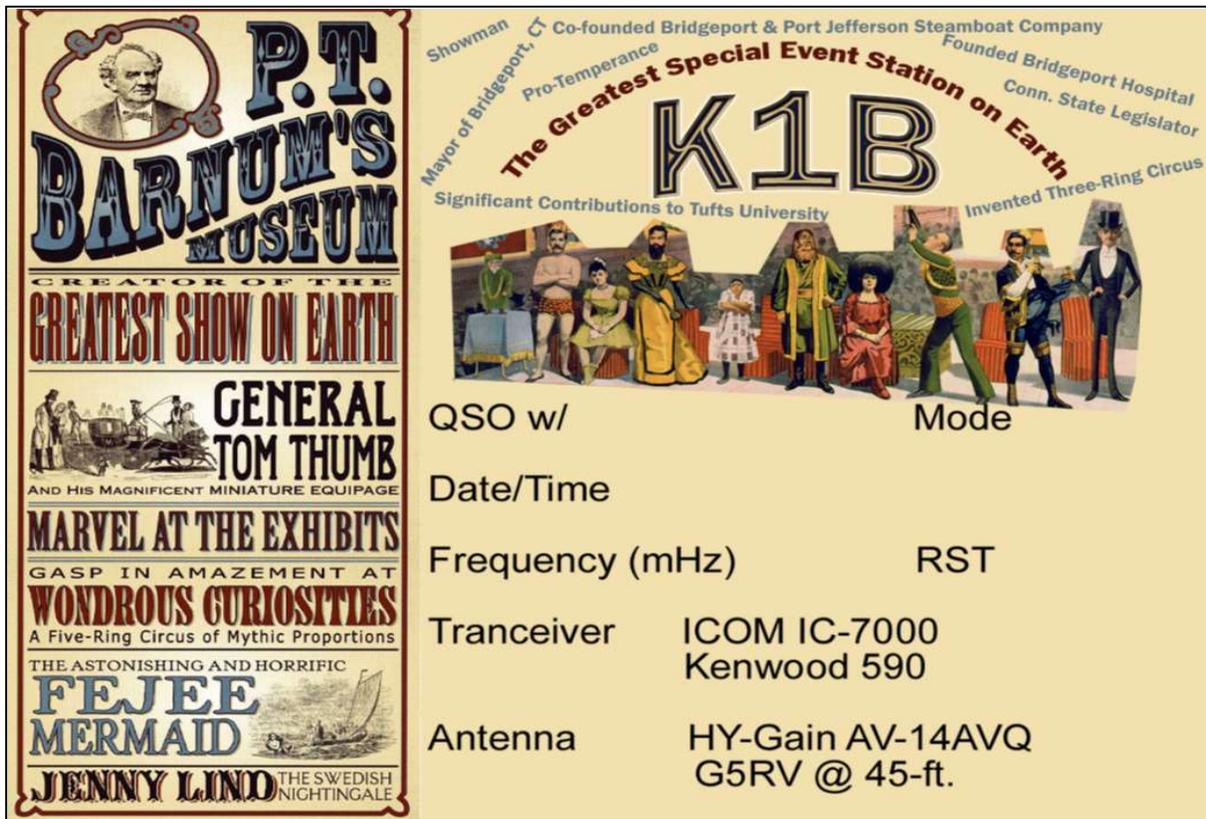
HARC and WAS will operate a special event station honoring the life and times of the great showman, P.T. Barnum.

On April 11, 2019 Gary WE1M requested the 1x1 callsign K1B from the ARRL 1x1 special event QSL manager, with the intention of running the PT Barnum special event station. This was approved on Monday 4/15/19. We have the callsign from September 7 through September 21, 2019. Gary also requested via Dan N3DAW the use of WAS for this event and this was also approved. So, if you

think you had a great time at the last PT Barnum special event station or the Nathan Hale special event station, attend this one!

We plan on two stations running amplifiers this time. We will put one station on the trapped vertical antenna and another possibly on the off center fed dipole. Time will tell if we can run the beam. (Jeff KB1LZ in looking at the beam.)

Operations should commence on Saturday September 14, (*note new date*) after a nice breakfast at Sherwood diner. We need operators, so please consider attending and be sure to have a really fun time!



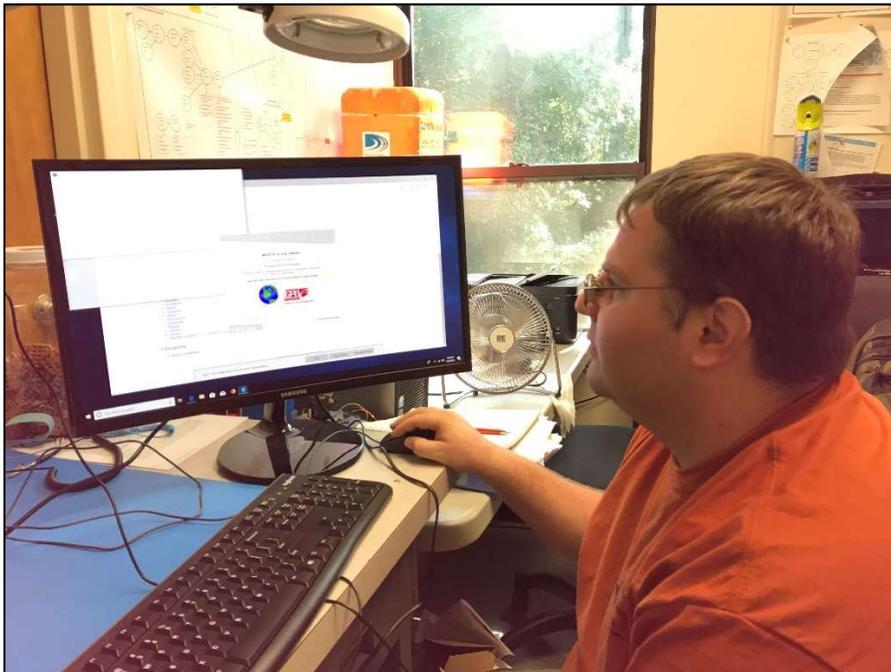
*Proposed K1B QSL by Larry W1LAG*



**09/14/2019 K1B Celebrating the Life and Legacy of PT Barnum Special Event Station**  
**Sep 14-15 1330Z-2100Z, K1B, Westport, CT. Greater Bridgeport ARC, Westport Astro Society ARC, Housatonic ARC. 20, 40, 80 meters; SSB, CW and FT8. QSL. Ken Johnson, NE1CU, P.O. Box 421, Stratford, CT 06615.**

*Here is the Special Event listing from the ARRL page (with corrected date overlaid by Editor)*

**DISCOSAT-1 CUBESAT SATELLITE**



*Dave KB1LTW works on the ground station computer in the Satellite Development Lab*

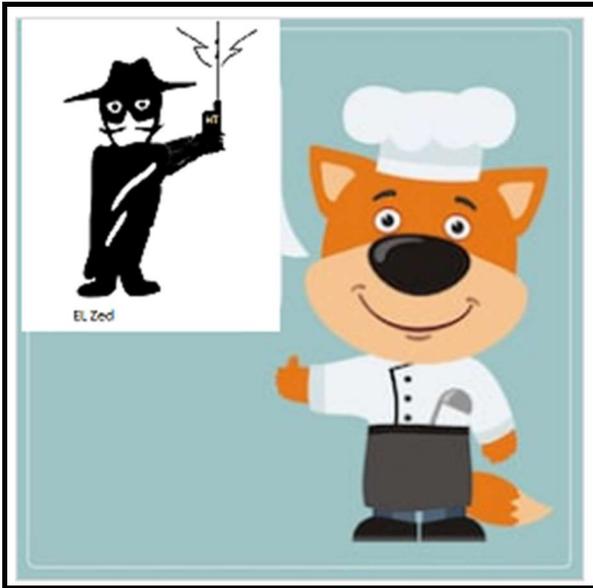


Members of the DiscoSat-1 CubeSat team would like to welcome HARC member Ned KA1CVv to the CubeSat program. Ned will be working on CubeSat electronics, hardware and CubeSat simulators. Welcome Ned!



**“HAMS & EGGS” SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Saturday morning breakfasts have been on hiatus since Summer Field Day. They will resume the first week of September. Come on, even our Breakfast Decider needs time off! “Unofficial” Saturday morning breakfasts have been taking place, scheduled by the “Summer Replacement Host Breakfast Decider”. His first action was a foxhunt for your breakfast. The first four who found the breakfast location (as a fox hunt) would get a discount on their breakfast. Ingenious idea for sure! Below are recent breakfast pictures.



*Top Left: Foxhunt Breakfast Logo by KB1LZ.*

*Top Right: Club member Jeff's KB1LZ picture in CT Post July 26, 2019 for his work with the “Flying Aces” club with remote controlled aircraft.*

*Bottom Left: Larry, AB1JC enjoying breakfast at Krissy's Korner in Stratford on July 27, 2019.*

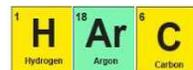




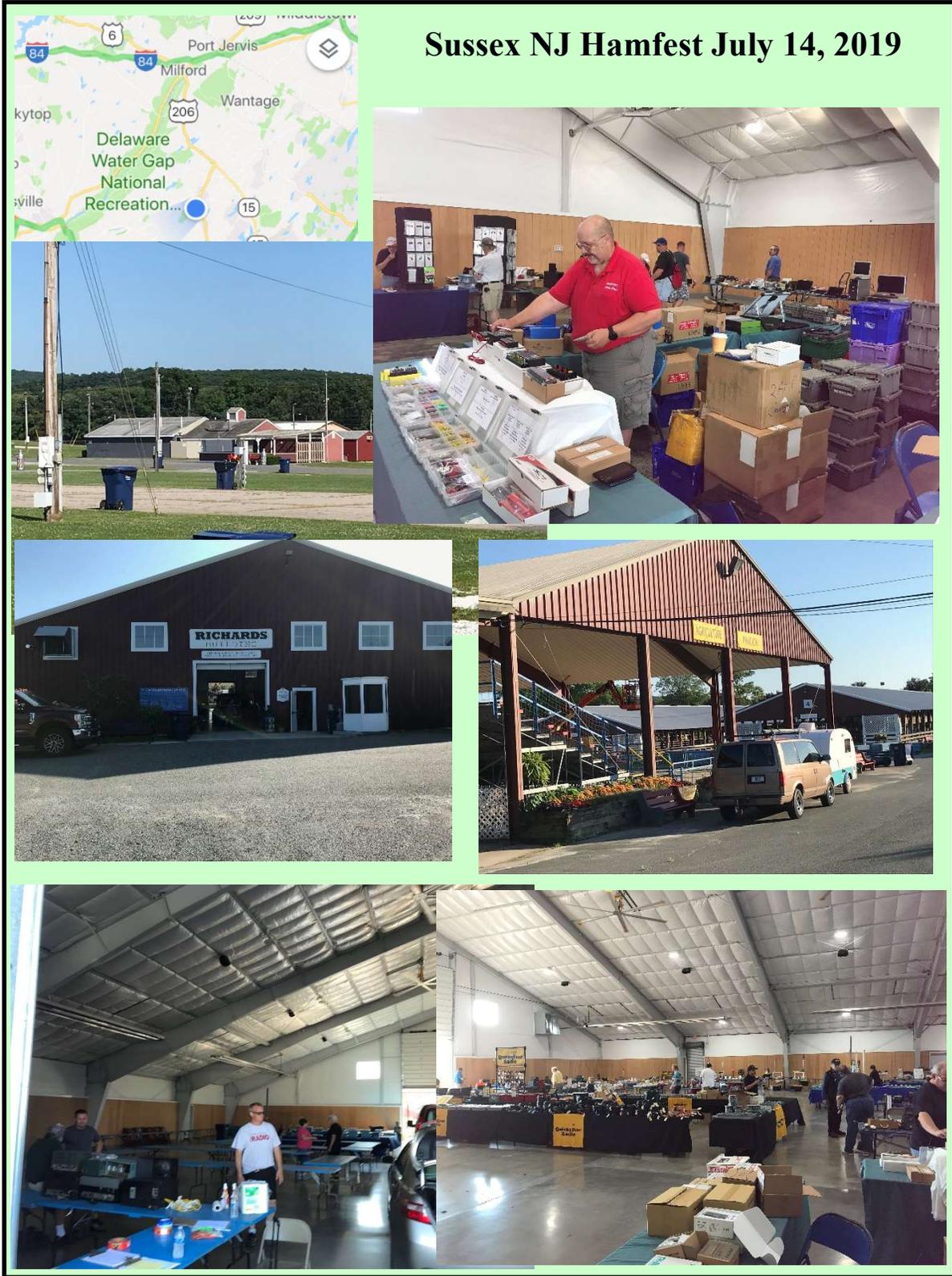
*Foxhunt Breakfast winners Gary K1IC and Sam W1SMF pose with their First Place certificate. Breakfast at Tasty Yolk breakfast trailer June 29, 2019.*



*Above: Ken NE1CU shows why he won the Most Awesome Breakfast Dude Award for 2018!  
 Right: Breakfast at Chips in Trumbull, July 6, 2019.*



On Sunday July 13, Gary WE1M and John N1OLO went to Sussex, NJ hamfest. Pictures taken during set-up time prior to opening.



**Sussex NJ Hamfest July 14, 2019**





**IT'S TIME TO PARTY!  
2020 WILL BE OUR CLUB'S 25<sup>TH</sup>  
(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. All options are on the table. Ideas floated so far are:

- 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 6 months to decide.

### **HAMFESTS**

- Boxboro Hamfest, Boxboro, MA. 09/06/19
- Nutmeg Hamfest, Sheraton Four-Points Hotel, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT - 10/13/19

### **TIP OF THE HAT**

- Thanks go out to Jeff, KB1LZ for being the Summer Replacement Breakfast Host and scheduling our Saturday morning breakfasts from the end of June until September.



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

- Aug 17-18 – 10 GHz
- Sep 21-22 – 10 GHz
- Sept 28-29 – CQ WW RTTY DX
- Oct 26-27 - CQ WW DX SSB
- Nov 3-5 – Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 16-19 – Sweepstakes phone (We will operate)
- Nov 23-24 – CQ WW DX CW
- Dec 8-9 – 10-meter contest

## OUR SKED

- Aug TBD – USIP Test Launch Backup Date
- Sept TBD – USIP Full Scale Launch
- Sept 7-21 – PT Barnum Special Event
- Nov 16-19 – Sweepstakes phone (We will operate)

## 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



## 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/](http://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](mailto:HARC.N1KT@gmail.com)

Grid FN-31  
CQ Zone 5  
ITU Zone 8  
Fairfield County  
10-X 67120  
SKCC# 3980

HARC 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.

Our previous call sign was KB1BRB. We will gladly QSL KB1BRB contacts.

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

It is published monthly. Gary T. Moyher, WE1M Editor.

Contact the Editor at: [WE1M.radio@gmail.com](mailto:WE1M.radio@gmail.com)

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