

# DIRECT CURRENTS

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

## MEETING INFO

Monthly video meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 7, 2020.



Our August 2020 meeting was held on Zoom on Monday August 3, 2020. Attending the meeting was Charter Member Fred KB1BU, Gary WE1M, Tom N1UNT, Larry AB1JC, Ned KA1CVv, Ken NE1CU, Dave KB1LWV, Sam W1SMF and Brandon KB1THM. (It's nice to see Charter Member Fred KB1BU again)



**ARRL DX SSB CONTEST**

We operated the ARRL DX SSB contest on Saturday afternoon March 7, 2020 for about 6 hours. Dave KB1LTW and Ned KA1CVV arrived at WAS around 12:50 pm and began setting up. Gary WE1M arrived about 20 minutes later. Using the IC-7300 and the Ameritron we operated a single transmitter, multi operator, high power station running approximately 300 watts. (The Ameritron needs new tubes).

We ran both the Vertical antenna and the OCF dipole and switched between them via a coax switch in the tuner. A short time later, Alex N1AK and Dan N3DAW arrived to join us. How did we do? Take a look at our certificate below. We placed First in CT and 4<sup>th</sup> in New England in Multi Op, Single Transmitter, High Power Category! Thanks to all who contributed to this fine effort (and apologies to N1AK for inadvertently leaving his callsign off our submittal. Mea Culpa - WE1M).



*Certificate Awarded to us for ARRL DX SSB Contest  
1<sup>st</sup> place CT, 4<sup>th</sup> New England Multi, Single, High power*





Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power U.S. Call Area 1

Select DX Go

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Rank	Category	Call Sign	QTH	Score
1	MSHP	K2LE	VT	1,513,710
2	MSHP	K1KP	EMA	757,449
3	MSHP	W100	ME	14,448
4	MSHP	N1KT	CT	7,200

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*Send comments or questions about this page to [ARRL Contest Manager](#)*  
Version: 1.0.0, Revised: June 6, 2020

25<sup>th</sup> in Category, 1<sup>st</sup> in CT and 4<sup>th</sup> in New England

### 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, Ryan KC3NJF and Brandon KB1THM. Because N3FJP was having trouble with the new Windows 10 filesharing security, each of the two stations maintained their own logging software and database. This was manageable as the stations were set up mutually exclusive by band. Below is the analysis of both of those stations (combined together). We also asked members who worked their own stations from home to submit their scores and allocate them to our club's overall score. Thank you to N3DAW and WE1M who did so. However, those contacts and logs are not included in this analysis below. Only our two club stations operating N1KT are included.

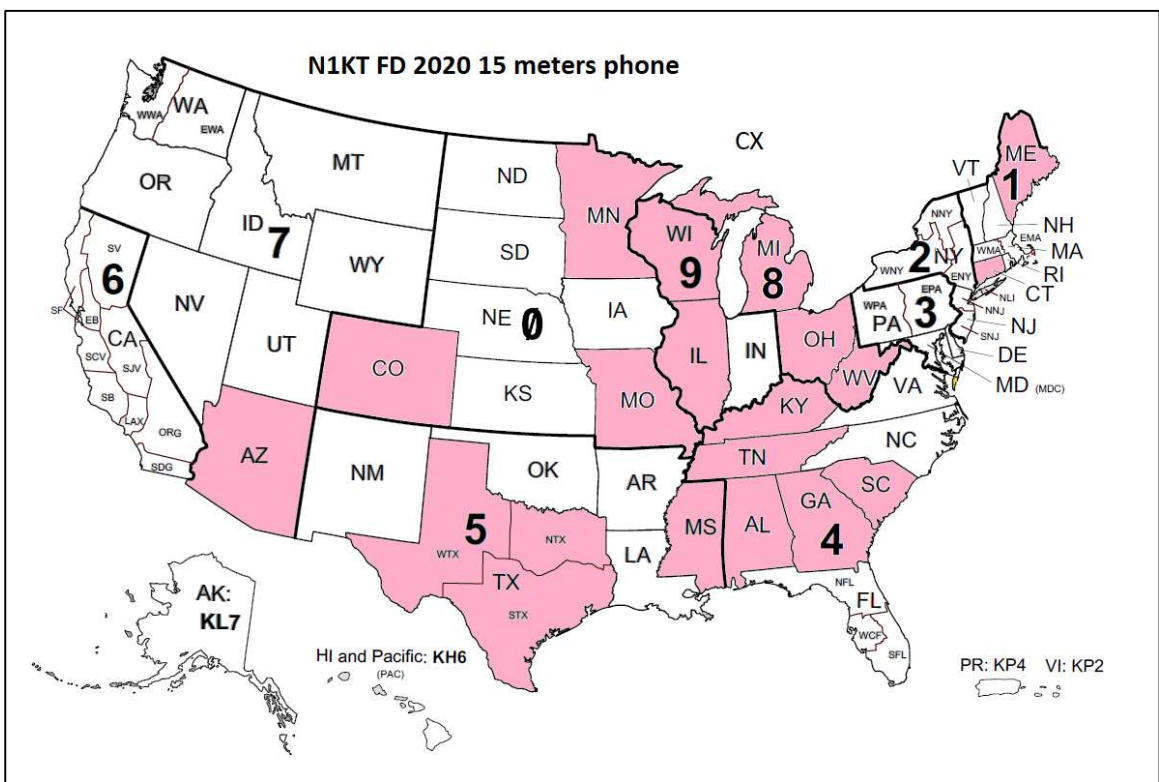
First let's talk about the bands. On Saturday, it seems that the bands were antagonistic to us and laughing whilst doing so. Gary WE1M (100 watts) operated for 10 hours from home on 20 and 40 phone and only made 20 contacts. Likewise, Douglas WA1SFH had only made 3 contacts. At WAS, N1KT station A had made only 80 contacts (with high power) while N1KT station B had made only 29 contacts, again with high power. But the bands would change. On Sunday, Station A made 309 contacts and Station B would make 39 more contacts. By the end of the contest, Station A had made 389 contacts while Station B would make 68 total contacts. This gave us a total of 389 + 68 = 457 contacts.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

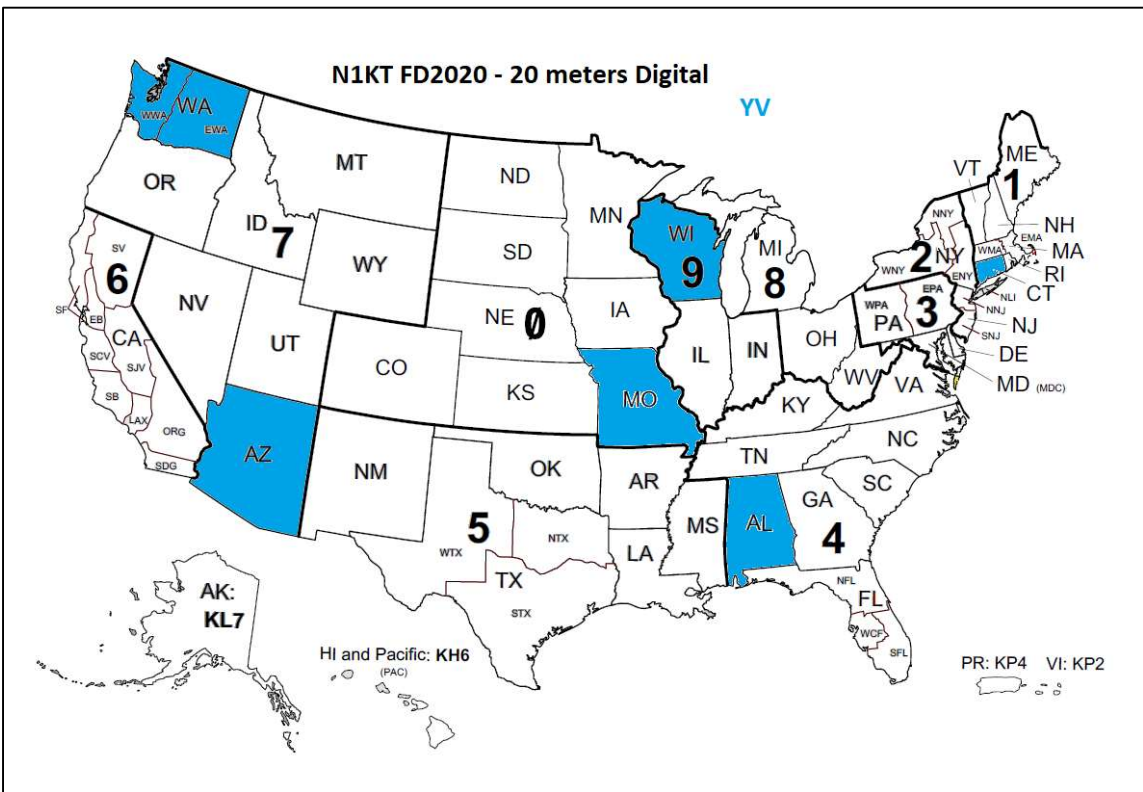
Band	CW	Power	Dig	Power	Phone	Power	Total
80	0	150+	12	150+	130	150+	142
40	0	150+	9	150+	234	150+	243
20	0	150+	7	150+	21	150+	28
15	0	150+	0	150+	42	150+	42
10	0	150+	0	150+	2	150+	2
GOTA	0	150+	0	150+	0	150+	0
Total	0		28		429		457

Both Stations combined



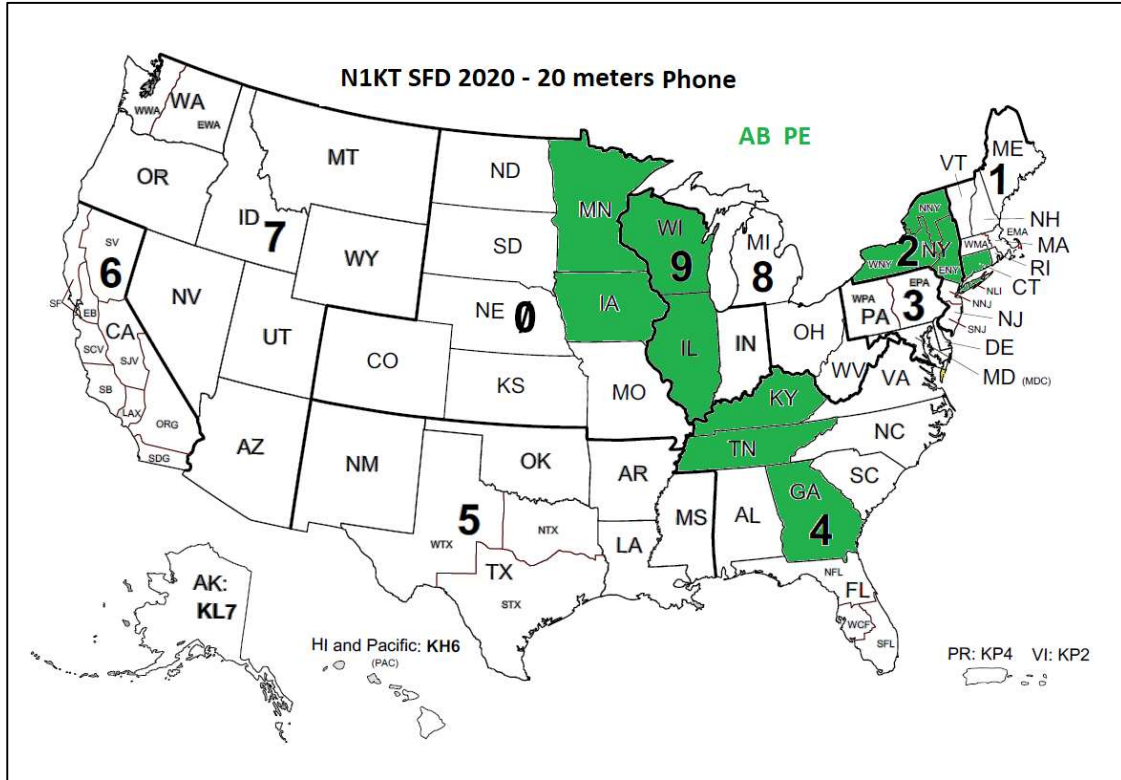


15 meters phone (18 states, 1 DX)

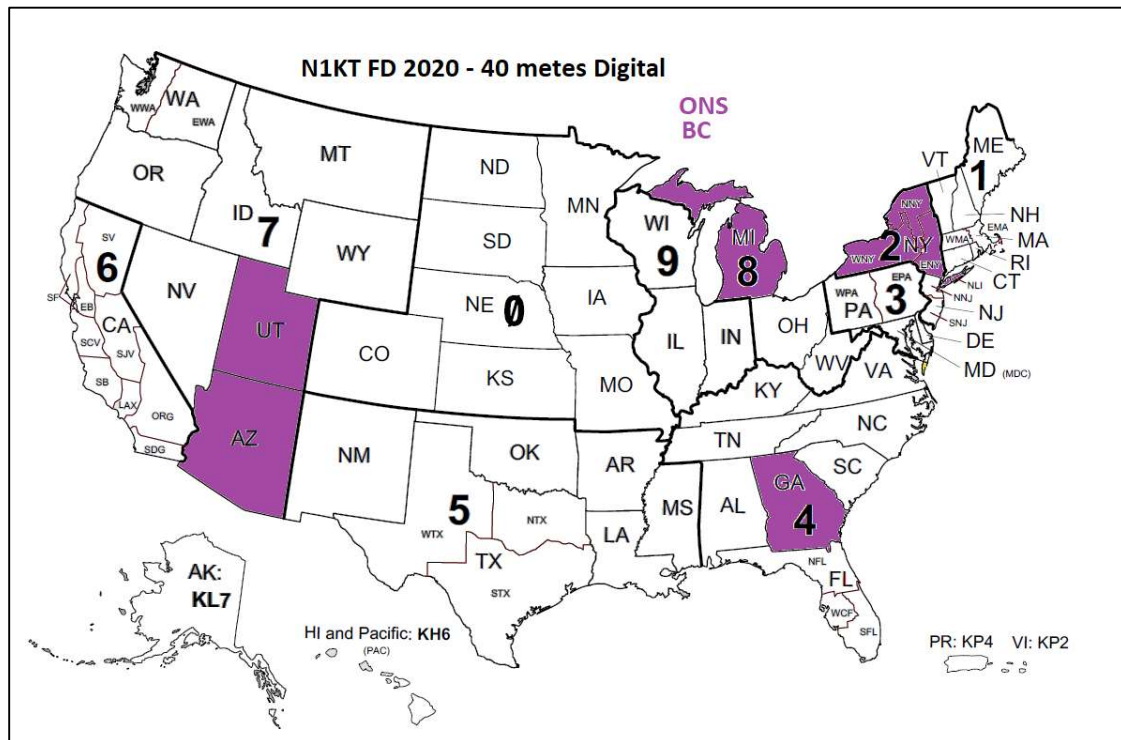


20 meters digital (6 states, 1 DX)



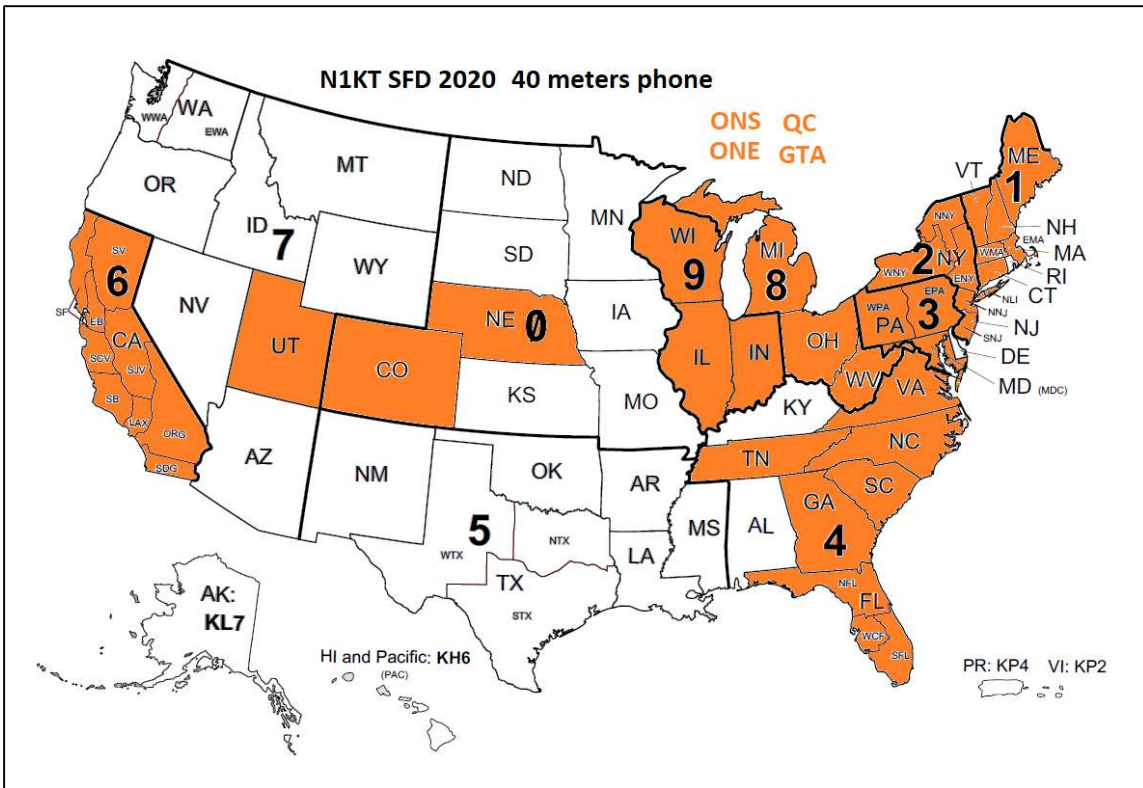


20 meters phone (9 states, 2 Canadian provinces)

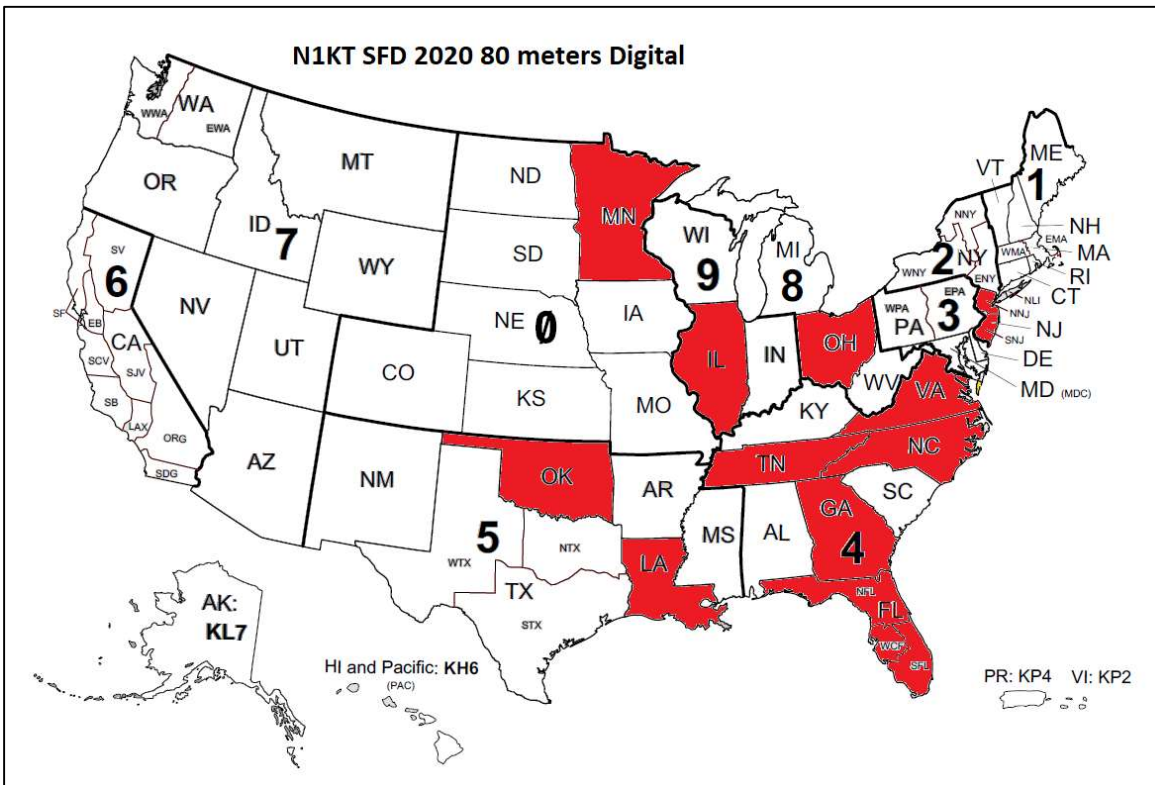


40 meters (not metes) digital (5 states, 2 Canadian provinces)



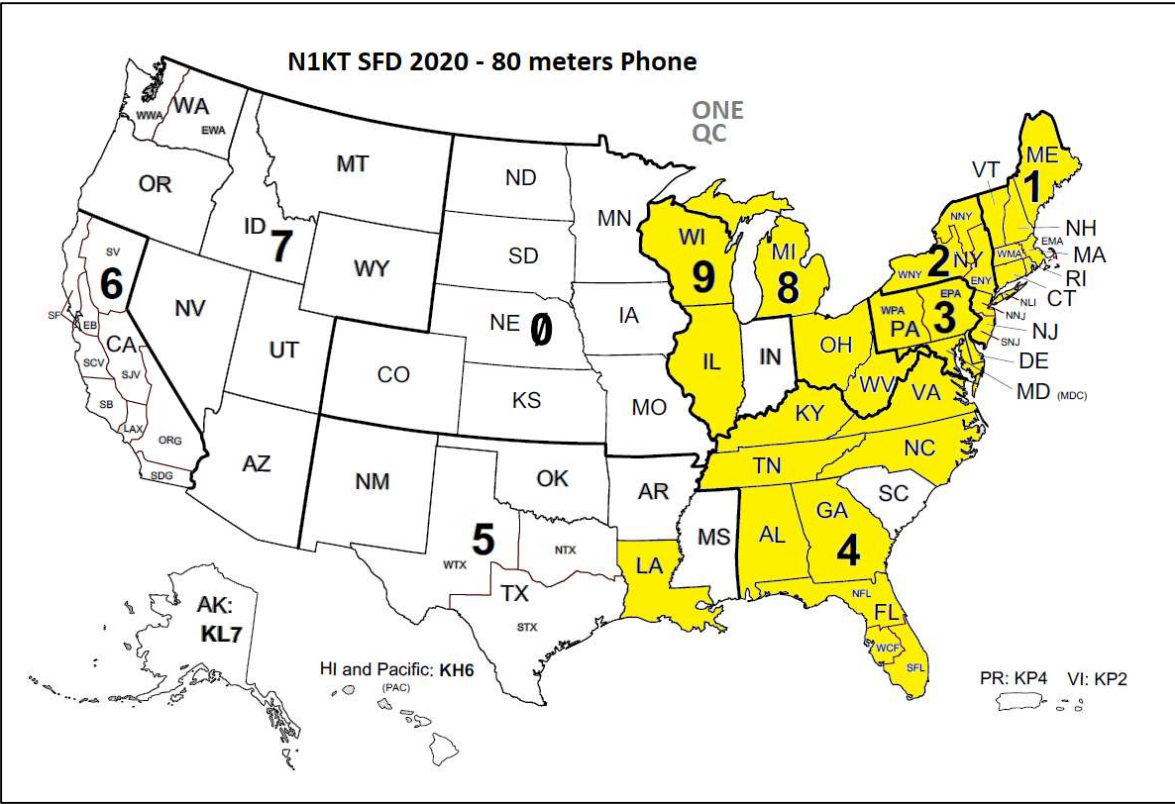


40 meters phone (25 states, 4 Canadian provinces)

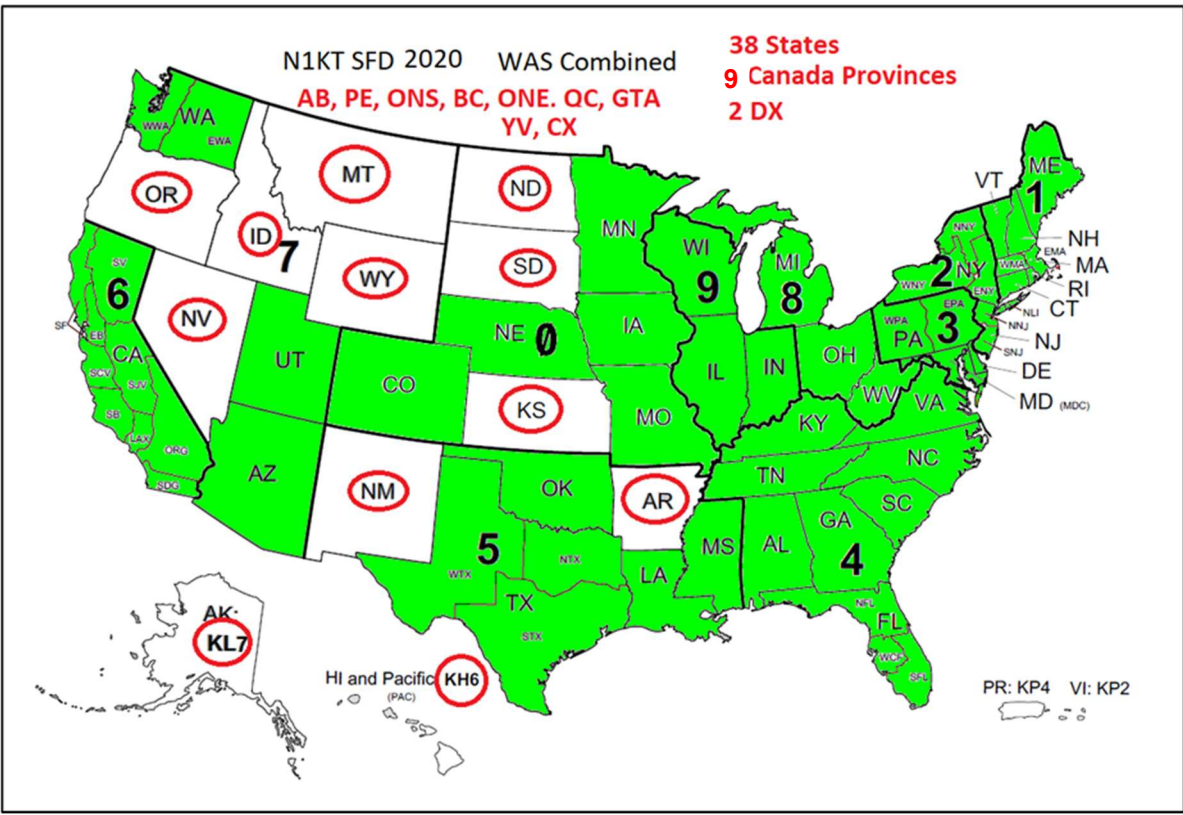


80 meters digital (11 states)





80 meters phone (24 states, 2 Canadian provinces)



WAS Combined all Bands and Modes (38 states, 7 Canadian provinces, 2 DX)



20 meters didn't seem to work all that well. It had trouble getting out past the Mississippi river. 15 meters seems to have the favored propagation that weekend, as we worked 5 states past the river with 40 meter phone right behind it with 4 states. 80 meter phone gave us most of New England 1 land so it was a worthy effort there. The sad bands/modes were 40 meters digital with only 4 states, and 20 meters phone with only 9 states. There was no really clear winning band or mode. It was one of those Field Days where every contact on every band on every mode counted. The marginal utility of each individual contact was high! Put them all together and we get the WAS Combined Band and Mode map above. We worked 38 states, 7 Canadian Provinces and 2 DX countries (YV Venezuela on 20 digital, and CX Uruguay on 15 phone) both South America.

We have had better Field Days, but given that we only had two stations, our problems with Windows file sharing, and having our first (and hopefully last) "Social Distancing" Field day, we really did a bang-up job! We can all be proud of our effort. I dare to say more effort went into this year's Summer Field Day than any other. Obstacles were thrown at us at almost every step of the contest, yet members stepped-up and attacked with hard work and teamwork. We analyzed, adapted and overcame! Congratulations to the entire club on a job Well Done!

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

We have officially canceled our "Hams and Eggs" breakfasts until further notice. As an experiment, we are testing "social distancing" breakfasts.



*Social Distance Breakfast July 25, 2020. Larry AB1JC, Ken NE1CU and Ned KA1CVv (not shown) having breakfast at Famous 50's Diner.*





**ISAIAS KO's OUR VERTICAL**

It looks like our 4BTV antenna took a direct hit during tropical storm ISAIAS on Tuesday August 4, 2020.



*Here is a picture of our 4BTV in need of repair (Tnx N3DAW for pic)*



*Close up of our antenna damage.*





## HAMFESTS

### BOXBORO HAMFEST CANCELED

It was announced that the Boxboro Hamfest scheduled for November 2020, has been canceled. The following is from their website [www.hamexposition.org](http://www.hamexposition.org)

*Hello All,*

*Large indoor gatherings such as our convention are currently prohibited by Governor Baker's executive order that bans large gatherings. This is highly unlikely to change by November. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold a physical convention this year. However, we do plan some virtual activities, all free. We are currently working on the details for these and will keep you posted as they develop:*

*We plan to operate the W1A special event station over the weekend of October 31st - November 1st. To avoid a conflict with the November Sweepstakes, we moved this to one week earlier. W1A will be operated from the operator's home stations. Dennis, W1UE, is coordinating the schedule. If you would like to be a W1A operator, please contact W1UE by email at [w1ue@hamxposition.org](mailto:w1ue@hamxposition.org).*

*For those who would like to work W1A, we will be posting the operating schedule once it is ready. Note that this will give regular attendees the unique opportunity to work W1A (something which would have been more difficult for many to do operating portable from a hotel room).*

*We will also be hosting a Saturday evening virtual banquet on November 7th, featuring a guest speaker. There will be no charge for this event. Order your favorite take-out or delivery, pull up a chair to your screen, and join your friends for an interesting presentation. After the talk, virtual break-out rooms will be available for you to converse with your "table".*

*The Nashua Area Radio Club will be running an online version of the "Ham Boot Camp". This is a multisession program for hams young and old to learn about the various activities they can do with their license.*

*Details to follow.*

*Stay safe & 73,  
Bob DeMattia, K1IW  
Chairman  
Northeast HamXposition 2020/The ARRL New England Convention*





**UPCOMING CONTESTS**

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

**Many are called but few qualify**

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**IT'S TIME TO PARTY!  
2020 IS 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. 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.

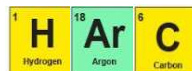
- Go to a Casino
- Buffet dinner
- Gigantic pizza party
- Take a trip to 2021 Dayton Hamvention
- Rent a party boat
- Go deep sea fishing
- Go to expensive restaurant (steak and lobster)
- Hold a large picnic and cookout
- Run a Special Event Station

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/](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

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 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](mailto:WE1M.radio@gmail.com)

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