

DIRECT CURRENTS

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



Merry Christmas

MEETING INFO

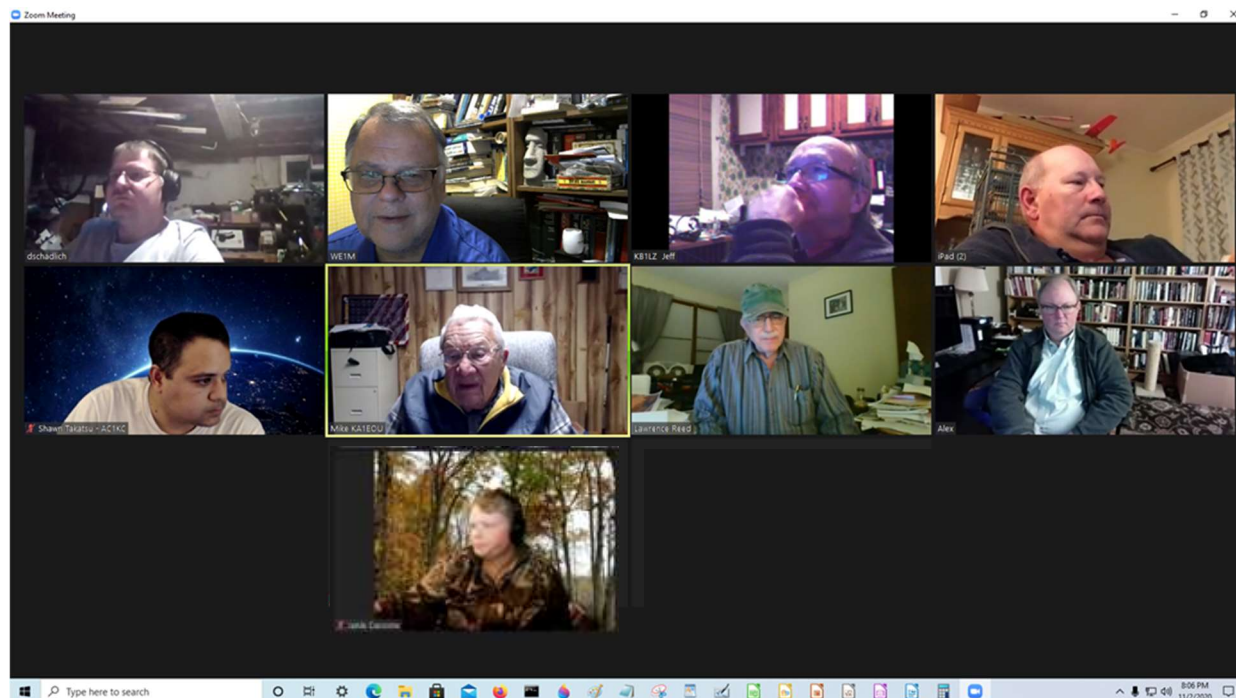
Our annual formal meeting is held every Winter Field Day, and our informal meeting is held every Summer Field Day. Both meetings are held during set up time prior to the event start. Our next meeting (formal) is scheduled for Saturday January 30, 2021 during Winter Field day setup and will have a State of the Union Address. All members are urged to attend this meeting and event.

Monthly video meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday December 7, 2020. It will be decided at our January Zoom meeting whether we will have a "social distancing" WFD or all operate from home.

NOVEMBER MEETING

A Zoom meeting was held on Monday November 2, 2020 at 8 pm. See pic below. Items discussed were: CQ WW DX SSB Contest results, Upcoming contests ARRL Sweepstakes SSB, ARRL 10 meter contest, Winter Field Day 2021 and club officer appointments.





Club Zoom meeting November 2, 2020.

Top Row: Dave KB1LTW, Gary WE1M, Jeff KB1LZ and Ned KA1CVV

Middle Row: Shawn AC1KC (guest), Mike KA1EOU, Larry AB1JC and Alex N1AK

Bottom Row: Junie N1DUC (guest).

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

By vote of the members attending the November Zoom meeting, it was decided to temporarily **suspend our Saturday morning Social Distancing Breakfast**. This is due to the “uptick” in the Covid-19 cases in Connecticut.

HAMS & EGGS & 10 METERS

Take heart! Breakfast is being replaced by our new Saturday Morning Breakfast Zoom & Net, now named **“Hams & Eggs & 10 Meters”** by Jeff KB1LZ. Jeff is our new Host every Saturday morning from 7 to 9 am AND we will also be on 10 meters! Our goal is to have everyone transitioning over to 10 meters SSB when their antennas are up. So “git yer antennas up” and “git yer Zoom on”! This “net” is open to GFARA as well, so members of GFARA will hopefully add to the excitement. Jeff KB1LZ will email everyone with meeting and net details. Thanks Jeff. Update: Our first net was held on Saturday Nov 7, 2021 with the following hams attending. Jon AI1V, Jeff KB1LZ, Gary K1IC, Dave KB1LTW, Jim W1RAZ, Emily N1DID, Mike N2UXA, Mike KA1EOU, Bob W1RPG and Gary WE1M. Not everyone stayed the entire time. Some hams dropped by for ½ hour or an hour or so, most ate breakfast while on the net, some only joined via audio, some joined on Zoom while they fiddled with their antennas and received real-time reports



from others on the net! Hams & Eggs & 10 Meters will be held weekly every Saturday morning. Why not join us?



*Hams & Eggs & 10 Meters, Saturday November14, 2020.
Top Row: Bill KB1IWX, Gary WE1M, Mike KA1EOU
Middle Row: Jeff AE8W, Jeff KB1LZ, Larry AB1JC
Bottom Row: Mike N2UXA, Dave KB1LTW and Jim W1RAZ*

OFFICERS TO BE APPOINTED

Officers will be appointed at our annual formal meeting in January during Winter Field Day setup. If we decide to operate WFD from home, officers will be appointed at our February Zoom meeting. Any member can be an officer of HARC. If you would like to be an officer of the club, please let a charter member know of your intentions.



FIELD DAY 2020 RESULTS

Well the results are in. We took first place New England and first place in CT in the 2A Commercial category. A snippet of the entire 2A Commercial from the ARRL results is shown on the right. We also scored 2,347 total club points from N1KT, N3DAW and WE1M allocating their score to our club total. (see snippet below).

Hot Springs ARC	2,680	1
Hot Springs Village ARC	196	1
Housatonic ARC	2,347	3
HP Boise ARC	2,072	4
Hualapai ARC	1,613	3
Hub City ARC	190	1
Huber Heights ARC	2,988	6
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	3,020	1
Hughes ARC	6,238	13
Humboldt ARC	2,929	8
Hunt Co. Packet Club	4,050	1
Hunters Ridge Hams	1,870	2
Huntsville ARC	25,889	24
Huron ARA	5,646	7
Hurst ARC	3,086	5
Idaho Renegades	2,718	1
Iguana Air Corps Contest Club	1,896	1

Here are the individual scores from members who allocated their scores to us.

Housatonic ARC					
N3DAW	341	2	1	1,386	MDC
Housatonic ARC					
N1KT	457	1	5	735	CT
Housatonic ARC					
WE1M	88	2	1	226	CT

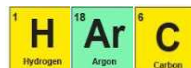
Here are some local club aggregate scores for comparison. (Stamford ARA, Stratford ARC, Greater Bridgeport ARC & Greater Norwalk ARC. As you can see, we are competitive.

Stamford ARA	825	3
Stanford ARC	13,860	7
Stratford ARC	1,392	4
Greater Bridgeport ARC	2,234	3
Greater Kingston RC	78	1
Greater Nebraska AR League	924	1
Greater Norwalk ARC	7,768	8

2A - Commercial

Zephyrhills Area ARC				
W1PB	685	2	25	2,734 WCF
Carbon Co. DXCC				
W0CW	949	2	3	2,346 MO
TLSC Ham Radio Group				
K3T	778	2	26	2,114 WPA
Spartanburg ARC				
K4II	400	2	15	1,610 SC
Preble ARA				
NJ8BB	216	2	4	1,038 OH
North Central Missouri ARC/Livingston Co. ARES				
N0LIV	138	2	16	926 MO
Greater Nebraska AR League				
K0GNE	247	2	3	924 NE
Columbia (OR) ARA				
N7EI	204	2	6	876 OR
Skyline Tower ARC				
W7DTV	207	2	5	846 OR
Housatonic ARC				
N1KT	457	1	5	735 CT
3 Guys with Radios ARC				
KM3GWR	112	2	3	718 IL
Bear Rocks Community Club				
N3BJY/KB3ZID				
	147	2	3	644 WPA
Mayes Co. ARC				
WX5MC	99	2	8	636 OK
ARC of Columbia Co.				
K4KNS	75	2	15	620 GA
Key City ARC				
KC5OLO	176	2	25	574 WTX
Moore Co. ARS				
NC4ML	2	2	10	554 NC
Moose Jaw ARC				
VE5MA	152	2	8	542 SK
Jersey Shore ARS				
NJ2AR	21	2	25	496 SNJ
Southern Indiana Tri-Co. Club				
KC9OLF	138	2	3	426 IN
Suffolk Co. RC				
W2DQ	48	2	10	422 NLI
Sun City Summerlin ARC				
K7S	6	2	7	262 NV
Tishomingo Co. ARC				
W5TCR	61	2	3	172 MS
Pretty Good Ham Club				
W00GIE	103	1	3	153 WI
Mile Highlanders Group				
W4MHG	11	2	3	72 TN

Thanks go out to all the members who helped with Field Day and to all who allocated their scores to our club aggregate.





WINTER FIELD DAY COMING IN JANUARY

Winter Field Day is being held in January! Yep, it is just over 2 months 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 30 & 31, 2021.

The WFD Group has made some changes to WFD 2021 which sound very interesting. Just as ARRL made some “social distancing” changes to Summer Field Day, WFD has announced the following changes. This was copied from the WFD 2021 rules:

“Covid 19 Pandemic scoring changes for Clubs/Groups: These changes apply ONLY to groups who, due to the Pandemic, won’t/can’t be congregating to compete this year. If your group wishes, you may have a “group/club” score tallied by having individual members fill in the “CLUB:” line in their Cabrillo log file (above). Individual members would send in a log under their own callsign (operating under their own privileges) with the name or callsign of the group noted on the “CLUB:” line. If a simple callsign is used in the “club” line, it cannot be one used in the contest or on another member’s entry log (it’ll confuse the scoring software). If your group uses a club name, be sure to advise everyone in your group to use the exact same unique name. Choose wisely Grasshopper! There are dozens of clubs with the same abbreviation (as in LARC, PARC, etc.), but it’s unlikely there’s more than one Livonia ARC, or Lincoln ARC. Club scores will be the aggregate of the individual members’ scores, regardless of how they operated and will be posted as distinct “Club/Group” scores once tallied. Your individual members’ logs and scores will be tallied and posted as well (each under their own call), the same as any other entrant. It might be a good idea to have someone in your club/group collect members’ logs and check them to ensure the logs are correct before sending them in. It’ll save us time and you aggravation [-sic]. “Club/Group” scores will likely be the last to be posted as we can’t be sure all the individual logs are in until the actual log deadline.”

This sounds very interesting and “do-able”. During the month of January and preceding WFD, we will meet at our Zoom meetings to discuss what we want and like. We may even vote to stay home for WFD and all operate from home. In the meantime, keep it in mind that WFD is fast approaching and decide what you may wish to do.



CQ WORLD WW DX SSB CONTEST

We operated in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest on October 24 from WAS. Our classification was Multi-op, single transmitter, non-assisted, high power, all bands. Members arrived for breakfast at Sherwood Diner in Westport, for our traditional “pre-contest” breakfast (although attendance was sparse). After a great breakfast, everyone went to WAS and set up one station to operate Multi-operator, single transmitter, unassisted, high power. Making contacts for N1KT were Jeff KB1LZ, Gary WE1M and David KB1LTW with Mike KA1EOU supporting. We used both the newly repaired vertical (thanx Mike K1MJM) and the off center fed dipole. Additionally, we used the Ameritron amp with new tubes (thanx Dave KB1LTW) and ran about 500 watts. Dave has stated that one of the new tubes may have a short in it, so he is returning them for a new set. Hopefully the amp will be ready for our next contest.



N1KT CQ WW DX SSB Station: Multi-op, single transmitter, non-assisted, high power, all bands. Jeff KB1LZ making contacts and Dave KB1LTW (standing) is assisting.





Dave KB1LTW (standing) adjusts the rig for Gary WE1M operating during the contest.

SO, how did we do? Well, we submitted our log...

Call / Category-# of operators / # of transmitters / assisted or Non / Bands / Power / Club Name

N1KT	MULTI-OP ONE	NON-ASSISTED	ALL	HIGH		HOUSATONIC ARC
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Here is our info, what N3FJP told us. 101 contacts, with 259 QSO points and 69 multipliers for a claimed score of 17,871 points. Not bad for 3 operators for 6 to 8 hours of operation.

Score Statistics	
Total Contacts	101
Total QSO Points	259
Total Multipliers	69
Total Score	17,871
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	0





Here are the contacts by band and mode.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
40	0	2	0	2	2
20	0	72	0	72	71
15	0	22	0	22	22
10	0	5	0	5	5
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Total	0	101	0	101	100

Our operators were KB1LTW, WE1M and KB1LZ. Although he made no contacts, Mike KA1EOU attended and contributed also (as did Mike K1MJM who repaired the vertical).

Operator	Total	%
-----	-----	---
KB1LTW	89	88
WE1M	11	11
KB1LZ	1	1
Total = 3		

CQ Zones worked were a multiplier. We worked 16 CQ Zones. We are in CQ Zone 5.

Total Contacts by CQ Zone:

CQ Zone	Total	%
-----	-----	---
14	22	22
11	18	18
15	17	17
04	12	12
08	10	10
03	3	3
05	3	3
09	3	3
13	3	3
10	2	2
16	2	2
20	2	2
02	1	1
12	1	1
22	1	1
33	1	1

Total = 16





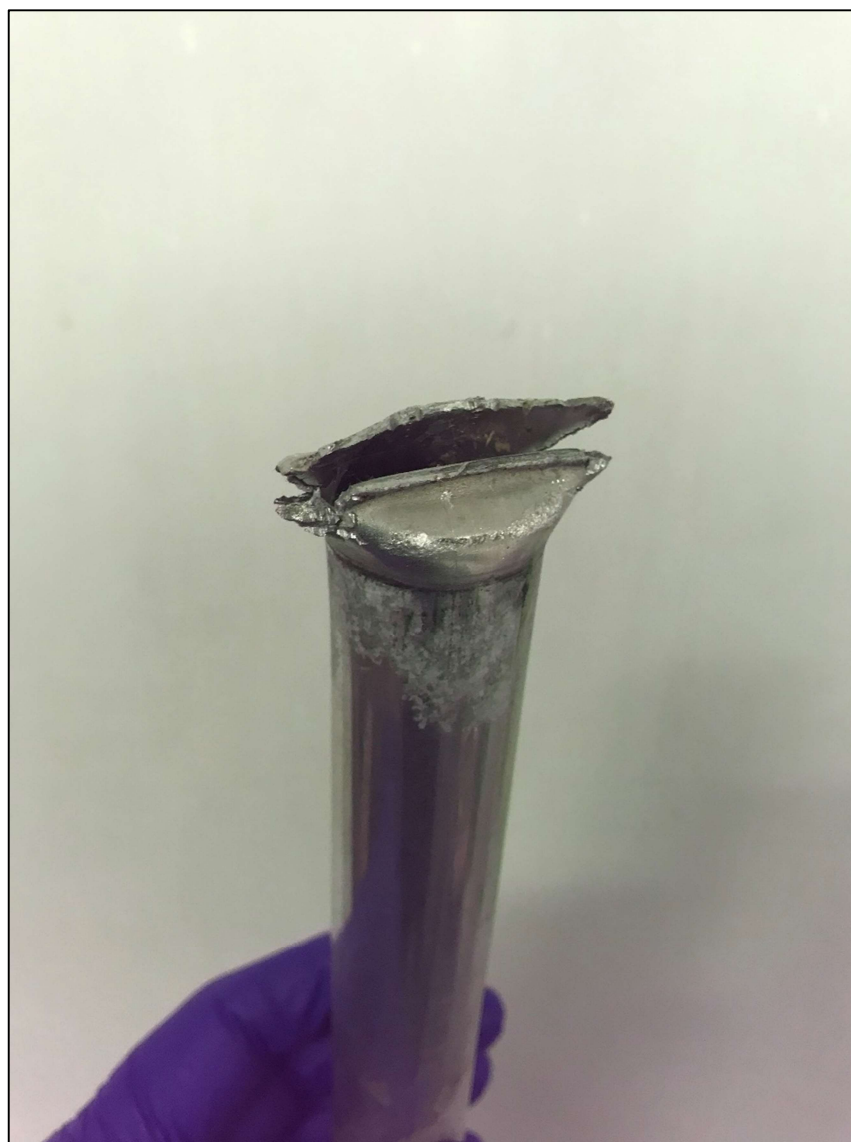
Here is a rundown of the countries that we worked. Remember, this was a CQ WORLD wide contest. We worked 35 different countries.

Country	Total	%
-----	-----	---
Brazil	18	18
Canada	13	13
Federal Republic of Germany	9	9
USA	7	7
France	6	6
Italy	4	4
Puerto Rico	4	4
Hungary	3	3
Poland	3	3
US Virgin Is.	3	3
Argentina	2	2
Croatia	2	2
Czech Republic	2	2
Ecuador	2	2
England	2	2
European Russia	2	2
Aruba	1	1
Belgium	1	1
Bonaire	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1
Canary Is.	1	1
Chile	1	1
Cuba	1	1
Denmark	1	1
Dominican Republic	1	1
Greece	1	1
India	1	1
Saint Martin	1	1
Scotland	1	1
Slovak Republic	1	1
Slovenia	1	1
Spain	1	1
Sweden	1	1
Trinidad & Tobago	1	1
Uruguay	1	1
Total = 35		



While we did not keep track of when we switched between the two antennas, our signal favored North-South propagation e.g. South America and Canada. We also used the newly repaired vertical antenna and reached the Canary Islands, Denmark, India, Greece etc.

According to the CQ Contest Calendar, the results of this contest should be available sometime in April 2021. Also, all entries will receive a pdf certificate for download. We will cover this story when available. Thanks go to all who supported this effort.



Here is a picture of some of the damage the hurricane Isaias (some call it hurricane EIEIO) did to our vertical antenna. This is part of the antenna near a trap. Mike K1MJM put in quite an effort to get it ready for our contest. Thanx Mike.



ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB CONTEST

Due to the new Covid restrictions, informal gatherings at WAS have now stopped. Therefore, our ARRL Sweepstakes effort planned for Saturday November 21 was canceled. Stay Safe!

BALLOONING

Club member Dave KB1YYJ, and graduate students launched a weather balloon (radiosonde) from the Discovery Museum field on November 7, 2020. (See picture at left). This He balloon carried a payload that reported weather conditions down to the receiving station where it was analyzed by computer post flight. There are additional weather balloon flights in the near future. This is also an upcoming flight designed to reach high altitude. Additional details will be available at our monthly club Zoom meetings.

Anyone wishing to assist at these upcoming flights, please contact Dave KB1YYJ or Larry AB1JC by sending an email to HARC.N1KT@gmail.com.



ANTENNA WORK AT KA1EOU'S HOUSE

October 31, 2020. Club members Dave KB1LTW, Larry AB1JC, Jeff KB1LZ and a friend work on Mike KA1EOU's antenna at his house in Stratford. What a beautiful day for antenna work too!





HAMFESTS

- none

UPCOMING CONTESTS

- Dec 4-6 ARRL 160 meter Contest
- Dec 12-13 ARRL 10 meter Contest (may operate)

OUR SKED

- Dec - Club Semi Annual Dinner (canceled)
- Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve





NOTICE

It is with sorrow, that we must postpone our club's Silver Anniversary Party until after the pandemic. In the meantime, continue to ponder how you would like to celebrate. We can decide at any time and hold this celebration at any time.

We must also cancel our semi-annual club dinner. Perhaps June 2021 will be better.

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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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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