

# DIRECT CURRENTS

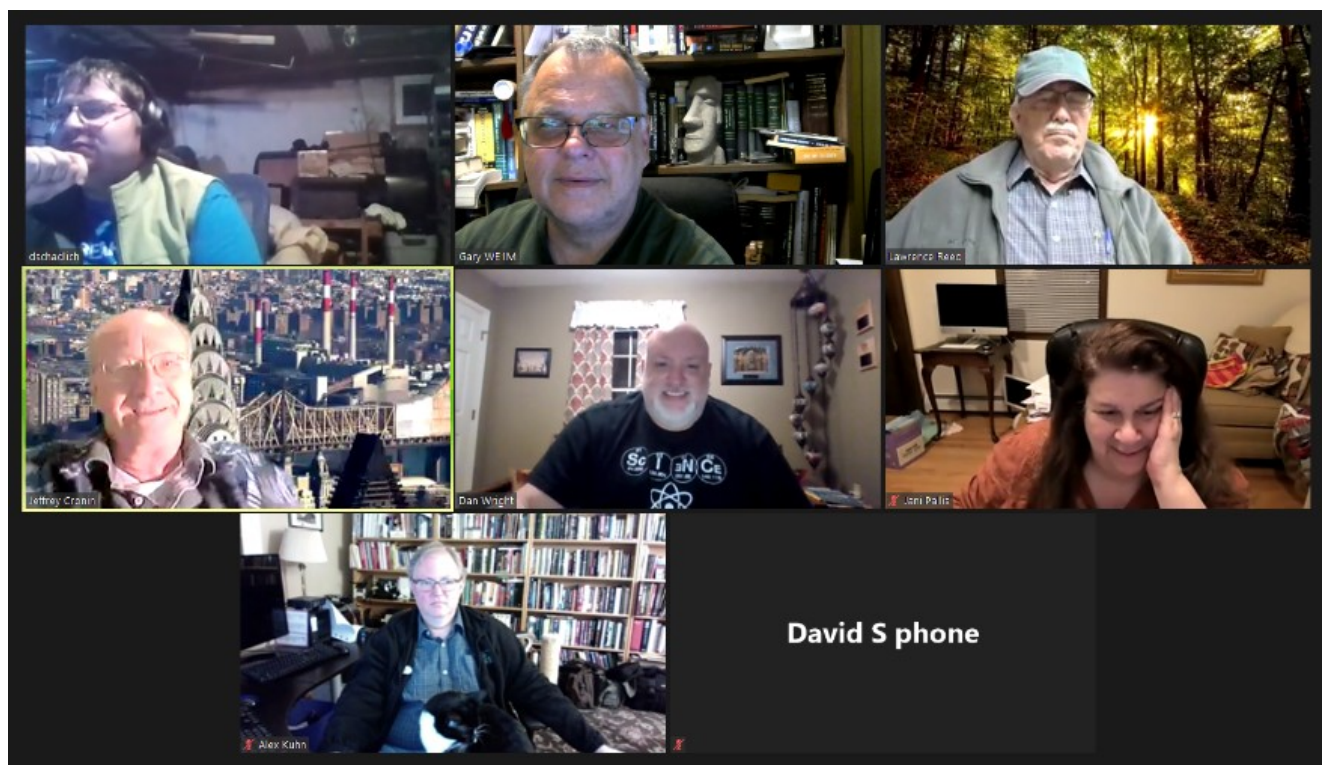
The Official Publication of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club, Vol XXVI Issue V

## MEETING INFO

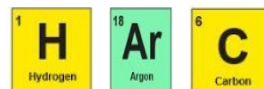
Our annual formal meeting is held every Winter Field Day, and our informal meeting is held every Summer Field Day. Both meetings are held during set up time prior to the event start. Our next meeting (informal) is currently scheduled for Saturday June 26, 2021. All **vaccinated** members are urged to attend this meeting and event. Monthly Zoom video meetings are held the first Monday of every month. Our May meeting is scheduled for Monday May 3, 2021 at 8 pm.

## APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Our April Zoom meeting was held a week later than usual, on Monday April 12th at 8 pm. 7 members attended our meeting.



Top Row: Dave KB1LTW, Gary WE1M, Larry AB1JC  
Middle Row: Jeff KB1LZ, Dan N3DAW Jani KC1MHU  
Bottom Row: Alex N1AK

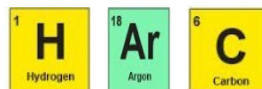


The following was discussed:

- *June Field Day*
  - *WAS is reserved*
  - *Whose is attending?*
  - *Number of stations*
  - *Do we want to picnic or buy food?*
  - *Meet Friday?*
  - *How is the beam?*
  - *Etc*
- *900 MHz Repeater*
- *CW machine AB1JC*
- *No state of union club address*
- *Balloon Launches*
- *Other*
- *Round Robin*

### **2020 CQ WW DX SSB**

Last October, we operated in the 2020 CQ WW DX SSB Contest as N1KT from WAS. We operated in the Multi Operator, Single Transmitter category, with David KB1LTW, Jeff KB1LZ, Gary WE1M and Mike KA1EOU as operators and/or assistants. We spent about 7 to 8 hours operating, then went home. It was a fun effort. Well we came in 160<sup>th</sup> out of 168 in the multi-operator, single transmitter, high power category. See below. Not bad for just a few hours operating and having a bunch of fun!



## 2020 CQ WW SSB Contest

Raw scores as calculated **before** log checking. Last update: 2020-11-03

Listing shows rank, call, score, and operators. Checklogs are not included.

Please report any errors through the [Contact form](#) so they can be corrected during the log checking.

Enter Callsign of Station or Operator:

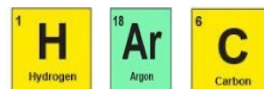
Back to Top scores: SSB - [World](#) [EU](#) [NA](#) [SA](#) [AS](#) [AF](#) [OC](#) | [CW](#)

## SSB / N1KT / Multi-Single High

World: #160 of 168

155	IR6D.....	42,194	(IW6CDA IK6LBV)
156	LA7G.....	39,263	(LA5FJA LA8BCA LA7WCA LA3TR LA7IJA)
157	BG5BWZ.....	30,248	(BA5CJ BG5BPT BG5BRA BD5BPA)
158	TC3EC.....	21,762	(TA3NSB TA3NEB TB3BTY)
159	NO8I.....	19,829	(AB8YK N8VAR)
160	N1KT.....	17,871	(KB1LTW KB1LZ WE1M KA1EOU)
161	UN9FWW.....	15,872	(UNF-025 UN1F)
162	K5SRT.....	15,657	(K5SRT K3NT)
163	PI4SHB.....	15,370	(PA3FGA PA5CT)
164	F5KEQ.....	14,134	(F4ICI F5VCV F4EYQ)
165	DP6K.....	13,203	(DM2WB DL1PSK DJ4QV)

### 2020 CQ WW DX SSB Unofficial Results





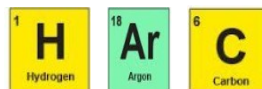


Well the results were just published and for those 6-8 hours of operation, WE WON 3RD PLACE IN THE US FIRST CALL AREA! Imagine that? Imagine if we had put in the effort for the full contest period?

A congratulations and a big Thank You goes out to Dave KB1LTW, Jeff KB1LZ, Gary WE1M and Mike KA1EOU for this effort, and of course to WAS for allowing us to operate. You can also see our award certificate above and also in the Awards Section of our club web page.

## ANALYSIS:

Now for an interesting point. If you look closely at our unofficial results we scored 17,871 points. Our certificate shows our official results, which says we scored 13,715 points. What happened? How did we go from 17 to 13 thousand points?



### Here is the info from CQ:

#### \*\*\*\*\* Not In Log \*\*\*\*\*

```
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1449 N1KT 59 05 N7DD 59 03 0
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1533 N1KT 59 05 VE7DX 59 15 0
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1614 N1KT 59 05 RK7A 59 16 0
```

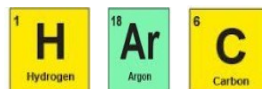
#### \*\*\*\*\* Incorrect Call \*\*\*\*\*

```
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1441 N1KT 59 05 VT3X 59 22 0 correct YT3X
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1620 N1KT 59 05 N7DK 59 03 0 correct ND7K
21000 PH 2020-10-24 1946 N1KT 59 05 CE7UPQ 59 12 0 correct CE7VPQ
14000 PH 2020-10-24 2148 N1KT 59 05 VE3GV 59 04 0 correct VE4GV
14000 PH 2020-10-24 2210 N1KT 59 05 PY3YS 59 11 0 correct PY2YS
```

#### \*\*\*\*\* Lost Multipliers \*\*\*\*\*

```
14000 PH 2020-10-24 1441 N1KT 59 05 VT3X 59 22 0 correct YT3X C,Z
21000 PH 2020-10-24 1946 N1KT 59 05 CE7UPQ 59 12 0 correct CE7VPQ C,Z
```

We lost 3 calls from "Not in Log", that is they didn't log us in their log. We lost 5 calls because we copied their call incorrectly (i.e. incorrect Call). Those incorrect calls cost us a few points. But here is the killer, we lost two multipliers by not copying their call sign correctly YT3X & CE7VPQ. While these may not seem like much, we lost 4,156 points or 23% of our points! Yes, those lost multipliers cost us plenty! But did we have fun? You bet we did!



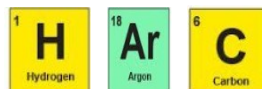
**SUMMER FIELD DAY PLANNING**

The Summer Field Day 2021 rules are out. Please go to ARRL and read them, as they have changed again! Summer Field Day is next month June 26-27, and we have been planning already. It was decided at our March meeting that we would run at least 3 stations (and digital) in the A category with commercial power. This means we qualify for the following:

- Free VHF station
  - Satellite QSO
  - Alternate power (need only 5 QSO's)
  - W1AW Bulletin
  - Educational Activity
- Web Submission
  - Social Media
  - Safety Officer Bonus

**Here is our schedule:**

- Saturday June 19 (1 week before Field Day) – Computers need to be worked out. First we will meet for breakfast (location TBD), then go to WAS. We will update software, check Windows Server/Security and check common database access for all stations.
- Friday June 25
  - Set up and test antennas
  - Off Center Fed Dipole
  - Larry's 5BTV vertical antenna
  - Tower (if we are using)
  - Test Amplifiers
  - Test amplifier interfaces
  - Clean BBQ grills
  - Set up photo voltaics
  - Locate stations/tables/chairs
  - Air out the areas
  - Set up food area
- We are planning a cookout (shall we cook on grills or purchase food?)
  - Hot dogs
  - hamburgers
  - steak
  - drinks



### FIELD DAY WEEKEND

Show your vaccination card and mask at the door and you are in! *This Field Day is for club members only please!* We can begin making contacts at 2:00 pm. Our goal: Come as close as we can to making 600 contacts!

**HOUSATONIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
WESTPORT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ARC**

# N1KT

**Presents**  
**a SPEAK EASY**  
**SUMMER FIELD DAY 2021**  
**June 26 – 27**  
**CLUB MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE**



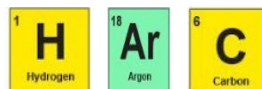
**PICNIC**  
Bring your own food  
We will supply grills & beverages!



**SPEAK EASY**  
Show us your  
Vaccination Card &  
Mask and you're in!

**We will be operating FIELD DAY 2021**  
**Westport Astronomical Society Observatory**  
**182 Bayberry Lane, Westport, CT**  
**Setup: Friday June 25 at the Observatory**  
**We will operate N1KT from 2:00 pm Saturday until**  
**Noon Sunday.**

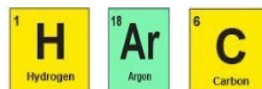
*NOTE: Please read the Field Day 2021 rules, there are new pandemic temporary rules this year.*





### HAMS & EGGS & 10 METERS

Breakfast was replaced by our new Saturday Morning Breakfast Zoom & Net, named "Hams & Eggs & 10 Meters". Our host is Jeff KB1LZ, runs it every Saturday morning from 8 to 9 am. Thanks Jeff. Hams & Eggs & 10 Meters will be held weekly every Saturday morning.





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## WINTER FIELD DAY RESULTS

Results are not as yet published by the WFD Assoc. We will report on the results as soon as WFD Association publishes the results.

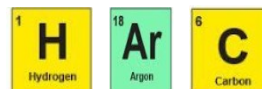
## ROCKET CLUB WORK

Larry is working on a rocket data capture system for "Sacred Heart University's Discovery Science Center and Planetarium" rocket club. "Sacred Heart University's Discovery Science Center and Planetarium" is the new name for the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport. This is a large rocket, measuring about 6 feet tall, with a diameter of about 4 inches. It develops about 12 lb of thrust to achieve a velocity of 400 ft/s. Expected flight time is about 12 seconds. On it's way down, it should deploy its parachute at 700 ft. Larry's module will capture internal and external parameters such as temperature, pressure & acceleration and save them to an internal SD card, as well as transmit this information to the ground station. Expected first flight is this Fall.

In preparation for this flight, Larry has been testing the APRS squawk he will use on the rocket as well as a new i-gate he has developed to help track the flight. (see pics below).

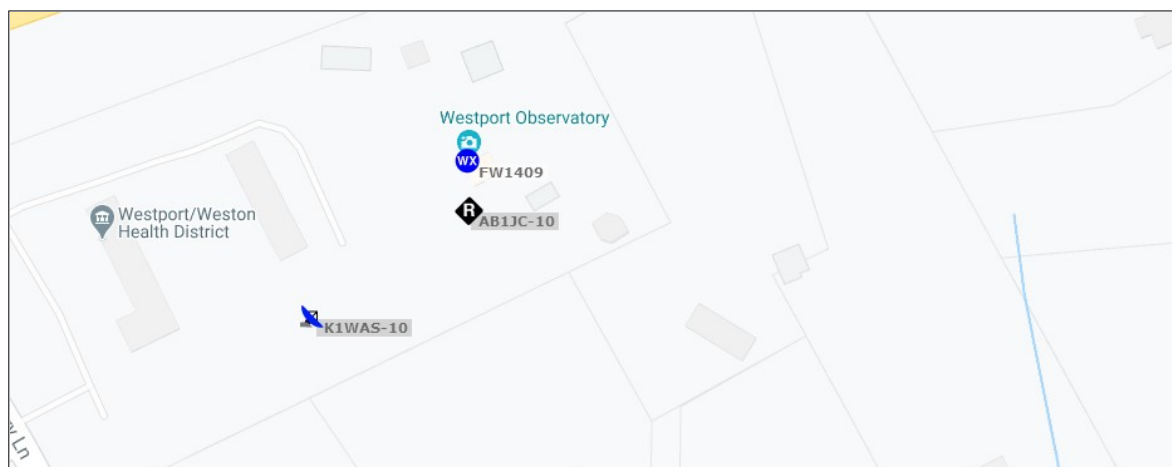


*Larry AB1JC shows off a test model of his data capture system.*

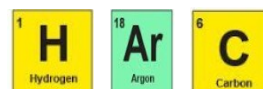


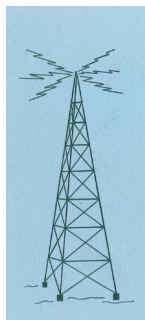


*APRS picture of Larry testing the light APRS package.*



*APRS pic of Larry's new i-gate. It shows it's location incorrectly.*



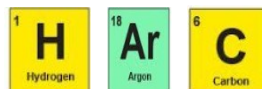
**K1WAS REPEATER**

Ned KA1CVv, Dave KB1LTW, Larry AB1JC, Dave KB1YYJ, Joe WA1EDX and Gary WE1M are working on a new repeater. This will be the K1WAS, Westport Astronomical Society ARC repeater, which will serve our local area. Ned KA1CVv is the Trustee of K1WAS and is in charge.

**MARCH 6 BALLOON LAUNCH AT DISCOVERY MUSEUM**

Club members Dave KB1YYJ and Larry AB1JC, along with non-member Sam KC1HOD met at the Discovery Museum on Saturday March 6 around 10 am. This launch was designed to give the new Graduate Students experience in launching balloons. Larry AB1JC gives this description: Classroom instruction began at 10 am, giving students an insight into what it takes to launch and how to do it. This lasted until 11:20 am. Launch occurred approximately at 11:45 am. The balloon went off towards Block Island. Very cold, windy at times - close to 8 mph.

Radiosonde weather balloons are designed to send back Wx data in real time to the ground computer(s) and once this is accomplished, the balloons are not recovered. Data from this launch was collected by the museum's computer. Below is the path that the balloon followed. Planning for the next balloon launch is in progress.







*Radiosonde Wx Balloon launch on March 6, 2021  
from the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport*

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*Sam KC1HOD and Larry AB1JC, instruct UB Grad students in weather balloon launching.*



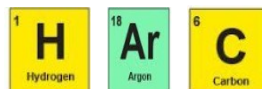
*Radiosonde Wx Balloon launch on March 6, 2021  
from the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport*

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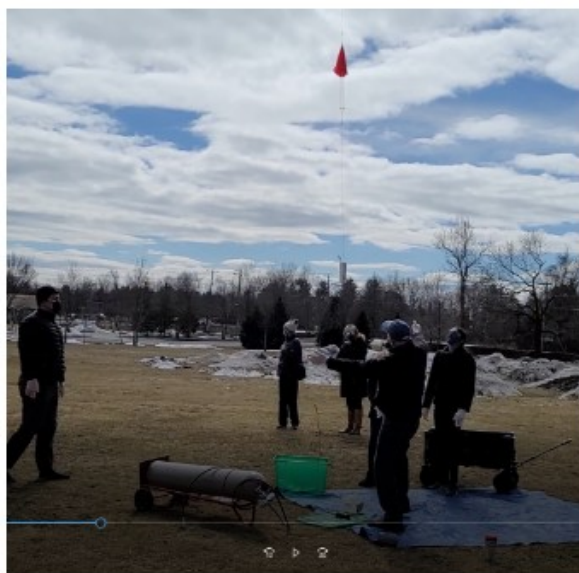
2



*Getting ready for launch*







*Radiosonde ~~Wx~~ Balloon launch on March 6, 2021  
from the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport*

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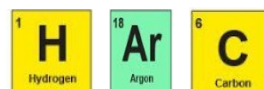
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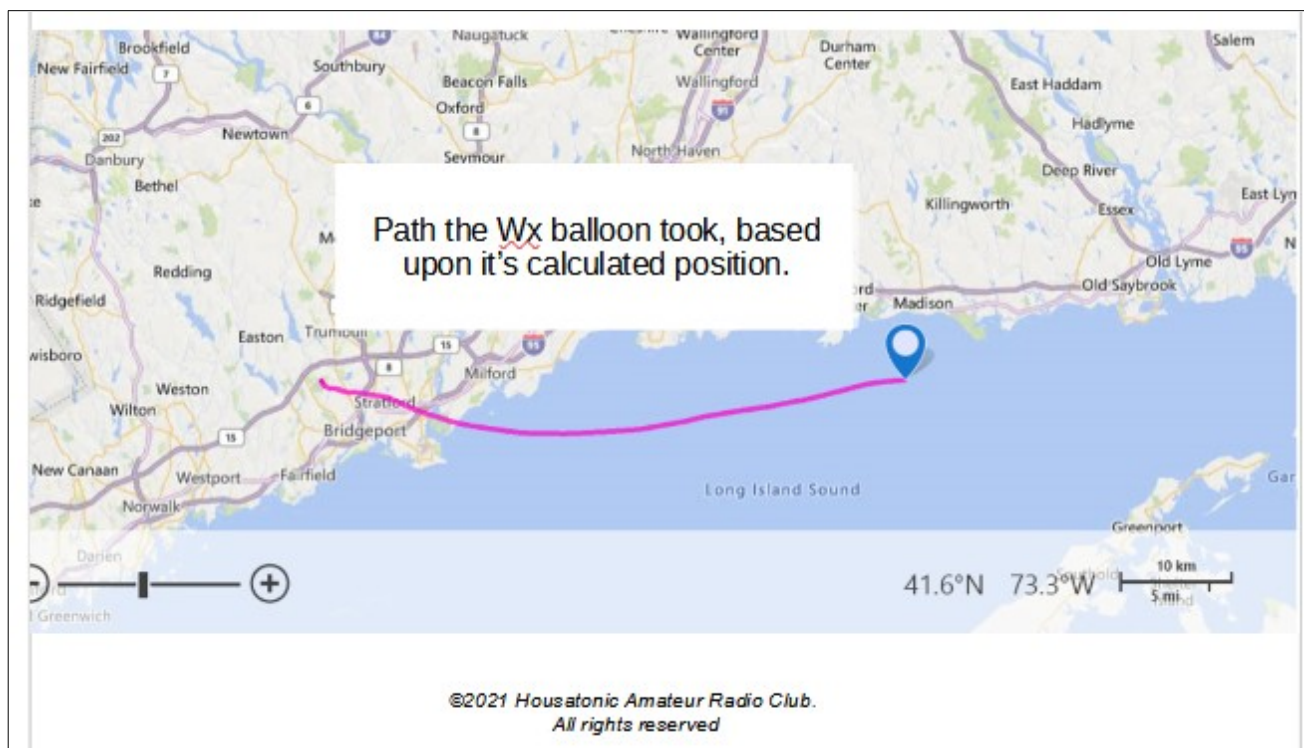
## Launch



*Radiosonde ~~Wx~~ Balloon launch on March 6, 2021 from the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport  
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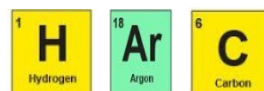
*Up and away it goes!*





## NOTICE

Per an email received, the 2021 Stellafane Convention is still scheduled for August 5-8, 2021. Consult <https://stellafane.org/> for further details.



### HAMS & EGGS BREAKFAST

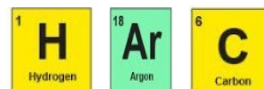
In the car, Social Distancing Breakfasts returned, Larry AB1JC, Ken NE1CU & Gary WE1M met at the Plaza Diner parking lot as a test of our first 'Social Distancing' breakfast on Saturday 3/27/2021. We all ordered take out and ate in our cars. This test was successful and although we ate in our cars, we did see many patrons eating inside at the tables.



Larry AB1JC & Ken NE1CU



Left: On April 3, 2021 Larry, Ken & Gary ate inside Sassafras restaurant (masks removed only to eat). Right: April 10, Ken & Larry at Facaccias in Shelton. Gary on cell phone from Boston area.





## HAMFESTS

- ~~Dayton Hamvention May 21-23~~ (*Canceled for 2021*)
- Goshen Hamfest May 22 – As we went to print, this hamfest is scheduled.

**29<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Berkshire ARC  
HAMFEST**

**SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021    8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 noon**

**GOSHEN, CT FAIRGROUNDS**

*Masks and Social Distancing Required*

**VENDORS**

**INDOOR:** Bring your own tables at \$5 per table space, or send advance payment of \$10 for first 12-ft table, and \$5 for each additional. ONE admission included.

**Bring your own chairs.**  
Power available for \$2.  
Please let us know in advance.

Reserve table space by May 15th to:  
Southern Berkshire ARC Hamfest  
PO Box 1101  
Sharon, CT 06069  
or pay at the gate

**Drive to your indoor table** and unload easily at 6:00 a.m. and pick up at noon

**TAILGATING:** Plenty of room at \$8 per vehicle, which includes ONE admission



**BUYERS & LOOKERS**

Admission – \$5

Children under 12 free with adult

Food available from 6 a.m.

Clean fairground restrooms

License exams at 9:30 a.m.  
Walk-ins welcome

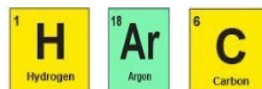
For information, contact:  
Lee K1LEE    860.435.0051  
email to k1lee@arrl.net

***Masks and Social  
Distancing Required***

Located in northwest CT, in the beautiful Litchfield Hills on Rte. 63, half mile south of the intersection with Rte. 4. 6 miles north of Litchfield, 6 miles west of Torrington

Actual street address: 116 Old Middle Street, Goshen, CT 06756  
Geographical Coordinates: 41 49 N    73 13 W

TALK-IN – Club Repeater: W1BAA - Sharon 147.285 + 600 - tone is 77.0





- Newtown Hamfest – As we went to print, this hamfest is scheduled.




Sanctioned by ARRL

## SAVE THE DATE

### AUGUST 29, 2021

Sunday, Doors open 8AM  
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association  
Annual

# Western CT. Hamfest

The **BIGGEST**, little Hamfest in  
Western Connecticut

Indoor tables \$20 each, Tailgating \$15 / spot

Includes 1 admission  
Admission at the door \$7 (~~\$1 discount with flyer~~)  
Children under 12 Free  
**See you at the Hamfest "73"**  
CARA is a 501(c)3 organization  
*All State COVID-19 regulations will be in place*

FALL "ARES" FORUM  
10:30 IN THE HALL

DEMONSTRATIONS

MAJOR VENDORS

INDOOR TABLES  
OUTDOOR TAILGATING

VE SESSION - 9:30  
NO APPOINTMENT REQ.

REFRESHMENTS  
RAFFLE  
DOOR PRIZES  
50/50  
GOOD TIMES

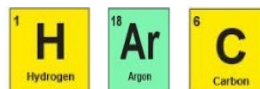
TO BE HELD AT  
Edmond Town Hall  
45 Main St  
Newtown, CT

Hamfest.cararadioclub.org

Contact: John Morelli  
(W1JGM)

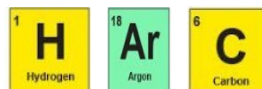
[Hamfest@cararadioclub.org](mailto:Hamfest@cararadioclub.org)

203-417-0160



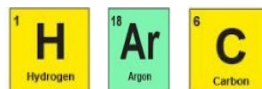
**UPCOMING CONTESTS**

- May 22 – Youth On the Air Round 1
- May 29-30 CQ WPX CW
- June 26-27 Summer Field Day
- July 10-11 IARU HF Championship
- July 17 – Youth On the Air Round 2
- Sept 11-13 VHF Contest
- Oct 30-31 CQ DX SSB Contest
- Nov 6-8 Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 20-21 Sweepstakes SSB
- Nov 27-28 CQ DX CW Contest
- Dec 3-5 ARRL 160 meter Contest
- Dec 11-12 ARRL 10 meter Contest
- Dec 30 – Youth On the Air Round 3



**OUR SKED**

- May 1 – KY Derby
- May 9 – Mother's Day
- May 15 – Preakness Stakes
- May 31 – Memorial Day
- June 5 – Belmont Stakes
- June 26-27 - SPEAK EASY Summer Field Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Sept 6 – Labor Daylight
- Sept 19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Sept 25 – Possum Day
- Oct 11 – Columbus Day
- Oct 31 – Halloween
- Nov 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov 13 – Sadie Hawkins Day
- Nov 25 – Thanksgiving
- Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 25 – Christmas
- Dec 31 – New Years



## 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.

## 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

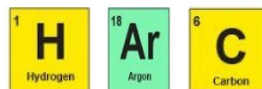
Mark Orner, PhD - KA1RSE SK

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 2021**

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)

On Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/Housatonic-Amateur-Radio-Club-103303504650102/](https://www.facebook.com/Housatonic-Amateur-Radio-Club-103303504650102/)



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. 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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