

DIRECT CURRENTS

The Official Publication of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club, Vol XXII Issue II

Summer 2017

MEETING INFO

An informal meeting was held on Saturday June 24, 2017 and was run by Trustee Gary WE1M. In attendance were

- Ken NE1CU
- Larry AB1JC
- Mike K1MJM
- Dave KB1LTW
- Gary WE1M
- Kev N1KGM

The meeting was held at Westport Astronomical Society Westport, CT during Summer Field Day. Among the items discussed:

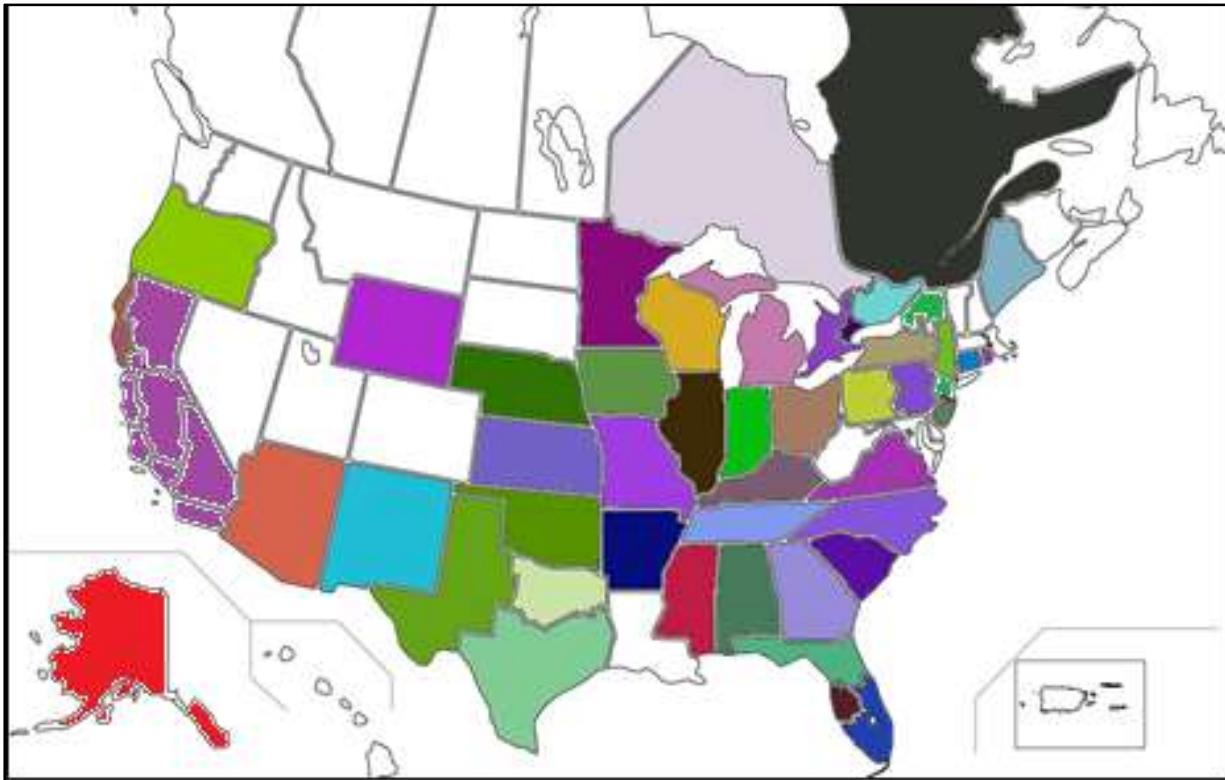
1. As stated at the last formal meeting at Winter Field Day we discussed the progress of the new HARC webpage.
2. Webmaster Dave KB1LTW is progressing and will add additional information to the page as his time allows.
3. We also approved the use of N1KT for Winter Field Day.
4. We discussed the pros and cons of the new WAS location.
5. MVHAFD Award candidates were discussed
6. The next meeting will be Saturday, Jan 27, 2018 at Winter Field Day.

MORE ON WINTER FIELD DAY 2017

The 2017 Winter Field Day was held the weekend of January 28-29 at the East Village Recreation Center, Shelton CT. We have tabulated our results and they're in. We worked 35 states, 5 countries including USA, Canada, Alaska, Dominican Republic and France. This covers 6 CQ zones.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	2	1	0	3	1
40	6	67	6	79	38
20	2	108	1	111	54
15	2	2	0	4	2
10	0	2	0	2	1
2	0	7	0	7	3
70	0	1	0	1	0
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Total	12	188	7	207	100



WINTER FIELD DAY ARRL Sections/states worked

N1KT COMES IN 3RD FOR 3I CLASSIFICATION IN WINTER FIELD DAY

Well most of the results are in for Winter Field Day 2017 and the preliminary results indicate we came in 8th place in the world for Indoors classification and 3rd place in the world for 3I classification.

Below is a snippet of the (again Preliminary) results.

Indoors

Callsign	Cat	PH	DI	CW	Multipliers	Power X	Bonus Pts	Score
K8UO	8I	489	65	44	13	2	4500	22882
W2C	2I	360	47	10	14	2	4500	17772
W4GR	8I	319	61	76	8	2	4500	13988
K8EMA	2I	400	13	34	7	2	3000	9916
K9W	3I	300	124	1	9	2		9900
CG2CRO	3I	44	24	110	10	2	3000	9240
KCoJUO	1I	337	53	1	7	2	3000	9230
N1KT	3I	188	7	12	13	2	3000	8876
W4BFB	2I	252	89	4	8	2	1500	8508
W9UUU	4I	362		33	6	2	3000	8136
W5W	4I	88	111	3	10	2	1500	7820
NV9S	2I	162	116	1	6	2	3000	7752
KG9Y	3I	282	26	2	7	2	3000	7732
N4W	3I	38	47	65	9	2	3000	7716
W4CN	2I	509		15	7	2		7546
KM4TRP	4I	108		83	8	2	3000	7512
WoARC	2I	50	125	3	7	2	3000	7284
K2GG	2I	175	33	60	8	2	1500	7276
NC4PC	3I	254	24	26	8	2	1500	7164
N3PC	3I	193		93	7	2	1500	6806
WA9TT	3I	68		15	17	2	3000	6332
W5ETZ	1I	46	40	19	9	2	3000	5952
K7SI	5I	14	35	67	6	2	3000	5616
K5LRW	3I	56	88	21	6	2	1500	5336
N7RKS	1I	3	71	3	7	2	3000	5114
W2ORC	2I	176		11	3	1	4500	5094
KC1FID	2I	236			4	2	3000	4888
W9JZ	6I	20	14	89	10	2	3000	4820
WD5TYL	4I	36	55	1	6	2	3000	4776
N4LRS	2I	20			2	4	4500	4642
KI5MM	1I	239			3	2	3000	4434
AB8I	1I	208			3	2	3000	4248
W3SGJ	2I	208			3	2	3000	4248
K5BS	2I	176		8	2	2	3000	4152

DECISION ON FIELD DAY 2017

At the GBARC meeting on April 4, 2017, the GBARC membership met with representatives of the Westport Astronomical Society Radio Club and approved a joint 2017 Field Day venture.

Up until this point, Field Day was a combined HARC and GBARC planned event. At this meeting, a WAS representative asked if Field Day could use N1KT as the callsign for the event. HARC President Larry AB1JC thoughtfully considered this request and then enthusiastically approved its use.

Under HARC rules, it is within the President's power to make this type of Executive Decision. "I look forward to operating as N1KT at WAS. The Field Day site looks impressive!" said HARC member and call sign Trustee Gary WE1M.

It was stated that the Fairfield Amateur Radio Assoc. (FARA) is planning their own FD event this year and would not be joining us as they did last year. An invitation was extended to invite FARA to Winter Field Day 2018. We hope they accept.

Members Dave KB1LTW and Gary WE1M had visited WAS for a quick suitability survey, looking for favorable station locations, where to put the tower and beam, and indispensable facilities.

There is plenty of room, plenty of power. There is a small bathroom but no cooking facilities at all. But that altitude! You can see the horizon in 3 directions.

Here are some evening pictures:





WINTER FIELD DAY 2018?

Did someone say Winter Field Day? Well, our membership approved the use of N1KT at a combined HARC and GBARC Winter Field Day. FD will take place January 27-28, 2018. Location is currently

BETTER THINGS

- Gary WE1M is now a grandpa. Gary's daughter and HARC member Jen N1ZZY gave birth to his first grandson. Congratulations Grandpa! Mom and baby are doing fine. (and so is Jen's husband Chris!)
- Member Tom N1UNT married his longtime beau Jill in a June ceremony at St. Teresa's in Trumbull, CT. Happy wedding day Tom and Jill!

KB1LTW WINS HOUSATONIC ARC'S MVHFDA© AWARD



Dave KB1LTW has won the Housatonic ARC's annual Most Valuable Ham at Field Day Award [MVHFDA©]. Dave made over 400 contacts on phone propelling N1KT to over 630 contacts for Field Day, a new record! He was awarded this ARRL Field Day 2017 Cup.

Field Day Mug (2017)

ARRL Field Day is June 24-25, 2017

Get out...get involved...and get ON THE AIR!

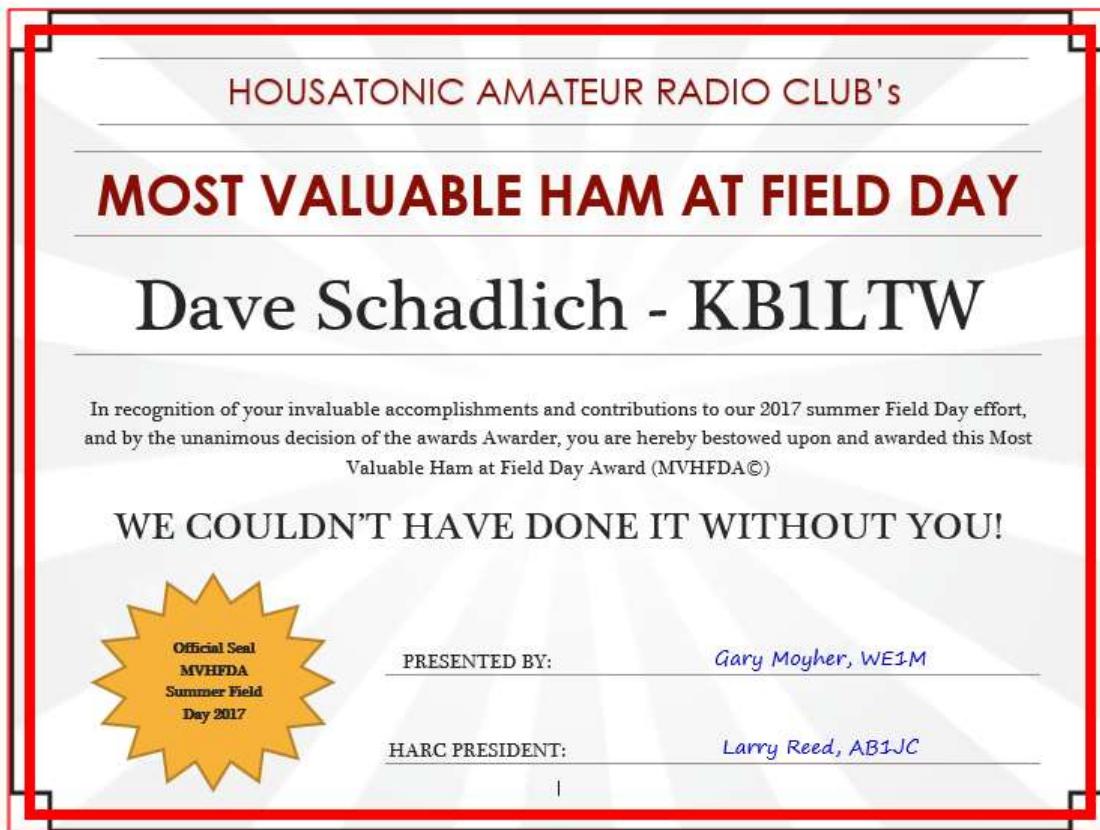
ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or a handful of friends to operate from remote locations.

Show your support for ARRL Field Day with official merchandise!

Red ceramic mug (11 oz), featuring the 2017 ARRL Field Day logo.



and our club award certificate:



The award was presented at Saturday morning breakfast in July. Each year the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club sponsors the Most Valuable Ham at Field Day Award [MVHFDA(c)] for the ARRL summer Field Day and the Most Valuable Ham at Winter Field Day Award [MVHWFDA(c)] for Winter Field Day. Previous HARC Field Day Award Winners are listed here:

- Ken NE1CU - for his dedication and hard work in transporting, assembling and disassembling the tower and beam every contest, dependably year after year
- Bob WD1M – for making over 100 CW contacts
- Larry AB1JC - for making over 100 SSB contacts



Dave KB1LTW accepts his MVHFDA at Breakfast July 15, 2017.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

- IARU HF World Championship July 8-9
- CQ WW VHF July 15-16
- ARRL Sept VHF Contest Sept 9-11
- CQ WW RTTY DX Sept 23-24
- CQ WW DX SSB Oct 28-29
- ARRL CW Sweepstakes Nov 4-6
- ARRL Phone Sweepstakes Nov 18-20
- CQ WW DX CW Nov 25-26
- ARRL 160 meter Contest Dec 1-3
- ARRL 10 meter Contest Dec 9-10



Director Ken NE1CU practicing his CW on his way to 5 wpm

CONNECTICUT REGIONAL TEST CENTER HAM RADIO EXAM DATES

JULY 13TH (W5YI / VEC)
AUGUST 10TH (W5YI / VEC)
SEPTEMBER 14TH (ARRL / VEC)
OCTOBER 12TH (W5YI / VEC)
NOVEMBER 9TH (W5YI / VEC)
DECEMBER 14TH (ARRL / VEC)

All Amateur Exam Session Dates take place at 6:30 pm on the SECOND THURSDAY of each month. Registration & Sign-in for exams take place at 6:30pm.

Exam session contact information

Connecticut Regional Testing Center
49 Sunrise Avenue
Trumbull, CT. 06611

Kevin W. Cellini N1KGM
Test Center Manager
Commercial & Amateur Examiner
Telephone No.# (203) 209-6495
Email Address: kevin.cellini@gmail.com

Edmond L. Cellini N1KGN
Commercial & Amateur Examiner
Telephone No.# (203) 275-6079
Email Address: ecellini@snet.net



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HAMFESTS from ARRL

- 8/27/17 – Newtown Hamfest
- 9/7-10/2017 - Boxborough
- 10/15/17 – Nutmeg Hamfest Meriden, CT

SKED

Sept 16-17 – PT Barnum Special Event Station

NECROLOGY IN HONORARIUM

In Honorarium, we list the names and call signs of past members who are now Silent Keys.

G. Grosner – W1ASO SK
N. Lewbel – KA1PJQ SK
L. Wilson PhD - W1AR SK
A. Hernandez - NU1T SK

Meeting Minutes 6/25/2017 June Informal Meeting

Summer Field Day 2017 informal Meeting

An informal meeting was held at Summer Field Day 2017, on Sunday 6/25/2017. It was run by Gary WE1M.

in attendance were:

- Dave Schadlich KB1LTW
- Gary Moyher WE1M
- Ken Johnson NE1CU
- Mike M. K1MJM
- Larry Reed AB1JC
- Kevin Cellini N1KGM
- Ed Cellini N1KGN visited

1. As stated at the last formal meeting at Winter Field Day we discussed the progress of the new HARC webpage.
2. Webmaster Dave KB1LTW is progressing and will add additional information to the page as his time allows.
3. We also approved the use of N1KT for Winter Field Day.
4. We discussed the new WAS location.
5. MVHAFDA Recipient
6. The next meeting will be Saturday Jan 27 2018 at Winter Field Day.

Meeting adjourned Sunday 2:30 pm.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

The Hamvention was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia Ohio this year after the traditional venue HARA Arena closed permanently. Gary WE1M went to the Hamvention with Tom K1TMM and there they met Ned KA1CVv, John N1OLO, Dan N1ZZ and two other nice hams whose names and callsigns I just can't remember at this moment. Tom and Gary stayed at a new location this year, the KOA campground in a rented cabin.

This year's convention can best be described by "The Good, The Bad and The Muddy", as everyone was unfamiliar with the new venue and it rained most days.

THE GOOD

The Fairgrounds are spread out with multiple buildings, plenty of room for large tents and tailgaters. The fairgrounds also includes a race track for trotters. The forum rooms are large, air conditioned and some have private rest rooms. Vendors can gain access to the grounds by special gates and most vendors were able park close to their vending spots. Sales were brisk this year with lines at Baofeng dealers and Connect Systems. The fair food trucks and food trailers were open serving some of the BEST Hamvention food I've ever tasted! In between buildings the grounds personnel located aluminum bleachers for resting – and if you've ever walked Hamvention, those were a welcome site. So were the clean rest rooms. Yes clean - including the port-a-pottys! Most of the usual vendors were there with the exception of Mendelson's and one other. ARRL Expo was crowded but I could not find the QSL wall.

THE BAD

Not all vendors were able to park as close as they wanted. Some vendors complained that their costs quadrupled (but some said they didn't). One vendor said he paid for an indoor spot but received a tent because the indoor spots ran out. The ARRL Expo seemed to have much less space this year. The three main buildings were not air conditioned and one can only guess how this affected those vendors who had to stay and work inside the buildings all day long. There seemed to be very few roads in and out of the fairgrounds, so traffic lines were long. I heard one attendee say it took him



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1 hour in line to get to the parking lot and his YL friend said she took the transportation bus from the High School Parking lot and it took her two hours to make the 10 mile trip from the lot to the gate. It was also rumored that the horse trainers were not happy as they could not exercise their horses during Hamvention. Race horses require steady aerobics to keep their stamina.

AND THE MUDDY

It rained most of the time. This made the grassy areas either flood with puddles of standing water as deep as 1 inch, or soft mud of similar depth. Boots were the order of the day. On Saturday thunder and lightning storms developed and orders came over the loud speakers for everyone to get indoors for safety. Fortunately, this only lasted about 20 minutes. But the mud in the fields and on your shoes was more formidable. Yours Truly didn't even complete the outdoor flea market, as the mud was much too deep and started splashing on my pants - shin high. One can only guess what the constant traffic in the mud did to the grassy fields. I was told that on Sunday, only 1 entrance to the fairgrounds was opened due to muddy conditions at the rest of the gates! I am now coining the phrase, "Mudvention" to describe this year's event.

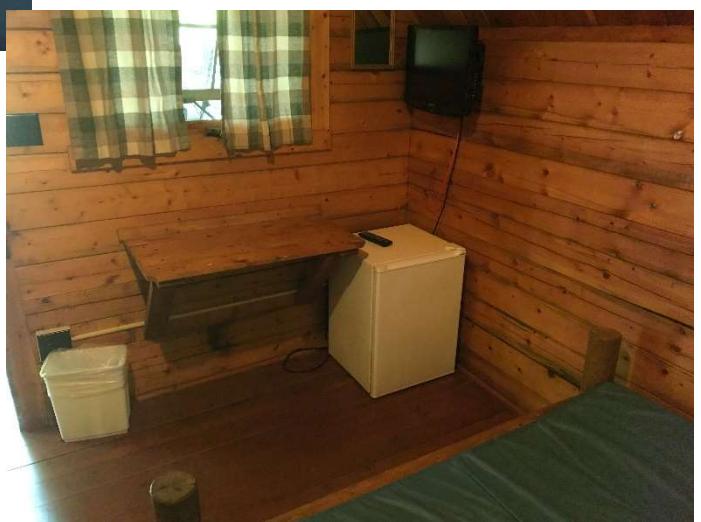
Will I go again? You BET! It's the Hamvention. It's tradition, it's fun and did I say it's fun? As with anything new, unforeseen things show up. It may take a few years to iron these things out.

Enclosed are some pictures from the 2017 Hamvention in Xenia Ohio. Most of my pictures were taken before the gates opened and do not show the actual crowd size. Let's begin with the KOA in Brookline, Ohio where we rented a small cabin. This is about 40 miles from Xenia, closer to Hara Arena than Xenia. But we were able to make reservations in February just 3 months prior to Hamvention. Unheard of with hotels.

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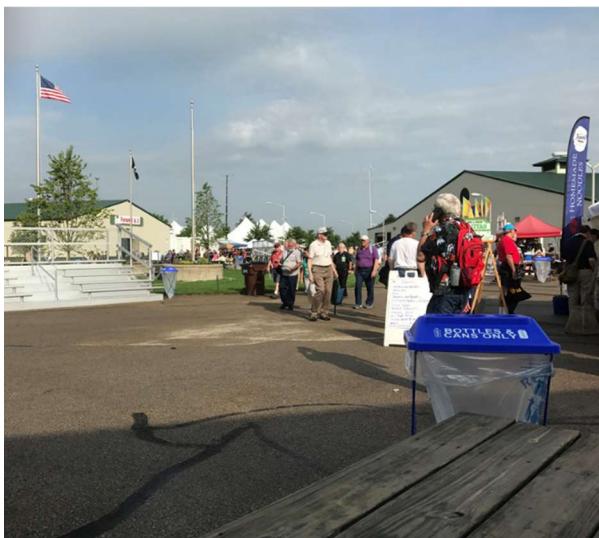
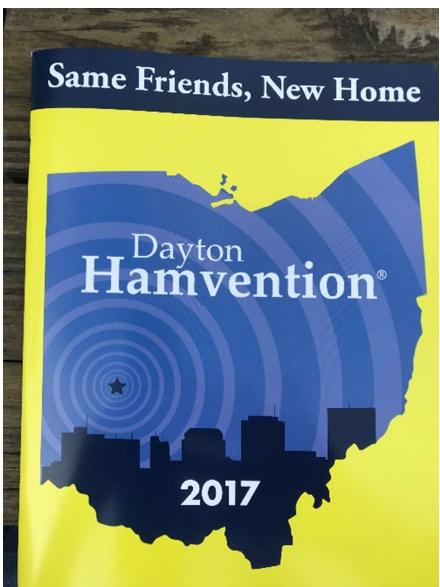


Entrance to KOA (left) and our cabin above



KOA shower and restroom building

Now the Hamvention





Look at the Baofeng prices on the yellow sign!



Gary WE1M speaks with Ham Legend Gordon West about upcoming Technician Class



What a mobile antenna!



Interesting countries seen at Hamvention





Having fun at Hamvention!



One aisle at Mendelson's
3rd floor

Nice way to beat the walk, if it doesn't catch fire!

SUMMER FIELD DAY 2017 AT WESTPORT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IN WESTPORT

Summer Field Day 2017 was held at the Westport Astronomical Society in Westport at the Rolnick Observatory. Members of HARC, GBARC and WAS ARC were present. Due to the Herculean effort of member Dave KB1LTW we made over 630 contacts this year, out stripping last year's 580. The combined effort used our club callsign N1KT. Additionally, during a break from Field Day, HARC held an informal meeting. Below are some pictures of the event. Preliminary results are shown below. Detailed results next issue!



Visitor Stuart (left) learning PSK-31 and RTTY and (left) member Mike K1MJM

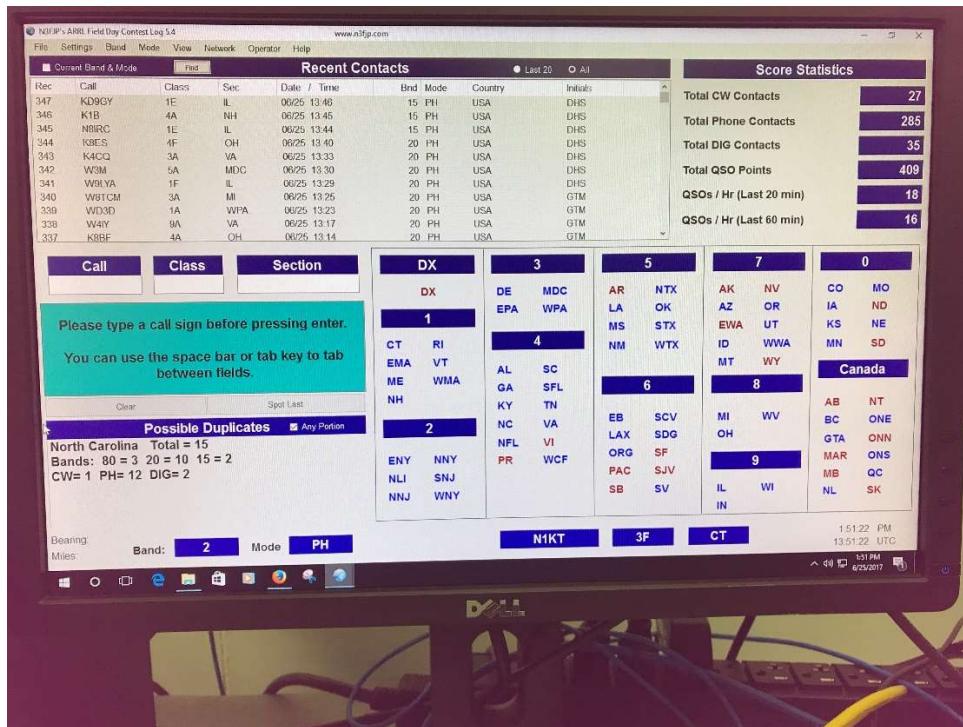
SUMMER FIELD DAY 2017 RESULTS

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Power	Dig	Power	Phone	Power	Total	%
80	0	150	5	150	57	150	62	10
40	0	150	2	150	23	150	25	4
20	12	150	32	150	180	150	224	35
15	15	150	0	150	281	150	296	47
10	0	150	0	150	18	150	18	3
6	0	150	0	150	1	150	1	0
2	0	150	0	150	8	150	8	1
GOTA	0	150	0	150	0	150	0	0
Total	27	39		568			634	100



N3FJP Section Map of our FD 2017 Effort



Screen snippet of our FD contacts



Left to Right (Member Ken NE1CU, Tom K1TMM, Member Gary WE1M, Member Dave KB1LTW, Member Mike K1MJM and visitor Stuart.





Member Dave KB1LTW



Member Bob WD1M



**ROLNICK
OBSERVATORY**



Member Kevin N1KGM



Member Larry AB1JC



Member Gary WE1M





Members Dave KB1LTW and Ken NE1CU (above) and tower going up (below)





N1KT - Housatonic Amateur Radio Club

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 2017

President - Lawrence J. Reed, AB1JC

Secretary Treasurer – Thomas W. Moyher ESQ., N1UNT

Technical Officer – Seth W. Mason, WB1FHF

Youth Coordinator - Kevin W. Cellini, N1KGM

Director1 – Thomas F. Davis, W1TFD

Director2 – Kenneth E. Johnson, NE1CU

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

PO Box 331

Stratford, CT 06615-0331

USA

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, eQSL or Bureau.

If you prefer to send a QSL card, we will send a QSL card in return.

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

Direct Currents is the official newsletter of the Housatonic Amateur Radio Club and published four times a year. Gary WE1M Editor. Contact the

Editor at: WE1M.radio@gmail.com