

Housatonic Amateur Radio Club

ARRL Digi Contest 2026 June 6-7

N1KT

Rev 2.0

The club elected not to participate in the ARRL Digital Contest this year. However, just as he did in 2025, Gary, WE1M, decided to get on the air and represent the club. This year, Gary operated from his home station using the club call sign N1KT.

Competing in the Single Operator, One Radio, Low Power category (100 watts or less), Gary limited his operating time to less than 24 hours. Conditions were less than ideal, as the bands were still recovering from the effects of three recent Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that had occurred over the previous several days. As a result, he frequently monitored Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) maps to determine the best band for propagation before making any changes.

Fortunately, band selection was relatively straightforward. Gary concentrated exclusively on FT8 operation on 20 and 40 meters, allowing him to focus on finding productive openings rather than constantly changing bands.

His station consisted of a Windows 10 computer running the digital-mode WSJTx software, connected to a Kenwood TS-590S transceiver feeding a four-band trapped vertical antenna mounted approximately 30 feet above ground on tower sections. Logging was done via N3FJP.

Despite the challenging propagation conditions, the station performed admirably. During the contest Gary worked stations all across North America and beyond, including California, Canada, South America, Africa (Angola, D2UY), numerous European countries, and Switzerland. While the primary objective of the ARRL Digital Contest is to contact as many stations (and grid squares) as possible rather than countries, longer-distance contacts often contribute additional points because greater distances between grid squares increases the value of each QSO.

By the end of his operating period, Gary had logged 125 contacts and accumulated just over 600 points. Unlike many contests, the ARRL Digital Contest does not use multipliers, making every QSO equally and long distance grid squares important to the final score.

Congratulations to Gary, WE1M, on an excellent effort and for once again putting N1KT on the air in the ARRL International Digital Contest!



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The screenshot shows the N3FJP software interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'Settings', 'Band', 'View', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar, there are two main sections: 'Recent Contacts' and 'Score Statistics'.

Recent Contacts Table:

| Rec | Call | Grid R | Country | Date / Time | Bnd | Fut... | Grid S | L | Mode | Pnts |
|-----|--------|--------|---------|-------------|-----|--------|--------|---|------|------|
| 125 | KD9V | EM69 | USA | 06/07 15:56 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 4 |
| 124 | KR4CJK | EM80 | USA | 06/07 15:50 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 5 |
| 123 | W4MAA | EM84 | USA | 06/07 15:48 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 4 |
| 122 | WB8JUI | EN81 | USA | 06/07 15:43 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 3 |
| 121 | KE7DOA | EL89 | USA | 06/07 15:41 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 5 |
| 120 | NY8K | EM77 | USA | 06/07 15:38 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 4 |
| 119 | AF0F | EM28 | USA | 06/07 15:37 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 5 |
| 118 | WO3U | FN00 | USA | 06/07 15:31 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 3 |
| 117 | K9WX | EN60 | USA | 06/07 15:29 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 4 |
| 116 | W4GGJ | EL87 | USA | 06/07 15:28 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 5 |
| 115 | W4DGA | EM84 | USA | 06/07 15:20 | 20 | | FN31 | | FT8 | 4 |

Score Statistics:

- Total Contacts: 125
- Total Score: 600
- QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min): 0
- QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min): 0

Below the statistics, there are several columns representing different countries and their scores: 160 = 0, 80 = 0, 40 = 3 (listing Belize, Canada, USA), 20 = 9 (listing Angola, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Italy, Poland, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, USA), 15 = 0, 10 = 0, and 6 = 0.

At the bottom, there is a 'Ready to begin!' message, a 'Possible Duplicates' section, and a 'Band: 20' selection. The time is 09:51:30, and the current band is N1KT with a frequency of FN31. The system time is 2:17:43 PM / 18:17:43 UTC.

N3FJP screen

This is a close-up screenshot of the 'Score Statistics' section from the N3FJP software. It features a dark blue header with the text 'Score Statistics' in white. Below the header, there are four rows of statistics, each with a label on the left and a numerical value in a dark blue box on the right:

- Total Contacts: 125
- Total Score: 600
- QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min): 0
- QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min): 0

We made 125 for 600 claimed points

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Total Contacts by Country:

| Country | Total | % |
|-------------|-------|-----|
| ----- | ----- | --- |
| USA | 110 | 88 |
| Canada | 4 | 3 |
| Poland | 3 | 2 |
| Puerto Rico | 2 | 2 |
| Angola | 1 | 1 |
| Belize | 1 | 1 |
| Costa Rica | 1 | 1 |
| France | 1 | 1 |
| Italy | 1 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 |
| Total = 10 | | |

Countries worked

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

| Band | CW | Phone | Dig | Total | % |
|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| ---- | -- | ----- | --- | ----- | --- |
| 40 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 27 | 22 |
| 20 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 98 | 78 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 125 | 125 | 100 |

Band breakdown