

EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (ECARA) Monthly Meeting April 13, 2026



Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Virginia, KC1TCL

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on April 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the East Putnam Fire Station, 263 Providence Pike, East Putnam, CT. Monthly meetings are normally held at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month at the East Putnam Fire Station.

ATTENDEES: 19 members were present

PRIOR:

Prior to the start of the meeting, a presentation was made by Richard, W1RJL from the Middlesex Ham Club regarding transitioning to electronic HAM testing. Key points:

- Using electronic tablets is much easier and faster. Results are instant.
- Tablets for the testing cost him \$75 each to include case, now they are approximately \$91.
- People can use their own computers or tablets.
- The testing software provides a calculator.
- ARRL offers a grant reimbursement for the tablets.
- Examtools.org is the test site used, VEs need to register there.
- Hamstudy.org is where testers register and is also a practice site.
- Arrl.org/resources-for-ves is a site for VE info
- vec@arrrl.org – contact at ARRL for VEs
- Richard will host the 9 am testing at the ECARA HAMFest on April 26th. VEs are needed, please register at Examtools.org. Mark, KC1TPF, Virginia, KC1TCL, Jon, KA1MPG, and Gary, N1BB1 volunteered to work as VEs at the HAMFest testing.

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President John, K1CSP

SECRETARIES REPORT for March 9, 2026

- President John, K1CSP asked if all had a chance to look at the Secretaries Report from March 8, 2026 that was posted on the Reflector or Sinepost.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the March 9, 2026 Secretaries Report.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Reported by Treasurer Jeff, W1QL:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

ECARA FLEA MARKET, Thompson Speedway, Raceway Restaurant

April 26, 8 am-12 pm:

Reported by President, John, K1CSP

- We cannot set up Saturday night, so we need to set up early Sunday morning, Thompson Hill will loan us 25-30 tables, 8' long. John needs help picking up the tables Saturday night, setting up on Sunday at 6 am and take down after the event.
- We need an area in the parking lot for tailgaters. We need maybe 12 cones and caution tape. We will tape off tailgate area, doing the parking area off to the left side of the restaurant entrance. People can set up there with vehicles.
- Speedway will have coffee. It is very nice inside now, they put on an addition, rebuilt the whole restaurant and bar area. Big dining area now with a decent menu, sandwiches, etc.. Jeff, W1QL, John, K1JFT, Terry G, KC1WOH, Virginia, KC1TCL volunteered to help.
- Advertising needed for the Flea Market: DMR net on Sunday 8:30 pm, 8 pm, RI group,
- Need Flea Market donations for the club. John, K1CSP is donating 200 new audio tubes.
- Elaine, KC1UXE and Terry G, KC1WOH will work the entrance taking admission and selling raffle tickets. Call sign and phone number to go on raffle tickets.
- Brian, WS10 secured a \$50 gift certificate from DX Engineering. They have a banner and pamphlets that will need setting up.
- Virginia, KC1TCL secured a \$50 matching donation from HRO for a total of \$150 with the \$100 ECARA match.
- Raffle tickets will be \$2, admission will be \$7.
- Cash box is needed, \$200.
- PA system there, we can announce tickets, VE sessions.
- BAR area will be used for testing.
- Big sign out by the street, cable ties needed to put up the sign.

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ECARA TRAILER:

Reported by President, John, K1CSP

- Trailer is in disarray, everything off the shelf area for the HVAC installation. HVAC donated from EDS Mechanical in Thompson.
- John, KC1WFD was instrumental in getting the new 7K Duromax generator donated. We fired it up last week. The new generator will run HVAC and everything else.
- A thank you letter was sent to Accurate Power LLC for the generator donation. The total donation for the Duramax generator, cover and 2 yr service agreement, was valued at \$3,305.87.
- The trailer may be ready for the Makers Fair or may need a little more work.
- John, K1JFT picked up some radio equipment from Wayne G., ICOMM 7100 for the third station, an auto tuner, two headsets, desk microphones, and rig runners for the walls. This donation was from funds left over for the ARES budget for homeland security.
- Good to maintain our ARES relationship to keep the donations coming in.
- Trailer registration was renewed.

FIELD DAY: June 27-28, Gawron Farm, Thompson, CT

Reported by President, John, K1CP

- John, K1CSP would like to give up his position at field day. Someone is needed to take over 20 meters.
- John, K1JFT will secure port-a-pote for the event.
- We need to plan a meal. Normally we have hotdogs/burgers for Saturday lunch, potluck supper on Saturday evening with chicken and sausages.
- FT8 problems in the past, maybe we can use the airport building to get them away from the other operators, need to set up a di-pole there.
- A 50' telescopic military mast is on the trailer. We will be using the tower for 10m, 20m, 6m and 2 meters. We will have a split coax in a tent away from the tower.
- We need a letter from Steve, Thompson EOC for the site. We will be operating as a temporary EOC. We will set up a table with ARES info, will we run satellite?
- James – he is working with SECARS. Jon, KA1MPG – 40 meters, Henry, 18 – 20m and Ed, CW
- Jon, KA1MPG will put a notice on the Reflector for band leads.
- John,, K1CSP will bring internet box for the trailer for Winlink.
- John, K1JFT; We can combine efforts with region 4 CERT to set up available equipment at Putnam Armory, get help from CERT, Cert can set up Starlink,

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Mobile Wifi, cross banding in trailer, we can show off new electronics and practice.

- John, K1JFT; CERT Drill in June, will be advertised in the Villager, Putnam Crier, Jeff Gordon came last time. Will take quite a few people to set up, 20' x 20' tent, there will be room to set up some stations, tent has its own generator HVAC, 17k, CERT activation as a training.
- Steve, Thompson EOC – CERT activation for Thompson, needed for 2 days, set-up, members come and go, and take down.
- News release on WINY, tell local town managers. Thompson First Selectman. Help with tables may be needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Woodstock 10k Road Race on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2026

- Net control needed, set up is at 8 am. We need 6-7 radio operators.
- Volunteers; Grant, KC1OMA, Mark, KC1TPF, Virginia KC1TCL, William, KA1KAC.
- Operating on 146.400, on a common band out of a vehicle, for net control.

Scotland, CT Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, May 25, 2026

- 6 volunteers needed.
- 9 am meet at the town hall.

Putnam and Thompson Memorial Day Parades, Monday, May 26, 2026

- CERT to cover, 10 am

May 17 – Thompson Raceway Equine Event

- Brian, N1BAM, net control
- 8 volunteers needed.
- Brian will advertise for operators on the Reflector

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ed, K1ZE; May 9, Saturday, is National Train Day, Ed will set up CW at the train station, 55 bridge street Willimantic, station using call sign K1MUJ.
- Gates open at 10 am, antennas and radios set up. Operators will work out of a caboose.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded and carried.