



April 2026

Edited by Brian Battles WS10

ECARA OFFICERS 2026

President	John Szamocki K1CSP	John.szamocki@gmail.com
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web site: <http://www.ecara.net/>

Repeaters

K1MUJ	147.225 MHz (input +600)	CTCSS 156.7 Hz	Brooklyn, CT
DMR	444.800 MHz	CC1 CT ARES	Brooklyn, CT
DMR Net	KZ1M		South Killingly, CT

Weekly Thursday Night Nets

7:00 PM	ECARA Emergency Net	K1MUJ 147.225 MHz 2-meter repeater
9:00 PM	Flying Saucer Net	28.475 MHz USB

Here's the latest ECARA News...

President's Message

By John Szamocki K1CSP

Hello members and Associates of ECARA. I hope everyone is doing well. We have a busy time coming up soon. For the April meeting, we will have friends from the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society (MARS) joining us to present the process of giving FCC Amateur Radio license exams electronically. This will be beneficial to us for future classes and to bring us up to modern techniques. The ECARA Flea Market is soon upon us, it will be Sunday April 26, 2026 from 8 AM-12 noon at the Thompson Speedway's Raceway Restaurant. I have been in "Raceway" recently, and they have expanded their facility to include a new and beautiful bar and dining area, that has a Modified class race car as part of the bar. Please pass the word on selling tables and donations for the club table. On that note, assistance will be needed to pick up 8-foot tables from the Thompson Hill Fire Department and set them up in the Raceway Hall. The facility has only round tables and we felt that straight 8' tables would be better for our event. The Thompson Hill Fire Department was gracious enough to lend us tables for the day. We will pick them up on Saturday evening and set them up early Sunday morning before the event. We need volunteers to help with this, as I am physically unable to move tables due to a recent injury. We also need help selling raffle tickets, collecting admittance, and general help moving things during the event. This is our only fundraising event and its success is on us to make it a great event.

I received words that next week, the ECARA trailer will have a new HVAC mini-split unit installed on it to provide heat and air conditioning. EDS Mechanical from Thompson, CT has graciously donated the unit to us. We recently received a brand new 7000-watt generator for the trailer. Thank you to John Beck KC1WFD for arranging the donation. A special thank you to Nathan from Accurate Power LLC of Mansfield Center CT for their generous donation of the generator and accessories.

Field Day is coming up soon. Think about how you can help out and participate to make 2026 Field Day a rememberable event.

See you at the meeting.

73

John Szamocki K1CSP

Secretary's Report (minutes) ECARA Monthly Business Meeting March 9, 2026

Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association

SECRETARIES REPORT: Respectfully submitted by Secretary Virginia Champagne KC1TCL

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on March 9, 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. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026. Those in need of radio set-up help should arrive at 6:30 pm.

27 Members were Present

Prior to starting the meeting Virginia, KC1TCL circulated a current membership roster for check-in and updating of contact info. Treasurer Jeff, W1QL collected dues from members.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President, Jon KA1MPG.

Secretary's Report

Virginia, KC1TCL read the February 2026 Secretaries Report. After reading the report a motion was made to accept the February report as read. Angie, KB1UWC stated that the club had agreed to not include last names in the report, which was duly noted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jeff, W1QL presented the treasurers report

- Paypal is set up on the website and working. It is tied directly into the ECARA account.
- Bank accounts all complete.
- Checks were purchased
- Treasurer audit will be delayed until the next meeting
- Expenses: \$55 for checks, have not issued a check yet for the speedway.
- Income \$217.89
- Balance \$6,712.80 in the checking account.
- Dues collected tonight - 65\$
- Membership Roster: 24 regular, 78 seniors, 10 family, 4 life.
- Jeff will transcribe the ledger onto a spreadsheet to evaluate membership trends

Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

ECARA Trailer:

John, K1JFT reported

EDS Mechanical will be installing a mini-split. Alterations were made to have the HVAC added. A new extension was purchased and installed for \$67. John was contacted by ESF 2, DEMHS, team leader, Wayne Gronland, who agreed to purchase approximately \$2,500 in new radio equipment for the trailer.

John, KC1WFD reported:

A new Duromax Portable 7k generator is being donated for the ECARA trailer from Accurate Power LLC, which comes with a two-year parts/maintenance service agreement and all-weather cover for a value of \$3,305.87. The generator is trifuel, gasoline, propane or natural gas. It will need cord ends.

John, K1JFT will make the cord ends for the new generator. A thank you letter needs to be sent to Accurate Power LLC.

HamFest, Thompson Speedway, Raceway Restaurant

April 26, 8 AM-12 noon:

John, K1JFT reported on the recent Marlborough Ham Flea Market

- Decent turn out, similar to the ECARA flea market, although more people and vendors, some old stuff other than radio.
- Approximately 100 people were there, wait was over an hour, door prizes were cash. What should we do for door prizes, ARRL usually helps. Hamfest flyers were distributed.

Jon, KA1MPG:

- Saturday evening for set up, 6 am set up. 6 tables reserved now, more will be coming in April.
- Jon, KA1MPG will send 2 more rounds of emails to vendors.
- In need of raffle ideas: HRO will potentially match what we donate for a door prize.
- Two years ago, not enough help, no one to run the raffle.
- Volunteers needed for set-up. Elaine, KC1UXE and Terry G, KC1WOH will man the doors selling raffle tickets.
- Jon, KA1MPG will post on the Reflector.
- We need donations for the ECARA table.
- We will pick up tables in the morning from Thompson Hill Fire, they have 30. Raceway has 17 tables, and we can get more from E. Thompson Fire.
- How much should we spend on the raffle? One gift certificate for \$200, HRO will possibly provide a \$100 match
- Raffle tickets \$2 each. ECARA Hamfest admission will be \$7

A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$100 for the raffle match.

The motion passed.

Putnam Road Race, reported by Terry G, KC1WOH

- Didn't use the trailer for the road race, 5 stations, Terry station 1, race started at 12:30 PM with the kids race, which took about 10 minutes, adult race was after and lasted about 15 minutes, ladies run 18 minutes, a little over an hour for all to finish, over 1000 runners.

Website Problems, reported by Jon, KA1MPG

- Issues with the contact forms: 7 people filled out the contact form, Jon, K1MPG will troubleshoot the website, 2 were about the class, Jon sent them information about the class.
- Virginia, KC1TCL suggested posting Secretaries Report to the website excluding names. Motion was made, seconded and carried to include the Secretaries Reports on the Website.

Upcoming Technicians Class, reported by Ed, K1ZE

- Starting Mar 18, 7-9 PM, If anyone has a current Tech manual, please consider donating your Tech manual, go to Ebay for used.
- Looks like we have full list of instructors, May 20th will be the testing. Testing will be for General and Extra also. Testing forms will be entered online.
- Testing will not be on computer. Ed will be printing out the paperwork. ARRL wants us to buy computers.
- Brian, WS1O will try to have Middlesex (MARS) club come to April meeting to talk about computer testing. They did the testing at the Hamfest in the past.

CERT: Reported by John, K1JFT

- Training starts this week, Thursday night. 16 people signed up for the class.
- Held at the town hall, Thursdays 7-9 PM, Saturdays 9-1/2 Free, state sponsored, state provides all the materials.

New Business:

- SKYWARN: John, K1JFT: Town of Putnam is sponsoring a Skywarn Class to be held on April 2, 6-8 PM, at the Putnam Municipal Bldg.
- NEW TV for Fire House: John, K1JFT: We would like to purchase a large screen TV for our meetings and classes, and donate it to the Fire Station. Walmart is getting rid of all 2025 TVs. John could purchase a 75" for less than \$600. John, K1CSP and John, K1JFT talked to the Fire marshall. There used to be one here in the past. A motion was made to allow John, K1JFT to spend up to \$800 to purchase a TV for the Fire station. Motion was seconded and carried.

- Speakers Needed for future meetings.

- ECARA Donation: reported by Jeff, W1QL: Scott, K1RSO from Danvers, MA, a member of the NSAR club made a donation of \$50 to the ECARA club. Jeff made a motion to accept Scott as a member, seconded and carried.

- Train wreck in Mansfield: reported by John, K1JFT

A 40+ car train was passing through an area of Mansfield, near the Willimantic river where there was a washout under the tracks. As the train passed by, the first few cars went over then 7 cars went into the river with propane, another 5 cars with grease. All went smoothly for the recovery operation. It was a freezing cold night, which took a lot of pressure off the tanks, about 200 people worked the first night. By 3 AM we had large cranes, by morning tankers were getting hauled out of the river. Then railroad crew had to fix the tracks, took about 24 hours per tanker, then flared off residual propane. Went on for 7 days, then went back to clean up. John, K1JFT was on a state management team, involving the command trailer and planning to get resources out there. Police, CTS radio, railroad, we had it all out there. Fire Department remains in charge, a plan of action is started. We got cranes in right away and helped with the scheduling, 12-14 engine companies responded or were on standby. Feeding the workers, Red Cross was there, 100+ people working around the clock on a 24-hour basis. Fire Chief is the incident commander, state comes in and works below him, so he gets what he needs, then safety officers, logistics, person in charge of every aspect. One of our guys fell off the trailer, EMT and doctor responded right away. Safety officer did paperwork for injury. Weather station was there. DEP was there with their group. Hardest part was getting the equipment there. No evacuations needed. All went smoothly. Fire departments from all over, covering for each other, 20-30 engine companies total. Important to keep people safe from the cold.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- CERT Drill coming up on June 25: Radio operators needed, making sure radios are working and handing out. Open a distribution center, will take place at the Putnam Elementary school. Terrorist attack simulation. Help is need for parking, distribution of medicines, etc.

Angie and Terry volunteered.

- Memorial Day Woodstock Road Race: Volunteers needed
- Windham County Skywarn: Marshal, AC1TA needs help. Virginia offered to help

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM, seconded and carried.



AMATEUR RADIO Flea Market

Sunday
April 26, 2026
8 AM to Noon



ECARA.net

Raceway Restaurant
229 E Thompson Rd
Thompson, CT

Admission: \$7
Donation to ECARA

Tables \$20 ea
(Please reserve in advance)

Tailgate spaces \$15

All Students
Free
Admission!

Contact Jon Fournier KA1MPG
jonas217@verizon.net



- Ham Radio Equipment
- Shortwave
- Computers
- Electronics
- GMRS
- FCC License Exams
- Seminars
- Food Trucks

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 11 at the East Putnam Fire Department on Providence Pike in Putnam at 7 PM.

73!