

**EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (ECARA)**  
**Monthly Meeting January 12, 2026**



This report respectfully submitted by Secretary Virginia, KC1TCL

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on January 12, 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, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Those in need of radio set-up help should arrive at 6:30 pm.

**ATTENDEES:** 19 Members were present.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Prior to starting the meeting annual dues of \$20 were collected from several members by former Treasurer, Dick, KF6UX. Dues can be paid by cash, check or card on the ECARA website; <https://ecara.net/>. ECARA address: PO box 63, Dayville, CT 06241.

President John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**SECRETARIES REPORT for December 2025:**

December 8, 2025 minutes prepared by former Secretary Ron, N1LSJ were read to the members by current Secretary Virginia, KC1TCL.

- Meeting called to order by former President WS1O, Brian at 6:19 pm.
- 22 members were in attendance for the meeting and dinner at Woodstock Tavern
- Slate of 2026 Officers was presented; motion was made to accept and passed.
  - K1CSP, John – President                      KA1MPG, Jon – V. President
  - KC1TCL, Virginia – Secretary              W1QL, Jeff – Treasurer
  - N7PRD, Jason – Trustee Yr.1              KB1YXG, John – Trustee Yr. 2
  - AC1TA, Marshall – Mbr. At Large Yr. 1
  - NV1U, James – Mbr. At Large Yr. 2
  - Permanent Trustee: K1ZE, Ed
- Motion passed to keep the annual dues at \$20

# **EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (ECARA)**

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- NEW BUSINESS: ECARA Flea Market will be held April 26, 2026 at the Thompson Speedway. Set-up will start at 6 am. The fire department will loan us 30 tables
- The December 8, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the December Secretaries Report.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Reported by former Treasurer Dick, KF6UX

Key Bank Account Balance: \$6101.42

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **2025 ARES 2025 Simulated Emergency Test Report:**

Reported by President John, K1CSP

Key points:

- 23 participants in simulated test 144 registered, 16% participation, low turnout for event. 85 check-ins for Vernon repeater, followed by 10 check ins on the K1MUJ Repeater
- 33 stations checked in on the HF nets.
- Communications were to be from all the 17 tech schools.
- All stations tried a new frequency and struggled with participation across the state.
- WinLink from 17 locations, that was successful.
- There were some EOCs that checked in, Plainfield and Thompson.
- Several stations struggled with ICS 214 log. ECARA completed the log successfully
- ARES recommended training on the ICS 214 and ICS205 logs.
- The number of stations was higher than 2023 and 2024
- Number on HF was good, 80 meters difficult, 40 meters did work
- ECARA used a 33 telescopic antenna and kettle bells, which worked for HF
- 8 of 15 stations communicated by HF,
- Winlink 10 of 15, which indicated increased capability from remote locations.
- Two schools were not manned.
- ECARA needs better preplanning for simplex operations to include radio set-up.
- State-wide it took too long for stations to check in. People need to pay attention to the instructions, frequencies were clogged.
- Participation from ECs was less than 60%
- Lack of DMR participation
- The SET forms can be found on-line at the ARES website.

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**TRAILER REPORT:**

Reported by President John, K1CSP

- The trailer was used at the holiday parade, on way back home, some brackets let go for the telescopic mast and other equipment. President John will organize the repair.
- 12volt lighting not bright enough.
  
- Heat and air conditioning needs work. The CERT trailer mini-split was updated with state funds. John, K1CSP spoke to EVS mechanical Thompson, owner came up with a quote for installation one 9k btu condenser mini-split, price of \$2,565, labor \$2k discounted, EVS Mechanical will install the unit for free.
- Insulation is fine, generator may not be strong enough to power the unit. We might have to research a bigger generator.
- John, KC1WFD may know someone who would donate a generator.
- Current generator: 120 volts, 2000 watts

**REMINDER: VHF contest coming up January 17 – 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Brian, WS10 will talk with Paul, KE1LI regarding the upcoming DX
- Check the ARRL website for DX information

**TECHNICIAN CLASS:**

Reported by President John, K1CSP

- Ed, K1ZE runs the classes.
- We had a list of 10 people interested.
- Ed needs instructors, please contact Ed to help with the class.
- Brian, WS10 spoke to Middlesex VE, they will do the testing electronically for us if needed.
- Virginia, KC1TCL will check in with Ed regarding the requirement to test electronically.

**WINTER FIELD DAY: January 23-25 at Gawron Farm, 188 Gawron Rd, Thompson, CT:**

Presented by President John, K1CSP

- Last year we set up last minute. Pop up shelters are available if needed with propane heaters. John, KC1SP will set up the trailer at Gawron Farm if there are participants.
- Virginia, KC1TCL will send out an email through the Reflector to see who will participate.

**Other Old Business:** Angie, KB1UWC cannot volunteer for the Woodstock Fair.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Flea Market, April 26, Thompson Speedway, Raceway Restaurant**  
**6 am set-up, 8 am-1 pm**

Reported by Vice President, Jon, KA1MPG

- Table charge: \$20, outside space \$15, \$7 entry fee. Other HAM markets charging \$7
- Jon has sent out emails to those that have secured tables in the past.
- East Thompson Fire Dept will let us use 12 - 8' tables, but they will need to be transported. Tables will be set up in rows.
- Saturday help is needed to transport tables to the market, as well as Sunday return to the firehouse.
- Rental cost for Raceway restaurant is \$250.
- Speedway did renovations since the last flea market.
- Big issue in the past was the lighting.
- Jon will create a flyer and bring it to the next meeting.
- Donations are needed for the ECARA club table.
- Jon needs a check for Thompson Speedway, \$250

A motion was made, seconded and carried to provide V. President Jon, KA1MPG with a Speedway check for \$250

- Raffle prizes needed.

A motion was made and later tabled for John, K1JFT to purchase two \$200 gift certificates from HRO. John will determine if HRO will donate \$100 for each certificate

- Elaine, KC1UXE volunteered to sell raffle tickets at the market.
- Brian, WS1O will seek donations from DX engineering.
- Virginia, KC1TCL will seek donations from Yaesu.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS: June Field Day**

- Brian, WS1O – reported that we need to coordinate better, FT8 was whipping out everyone last year. We need 1000 feet of distance. Can we put FT8 in the airport building? FT8 should be low power. FT8 designated frequencies, not made for emergencies. Winlink on VHF
- Packet radio stations: QV, Hampton Fire, State police Plainfield, Brooklyn. Can bounce across towers 1200 baud, before internet, bulletin board.
- John, K1JFT stated that we can acquire a mini Starlink for \$229, then \$5 per month for subscription

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- President John, K1CSP stated that we already have a unit in the trailer for high-speed internet access with WiFi

**REMINDERS:** President John, K1CSP

- Get on the K1MUJ Repeater, it needs some use. Emergency Net is held every Thursday on the K1MUJ repeater at 7 pm
- The next meeting will start early at 6:30 pm for those needing help programming their HAM radios. John, K1JFT has templates for all the different bands we use. Paul, KE1LI programmed the Boufangs. Treasurer Jeff, W1QL will help also.
- President John, K1CSP suggested we use 146.40 for Region 4 Simplex

Motion was made to adjourn at 8: 05 PM, seconded and carried.