



May 2026

Edited by Brian Battles WS10

ECARA OFFICERS 2026

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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 ECARA members and associates!

We have just completed a successful ECARA Flea Market, held on April 26, 2026, at Thompson Speedway. After a few years without one, it was great to return to Thompson Speedway for this event. The room was nearly full, and we had a strong turnout of both vendors and shoppers.

The Speedway has made several renovations to the building, including a new bar and dining area with an open view of the track, as well as a live modified race car on display as part of the bar. The sandwiches were tasty, too. This is the only fundraising event we hold, and it is difficult to cover club expenses on dues alone. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event.

The heat/AC unit on the ECARA trailer has been installed and is functioning well. K1JFT and I reinstalled the radio equipment that had been removed for the mini-split installation, and the trailer is now back in service. It was used on May 2, 2026, at the Thompson Maker's Fair as a Command Post for Emergency Management/CERT. The heater performed quietly and warmed the trailer with ease. Thank you to EDS Mechanical for their generous donation. As far as fundraising is concerned, I know there are many people on the *Sinepost* subscriber list who are not ECARA members. Please consider joining the club, or, if not, making a donation to help support the ECARA trailer, Field Day activities, and the multiple repeaters we maintain in Northeast Connecticut for your use and enjoyment.

Our next events include the Woodstock Memorial Day celebration, followed by the VHF Contest and Field Day. We will discuss these events and more at the next meeting. I hope to see you on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the East Putnam Fire Department.

73

John Szamocki K1CSP

Secretary's Report (minutes) ECARA Monthly Business Meeting April 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Virginia Champagne 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. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026. Anyone who needs radio set-up assistance and any other mentoring or help should arrive at 6:30 PM.

ATTENDEES: 19 members were present

Prior to the start of the meeting, a presentation was made by Richard W1RJL from the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society/Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARS/CARES) club regarding transitioning to electronic FCC license 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@arrl.org – contact at ARRL for VEs
- Richard will host the 9 am testing at the ECARA HAMFest on April 26. VEs are needed, please register at Examtools.org. Mark KC1TPF, Virginia KC1TCL, Jon KA1MPG, and Gary N1BB1 volunteered to work as VEs at the flea market testing session.

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:20 PM by President John, K1CSP

SECRETARIES REPORT for March 9, 2026

- President John, K1CSP asked if all had a chance to look at the Secretary's Report from March 8, 2026 that was posted on the email reflector or *Sinepost* newsletter.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the March 9, 2026 Secretary's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reported by Treasurer Jeff, W1QL:

- The annual audit was completed today, all went fine, no issues.
- A \$250 check was written for the Raceway restaurant for the April 26 flea market.
- \$831.65 was spent for the new firehouse TV to include mount and extension.
- \$268 was taken in for dues, 48 members have paid.
- \$5750.41 is the current checking balance.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

ECARA HAMFEST, Thompson Speedway, Raceway Restaurant April 26, 8 AM-12 noon

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 KC1TC 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 WS1O 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.

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 N1CLV, 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, K1CSP

- 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-potty 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 KB1VDL, 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, 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, State Senator 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 KB1VDL, Thompson EOC – CERT activation for Thompson, needed for 2 days, setup, 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:

Thompson Raceway Equine Event, Sunday, May 17, 2026

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

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

- 6 volunteers needed.
- 9 AM meet at the Town Hall.

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.

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

- CERT to cover, 10 AM

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ed K1ZE; May 9, Saturday, is National Train Day, Ed will set up CW at the train station, 55 Bridge St, 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.

FOR SALE

Bob Eslinger KR1U has a Yaesu FT-726R VHF/UHF all-mode transceiver



Also available a vintage Heathkit SB-221 2 kW amplifier for \$750. Clean, expertly wired, nonsmoker, working fine. Modified to include 10 meters.



Contact bob at oldradiodoc@gmail.com

ECARA Flea Market April 26, 2026

By Jeff Darche W1QL ECARA Treasurer

Our event was successful with close to 100 estimated attendees, and many vendors, plus support from DX Engineering which supplied a gift certificate for the raffle and their banner and catalogs. We sold 75 raffle tickets for a net gain of \$50. The club table sold \$171 worth of equipment. Setup at 6 AM was smooth with quite a few club members participating. We helped haul equipment in/out for the folks selling, they definitely appreciate the help. Clean up also went smoothly and by noon we were pretty much all packed up. Our cost for the use of the Speedway Restaurant at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park was \$250. We welcomed ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Doug WA1SFH (*pictured below with ECARA President John K1CSP*).

The VE FCC license exam session at the flea market gave one exam and the candidate passed his Technician class license. The VE team consisted of Rich W1RJJ, Tage K1SEI, Virigina KC1TCL, Brian N1BAM, Gary N1BBI, Mark KC1TPF, and Jon KA1MPG. It was ECARA's first VE electronic session using ExamTools, and it went smoothly and efficiently.

The club realized revenue of \$800 altogether in donations. Overall I think it was a good event and a good club turnout. Congrats to all who participated and thanks to all who attended!





Next Meeting

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

73!