



**June 2026**

Edited by Brian Battles WS10

**ECARA OFFICERS 2026**

President	John Szamocki K1CSP	John.szamocki@gmail.com
Vice President	Jon Fournier KA1MPG	Jonas217@verizon.net
Secretary	Virginia Champagne KC1TCL	vmariechamp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeff Darche W1QL	velojd@gmail.com
Trustee	John Jacobi KB1YZG	jdmjacobi@snet.net
Trustee	Jason Bousquet N7PRD	
Member At Large	Marshall Gohn AC1TA	<a href="mailto:marshallgothfire@gmail.com">marshallgothfire@gmail.com</a>
Member At Large	James Walker NV1U	Jmwalker8@gmail.com
Permanent Trustee	Ed Shekleton K1ZE	K1ze@sbcglobal.net

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!

Another month has passed us! I don't know about you, but it seems like the months are getting busier as time progresses. Here we are approaching June. We must finalize plans for Field Day. There are still quite a few bands that are not covered for Field Day. Please step up and volunteer for some operating time on the different bands for Field Day. Any of the new hams out there, Technicians included, can operate the GOTA station, get experience operating HF, and help the club out with points. We will be discussing this topic at the meeting. We will also finalize how much food, etc, that will be needed for Field Day. If you are planning on attending, let Jon KA1MPG know so that we get the correct quantity of food. Friday afternoon setup is a good time to learn how to put up emergency antennas and set up stations. There is usually a bonfire Friday evening to kick off Field Day.

Other events in June are the VHF Contest and Kid's Day on amateur radio. Although we are not officially participating as a club in these events, please make time to get on the air and make some contacts. On Kid's Day, the kids really enjoy talking on the radio.

I want to thank Michael K1MLG and Virginia KC1TCL, who operated Net Control, and all the operators who worked communications on the Woodstock Memorial Day Road Race. I caught Net Control on simplex on 146.400 MHz a few times and knew the race was in good hands. We have been supporting the Town of Woodstock for many years at that race, and they are always thankful for our assistance.

ECARA held the exams for the Technician Class that we sponsored for the last 10 weeks. I want to congratulate all the new Technicians out there and assist any way we can in getting you on the air. Don't feel intimidated when you get on the air. Put your call sign out there on the K1MUJ repeater by saying "(Your call sign) listening". I will make it a point, if possible, to answer you and hold a brief conversation (QSO) with you to welcome you to amateur radio. If you need assistance with setting up your radio, please ask and someone will assist you. You may make mistakes while talking, but will learn by experiencing the proper etiquette for talking on the air. Thanks to the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society (MARS) club for assisting our VEs with the new electronic testing process, and thanks to all the VEs who helped host the exam.

That's all I have for now. See you at the June meeting.

73

*John Szamocki K1CSP*

---

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

*Respectfully Submitted by secretary Virginia KC1TCL*

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on May 11, 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:** 27 members were present

**CALLED TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President John K1CSP

### **SECRETARIES REPORT for May 11, 2026**

WS10: Suggested changes, change Hamfest to ECARA Flea Market, change adjourn time from 8:55 PM to 7:55 PM. Changes were noted and made

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

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Reported by Treasurer Jeff W1QL:

It was determined after much discussion that the full treasurer's report would be made available to paid members only. Jeff will email the treasurer's report when the secretary's report is sent out on the Reflector.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **ECARA FLEA MARKET:**

Reported by Vice President Jon KA1MPG

- Overall, the flea market went well.
- Less enthusiasm about tables this year, sent out emails to prior vendors 4 times, 6 less tables this year.
- Nearfest was the following weekend. Mt Tom flea market was cancelled. How many tables: 18 people, 3 free, 2 went to Kurt, ARRL got a free table.
- Attendance was great, happy with the table layout.
- We had no flea market last year and it was at a different location the year before, so maybe reasons for fewer vendors.
- Some stayed after for a meal and food was excellent.
- We invited Quick Silver, they are too big. Quick Silver owner died recently.
- DX engineering set up area for \$50 donation.
- Same place, same set up? John K1CSP will book the Raceway Restaurant for Sunday April 25, 2027
- Ham electronic VE testing went well, one candidate. Good learning practice. May 20 ham license testing at the EPPFD.

## **TECHNICIAN CLASS:**

Reported by Ed, K1ZE

- Jeff W1QL had a class last Wednesday, they covered regulations and finished by 9 PM. All students were engaged, bribed with candy, next class will cover safety, we should have a high percentage that pass the test. 10-12 students.
- We should offer dinner to Richard W1RJL the night of the exam, May 20. How about the Courthouse? Ed K1ZE will invite Richard for dinner.

## **HAM TESTING: May 20th**

Reported by Vice President Jon KA1MPG

- Jon KA1MPG is new VE coordinator
- We will be using tablets, which will provide a much-simplified process
- We do need to order tablets. Middlesex bought tablets and ARRL reimbursed them.
- Jon reached out to a section manager, ARRL teachers institute has tablets.
- Tablets will need regular updates and charging of batteries.
- Richard W1RJL from the Middlesex ARS club recommended a tablet that was \$69 each. Candidates testing can bring their own device.
- After much discussion it was determined that a tablet committee should check out the options and make recommendations at the next meeting for the number, make and model of the tablets to purchase.
- Tablet Committee: Jon KA1MPG, Ed K1ZE, Gary N1BBI, Mark KC1TPF, James NV1U, Jeff W1QL
- Students testing on May 20 will be reminded to bring their own electronic devices.

## **FIELD DAY:**

Reported by President John K1CSP

- John would like to relinquish 20 meter chair position.
- Ron N1LSJ, FT8 only, moving away to the airfield, FT8 a problem with Icom 7300 near each other, problem with bandpass filters. Problem on 20m voice and 20m FT8, sticking to schedules.
- We have openings for band chairmen. CW and volunteers needed. 20m volunteer needed, 80 meters needed, someone to run GOTA, VHF phone station. GOTA out of trailer as an option.
- End fed half wave for multiband running a dipole 20m, best time to operate at night, John K1CSP will be band chair on 20 m, need relief operator,

## **MEMORIAL DAY, May 25 Road Race, Woodstock, CT:**

- Michael K1MLG will be net control, set up on the common in Woodstock, CT. We do have volunteers, need one or two more operators.
- Everyone meet at 8 am Woodstock Common, bring mobile radios, 146.400 MHz simplex, Operations plan to be sent out.

## **EQUINE RACEWAY RIDE:**

- Brian N1BAM is net control, we have 5 volunteers, but 7 positions, constables in 2 locations. Trailer will be set up at 7:30 AM off Baker Rd.

## **ECHOLINK RADIO IN EASTFORD:**

Reported by Jeff W1QL

- The Echolink is moving to Brian's house (WS1O). We should make that happen. It is in Vinny's hands right now (KC1UXW). We need Vinny to go to Eastford to get equipment. Vinny doesn't live where it is hosted. Vinny has radio, interface and computer, John K1CSP and Jeff W1QL will contact Vinny.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Memorial Day Parades:** John KC1WFD needs 2 people to assist with Scotland on Sunday, Terry KC1WOH will help. May 24 meet at Scotland firehouse at 10:30 AM. Parade is about 30 minutes. Grant KC1OMA, John K1CSP, CERT people also. Rhondalee KC1WOG will assist. Can use CERT repeater for that. John K1JFT will bring extra radios
- **July and August ECARA meetings:** Brian WS1O: Will we have no meeting in July and a picnic in August at Mashamoquet Brook State Park. James NV1U can bring an HF set up. Picnic Monday, August 10 at 6 PM at Mashamoquet. Pizza will be ordered. Who will pick up? We can decide on pick-up next month.
- **ECARA State of CT Business Report** was submitted in April by Virginia KC1TCL

**ADJOURN:** Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:14 PM.

Monthly meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026. Anyone who needs radio set-up assistance and any other mentoring or help should arrive at 6:30 PM.

---

**For Sale**

Bob KR1U

[oldradiodoc@gmail.com](mailto:oldradiodoc@gmail.com)

- + Automatic Zoom

<p><b>ITEM FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Heathkit SB-221 2KW Amplifier</b></p>	<p><b>ITEM FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Yaesu FT-726R Triband UHF/VHF FM/SSB/CW transceiver</b></p>
<p><b>\$750</b></p> <p>Clean expertly wired, nonsmoker, working fine. Modified to include 10 meters.</p>	<p><b>\$350</b></p> <p>Works fine. Includes 2, 430, 440 and satellite modules, CW filter and manual.</p>
	
<p>(actual item depicted) <b>Contact: Bob KR1U</b> Email: <a href="mailto:oldradiodoc@gmail.com">oldradiodoc@gmail.com</a> Tel: 860-928-2628</p>	<p>(actual item depicted) <b>Contact: Bob KR1U</b> Email: <a href="mailto:oldradiodoc@gmail.com">oldradiodoc@gmail.com</a> Tel: 860-928-2628</p>

---

**ECARA Course and VE Session**

*By James Walker NV1U*

At the end of the new ham license training course, ECARA successfully hosted a VE session utilizing *Exam Tools* at the East Putnam Fire House on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, with 13 signed up candidates (1 was a no show due to illness). Congratulations to the 10 new Technicians and 1 upgrade to General!

Technician Issued Call Signs (as of May 23):

David KC1ZPW	Eric KC1ZPY	Bryce KC1ZPX	Harley KC1ZQC	Mary KC1ZQG
Raquel KC1ZQH	Abrielle KC1ZQI	Eric KC1ZQJ	Mary KC1ZQF	

*(We're up to the KC1ZQx call signs, after KC1ZZZ is issued then KD1AAA will be coming!)*

Terry KC1WOH to General



Thanks to the VEs who helped run the session:

Ed K1ZE	Jonathan KA1MPG	John KB1ZYG	Virginia KC1TCL
Gary N1BBI	James NV1U	Richard W1RJL	Brian WS1O

See you all on the air and down the logs!

73,

James NV1U

---

---

## Woodstock 5K

The annual Woodstock 10K road race was held on a cool rainy Monday morning, Memorial Day, May 25, 2026. The race kicked off promptly at 9 am with about 80 10K runners and 60 5K runners. ECARA was responsible for monitoring the 10K runners. All went smoothly, with ECARA volunteers Virginia KC1TCL as net control, with coordinator Mike K1MLG, and checkpoint operators Brian WS1O, John KB1YZG, Chris K1ZG, Lucas KC1RJO, John KC1KGN, Bill KA1KAC, and Gary N1BBI. The first runner finished at 9:47 AM! Kudos to the runners who braved the rainy weather and our ECARA radio operators for monitoring their safety!

---

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

The next ECARA meeting will be held Monday, June 8 at the East Putnam Fire Department on Providence Pike in Putnam at 7 PM. There will be no business meeting in July, and the August gathering will be our annual club picnic, this year we'll have it at Mashamoquet Brook State Park on Rte 44 in Pomfret. The club will provide pizza and soft drinks, members should bring potluck dishes, and we may have a POTA activation. See you there!

Remember, ARRL Field Day is always the 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend in June. This year it's June 27-28, and as usual ECARA will operate from Gawron Farm on Gawron Rd in Thompson. Bring your friends and family for a great time of fun, food and radio!