



August 2026

Edited by Brian Battles WS1O

ECARA OFFICERS 2026

President	John Szamocki K1CSP	John.szamocki@gmail.com
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Trustee	Jason Bousquet N7PRD	
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Member At Large	James Walker NV1U	Jmwalker8@gmail.com
Permanent Trustee	Ed Shekleton K1ZE	K1ze@sbcglobal.net

web site: <http://www.ecara.net/>

Repeaters

s1MUJ	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!

Hopefully you have enjoyed the summer months. We enjoyed a fun and productive Field Day in June. Our core group of members provided ECARA with great support to make another successful Field Day. We had the pleasure of CT State Senator Dr Jeff Gordon's presence at Field Day, along with Linda Lemmon from the Putnam *Town Crier* newspaper, and our local Emergency Management Director Steve Benoit. We appreciate the support from these individuals through their voices in state government and the media. On Saturday evening, we had a delicious potluck supper with barbecue chicken and all the fixings. Thanks to all who made this a big success.

We took July off and are now moving into August. The first event that we need to address is the Annual VJ Day Parade in Moosup, CT on August 9, 2026. ECARA has been supporting the VJ Day Parade for several years. Parade Coordinator and Legion Commander Jeff DeClerk once told me at one of the parades that our service to them is deeply appreciated. He told me that they tried to do their own communications for one year with rented radios for their parade personnel. It was a big failure, radio reception was poor, and it just didn't work. Your participation is an asset to the parade. It is a fun day, and we are wrapped up by 3 PM. Volunteerism is at an all-time low for many groups including ECARA. Out of 60 members, we have a small group of amateurs who support the functions of the club. We still need more operators for the parade. Please do your best to help us out if possible.

The August meeting is our annual picnic on Monday August 10, 2026 at 6 PM. This year the picnic will be at John Turner's residence at 293 Fox Rd Putnam, CT. We will have a potluck picnic, along with food on the grill. Bring your favorite dish to share and a camping chair and enjoy socializing with the group. Thanks to John and Elaine for their hospitality. Hope to see everyone there.

ECARA will be promoting Amateur Radio at the Brooklyn Fair this year. The trailer will be set up near the south gate. We have openings on the schedule for trailer coverage. Sign up for a shift at the trailer, then enjoy walking around the fair after your shift and have some great food and interesting sites. The fair runs from Thursday, August 27 to Sunday, August 30. Send an email to k1csp@hotmail.com to sign up for an open shift.

I know many of our members belong to CERT. You have some activities for CERT coming up this month. Thanks for your service to our communities.

That's all I have for now. See you at the picnic. 73

John K1CSP

Secretary's Report

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Virginia, KC1TCL

The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on June 8, 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. Next meeting is the annual club picnic on August 10, 6 PM, at the Turner residence, 293 Fox Rd, Putnam, CT

ATTENDEES

John – K1CSP
Jon – KA1MPG
Virginia – KC1TCL
Jeff – W1QL
Michael - K1MLG
John - KC1WFD
Steve – KB1VDL
John – K1JFT
Mary – KC1ZQG
Dick, KF6UX
Ron – N1LSJ
Angie, KB1UWC
Terry – KC1WOH
Jason – N7PRD
Rhondalee – KC1WOG
Shawn – KC1VBS
Diana – KC1YBY
Robert – KC1YBX
Chris – K1ZG
Ron – KA1MPI
Margaret – N1NNP
Gary – N1BBI
Grant – KC1OMA
Abrielle – KC1ZQT
Brian – WS1O

Called to order by President John, K1CSP at 7:00 PM

SECRETARIES REPORT for May 11, 2026

The Secretary's Report for May 11 was posted in the Reflector and in the *Sinepost*.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Jeff – W1QL

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

OLD BUSINESS

VE SESSION MAY 20

Reported by Jon, KA1MPG

Testing was very successful 13 registered, 1 absentee, 11 passed the Technician test. Terry - KC1WOH upgraded to General. Richard K1RJL from the Middlesex Amateur Radio Association (MARS) club assisted. Jon is confident we can do the testing alone now. Special thanks to James - NV1U who assisted and showed us faster ways to run the session.

TRAILER

Reported by John – K1CSP

A new Icom radio, rig runners, and high intensity 12v LED lights have been installed. Brackets for the telescopic antenna and

HF antenna let go, so we need to start thinking about a roof rack with PVC pipes to store the antennas, 6" PVC, 10' lengths.

TABLETS FOR TESTING

Reported by Jon – KA1MPG

He researched the tablet options. The ones Richard uses are decent, midrange price wise, and a newer version is available. Jeff – W1QL suggested also purchasing an 8-port charging station. We can have testing every 3 months; 8 tablets would be ideal. A motion was made, seconded and carried to spend up to \$1000 for 8 tablets, cases and charging station. Jon – KA1MPG contacted the Section manager of ARRL for reimbursement and is waiting to hear back. We can keep \$5 to help offset the cost on our end.

NEW HAMs

Congratulations to all the new hams! A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept all new hams into the club with free dues for the first year.

NEW BUSINESS

VHF CONTEST

Reported by Brian – WS1O

This Saturday, June 13 Brian would like to participate in the contest and needs help with rover, doing it alone is hard. Is there any interest? We can set up beam antennas at the Gawron Farm, John K1CSP can get the trailer up there for the weekend. VHF, UHF, 6m are off the rover: 6m, 2m and 440cm and FT8 from the trailer. Brian hopes to operate on

Saturday, the afternoons are busy.. Brian goes to 4 high places. Jeremoth Hill, Fire tower Pomfret, Baypath and one other location. Brian won the division twice and was only operating for 4 hours.

AUGUST 10 PICNIC MEETING

John - K1JFT offered to have the picnic at his house in Putnam, 293 Fox Rd. Depending on what we purchase for Field Day we can use what is left for the picnic.

FIELD DAY

Reported by John, K1CSP

June 26-28, Gawron Farm, 188 Gawron Rd, Thompson

We need a head count to know how much food and equipment are needed. It will be held at the Gawron Farm in Thompson, CT. Set-up at noon on Friday, 2 PM start on Saturday. Jon- KA1MPG will be teaching contesting. This is a great way to see how everything is set up. 15 ECARA members raised their hands to participate. Family members are invited also. Potluck on Saturday evening at 6 PM. There is a big feast. Quarter chickens, hotdogs, hamburgers, side dishes, crock pots. Bring a dish. Rhondalee will coordinate potluck items. A message will be sent on the Reflector for the potluck.

Eric from Sterling, wants to use his Yaesu for 20 m. We do have band filters, FT8 on 20m is the biggest issue. VHF, no volunteers, 7100 to operate VHF. Brian has a radio for 2m and 440cm. John – K1JFT has pop ups. We need a GOTA station volunteer, John K1CSP and another volunteer for GOTA. Is there anyone for 80m? The antenna on the trailer will do it. Can we set up a dipole across the field? John will bring his pop gun. Can anyone take 80m?

Steve from Thompson, CT EMD requested a drill on Field Day. We get extra points.

FT8 by everyone causes issues. We have a vertical comet CHA250 antenna, it can do 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m.

Any dignitaries being invited? John, President – K1CSP will send invitations to First Selectman and EOC in the area, and will bring Field Day up at EOC regional meeting.

100 pts for an elected official, police or fire.

Jon- KA1MPG will add Field Day information to the website.

How much money for the food for Field Day? Last year \$400. \$600 suggested, A motion not to exceed \$550 for Field Day food and drinks was made seconded and carried. John – K1CSP will pick up the meat and drinks. Jon – KA1MPG will bring some homemade brew. 35 people estimate.

Set up Friday afternoon, sit around the fire afterwards. Largest exercise around the country with about 10,000 clubs involved. People operate from all over the world. Need a quick exchange of information to log as many contacts as possible. Logging using N1MM, N3JFP logging software. Gets loaded as ADI format.

BROOKLYN FAIR

August 27-30 Thursday – Sunday. There will be many state trailers there. We have flyers for the trailer. If there are enough volunteers we will set up at the gate off Rt. 169 near the state police area. John – K1CSP will send out an email as we get closer.

WOODSTOCK FAIR

Thursday - Monday, Sept 3-7, Fourniers can help on Saturday.

THOMPSON COMMUNITY DAY

October

REMINDERS

- Emergency Net on Thursdays at 7 PM
- JASON is trying to get a repeater, KB1AEV linked system set up in Killingly connected to Vernon.
- Brian, WS1O; Echolink equipment is at Brian's house. Need a monitor to work, may need a keyboard, radio power is up, works fine, need to get computer to talk about it. Can't display. Will get that going in a few days.
- ED – K1ZE Updates: Louise, KB1BBI passed away. Ed has some giveaways to raffle.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:09 PM

Next meeting is the annual ECARA Picnic, August 10, 2026 - 6 PM 293 Fox Rd, Putnam, CT

VJ PARADE

The following operators have volunteered for the VJ Day Parade Detail on August 8, 2026 in Moosup, CT. We need at least 8 operators to successfully cover the parade. Please check your schedules and volunteer to help ECARA successfully cover communications for the parade. We could use about 3 more operators.

KF6UX-Dick
KB1JDY-George
KC1VGS-Glenn
KC1PUT-ED
KC1WFD-John
K1CSP-John

Thank you.
John K1CSP

CT HAM FREEMASONS

David K1DAV has organized a group of Connecticut Freemasons who are also licensed ham radio operators, meetings to be held in Newington, CT, starting August 1. For information or to join please email k1dav@arri.net



BROOKLYN FAIR

Volunteers are needed to man the ECARA trailer at the Brooklyn Fair, please sign up with John K1CSP

SHIFT	THURSDAY AUGUST 27 nd , 2026	FRIDAY August 28, 2026	SATURDAY August 29 th , 2026	Sunday August 30 th , 2026
SHIFT #1 0900 hrs. to 1400 hrs. (5 Hours)	NO FIRST SHIFT			Ron Fournier KA1MPI John Fournier KA1MPG Margaret Fournier N1NNP
SHIFT #2 1400 hrs. to 1900 hrs. (5 hours)	<u>FIRST DAY-SHIFT STARTS at 1400 hours (5 Hours)</u>	Michael Gardner K1MLG John Szamocki K1CSP	Michael Gardner K1MLG John Szamocki K1CSP	<u>LAST DAY- SHIFT ENDS AT 1800 hrs. (4 Hours)</u>
SHIFT #3 1900 hrs. to 2300 hrs. (4 hours)				NO THIRD SHIFT