EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (ECARA)
MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Virginia, KC1TCL
The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) held its regular monthly meeting on September 14, 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 Oct. 12, 2026

ATTENDEES: 17 Members attended.

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President John, K1CSP

SECRETARIES REPORT for
A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Secretaries Report for June 8, 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT
A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the June 2026 Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:
FIELD DAY: John, K1CSP: Field day was a success. It was well attended, with fair weather and good food. There was help for the 20m station, and the new hams did a great job. 583 contacts total. We didn't have a CW station. Some operated from the GOTA station. We had Senator Jeff Gordon attend and he was impressed. John sent a message from Winlink. Steve came from EOM, Thompon. ARRL Section Manager, Douglas Sharafanowich said hello. Terry, KC1WOH: One family drove in from Boston, a schoolteacher. He wants to set up a club at the school where he teaches. He had antenna trouble on 20m, but worked ok on 40m. He was licensed; he wanted to get children on the air. One member experienced interference. Good idea to consider using handheld radios. All done by 1 pm on Sunday.

VJ DAY PARADE: John, K1CSP. Another success, the organizers were very appreciative of the club using communications. New HAMs showed up to help this year, which was good. There were communication issues with Dick at the American Legion. Jonathan was a big

help taking up the antenna, Glenn helped also. All went well. Next year: set up a Yagi and point towards Dick, everyone else should have good reception. There was no cross-ban repeater this year.

TESTING TABLETS: Jon, KA1MPG. The tablets are all set up. We are waiting for our next VE session. Jon will charge the tablets before the next VE session and will do any required updates. Virginia applied for an ARRL grant to cover the cost of the tablets.

BROOKLYN FAIR: The trailer ended up being in a bad location. All went well for set up, then on Thursday the trailer was surrounded by an Antique Car Club. As a result, we had 4 visitors for the entire fair. We staffed the trailer, we made contacts, we put up the dipole antenna, we ran 20, 40, FT8 and POTA station.

WOODSTOCK FAIR: John, K1CSP asked for a coordinator, that fell through.
Next year: focus on the Woodstock Fair if we can secure the same location as last time. There was a lot of foot traffic past the trailer at the Woodstock Fair in the past.

AUGUST MEETING: John, K1CSP. The club had a picnic at the Turner's home in Putnam on August 10, 2026. There were 18 attendees, great food and a chance to visit with club members. There was no official business.

NEW BUSINESS:
SET: John, K1CSP: There will be a Simulated Emergency Test, Saturday Oct 24, 9 am-12 noon, similar to last year. A week out we will get an email regarding the scenario and the situation. John, K1SCP will be on a cruise, so John, K1JFT will possibly coordinate. Same scenario as last year with a mobile station at each emergency location in the county. Brian, WS1O visited various locations last year and radio tested, which gave us an idea where the radios worked. There were reception problems at Thompson and Muddy Brook. Concept last year wanted to see how simplex worked out. Best thing we could have done was to open a station at the QV dispatch center, on the hill in East Killingly there is a 200 ft tower. We were able to set up 20m and 40 meters. We were able to send reports via Winlink. John, K1JFT will organize hopefully.

TRAILER: Last purchase was an IComm 7100, new power pole distribution, new antennas.

COMMUNITY DAY: Thompson, October 3rd. Trailer will be set up to see if we can do amateur radio. John, K1CSP needs help for this date. An email will go out on the Reflector.

HOMELAND SECURITY: John, K1CSP. Money from ARES is available. We could use a full-length roof rack and pipes for telescopic and comet antennas. Any ideas? Pneumatic antenna would be great, cost 12K, need compressor and need mast, very expensive. 3 element beam, we need band filters for HF, 20, 40, 8 filters. VHF, UHF filters needed.

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John, K1CSP was contacted by QV: QV doing inventory at S. Killingly tower, they had questions about our antennas and what we were running. Sounds like they are taking down the 72mhz antennas, and they will be replacing them with other antennas. We have back up K1KUJ, packet radio and UHF DMR system. The DMR was on a spare antenna, we talked to Chuck. They will tell us if they have to do anything with the DMR. They are having a problem with MED9 in Putnam.

FLEA MARKET, 2027: Jon, K1MPG. Can we check with the Raceway Restaurant for the Flea Market 2027?. DX Engineering will do more next year. Brian will reach out to DX. Flea Market Date: Sunday, April 25, 2027. No conflicting events. Virginia will reach out to Mark at Ham Radio Outlet for a raffle donation.

ECOLINK: Brian, WS1O: Tried to set up Echolink at Brians. Jeff, W1QL, reimaged the computer, and it is working at Jeff's house. If you have the Echolink app, you can try to get other clubs to check in to our repeater via Echolink. Download the app, register with your license. Once you have the app there are thousands of stations that you can log into. Brian has been on our repeater and contacted Russia and Canada. Ecolink can access it from phone, computer, handheld radio and mobile radio. If you know the node number, you can connect to the repeater in another country. You can connect all over the world. Can link repeaters, Brooklyn to Vernon. There is a lag, so leave pauses when speaking. Takes a little time to transmit. People don't watch their phones, must shut off the transmission. Brian logged in when in Vernon.

VHF CONTEST: Ed, K1ZE. Everyone is on FT8 these days, Ed and Brian, WS1O worked the contest. Ed talked to someone in Buffalo on 2m. Used to be everyone on 6m around the clock. Next contest is in January. Contest in the summer FT8 and NON FT8.

REPEATER: Ed, K1ZE: We don't do much other than nets on the repeater. How about we try another simplex channel? Monday could be 2m simplex test? 146.4? Virginia will work on scheduling a net on this channel. We can try the QV station and see what we can get there.

NEW ACTIVITIES: John, K1CSP: What can we do to spice up the club? Brian, WS1O: Plans for Christmas party? Christmas party at Woodstock Tavern, Monday, December 14th. James, set up POTA set up. Ed: Fixing a power Supply. New ones are a trick, old Astrons.

RAFFLE: Ed, K1ZE, Shirt and ARRL book set were raffled off. Raffle tickets needed.
MOTION TO ADJOURN: at 8:00 pm, was seconded and carried