EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC.
MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 8, 2026

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 August 10th, 6 pm, 293 Fox Rd., Putnam, CT

ATTENDEES: 25 Members were present

CALLED TO ORDER: by President John, K1CSP at 7:00 pm

SECRETARIES REPORT for May 11, 2026:
The Secretary's Report for May 11th 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 20th: Reported by Jon, KA1MPG
Testing was very successful 13 registered, 1 absentee, 11 passed the Technician test. Terry - KC1WOH upgraded to General. Richard from Middlesex 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 Icomm 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, mid-range 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 13th Brian will be participating 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, UHV, 6m are off the ROVER: 6m,2m and 440cm and FT8 from the trailer. Brian will 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 10th 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, JUNE 26-28, Gawron Farm, 188 Gawron Rd, Thompson: Reported by John, K1CSP.
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.

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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 N1MM, N3JFP logs. 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 3-7th Fournier's 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; Ecolink 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: AUGUST 10, 2026 - 6 PM 293 Fox Rd., Putnam, CT