EASTERN CONNECTICUT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC.
MONTHLY MEETING MAY 11, 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. Next Meeting June 8, 2026.

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 April 13, 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 V. 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 25th, 2027
- HAM Electronic Testing went well, one candidate. Good learning practice. May 20th HAM testing at the EPFD.

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 20th. How about the Court House? Ed will invite Richard for dinner.

HAM TESTING: May 20th
Reported by V. 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 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 20th 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, N1LSD, 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 25th Road Race, Woodstock, CT:

- Michael 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, Operations plan to be sent out.

EQUINE RACEWAY RIDE:

- Brian Horne 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.

ECOLINK RADIO IN EASTFORD:
Reported by Jeff, W1QL

- The Ecolink is moving to Brian's house. We should make that happen. It is in Vinny's hands right now. 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 G. will help, KC1WOH. May 24th, meet at Scotland firehouse at 10:30 am. Parade is about 30 minutes. Grant, KC1OMA, John, K1CSP, CERT people also. Rhonda Lee, KC1WOG will assist. Can use CERT repeater for that. John, K1JFT will bring extra radios

- **July and August ECARA meetings:** Brian, WS10 : Will we have no meeting in July and a picnic in August at Mashamoquet park. James, NV1U can bring an HF set up. Picnic Monday, August 10th 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.