



EPARA

BEACON

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ed Hugely - kc3olb

VICE PRESIDENT

Pete Scarfaro - kb3ykj

SECRETARY

Kevin Forrest - w3kcf

TREASURER

Mike Oprihory - wr8th

MEMBER AT LARGE

Chris Sanders - aj3c

SUPPORT TEAM

Quartermaster

John Victor - k3wh

MEMBERSHIP COORD

Al Brizzi - kb3ovb

NEWSLETTER/ MEDIA

Ray Loewenthal - w3ril

PUBLIC INFO OFFICER

Ruth Ann - w9fbo



Welcome to the EPARA Beacon, the official newsletter of the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association.

EPARA has served the amateur radio community in the Pocono Mountains for over 31 years. We provide opportunities for learning and the advancement of skills in amateur radio for Ham's and Non-Hams alike. We take pride in supporting our communities and surrounding areas by providing radio communications when needs arise.

We have been affiliated with the 'American Radio Relay League' (ARRL) since 1995 and continue to participate and support them in all they do for the world of Amateur Radio. From study material, testing, club events, contesting and much more. There is always something to do and learn. Come, join us and be part of this exciting hobby.

Feel free to join us for our monthly club meeting, starting at 1930 (7:30 pm) at the Monroe County Emergency Center (911Ctr).



Monthly VE Testing

To schedule you test, contact
Chris: aj3c.ve@gmail.com

Testing starts at 1800 prior to our
monthly club meeting.

WEEKLY NETS

EPARA Tech Net - Monday 2030
146.865 Mhz, PL - 100 Hz

EPARA Info /Swap Net 2030
146.865 Mhz, PL - 100Hz

EPARA DMR RAG CHEW 2030
Talk Group - 3149822

Webmaster
Kevin Forrest - w3kcf

Website:
www.epara-n3is.org

Email
eparahamradio@outlook.com

* Newsletter Submissions *

Ray Loewenthal - w3ril
eparanewsletter@outlook.com

EPARA
P.O. Box 521
Sciota, Pa 18354

Presidents Comments



For those interested in purchasing
a club hat, send us an email to:
eparahamradio@outlook.com. The price is
\$16 for our club logo on the front and an
additional \$5 if you want to add your call
sign on the back.

Club Events for 2026

In the coming months, we will begin
preparing for the upcoming club events.
Sign up sheets for Field Day, west End Fair,
Hamfest and community parades will be
out. Please take a look and see what
events you might like to participate in.

Stroudsburg Library: The library Presentation
Committee has asked if our club would be
interested in giving a presentation this year
regarding Amateur Radio. Ed said we are
looking at March 2026. Chris – AJ3C said he
could do a presentation and Thursday works
best.

Planned Activities

DMR Workshop
Directional Antenna Build
Fox Hunt (Transmitter will be hidden locally)

We have been monitoring the 80m band for
about eight months now and plan on starting an
HF net soon. It's open to all Ham's Far and
Near and a great opportunity talk about almost
anything. We've been speaking with other club
members around the area, which gives us an
opportunity to see who we can reach in times of
trouble.

EPARA MINUTES JANUARY 2026



Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association January 8th, 2026 General Membership Meeting 7:30PM

Open meeting:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm on January 8th, 2026 by Ed - KC3OLB

Quorum:

Total attending: 17 Present at 911 Center: 15 Present on Zoom: 2
Visitors present: 0

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of silence:

Membership Meeting – Minutes

November 13th 2025 Secretary – Kevin - W3KCF:

Meeting minutes for November 13th, 2025 were posted in the EPARA Newsletter. Ed – KC3OLB asked members if they had seen and read the minutes from our previous meeting. He then asked if there were any questions or objections to the minutes as they were presented. With no objections, Ed asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented:

Motion to accept Minutes as Read: Ruth Ann – W9FBO and 2nd by Ron – N3GGT (Passed)

Treasurer's report:

For the January 8th, 2026 EPARA Club Meeting

By Mike – WR8TH

Treasurers Report Nov/Dec 2025

Treasurers Report November/December combined report

Since there was no regular meeting in the month of December as well as minimal account activity, this report will cover both months and complete the year.

As per our bylaws an audit of the account for the past year must be conducted.

Detailed report for the period November 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025 was read to the membership. Afterwards, a motion was made and membership voted to accept the report as presented.

All transactions during this period were accounted for, with documentation pending.

Budget for 2026

Mike then presented a detailed budget to the member's present for their approval. He said, if anyone wants a copy of the budget for 2026, please contact him.

Audit Committee

Mike stated in addition to the Board Member At-Large we need two additional members to assist in conducting our audit for 2025. The following members volunteered to participate in the audit.

*Chris – AJ3C (Board Member at Large)
Craig – W3WWP
AL – KB3OVB*

***Motion to accept Treasures Report: Sean – KC3TPD and 2nd Chris – AJ3C
Motion Passed***

Comments from the President: Ed – KB3OLB

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Stroudsburg Library: The library Presentation Committee has asked if our club would be interested in giving a presentation this year regarding Amateur Radio. Ed said we are looking at March 2026. Chris – AJ3C said he could do a presentation and Thursday works best.

Net Participation: Ed mentioned we have 3 weekly nets. Come out and join us.

Club Nets: All nets are up and running. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| •Tech Net Monday at 2030 | WX3OES | 146.865 | PL 100 |
| •Swap Net Tuesday at 2030 | WX3OES | 146.865 | PL 100 |
| •DMR Rag Chew Wednesday at 2030 | TG | 3149822 | |

Club Members Information: Ed said we are updating our member's information and passed out a sheet to gather information. We plan to put information in the members section on the website. It can only be viewed by current members. We are asking for name, call sign, email and current phone number. Phone numbers will only be visible to other members, when permission is given by that member.

Reports of officers and committee's:

Ed -KC3OLB – Program Committee

Tonight's presentation will be given by James – NV2M on Meshtastic Communications.

Meshtastic is an open-source, decentralized, off-grid mesh networking system that uses low-power LoRa radios to send text messages and GPS data without cellular service or internet. It connects small, inexpensive, battery-operated devices (nodes) to relay messages over long distances, making it ideal for hiking, emergencies, or remote locations.

If you are interested in giving a presentation in the upcoming year, please contact Ed at KC3OLB@gmail.com

Ruth Ann, W9FBO – PIO:

Ruth Ann was asked if she could reach out to Bike Business to see if they were interested in having radio communications at their events.

QuarterMaster: John – K3WH (Absent)

John said anyone wanting to be signed off to use the club's radios, give him a call to schedule. Operational instructions are in the newsletter.

Ray – W3RIL – Social Media:

Ray said things are going well with social media.

Ray – W3RIL – Newsletter:

Ray said he is pleased with how things are going and wanted to remind everyone, If you aren't on the email list and would like to be added, please contact him.

Contact information: eparanewsletter@outlook.com

AL, KB3OVB: Membership

AL said the list he currently has from last year, show's 41 paid members plus 4 lifetime members. As of January 2026 we have 16 members who have paid their dues.

**Sat-Com / EME Group: Alex - KD2FTA
(absent)****GOES Group: (Geostationary Satellite Server)**

Nothing new

Old Business:

ID cards are on hold until the county updates their software and equipment. If we are unable to secure them in the near future, we will create a downloadable version on the new website.

Ed mentioned that we are still looking for a suitable trailer for the club. We are looking for a 16' to 18' trailer with a dropdown rear entry and RV style side door. Price range \$2500-\$4000

New Business:

Nominations for officers in February 2026

Votes/New Members: (None)

Announcements: (None)

50/50 Raffle: Tonight's 50/50 Raffle was won by Mike – WR8TH. He received a total of \$55.00 in cash, which he donated back to the club. Thank you Mike.

Adjournment... Meeting was adjourned at 2015

Motion to close Pete – KB3YKJ and 2nd by John – N1SIE Motion Passed

Secretary

Kevin Forrest

W3KCF

Upcoming Events and Activities



Our Next Club Meeting Is February 12, 2026

Meeting starts at 1930

There are multiple students signed up to take their licensing exams before our club meeting. VE's are needed.

Presentation after the meeting by Ed - kb3olb

Techniques and tips for using your multi meter

Rule #1 of Amateur Radio, it is a hobby, unless you figured out a way to fashion a living out of it.

Rule #2 of Amateur Radio, life is not a hobby and typically carries heavy responsibilities of everything that is not a hobby.

Rule #3 of Amateur Radio, never give up a LIFE event for a Ham event. You may make some great memories at the Ham event, but the guilt you may carry missing a LIFE event can be a terribly heavy millstone.

Rule #4 of Amateur Radio, as technology moves forward, so does Ham Radio - do what makes you happiest, experiment with other elements of Ham Radio as LIFE allows.

Rule #5 of Amateur Radio, it is only Ham Radio, when confused always refer to Rule #1 through #4.