

HCRA Club Meeting Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 - Approved

President - EZ Morales called the meeting to order at 7:27pm.

EZ asked the membership present for a show of hands as to who read the club newsletter. About 1/3 of the membership raised their hands.

EZ then asked the membership to say why they joined the hobby and why they got involved, as we went around the room for Roll Call.

Roll Call of Officers:

President: W1AEZ – EZ M. - Present

Vice President: KP4JLD – Josue D. – Present

Treasurer: N1FJ – Frandy J. - Present

Secretary: **Vacant** (*Minutes taken by Brother Al)

Tech Director – K1YO – Bob M.- Present

Program Director: AA1UE – Gary T.- Present

Membership Director: KB1VNH - Brother Al - Present

Newsletter Director/Webmaster: AB1XW – Alan D.- Absent

At Large: N1CB - John B. – Present

Roll call of members was made by EZ and he asked each member “Why do you enjoy this hobby and what got you interested in joining this club”, as roll call went around the room each member stated why they joined and their interest in the hobby.

EZ discussed the Winter Field Day and Thanked Brother Al for organizing the event and the whole team for their work and efforts to persevere through the severe cold and make the event happen at the Westfield Masonic building.

EZ spoke about the summer field day Announced that John B was heading up the committee and looked forward to seeing what he put together for the event.

EZ thanked Smitty for the coffee and cookies as always which everyone greatly appreciates.

EZ stated that Paul is working on the QSL cards.

EZ announced that Ken KD1KV has his 10m net on Mondays, if anyone is interested, please get involved with this net.

EZ stated that for the club's next project day, we are going to look at 2m attenuator kits and meshtastic possibly and we will reach out to the club with more information, as soon as it is available.

EZ opened the floor to the membership.

Jurgen stated that he wanted to discuss the club's Facebook page. He said the page is for members who create their own projects and for radio contesting by members. He says it is not for useless subjects like Skywarn, reposts of ARRL matters, non-project stuff like space weather. He said that if people want weather forecasts, they can get that in other places. Nobody cares to see this stuff.

Jim M stated that he started the page about 19 years ago, through the current owner of the FB page. Because Jim was not as familiar with the process. He stated that the Facebook page is slowly overtaking the club's Group IO system. Jim then asked by show of hands how many people used Group IO and then asked how many use our Facebook page. By show of hands there were slightly more people using Facebook regularly. The club's Facebook page is becoming much more vibrant and has a large number of members using it.

Brother Al stated that there are nearly 400 people on the page now.

Jim stated that he feels that the Facebook page would be better served with more activity regarding local club activity. He stated board members should use it to advertise the club more often.

Smitty stated that Skywarn is a critical public safety resource that strongly utilizes ham radio operators and relies on the Nets that mount Tom and HCRA members are involved with. Space weather is also very important as it plays into propagation and impacts HF communications. He also stated that it is very important information for new members to read so it helps them understand the hobby better.

Dave S., a new member, stated that he likes to read the Skywarn information and gets a lot of valuable information through our web page regarding ARRL and other interesting topics shared uh to the page.

Brother Al stated that he is the one responsible for posting the Skywarn notices on the HCRA page. He does not post weather forecasts he posts sky warn notifications from rob Macedo regarding National Weather Service AR ES sky warn net activations for severe Weather and hazardous winter weather conditions. The purpose of ham radio Nets and our field day events are exactly intended for things like Skywarn which is an operation of ham radio emergency communications for public safety. And space weather information is also something that every ham operator should take interest in. The only time that he posts a weather forecast model for hurricanes, tropical storms, Nor Easterns, or tornado threats are very likely to impact the area and it plays into communications from rob Macedo and is likely to require Skywarn activation and possible emergency communications operation and for our members, as a personal consideration, it alerts out members to the risk of damage their antennas and other property.

EZ closed the floor on the matter.

Club topic for the evening Digi Pi projects presented by KC1 IZC Mike Scantlen

Mike then spoke to the origins of ham radio and its traditions including QSL, contesting, field days, paramount, Elmers, mentorships, and building relationships and lifelong friendships. With mentorships, we need to focus on the technician class members, to get their active participation started. Elmers, like Gary Thomas, can help with space communications using satellite digital modes integration. Other things like APRS and FTA, combine Android, RadioMac for Apple, Winlink For Windows and Linux, digital mail, and GPS connections for GPS tracking via Digi Pi. KM6LYW is the radio Digi Pi creator and with newer 2.0 software, for only \$1.00, a Patreon membership will get you a password, which is needed to download the software and information on the hardware required for use with Raspberry Pi on an SD card. This is a great project for entry level ham radio operators. Mike then presented the club with an opportunity to look at all of the equipment he had brought to the meeting for display.

EZ then closed the meeting, Thanking everyone for attending and Thanking Mike for his presentation. He then asked everyone to take precautions for the upcoming storm and stay safe, Go Pats!

Meeting closed at approx. 9pm?