



# HCRA Board Meeting - DRAFT

March 18, 2026

**President - EZ Moralez called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.**

**Robert's rule of order format for board meeting**

**Roll Call of Officers:**

President: W1AEZ – EZ Moralez. - Present

Vice President: KP4JLD – Josue Delgado. – absent

Treasurer: N1FJ – Frandy Johnson. - Present

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

Tech Director – K1YO – Bob Meneguzzo.- Present

Program Director: AA1UE – Gary Thomas.- Present

Membership Director: KB1VNH - Brother Al Giguere Jr.- Present

Newsletter Director/Webmaster: AB1XW – Alan Dove.- Present

At Large: N1CB - Johnathen Belhumeur. – Present

**BOD Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

**President:** - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ

- EZ asked the board members to please add their officer duties to the Google Share Drive. Special service club status with a URL needs to be done every 2 years, the next due date is November 1, 2026. ([www.arrl.org/ssc-application](http://www.arrl.org/ssc-application)). ARRL special club status and renewal application for 2026 yearly updated club report goes to the ARRL Western Massachusetts Section. This year, ARRL is supporting “The Year of the Club”. Larry W1AST is recommending a lifetime membership award to Carol Gawle, W1LGU, who has been a club member since the 1970's, for all of her donations to the club. George KC1V's had items that he donated to our club, approximately 25-35 pieces, which he inventoried & wrapped up. EZ then asked if we should sell them or save them for a later event?
- Gary T. suggested that we save the items
- John B. said he would make space in the trailer to store the items.
- Alan D. suggested that we post the items on the club group IO for sale.
- Gary T. stated that it would be difficult, the board would have to figure out the logistics of pickup.
- John B. and EZ Concurred.
- Alan suggested that maybe people could pick them up at George's?
- EZ stated that he would need to ask George and that might be a bit of a burden to ask him to take on, but we can discuss this further next month. He then asked if any officer has a task that they have trouble with or cannot fulfill, please let him know and he will help.
- Gary T. stated please let us know if there is something that needs to be done, because some of us may not realize that there are tasks that we should be doing. We need to work together as a team.

**Vice President:** - Josue, KP4JLD – Absent

**Secretary:** - **OPEN Looking for volunteers and/or recommendations of volunteers.**

- EZ asked if everyone read the minutes of the several meetings that were posted to the board share file? All of the board members agreed that they had.
- **Motion:** Brother Al made a motion to accept the meeting minutes.
- **Second:** John B. seconded.
- **No Discussion**
- **Motion carried unanimously.**

- EZ stated that the secretary's position is open & thanked Brother Al for taking the minutes over the last several meetings. EZ stated that he had also completed minutes for prior meetings in Nov., Dec, and part of Feb. He asked if anyone knew of anyone interested in being a secretary or capable of doing the job and asked that they please let him know, ASAP. EZ then stated that the elections will be coming up in June, we will need a Secretary & Treasurer.
- Alan D. stated that he is also going to step back in June, so they need someone to fill his position.
- EZ stated that anyone who knows of a club member who would like to step up for any officer position should let them know to prepare for the elections.

**Treasurer:** - Frandy Johnson, N1FJ

- EZ asked if Frandy had looked at the numbers recently for the holiday party..
- Frandy stated that he had not and is doing the bare minimum, as he is often tired and having a hard time staying on top of things, but he's doing the best he can.
- EZ stated he had rough numbers.
- Gary T. said it cost roughly \$17 to \$18.00 per person, not per club member. There were some extra people there, who were not club members, when the party started, but it was a great idea to try to get everyone involved in the clubs by allowing them to join for 1 year, free.
- Alan D. asked to verify if that cost is per member?
- Gary T. stated yes that is per person who attended.
- EZ stated that there was roughly \$940 dollars in checks. And there was a large sum of money in cash, plus payments that were made via PayPal, making the total somewhere at or above \$3000. He will have a better idea when he tabulates everything & report it at our next board meeting.
- Gary T. stated that in the future, this kind of event is probably not sustainable at this cost and the extra fee that we are being charged for PayPal isn't a big deal, but it adds up.
- Frandy stated many organizations add a processing fee for credit cards, but he has mixed feelings.
- Gary T. said perhaps people can include it as a donation and we word it that way, to offset the costs, but then we might just be nickel and diming people.
- EZ stated the credit card fees are normal for a lot of things these days.
- Brother Al stated that adding fees is detrimental to our club, but if we are adding the convenience of paying online that cost does make sense.
- Alan D. stated that it does make sense and he agrees.
- Gary T. stated that we can discuss this in the future. He also stated that the holiday party was a good time and that we should look at doing it again, but we need to recoup the costs in a better way. The portion that Mount Tom would have covered was minimal and the discussions at the time were not convenient because everything was happening at a fast pace, to make the party happen.
- Brother Al stated that MTARA did not really have an opportunity to discuss the costs, after the initial discussions. The MTARA board had voted to join the HCRA effort and pay for its fair share. The last communication was from MTARA Treasurer Brian Mullarney, who stated that he would get in touch with Gary T. on the costs, but he apparently never did. At the last MTARA Board Meeting, then President, Susan Grimaldi had stated that once all the numbers were known, we would pay the fair share. He didn't believe it will be an issue going forward, especially if both clubs have more time to properly prepare and decide the cost share, especially if we involve other clubs.
- EZ stated that we need to move on and asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- **Motion:** Gary T. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.
- **Second** Bob M. seconded the motion.
- **No Discussion**
- **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Program:** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

- Gary stated April will be “Show and Tell”, May will be “SOTA & POTA”, and June Brad Councilman is working on a POTA/SOTA effort at the Quabbin Reservoir, that will involve 5 or 6 of our local clubs, possibly on Father's Day weekend. ARRL-HCRA Summer Field Day is Sat, June 27 and Sun, 28<sup>th</sup>, in Agawam. We will then have our FOTA “Fairs on the Air”, which we EZ, Brother Al, and he did at the Middlefield Fair, last summer. The several-day event was a lot of fun. We don't have an idea of the budgetary cost, except perhaps the cost of food. It's a great idea and a lot of fun with a lot of potential but the concept will take a concentrated effort, and the membership absolutely needs to be involved. Gary asked if we should involve other clubs as Mount Tom and HCRA were the only 2 clubs involved last year? EZ is responsible for the name FOTA. It is a great way for our club & hobby to get involved in the community & get exposure. He also stated that who doesn't like fair? it's a good thing for our members to have fun at.
- EZ stated that thanks to Brother Al inviting us up there and pointing out the HCRA monument stone at the Middlefield Fairgrounds & HCRA is recapturing some lost history. It will be great to carry on things that the founders of this club used to do.
- **Motion:** Brother Al made a motion for HCRA to sponsor this program & involve other clubs.
- **Second** Alan D. seconded the motion
- **No Discussion**
- **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Bob M. asked when the Fairs start?
- EZ stated sometime starting in July and going through into the fall we might not be able to do all of them, but if anyone knows or has contacts with anyone that runs fairs please let him know.
- Brother Al stated that he knows a number of people, but not all of them. He will reach out and get contact information from the people he knows involved. He also stated that he cannot head up the FOTA program, but will help where he can.
- Gary T. stated that he is working on the after-action report for the holiday party and a lot of people helped make it happen. The financial cost was high and its not sustainable at approximately \$20 per person. The food was an exceptional value, and the place had the right atmosphere. We will be hard pressed to find another location that caters to us & serves great food at that cost. Going forward maybe we can talk about increasing the cost of meal tickets.
- Frandy J. stated that the cost of the bar was excessive and maybe we can do BYOB or dispense with it altogether, maybe not do a sit-down meal next year, perhaps smaller, or potluck event.
- Alan D. stated that we might be able to work a better deal with another location.
- EZ stated that during his research, this location offered one of the best deals available in the area.
- Brother Al stated if we figure \$65 to \$75 a person for food & desserts, plus the facility & everything included with the event, we got a really great deal for a Holiday Event. If we held the event and tried to do everything ourselves, we would be running around and not enjoying ourselves, plus still must pay for a facility & clean up afterwards. This event gave everyone an opportunity to bring their ladies or spouses, and friends to a wonderful event. We should consider doing this again & that it would not be inappropriate to ask that our members pay more for another event, at this level.
- John B. stated that this was a very nice event. Our prize table was loaded with stuff, many people won prizes, and it seemed like everyone really had a great time.
- Frandy J. stated that the prize table was a little excessive & cost our club more than it should have.
- EZ stated that most of the items on the prize table were donated by our club members, including himself, Gary, Brother Al, Smitty, and several other people.
- Brother Al stated that he was given a club budget of \$100 and he spent just slightly over that amount, if you include the taxes.

- Gary T. stated there were other costs that we can eliminate or re-examine, but the process needs to start much earlier, late-July or August. Board should also consider that we went forward without a secure contribution from Mount Tom & had a short amount of time to put this all together.
- EZ stated that for other program events, we are low on the cups for presenters & that we will either need to get more or get something else as a gift for those who present topics at our meetings.
- Gary T. stated that we should do gift cards perhaps for the show and tell awards.
- Alan D. stated that we've done that before, with gift cards, it doesn't need to be extravagant for "show and tell" and perhaps not do anything.
- Gary T. stated that maybe we can give people a certificate from HCRA.
- **Motion:** Alan D. made a motion that no gift be needed for the show and tell.
- **Second:** John B. seconded the motion.
- **No Discussion**
- **Motion carried unanimously.**
- EZ asked who had the road signs for the holiday party?
- Gary T. stated that Steve Berian had them and had them made.
- EZ asked who paid for them? Did the club? Was Steve reimbursed?
- Frandy J. stated that yes, he wrote Steve Berian a check and the signs were somewhat expensive.
- EZ stated that he would contact Steve Berian, get the signs, & add them to the trailer for future use.

**Membership:** – Brother Al Giguere Jr., KB1VNH

- Brother Al stated that we are receiving new members, with a handful at our last meeting, including Brian "Scotty" Scott, the new president of Mount Tom.
- EZ stated that Jim Mullen has been sending us info on all of the new hams that passed his VE class, also suggested that Brother Al could also get the list from the ARRL and reach out to them?
- Brother Al stated that he would like to send out membership cards to all of our members. He's working on membership cards, like what he has done for MTARA. To save money and time, he could also perhaps set up a printable membership card, so that members can print them at their leisure. He stated that getting one in the mail is a more personal touch from our club. He stated that overall cost for the club is under \$2, per person, if we mail. He then stated that he could also process an application on the spot, with a dues card, like he's been doing over at MTARA, but the PayPal system doesn't leave him with much information to work with, unfortunately.
- John stated he could print these cards cheap at school.
- Brother Al stated that he can do it at home, with the only cost being a ream of paper, stamps, and envelopes. He pays for HP ink and has plenty of roll-over printing. He then asked John and EZ if the HCRA manual and membership packets that Jim Mullen asked about were ready and printed?
- EZ stated that John had printed 5 copies for Jim. We can work on the HCRA membership manuals, possibly with the other clubs involved in that process.
- Brother Al stated that he would like to get a formal HCRA membership packet together before June, as part of the membership program. He has already started getting a few things together and wants to make it as simple as possible.
- Alan D. stated that we can use a QSL card, with the QR code for the club.
- EZ stated that might be the most cost-effective route.
- John B. stated that he could get those printed up for a minimal cost.
- Brother Al stated that he will try to condense everything into a QSL style card format, but it might not work out visually. If we're trying to communicate details about our club in a welcome packet, some folks may misplace the card, versus having a quick read in the packet.

**At Large:** - Johnathen Belhumeur.- K1CB

- John B. stated that he would like to get the trailer prepped for Field Day, weather permitting.
- EZ stated Josue D has the book for Field Day and can pass the baton to John. The radios that Paul donated, he believes, are a 751 and a 761, which are heavy but solid.
- John stated that he would like to organize and inventory the HCRA trailer. He would also like to get the radio sets prepared for new members, under the Club's Loan Program. He's working on the procedures and include that the radios need to be returned to the club in May, then be inspected and tested, so they are ready for Field Day.
- Gary T. stated that we should put all of this in writing, as a contract, to use these radios.
- Alan D. stated that both radios probably need a power supply, but one of them might have it already, he cannot recall.
- Bob M. stated that both radios should have power supplies with them. They are in nice boxes that he put together specifically for these radios, packed with info paperwork & proper use of the radio.
- Frandy J. stated that he also has a newer radio that he can loan, which is lighter.
- Gary T. stated that he will help John B., if he needs it.
- Brother Al asked if there will be a deposit required?
- Alan D. stated that if they don't have power supplies, a 12 Volt power supply could be a requirement, as a condition of use.
- Gary M. stated that perhaps a \$50.00 deposit would be reasonable, refundable if the radio is returned in the same condition it was taken. The radios are older and \$50 is not unreasonable for the use of a ham radio, as a safety deposit.

**Technical:** Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO

- Bob M. stated that he sent out the slideshow of 8 or 9 pages of the general concept for his program, available via zoom. He'd like to keep these @ 5 to 10 people per class. He didn't know if he would need to get a proper zoom because it will be hard to stay under 30 minutes with the free version. The concept is a Skywarn Net, with proper criteria, and a reporting back, so people will learn do this critical job, correctly and efficiently. Purpose would be to build-up the number of properly-trained net control staff so our current handful of local NCS have less of a burden. It will also help during active situations, where a lot of radio traffic is coming in. One person can take reports, while a 2nd can record them and/or pass them on to Rob Macedo, &/or the National Weather Service. It's very difficult for one NCS to take all of the incoming reports and simultaneously report that information to the National Weather Service efficiently and in real time, without stopping. Bob stated that Rob Macedo was favorable of the project, so next, will be asking all of the local NCS to become involved, then put this out to all of the clubs in the area.
- Gary T. asked if there would be certificates of some kind?
- Bob M. stated yes, and they would be most likely emailed to each person upon completion. Bob then stated that the Skywarn classes were just announced and there will be one in Easthampton. but he wasn't sure where.
- Brother Al stated they will be at the Easthampton Public Safety Complex & slots will fill up quickly.
- Bob M. stated that this would be part of his "Share the Knowledge Program".
- Brother Al stated that he's presenting a "Skywarn, Net Control, and You" at Mount Tom, later in April. This would dovetail nicely into Bob's program, which he will advertise, and also put out a sign-up sheet for Bob. He is working with Rob Macedo to hold a special Skywarn Class, specifically for ham operators. He wants it to be a little bit more than just the Skywarn program, catering to emergency communications & operations, which Net Control is a key part of.

**Newsletter/Web:** Alan Dove, AB1XW

- Alan D. stated the newsletter is on track, and he's been very busy working on it. He will take EZ's column, as long as it's under 1000 words. He will make a note about fox hunts. He's getting John B. up to speed on the website and posting videos on it.
- John B. stated he will catch up with Alan soon. He asked if the website cost was \$600 for 3 years?, which sounds very excessive for what we need and use.
- Alan D. stated yes, the site was previously used about 2 times more, with the old set-up, before Group IO and Facebook. It's a WordPress site and it has vast quantities of services that we are not using, including for club communications, which are all primarily on Group IO and Facebook now. The cost could be negotiated down.
- John B. stated that yes, we should look at reducing excessive website costs and perhaps look at converting this website to something that better suits our needs.
- EZ stated that he will forward information to Alan about the elections for the website & Zero Beat.

**Special Reports:** None**Upcoming Club Activities: President:** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ

- April 4<sup>th</sup> HCRA Meeting, "Show & Tell"- HMC Aux Conf Center, and advertisement.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> Open House Community Engagement.
- April ? TBA – Foxhunts with Jerry KC1VWB.
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, HCRA Meeting, "SOTA/POTA" Member's gear and ideas.
- June 5<sup>th</sup>, HCRA Meeting – "Elections & Field Day Preparations"
- June 27/28 Field Day @ Agawam, and advertisements for event.
- John B. stated that he has secured the Agawam park for that date and we'll be working on planning everything out. He will have a lot more to report next month.

**New Business: President:** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ

- 2026 Field Day Challenge continuation between QVARC, HRCRA and other local radio clubs as a friendly competition for members participation.
- Officer's duties, Please write down what they need for a budget or equipment to perform their duties... officers need to be proactive.
- **TABLED:** Bylaw Amendment: Sub Committee to be co-chaired by VP and Secretary was **tabled**.
- Equipment inventory of all HCRA properties: Sub Committee to be chaired by VP and At Large.
- Auction Donated Equipment Surplus storage by George KC1V, as discussed earlier in meeting.
- Equipment Lending Program chaired by VP and At Large, as discussed earlier in meeting.
- KD1KU Ken is looking for new ham-related topics for the HCRA 10-meter net.

**Old Business:**

- Merchandise Process-Catalog of Items; Method of Purchasing with Transparency; Membership Profits. Members should go directly to the current local vendors. (W1AEZ-Open).
- NF1G Paul is managing and monitoring the QSL card program with flexible budget.
- KD1KU Ken is managing and monitoring the HCRA 10 meter Monday Nets w/ W1JZR Gary as NCS.
- EZ spoke to the Facebook situation, which needs to be finalized. Josue D. posted a pretty good format for us to operate under.
- Gary T. stated that what Josue wrote up was perfect.
- Alan D. stated that he concurred.
- Brother Al stated that Facebook Administrators should all be board members, with perhaps several members being moderators, that way everyone has a stake in this.
- Gary T. stated that that may be a bit much for the operations of it.
- Brother Al stated if we only have a few officers listed as Admin and they are not tech savvy with Facebook, the site may go unattended, or worse, become abandoned. If someone doesn't

maintain access for the club, the page could be usurped &/or over run... in which case Facebook, will override the admin on the site and assign random users to be Admin. Moderators have limited tools and can step in, when needed, to Moderate issues that pop up, if Admin are unavailable.

- EZ stated that Josue D.'s recommendation doesn't limit the number of admin and it's left to Board of Directors to determine who's appointed, so it could be all of the board members or just a few.
- **Motion:** Alan D. made a motion to accept what VP Josue D. had written.
- **Second:** Gary seconded the motion.
- **No Discussion**
- **Motion carried unanimously.**
  
- EZ asked Brother Al to post and pin that information on the HCRA Facebook page, as soon as he can, and thanked him.
- EZ stated that the merchandise process & catalog of items, & needs a method of purchasing, w/ transparency. Members should go to local vendors to get quotes & bring them to the Board.
- NF1G Paul K. is managing and monitoring the QSL card program with a flexible budget.
- KD1KU Ken is managing and monitoring the HCRA 10m Monday night Nets w/ W1JZR Gary as NCS.
- Frandy J. announced the brown bag on Wednesday and stated that everyone knows what 73 means, but 88 also means something special, love and kisses... Frandy stated he is turning 88 in April. He is tired, but does what he can, & thanked everyone for what they do for the club & hobby.
- EZ stated that we need to have a sick and "distressed" policy, should send out cards to those members that we know of.
- Frandy J. stated that we should send Silent Keys to the ARRL QST.

**Next Club Meeting: Friday, April 03, 2026**

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Brother Al at 8:23pm**

**Seconded: Gary T.**

**No Discussion**

**Motion carried unanimously.**