

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the CARC Monthly Meeting, February 18, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by **Club President John Luthy WA3KCP**. Our meeting was held both **in-person** at Hoss's Steak and Sea House Restaurant in Mechanicsburg, PA., and via **the Zoom electronic platform**.

Attendance

<u>Members Attending In-Person (17)</u>		<u>Members on Zoom (4)</u>	
Mark Anstine	KC3UVG	John Bartko	W3JJB
Paula Anstine	KC3UVH	Steve Hancock	N3FWE
Bob Bennett	KV3K	Richard Johnson	N3EPY
Charlene Cash	WG3Q	Mike Schiding	KB3GPX
Garry Fasick	K3EYK		
Andrew Forsyth	AF3I		
Robert Getty	KB3EWJ		
Brian Hannon	KC3TMW		
Val Hoski	N8QVT		
John Luthy,	WA3KCP		
Jon McCown	KC3ZYD		
Frank Mellott	KB3PQ		
Bobbe Rothermel	WA3BKK		
Robert Rowe	KC2FLY		
Maura Smith-Mitsky	KC3JJH		
Doug Stenger	KC3CPT		
Bill Wagaman	N3GTY		
<u>Guests/Visitors In-Person (1)</u>			
Ms. Paula Rowe			
Hoss's Sum = 18		Zoom Sum = 4	
Total Meeting Attendees = 22			

-) **Birthday Greetings** for February to:

Jay Vogel, KB3UWH
Dave Smith, W3SOX, and
Bobbe Rothermel, WA3BKK.

Happy birthday, guys, and many more in happiness!

President John Luthy WA3KCP noted: This is the 2nd meeting of 2026, and our first meeting with our eagerly-anticipated new ANKER S500 audio device. This was purchased largely for the benefit of Zoom attendees to improve their “reception” of the meeting conversation. In turn, the In-Person attendees benefit from a more centrally located speaker which delivers the Zoom-Attendees’ audio to the Hoss’s Meeting Room.



-) **Guests at the meeting:**

-) **Mr. Brian Hannon KC3TMW** attended. He had applied for membership. **Charlene Cash WG3Q**, our VP, reported that Brian has been licensed for two years and is working on his General Level. He is interested in emergency communications, FM satellite work, repeaters, training, education and hamfests. Charlene told him about Meshtastic and welcomed him heartily. Charlene moved to vote Brian in as a member of the club. Frank Mellott KB3PQT seconded the motion. Passed! **Welcome, Brian KC3TMW!**

-) Our other guest was **Ms. Paula Rowe**, spouse of Robert Rowe KC2FLY. Welcome! Always good to see her!

-) President Luthy noted that some achievements were missed at last meeting:

-) **Robert Getty KB3EWJ (Bob)** took and **passed his General Level exam!**
Well done, sir!

-) President Luthy noted those with perfect attendance last year, at **all eleven meetings:**

Garry Fasick KC3EYK
Andy Forsyth AF3I
Doug Stenger KC3CPT
Bill Wagaman N3GTY

-) Also, those with attendance at ten out of the eleven meetings last year:

Steve Hancock N3FWE
Jon McCown KC3ZYD

-) President John Luthy asked for a **Special Milestone to Andrew Forsyth AF3I** who has performed heroically these last couple of weeks (and for long before that) as the new administration settles. Andrew has demonstrated a lot of patience. Thanks, Andrew.

-) **POTA (Parks on the Air)** President Luthy noted that on page four of our Meeting Agenda there is a table of the top ten POTA performers.

-) **Doug Stenger KC3CPT is our top POTA Hunter** with **5216** successful QSOs. He also does some activating, and President Luthy mentioned hearing his activating signal 'pounding into Walnut Bottom!' Good strong signal!

-) **POTA activators: Mark Anstine KC3UVG** and **Paula Anstine KC3UVH** are our club's high achievers, with 1514 and 1493 QSOs respectively. Wow!

President Luthy introduced **Officer and Leadership position reports:**

-) **President's Report:** The gist of this report was sent out by email to members. He noted good movement on five of the six main goals, elucidated previously. Noted the good attendance last month and this month, and our new audio equipment which is already improving meetings.

-) **Vice-President's Report** from Charlene Cash WG3Q:

-) The membership survey discussion follows later in this set of minutes.

-) **Secretary's Report** from Maura Smith-Mitsky: The minutes for our last meeting are on our website in the Members' section. Our Webmaster gave her instructions to make it easier to edit the various reports and papers. She's working on generating membership card letters. Officers are discussing card/membership letter distribution and type.

-) **Treasurer's Report** from Doug Stenger KC3CPT: At the beginning of January 2026 we had a total of \$3571.31. Of this, \$82.65 was in cash and \$3488.66 was in our checking account.

During January...

We received:

-) One \$50.00 donation and
-) \$151.36 in dues.

We spent:

-) \$233.19 for our Anker S500 Wireless Speaker/Microphone, and
-) \$19.44 for our QTH.com website Domain Name Renewal.

This left us with, at the end of January, **\$3520.04**. Of this, \$3437.39 is in our checking account and \$82.65 is in cash. This was a reduction of \$51.27 from prior month's end balance. Frank Mellott KB3PQT moved to accept the report and Mark Anstine KC3UVG seconded. The motion passed.

-) **Membership Secretary's Report:** We currently have 47 members. We added a member at this meeting, Brian Hannon, KC3TMW. There is behind-the-scenes work to generate Membership cards to members.

-) **Other Reports:** There were no reports this month from the Club License Trustee, Quartermaster, or QSL Manager.

Ongoing Business:

-) **Survey Report:**

Charlene our VP noted that our member survey was helpful. She thanked responders. Twenty-seven members took the survey, fifteen online, and twelve by email., giving a 57% response rate, outstanding, and enough to be meaningful. The survey is closed now, but feel free to approach us with ideas and comments.

The survey showed member concern about the quality of the Zoom audio system, which we have addressed with our new Anker S500 mike/speaker system.

About a third of respondents wanted a **different meeting agenda**. So, we are going to try to keep the business part of our meetings to 30-40 minutes. Allow time for show and tell and demonstrations, etc. There is a desire for more **hands-on technical experiences** at meetings. Regarding special on-air events, it may be possible to have some hands-on presentations afterwards.

The number one dominant survey sentiment was that we have a good membership, good people, and deep experience in the radio arts. There were survey comments that we are an older crowd. Nothing to be done about that. We have rich experience, but need to draw in younger members. We need ideas for this, so please think about it.

As for **social events**, there was about an even split between those favoring on-air and off-the-air activities. Nineteen percent said we're doing enough (activities) already.

Charlene said that members should not feel that they **must** participate in events. It's OK not to. Interaction with the club is enough.

Our social events include the pre-meeting and post-meeting interactions, Field Day, weekly radio nets, some special events like Derby Day, our Holiday Luncheon, and Thursday Zooms (or meeting live at Caffe 101 in Boiling Springs in season).

-) Possible Outings For the Club

-) Charlene said, for example, that in April she's going **camping** in Tuscarora State Park. She invites the club to join her, for a day trip or sleeping over. Think hot dogs and s'mores. It could be a fun outing for the club, with or without some radio activity – nothing major. Let her know if you're interested because if we have more than ten people, we need to register with the park.

-) She suggested monthly or bimonthly **lunchtime meetings** for people who can't make evening meetings and families. She'd like to keep it informal without signup sheets.

-) Possible trip to Connecticut **to tour the ARRL Headquarters building and W1AW station** located at 225 Main Street. Newington CT. And located nearby in Windsor, CT is the **Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut**. They have telegraph-era exhibits up to modern day stuff. Perhaps we could **rent a bus or van** instead of driving individually.

-) Another idea is having a **ham 'fox hunt'** practicing RF source location detecting skills. This is fun for kids, too. Charlene has experience with the Civil Air Patrol searching for staged downed transmitters. So, it's a useful skill.

-) She would like to see some YL (female) activities. The Long Island CW club has such events and they are fun.

-) We will probably never will have a club house, but we could look into **remote access radio** experiences. We could remote into an antenna located at distance so that our members could get a virtual on-air experience.

Officers are interested in establishing excellent **communication** with club members. It's a priority, and we're about 90% there.

We acknowledge limitations. We're willing to address them. Communication is key. Let us know if there is something we can work on, something we can fix. We have some **momentum** now. Let's use it. Team efforts will help prevent burnout.

Door Prize Drawing: Richard Johnson N3EPY won the drawing and will select a prize.

Presentation #1:

Frank Mellott KB3PQT showed us his **Quicksilver coaxial connector adapter kit**, which he secured many years ago from Quicksilver Radio. There are about 25 different connectors. It's convenient and weighs about a half pound. He tends to buy the connectors he needs and not rely on this kit, since it makes sense to keep it intact so it's ready to go in a pinch.

John "Bee", the owner of Quicksilver is recently deceased. The company was bought by a fellow who owns a RadioShack in New Holland, PA. So, Quicksilver Radio is still operating.

Frank also has some **USB connectors** in his backpack, for instance USB C, micro- and mini-USB connectors. Semper Paratus, Frank!

Presentation 2:

Valli Hoski N8QVT discussed how to find a topic for, and plan, a radio special event. She treated us to a rendition of the Hokey Pokey, which could be an event topic. She discussed some special events at the ARRL web site, which lists some special events. There is a Geritol Special Event. There is "The Atomic Bomb," special event. There was a "Freeze Your Keys" special event out of Kickapoo in 2025, and a Rare Disease Day Special Event. There was, or will be, a YL POTA party at the Erie Canal.

Valli said to think about a one-day special event about our new technology, the Anker audio system, or another topic. We're heading towards our 62nd CARC anniversary.

How long should it last? Three weeks? One day? Six hours? These questions are the bare bones for planning a special event. About your event idea, think: **Why? Who?**

What? Where? When?

Harry Fasick K3EYL, of blessed memory, did some railroad special events with Valli. He liked Harry Dresden, a fictional character, another possible event topic.

President Luthy said that we need to consider advertising the event, and finding a way so that only one person on a mode will be using our club call sign at a time.

Good ideas, Valli!

Post-Presentation Schmooze: We talked about the website "SLACK" which is a communication and work productivity site. Several members, with Robert Getty KB3EWJ as our organizer, have come to enjoy the site. It's free for the size of our club and our technology needs, but note that at this level, posts disappear after about a month. President Luthy WA3KCP said the site may be useful if we ever need to communicate quickly while having an event.

Adjournment

Frank Mellott, KB3PQT moved to adjourn the meeting. Valli Hoski, N8QVT seconded.
The motion Passed.

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The next meeting of the Cumberland Amateur Radio Club will be Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:40 p.m., at Hoss's Steak and Sea House Restaurant, 61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA. The meeting will be carried simultaneously as a Zoom Web Meeting. Consider getting to Hoss's earlier (about 5:15 p.m.) to order and enjoy your evening with fellow club members.

You can click on this URL, <https://zoom.us/j/184030413?pwd=Z1N2ek1TQUphR0syUy9uUmRSOWxHQT09>, or do a Manual Entry: www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 184 030 413 Password 016 028.