

MEETING OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

February 15, 2026 Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Stanhope at 1406 hours.

Present were:

Kevin Stanhope, KA1VKQ, Vice President

Dick Smith, VE9HX, Vice President

Roger Holst, W1LH, Treasurer

Maurry Mills, W1FWS, Secretary

Anne Carter, KB1RQH

Ken Carter, WA1DXO

Gary Portnow, WA2MIS

John Cassidy, KB1IHH

Maurry read the **Secretary's Report** for the January 18, 2026 meeting; there were no changes and there was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as read.

Treasurers Report:

Roger reported that the bank account balance was \$2281.37. There is a total of \$705.22 in the PayPal account, \$110 cash on hand, \$25 in checks to deposit; and a deposit of \$75.00 for a total of \$3226.59.

There was a motion and second to accept the report as presented. Unanimous vote among members to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Roger had compiled a list of individuals who have paid 2026 dues, including family members; we have 26 paid members as of this date, plus two that paid via PayPal.

Old Business

Field Day will be June 26, 27, and 28, including set up on Friday afternoon. The date of the Hamfest will be September 19, 2026.

Both events will be at the Alexander School and school grounds. Roger will contact the school to arrange for use of the building and grounds; someone from Alexander must be the one to arrange for use. Roger will advise ARRL of the dates and location of both events and remain Point of Contact. We'll discuss both

activities at the March meeting; Roger said he hoped we had more participation for both events.

Spectrum Defense Fund

Nothing to report. There was an article in QST recently but not much value to us. There is an ARRL canned presentation on RF Interference.

New Business

John Cassidy, KB1IHH, originally from Bangor now works in Eastport; he has had his technician class for 25 years. He has an interest in MESH Core Systems that operate on 915Mhz. He has a number of units deployed that serve as repeaters; these units are pretty much line of sight with a range of 5-6 miles. Kevin mentioned a MESH Tastic System that uses the Internet and blue tooth. The Mesh units are relatively inexpensive, about \$30/each.

Roger noted that there is now a mailing address people can send their membership dues to, in addition to paying via PayPal or dropping the money off at PCT Communications.

Roger suggested we make a \$100 donation to the Calais Veteran's Center in appreciation for allowing us to use their building for our monthly meetings. Everyone present was in agreement and Roger will find out who to give the donation to.

The Club retains insurance through ARRL. Rick used to pay with personal funds and reimburse himself. Last payment was made in June; another may be due in September.

Upcoming Events:

Ellsworth Ham Radio Workshop – April 18, 2026

Near Fest, New Boston, NH – May 1 and 2, 2026

Dayton Ohio Hamfest – May 15-17, 2026

Field Day – June 27 and 28, 2026

Hermon Hamfest – July 11, 2026

Maine ARRL State Convention – August 1, 2026, Augusta Civic Center

St. Croix Valley ARC Hamfest – September 19, 2026 -Alexander School

Roger went to the Boat Anchor Hamfest in Augusta, it was about the worst he had ever seen it as far as vendors goes. He plans to attend Near Fest.

RFI

Roger gave a presentation on RFI. A group was formed and participated in training on how to find the source of RFI. An Icom 705 (receive only) and yagi were provided for use in Maine but there wasn't much call for it's use and ARRL took it back for use elsewhere. Most interference comes from power lines.

There are tools on the Internet and a software guide. If someone has an RFI problem help is available. Roger went through the RFI powerpoint and will send it to anyone who is interested.

Kevin related that RFI can come from unsuspecting sources; while on ship a chemical reaction caused by sea water caused problems.

Around the Room for the Good of the Club

Roger wanted to know what type of programs members would be interested in and what might draw more people to attend monthly club meetings. The MESH topic would be of interest and John said he was willing to present at some point.

Gary said he would be returning to Maine around June 1.

Roger and Maurry both participated in WAS 250, operating as W1AW/1. Roger made 274 contacts using FT8 and FT4 on 160, 40, and 20 meters. Maurry made over 100 contacts on various HF bands using SSB and CW. Some nights bands were completely dead. K1BZ had over 2000 contacts. There will be another week of operation as W1AW/1 in Maine in December.

The meeting adjourned at 1501 hours.

The next meeting will be on March 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM both in person at the Calais Vet Center and on ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted

Maurry Mills, Secretary

