

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society (CARS)

Minutes for Bi-Monthly General Meeting, May 14th, 2026, 1830 Hrs

Meeting Location: Round Table Pizza, Angels Camp, CA

- 1) **Meeting called to order:**
 - a) Welcome by club President, Steve, W6RXK;
 - b) Pledge of allegiance said by all;
 - c) Self-introduction by all with each member giving a brief summary of their ham activities.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes by Jack, W6JAK.** The minutes were sent out by email in advance of the meeting for members to review. There were no comments so Barry, KO6FOV, motioned that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report** by Mark, N6ARP (see attached report):
 - a) For the reporting period March 1st through April 30th, 2026, total revenues were \$100.00 and total expenses were \$664.36, for a net loss of \$564.36;
 - b) The bank balance at the end of the reporting period was \$4834.81;
 - c) Net loss to date from the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1st) is \$333.19;
 - d) Eighty-three members have paid their dues;
 - e) Forty-one members are ARRL members, per the ARRL's website, which is slightly below the number required to keep the club's status as being ARRL sanctioned. If we lose ARRL status, the club will have to obtain insurance from another provider which would likely be more expensive.
- 4) **Monday Night Net Report** by Mark, N6IV:
 - a) For March and April, the average number of member check-ins was 31 with a range between 27 and 39;
 - b) The average for visitor check-ins was 13 with a range of 10-17.
- 5) **Repeater Report** by Walt, K6WGY:
 - a) Fowler Peak repeater: A technical team comprising Walt, Dave, AD6AE, Barry, KO6FOV, Mark, N6IV, and his brother went to the site for maintenance and troubleshooting. They worked on configuring the controller to enable linking to the Summit Level repeater and resolving the repeater interference and sensitivity issues. They found unplugging the microphone attached to the repeater has eliminated the interference. The low sensitivity issue persists with the antenna being located only a few feet above the shelter.
 - b) Summit Level repeater: Mike, WA6ZTY, and Dave, AD6AE, are planning a trip to the repeater site. They will perform a test to see if the repeater can be hit from Sheep Ranch Road. A few people have signed-up for the Arnold Rim Trail event. Walt needs at least one more volunteer.
 - c) Mount Reba repeater: Steve, W6RXK, and Mike, WA6ZTY, are planning a trip to the site to install a VHF antenna that Mike has. A discussion followed on how to use the repeater for the Rim Trail event.
- 6) **General Mobile Radio Service – GMRS.** Barry, KO6FOV, discussed using GMRS and his experience with lack of activity in the Copperopolis area. Barry may reach out to organizations to get a grant for

CARS BI-MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 2026

a GMRS repeater. The cost is estimated to be between \$2k and \$3k.

- 7) **Breakfast Report.** Dee, KM6ELF, stated six people attended the most recent breakfast.
- 8) **Web Master's Report.** Barry, KO6FOV, is trying to keep everyone informed with upcoming activities. There are multiple special events including Lewis and Clark Trail, Route 66, Indy 500, and NASCAR races.
- 9) **Public Information Officer Report** by Barry, KO6FOV. Nothing new to report. Upcoming events covered in Web Master's report.
- 10) **ARES/RACES Report:** Jack, W6JAK, read the report provided by Sam, WS6P (see attached).
- 11) **New Business:**
 - a) Steve, W6RXK, has had no luck in finding a better meeting location. He is considering asking Round Table to install a door to make the meeting area more private and less noisy. Steve asked Barry, KO6FOV, to see if Brett Hart High School can make a room available for our meetings.
 - b) Steve has made reservations for the picnic at Utica Park in Angels Camp. He asked for a volunteer to be the BBQ chef.
 - c) Chuck, W6AJW's, memorial service is at 1:00 PM on May 16th. Donna, KN6LKU, is donating all of Chuck's ham radio gear to the club. Steve, W6RXK, and others will go through the items, and the club members will have first rights.
 - d) Steve, W6RXK, gave a report on his recent visit to Tashjian towers. Steve took a tour of the manufacturing facility. A tower technician is coming to the county to replace cables in telescoping towers. If anyone is interested, contact Steve.
 - e) Barry, KO6FOV, will consider giving a presentation on mesh networks.
- 12) **Old Business.**
 - a) None was discussed
- 13) **Round Table:**
 - a) Mike, WA6ZTY, described Zello, a cell-phone application, which can remotely connect to radios using a Zello box costing approximately \$800. Mark, N6ARP, stated there is a cell-phone app available for connecting to people who own Rapid Radios.
 - b) Steve, W6RXK, has a radio for sale. Contact him for details.
- 14) **Adjournment.** Mark, N6IV, motioned adjournment of the meeting which was approved at 2003 hours.

List of Action Items

Action Item	Date	Assigned To	Status	Date Closed	Comments
Determine the location of the two antennas previously donated to the club	1/8/26	Steve, W6RXK	Closed	5/14/26	Location unknown.

List of Attendees

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

Bi-Monthly General Meeting Attendance

Date: 14 MAY 2026

Call Sign	Name	QTH	Member?
WG5AK	Jack Luoma	MOUNTAIN RANCH	Y
ICF100RM	Al Lamore	San Andreas	Y
K66AWF	Nancy Lamore	San A-DRAS	Y
N6ATQ	Michael Axiax	COPPERPOUS	Y
KM6ELF	DEERCHINA	"	Y
K66FDV	Barry Streets	"	Y
	Sheryl Street	"	Present But
K6WAV	Walt Gyges	Vallecito	✓
	Mary Gyges	Vallecito	—
K66USJ	Michael Gracich	Copperopolis	Y
N6IV	Mark Godbout	MOKELUMNE Hill	Y
AC6CY	Lynn Benisch	Angels Camp	Y
K66ELE	Helen Yost	Vallecito	Y
W6RXK	Steven Airo la	San Andreas	Y
N6ARP	Mark Price	Turlock / Camp Gernell	Y
W66ZTY	Mike Fahmire	Arnold	Y

Treasurer's Reports

Treasure's Report for May 14, 2026

Club Meeting

1. First chart is Income and Expenses since the March Meeting
2. Next chart is income and Expenses since the start of the fiscal year in July 2025.

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Income Statement For Period Covering 03/01/2026 to 04/30/2026

Revenues

Membership Dues \$0.00

Members Donations \$100.00

Total Revenue \$100.00

Expenses

Ham Repeater Service Fee \$300.00

Liability Insurance \$200.00

Repeater Expenses \$14.36

TriCounty BBQ \$150.00

Total Expenses \$664.36

Net loss for Period \$564.36

Bank Funds as of 12/31/2025 == \$5583.67

Bank Funds as of 04/30/2026 == \$4834.81

Paid Membership 2026 = = 83 members

**Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Income Statement For
Period Covering 07/01/2025 to 04/30/2026**

Revenues

<i>EQUIPMENT SALE (Donated)</i>	\$0.00
<i>Event Sponsor Donations</i>	\$0.00
<i>Member Donations</i>	\$450.00
<i>Membership Dues</i>	\$1,276.40
Total Revenue	\$1,626.40

Expenses

<i>Communications Trailer</i>	\$0.00
<i>Registration (Non-taxable)</i>	\$139.00
<i>Filing Fees</i>	\$0.00
<i>HAM Equipment - Not Repeater</i>	\$0.00
<i>Ham Repeater Service Fee</i>	\$1200.00
<i>Liability Insurance</i>	\$200.00
<i>Post Office Box Fee</i>	\$88.00
<i>Repeater Expenses</i>	\$91.50
<i>TriCounty BBQ</i>	\$341.09
Total Expenses	\$2059.59

Net loss for Period \$333.19

ARES/RACES Report

ARES / RACES:

RACES

I have contacted Sgt. Cole Waite, and he is aware that RACES operators are available to help where needed. I also discussed the county RACES Plan with him, noting that it needs to be reviewed since it is now 10 years old and amateur radio operations have changed significantly during that time. In addition, I updated him on the BEACON exercise that was held on April 30.

ARES

The next ARES meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13, at the Mt. Ranch Community Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Agenda items include:

- Updating task books
- Field Day planning
- Planning for the special event station during October's Lumberjack Day in West Point
- A Winlink demonstration

I will also send an invitation to Sgt. Waite to join us. Perhaps he can share some of his thoughts regarding ARES operations.

The 10-meter ARES net is now fully operational, and I encourage everyone to participate. The net is held on the first Saturday of each month at 20:00 hours on 28.450 USB.

As the weather turns hotter and drier, the potential for wildland fires increases. Defensible space is extremely important. Please be safe when creating or maintaining your space, stay hydrated, and take breaks in a cool location.

The Northern Calaveras Emergency Radio Operators will meet on May 28 at the Timber Trail Mercantile in West Point starting at 10:00am. They have established a Ham Watch Net in the area to support the Firewise community and local amateur radio operators.

The Ham Watch Net is held on the first day of each month at 12:00 noon. It uses a cross-band link from the W6WPT repeater to 146.565 simplex. Several participants have expressed appreciation for having a reliable source of local information.

Please keep your HT and spare batteries charged, ensure your Go Box battery is topped off, and keep your go bag ready and accessible.

73,
Sam – WS6P
Calaveras County Emergency Coordinator – ARES
Calaveras County RACES Radio Officer

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