



EARS

ENGLEWOOD HAM RADIO SOCIETY



President Bill Reed K7WWR, VP Steve Bishop, KM4GX Secretary Leslie Rankin, KR4HST Treasurer Bob McAlister, KN4RKE Trustees: M. Henry KE4VEM, H. Hoffman, WA9LFQ,

Englewood Florida
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Facebook: Earsradioclub

Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

April 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, May 12th, 2026** at the COC in Englewood at 19:00, unless otherwise notified. Check the FB page, and groups.io for last minute updates

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MEETING MINUTES

4/17/2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

K7WWR Bill Reed	KM4GX Steve Bishop	KR4HST Leslie Rankin	KN4RKE Bob McAlister
WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman	N3MR Michael Reid	KQ4YMK Bill Hopewell	KR4JNL Kevin Vaughn
KE5ODR Doug Frazier	KA9SZX Mark Garrett	KB8WXI Mark Thurston	KE4VEM Matt Henry
WO4KAC Kelly Combes	KN4PHQ John Hodgdon	K8ZZU Jim Sanford	KC1IWF Allan Huston
KN4NFX Steve Froggatt	KQ4PSG Clive Towndron	KN4YIV Steve Malone	KN4YIU Shirley Duke

NOTE: The second sign-in sheet didn't get turned in, thus people may be missing from this attendance list.

The meeting was called to order at 1907 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Reed gave a balloon report summary and wow, the EARS balloon halfway into its 4th trip around the World. He also briefly discussed the Sky Academy Presentation.

Secretary's Report – (Steve Bishop covering for Leslie Rankin running late)

Minutes from last meeting were published in the newsletter – Motion to accept the minutes as posted- Steve Froggatt and seconded by Shirley Duke. Vote: All in Favor.

Treasurer's Report – Minutes from last meeting published in the newsletter. Motion to accept minutes as posted – Shirley Duke and seconded by Tony. Vote: All in favor.

DX Communications Report – Doug Frazier mentioned a Technician class is coming up 4/16/26-5/14/26. Bill has been spending time with the balloon and notes that HF & 15 meter, along with getting the radio hooked up to the computer, you can really listen to these signals coming in. Hearing Antarctica communications reaching out to their ice breakers. One can send out WSPR transmissions and see who sees you. Bill sent out a signal (3-5 Watts) just to see what it gets him. It's a real propagation study seeing how there's no communications prior to the sunrise and after it gets busy.

CCFlares Updates – A Charlotte County CERT class is available May 27-29 at their EOC if anyone needs to complete this requirement. Everyone interested in CCFlares must be CERT certified.

Sunshine & Media – Nothing to report.

Membership Committee – Nothing to report.

Discussion: Bob has done a great job on the crystal radio kits for Jesse and the Sky Academy students. Tony, Bob, Bill R, and Bill D are going to do a CW demonstration for the students at Sky Academy (4/20).

Tony & Bill R will be providing help at the school on 4/29. Bill R. asked Shirley and Steve if they could reach out to Jesse to offer any help on 4/28.

Jesse's classes will have an "Alien Hunt" to mirror our Fox Hunts and get to work with radio signals and tracking 4/30-5/1. Bill asked if any additional help could be provided, it would be appreciated. Bill shared that Jesse won't be able host EARS and student activities after 5/1 due to the end of the year testing and academics push. If anyone has any club projects or activities, please send ideas to Bill. See page 2.....

Breakfast at Junior and Rosie's

Breakfast at J&R's continues to be a popular club event. The prices are right, the food is good, and the ham radio fellowship is great! The group meets between 7 and 7:30 am for food and fun.



Upcoming Club Activities

N4EAR worked all states event. We want to get a worked all states certificate for the club station.

Foxhunt Currently scheduled for May 23rd

Summer Field Day June 2026 at SGC

Lighthouse/Light Ship Weekend Third Saturday August 2026

Fall Picnic : October. More info next month

2 Meter Chat Net:

The club conducts a two meter chat net every **Tuesday evening on N4EAR**, 146.865 136.5HZ tone, -600 offset at **7:15 pm**. On Tuesdays that the club holds its meeting, no net. If you are using echo link to check in, use the **N4EAR** node. **The club is always**

looking for net control operators. If you would like to participate as a net controller, please let a club officer know!

The current monthly rotation is:

Week 1: KN4NFX

Week 2: Club meeting, net not held

Week 3: W1NQT

Week 4: KM4GX

Week 5 (if needed) : Open

If you can not commit to full rotation, please volunteer for "substitution" rotation.

From page 1.....

POTA update: Bill has an idea to have 2 opposing frequencies at one park and 2 at another park.

Questions on POTA park # and certain park boundaries, Bill said whatever is inside the park is covered by the park #. Ex. White Pine trail is 75 miles long, does the park # apply to the entire trail?

Note: TARC is planning on doing a balloon launch this summer and is seeking advice from EARS.

Question: How will they tie it to an educational program if done in the summer? What about summer storms? All valid points.

50/50 Drawing: Bob McAlister won!

Upcoming Events & Notices

Pico Balloon Still tracking it, fun to check out where it is daily.

Summer Field Day, Saturday, June 27th Steve said it will be held at:

South Gulf Cove HOA building

14859 Ingraham Blvd

Port Charlotte, FL 33981

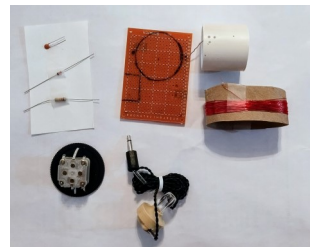
We will have a couple of radio stations, a couple of antennas, and a grill-out. (2-3 Stations, a CW and a couple sidebands)

There being no further business – Bill Reid called Motion to adjourn: Mike Reid, seconded by Herman Hoffman. The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

For fun, Bill R shared a YouTube clip of The Tonight Show w/Jay Leno, where a morse code operator and a teen with a cell phone were challenged to see who could send a message faster. The morse code operator won.

STEM Crystal Radio Activity:

From 4/13 through 4/16 EARS members K7WWR, W2CWL, W4RFV, WA9LFQ., N3MR and KN4RKE



met with the STEM program students at Sky Academy to discuss present basic radio theory and build crystal radio receivers. EARS members also donated 4 soldering irons to facilitate the kit building process..

The circuit design was reviewed and basic operation explained. The students then wound the radio coil and soldered the parts to the pcb breadboard. The kits were then tested with a signal generator and oscilloscope, to demonstrate the demodulation process. Finally the radio was hooked to an external antenna and ground to pick up the local radio station (WENG). During the event students learned some simple radio theory, soldering skills, and teamwork. The EARS members learned how much fun it is to work with young people!

Note: There were a few spare parts, if someone would like to build their own crystal receiver, contact KN4RKE.

STEM Morse Code Demonstration:



On 4/20 EARS members W4RFV, K7WWR, and

KN4RKE met with Sky Academy STEM students to conduct a Morse code demonstration. The STEM students had made a recent trip to the Thomas Edison Research lab in Ft. Myers where they learned about telegraphy.

Continued from page 2....

Thanks go to EARS members KQ4YMQ, W4AII, N3GCA, and KN4RKE for providing straight, semi-automatic, and iambic keyers to show the students. The event started with videos presented by Mr. Jesse Tremaine, STEM instructor, and K7WWR that gave a history of Morse code history and use. Additionally video's were shown that chronicled texting versus morse code message transmission contests. Following the videos, various code keys were exhibited, and students were allowed to try the keys hooked to audio oscillators. Most of the students practiced sending their names in Morse code. After the on hands keying activity, W4RFV and KN4RKE demonstrated message traffic using iambic keyers with audio oscillators. .

STEM Alien Hunt:



On May 1, Mr Jesse Tremaine's' four STEM classes participated in the first Sky Academy "Alien Hunt." The charter school is situated on a large campus, part of which is a wooded area with a nice trail. Word was out that an alien was hiding in the

woods! Seems the little green guy was radio active! The STEM classes decided to find the alien (pictured above). To do that the STEM class partnered with KN4YIU and KN4YIV to construct four "tape measure" Yagi antennas. That being done, the classes were introduced to radio direction finding techniques by KM4GX. Now armed with technology and knowledge, the students were ready to go hunting.!

Four classes participated in the hunt. Each class was divided into teams of four, and accompanied

by an EARS member to find the little green guy. Thanks to KM4GX, KQ4SSQ, WO4KAC, and KN4RKE for mentoring each team as they trekked through the wilderness hunting the alien. Each class period was about 45 minutes, which allowed for two hunts per class, so eight separate hunts were conducted, Although the day was beautiful, it was also hot! So after the first capture, the alien was given a chance for freedom by hiding within the school building. But it's fate was sealed. The students were quick learners, and the little guy was recaptured quickly by the now seasoned hunters.

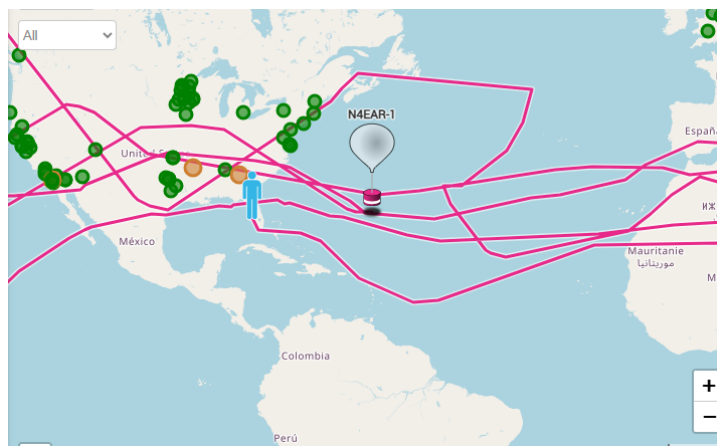
Thanks for KN4YIU for providing the little green guy!

N4EAR-1 PICO BALLOON UPDATE:

The EARS/STEM Pico Balloon has completed five circumnavigations and is currently working on number six as it crosses the Atlantic Ocean towards Africa/Europe. Most current information can be found at the link:

SondeHub Amateur

The students at Sky Academy STEM classes are still tracking the balloon and cheering it on!



EARS club members are keeping track of all the nations and states N4EAR has traversed, and that will be documented at the end of it's journey

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



	Expenses		Income		
	Beginning Balance		4368.81		
April 2026					
3/9/2026	\$0.00	Paypal	\$52.10	dues - paid to 12/31/2027	Hunt
3/20/2026	\$0.00	Paypal	\$23.64	2026 dues	Frazier
3/25/2026	\$0.00	Paypal	\$23.64	2026 dues	Oberle
4/14/2026	\$0.00	check	\$25.00	2026 dues	Middendorf
4/15/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$66.00	50 50 (KN4RKE donated winings)	McAlister
4/14/2026	\$0.00	check	\$25.00	2026 dues	Hunt
4/14/2026	\$0.00		\$5.00	Sale of donated parts PA3RON to Mik	Reid
4/3/2026	\$137.00	c.c	\$0.00	COC Dues 2026	McAlister
3/9/2026	\$169.00	Check	\$0.00	Balloon Launch expense	Brown
Sum	\$306.00		\$220.38		Balance 4283.19

Petty Cash

\$111.50	\$68.19	Balance	\$43.31
Amount Received	Amount Paid		

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Friday, May 1, 2026



Englewood Amateur Radio Society

First Name

Last Name

Call Sign

License Class

ARRL
MEM

Address

City

Zip Code

Local Phone

Mobile Phone

Email Address

Secondary Address

Secondary City

ST

Zip

Space

Please check Activity Interests:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RFI/TVI | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VE Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |

Yearly Membership Dues \$25

Family Membership Dues \$30

Bring form and Check to Meeting, or mail form and check to:

E.A.R.S.
P.O. Box 572
Englewood, FL. 34295