



# EARS

ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR 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  
Sunshine@ears.groups.io  
www.earsradioclub.org email: info@earsradioclub.org  
Facebook: Earsradioclub

## Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

## February 2026

### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, March 10th, 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

Feb 10, 2026 Meeting

COC Englewood

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

K7WWR, Bill Reed, KQ4YMQ Bill Hopewell, KE5ODR Doug Frazier, K1BES Bernie Schmelz, , KD8KII Charlie Lane, KN4NFX Steve Froggatt, KR4HST Leslie Rankin, W2CWL, Bill Dolan, WO4KAC Kelly Combes, K2GQG John S Babbitt, KQ4SSQ Hector Mena. , KN4YIV Steve Malone,, KN4RKE Bob McAlister, WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman, KE4VEM Matt Henry, W4ALL Jim Nelson, KA9SZX Mark Garrett, KN4YIU Shirley Duke, KM4GX Steve Bishop, N3MR Michael Reid, Sarah Henry, W1JP John Pellant, KICRS Craig Studelbauer, W4RFV Tony Levenson

The meeting was called to order at 1911 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Attendees: KN4JEN Allen Whitman, WA2SRA Malcolm Newbold, Kevin Vaughn

Bill Reed informed the club that the presentation from Jesse Tremain from Sky Academy was not happening due to missed emails or other communication issue, Jesse didn't attend. Bill shared a

YouTube video about British amateur radio that was about 5.5 minutes long and was a nice segway into our discussion on finding youth and community engagement opportunities for students to engage with radio, where club can share knowledge and act as mentors. Several options were shared, including: local Scout Troop 776 (Kelly) and their HAM radio scouting merit badge, Al mentioned the Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda and summer radio program there, Tony mentioned ARRL Stem programs for teachers, connecting with summer county recreation programs, Suncoast Polytechnic summer programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, all as potential mentorship and engagement opportunities to explore.

Secretary's Report – No new members. Minutes from last meeting were published in the newsletter – Motion to accept the minutes - Bill Dolan and seconded by Shirley Duke. Vote: All in Favor.

Treasurer's Report – Minutes from last meeting published in the newsletter. Presented Budget: looking at expenses, Motion to accept minutes as posted and approve the budget – Steve Froggatt and seconded by Shirley Duke. Vote: All in favor. Budget approved.

DX Communications Report – Bill Reed said 10 Meters is a hoot right now. Nice and clear communication.

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 March 28th

**Summer Field Day**

**Lighthouse/Light Ship Weekend**

**Fall Picnic**

## 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.**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Membership renewal can be accomplished by sending the form on the **LAST** page to EARS, or by logging on to the clubs website, [www.earsradioclub.org](http://www.earsradioclub.org) and using the [\*\*PAYPAL buttons on our webpage to renew your membership!\*\*](#)

Paypal or Credit Card Single Year Membership - \$25.00

Add to Cart

Family Membership - \$30.00

Add to Cart

## Minutes from page1.....

**CCFlares Updates** – Bernie stated Hot Wash on Saturday had the highest participation from Charlotte County with 23 check-ins. A lot in the works

regarding the CCFlares trailer. Bernie is in communication with Legal department. Also working with TARS, who will allow us use of their 40ft. Tilt top antenna. Once at EOC, Ellen said we'll have access to surplus, to outfit trailer. Trailer needs inside done, looking for volunteers to strip, insulate, and sound proof trailer before it goes to EOC. Please reach out to Bernie if able to help. In regards to hospital location, WinLink works but noise is a problem. Facilities doesn't have an issue w/moving antenna so we may have to reposition on roof. **Next CCFlares meeting 2/16 at 5:30pm dinner/7pm meeting, Perkins Pt. Charlotte.**

**Sunshine & Media** – Ken still on the mend. Cards have gone out to Vic Emmelkarnp, Jim Samford, Roger Mattea, Bob McAlister, & Jim Porter.

## Upcoming Events & Notices

**Charlotte County CERT class** being held **March 11-13** at the EOC. Added a 1.5hr radio unit on March 11th. **Hamcation** Going: Tony, Steve, Bernie, Bill R., Mark Dolan, Bill Dolan. There is one bus seat left see Mark KA9SZX if he doesn't opt for a refund. Bill R. driving separately. **Pico Balloon Launch** still on! Launching from Ann Deaver Park. **Shooting for 2/18 at 9am** for best weather conditions. Stay tuned, depending on weather targeting Feb. 16-20 range. Best app: [amateur.sondehub.org](http://amateur.sondehub.org) (Livestream on YouTube, photos to be taken, hopes to garner press interest) **Want a fantastic name/call sign badge** for only \$1? KE5ODR Doug is making badges. Get with him if interested. **Foxhunt on February 21<sup>st</sup>!** Bob said if the Balloon launch moves from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have the Foxhunt after the balloon launch. Otherwise start is at **9am @ Tringali Park.**

There being no further business – Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Froggatt and seconded by Mike Reid. The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

## FOXHUNT FEB. 21 2026:

Registration opened up at 9:00am at Tringali Park. K7WWR, Bill Reed, KA9SZX, Mark Garrett, KE4VEM, Matthew Henry, WA2SRA, Malcom Newbold, W4RFV, Tony Leverson, and KN4BAR, Paul Nienaber signed up to find the fox! Little did the hunters know, the fox was hiding at the **E. David Johnson Trailhead Cape Haze Pioneer Trail**, about a 5 mile drive from Tringali Park. The fox was activated at 9:38 am. At 9:55 am the fastest hunters, W4RFV and KE4VEM arrived. And claimed first place. Three minutes later, K7WWR and



W4RFV & KE4VEM WA2SRA arrived to claim second place. Third was claimed by KA9SZX, and KN4BAR finished up for fourth place. Congrats to all the hunters. It was a matter of only a few minutes between 1st and 2nd! The next fox-hunt is scheduled for March 28. Mark that on your calendar, it should be an exciting event because we may put two foxes loose!



WA2SRA & K7WWR

## SKY ACADEMY PICO BALLOON LAUNCH:

On the morning of 2/21/2026, at about 8:00am, EARS members started congregating at Sky Academy, a middle school in Sarasota County, located near the Englewood Post Office. EARS has established STEM program support with Sky Academy instructor Jessie Trimaine.

Thanks go out to KN4YIU, KN4YIV, and K7WWR for bringing the portable “gazebo” and the tables, chairs, and banners to set up “mission control” on the campus athletic field.

While the mission control was being set up, work started on preparing the Pico balloon and its payload. Thanks to KA9SZX and WB8ELK (via video call) for their experience and skill in properly inflating the balloon and attaching the transmitter and solar panels payload. After



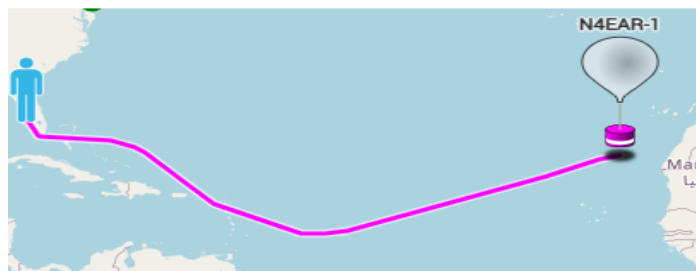
everything was checked out the balloon was transported to the “launch pad”. STEM program students assisted in the

launch by keeping the transmitter antenna off the ground. Balloon launches in Florida need government permission to be launched. Options to allow a launch in Florida include government approval, or accomplish the release by a person 6 years (or younger). EARS was prepared by getting a letter from NASA, and inviting W1JP’s niece, Malin Shand to do the

Malin launches balloon



honors . After a dramatic down and up path, the balloon started its global trek (we hope!), Barring any equipment failures, or stormy weather, Pico balloons have been know to circle the earth numerous times. STEM students will be



SondeHub report 2/22/2026



K7WWR media interview

tracking the balloon using SondeHub Amateur, an online site designed to monitor and report on balloons using APRS.

The Pico balloon launch was covered by The Daily Sun newspaper, and ABC channel 7.. Launch event pictures and video was taken by W1JP, K2GQG, and KQ4SSQ. Pictures and video can be viewed on the EARS Facebook page (search earsradioclub or use the link on the club webpage, earsradioclub.org). Credit for the success of the Pico Balloon launch has to go to all the EARS members who have worked as a team on the planning, communication, and attention to details needed for the successful launch. The club intends to continue support for the Sky Academy in future projects

# Englewood Amateur Radio Society

## Treasurer Report



Beginning Balance 4171.22

Expenses Income

February 2026

Date	Amount	Payment Method	Check #	Income	Description	Member Name
12/18/2025	\$0.00	Paypal		\$28.36	2026 dues	Davis
	\$0.00	cash		\$31.00	50/50 income	Duke
2/16/2026	\$61.25	cc		\$0.00	sunbiz.org filing fee 2026	McAlister
1/18/2026	\$0.00	paypal		\$23.64	2026 dues	Grimes
	\$0.00	cash		\$6.00	donation from badge sales	Frazier
12/30/2025	\$0.00	paypal		\$23.64	2026 dues	Hodgdon
2/11/2026	\$196.00	debit card		\$0.00	2026 POBox Fee	McAlister
	\$0.00	check	686	\$25.00	2026 dues	Bourque
	\$0.00	check	005563055	\$25.00	2026 dues	Valenti
2/11/2026	\$0.00	check	2096	\$25.00	2026 dues	Hawkins
1/29/2026	\$0.00	paypal		\$23.64	2026 dues	Mattila
2/10/2026	\$0.00	Cash		\$30.00	2026 dues	Vaughan
2/7/2026	\$0.00	paypal		\$23.64	2026 dues	Kline
2/11/2026	\$0.00	cash		\$25.00	2026 dues	Garrett
12/18/2025	\$0.00	paypal		\$23.64	2027 dues	Cohen
2/25/2026	\$0.00	Check		\$25.00	2026 dues	Sanford
<b>Sum</b>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$257.25</span>			<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$338.56</span>		<b>Balance</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4252.53</span>

### Petty Cash

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

*Robert W. McAlister*

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Saturday, February 28, 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