



EARS

INGLEWOOD 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: Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

January 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, February 10th, 2026** at the COC in Englewood at 19:00, unless otherwise notified. Check the FB page , and groups.io for last minute updates

Contents:

Minutes.....	pg 1, 2, 3
2 Meter Chat Net.....	pg 2
Upcoming Club Activities	pg 2
General News.....	pg 3
Membership Application.....	pg 4

as Trustees. Results of election:

President – Bill Reed

Vice President – Steve Bishop

Secretary – Leslie Rankin

Treasurer – Bob McAlister

Trustees – Matthew Henry + Herman Hoffman

January 13 2026 Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 1910 hours.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: K7WWR Bill Reed, K1BES Bernie Schmelz, KM4GX Steve Bishop, W2CWL Bill Dolan, W4RFY Tony Levenson, KN4NFX Steve Froggatt, N3MR Mike Reid, N1COC Jon Blincoe, KE4VEM Matt Henry + Sarah Henry, W9LFQ Hermann Hoffman, KN4YIU Shirley Duke, KN4YIV Steve Malone, KQ4YMQ Bill Hopewell, WO4KAC Kelly Combes, KR4HST Leslie Rankin, KQ4SSQ Hector Mena, KB8WA Mark Thurston, KN4PHQ John Hodgdon, KA9SZX Mark Garrett, NODRW Dan Williams, KD80CW Jim Grimes, KC1IWF Allan Huston Guest: WB8ELK Bill Brown (Google Meet)

PRESENTATION:

WB8ELK Bill Brown is set to join EARS for the Pico Balloon Launch sometime in the week of February 16-20 (tentative). Bill shared the “Latest Advances in Pico Ballooning” presentation and discussed materials and methods used to increase chances of a successful launch and journey. Use of Skytracker (elktronics.com) on a 15M band can track call sign/ altitude, solar power voltage, ground speed & humidity. Careful pre-planning determining pre-lift and how much Helium to add to get the payload up into the air aids in the activity’s success. Use of WSPR mode in conjunction with WSJT-X free online software to decode WSPR, JT9, and more. Super pressure balloon with pre-lift calculated correctly will go up and reach an elevation and travel for days, weeks, months, even up to a year +. Using amateur.sondehub.org allows one to get a snap shot of all balloons traversing the globe at any given moment. The graphics were shared and provide opportunity to predict where balloon will travel by clicking on plots of graphed data. Elevation greater than 42k feet avoids weather. (see pg 2)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES:

The first order of business for the meeting is the election of officers. The Election Committee consisted of Shirley Duke and Mike Reid, presented a slate of candidates consisting of Bill Reed-for President, Steve Bishop-for Vice President, Leslie Rankin-for Secretary, Bob McAlister-for Treasurer. Matthew Henry and Herman Hoffman were nominated

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. Although it's now summer, we are averaging 8 participants!



Upcoming Club Activities

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

PICO Balloon Launch - Launch scheduled for February 16-20.

Hamcation— Sign up for the TARC bus, \$60 no fuss round trip!

Foxhunt Mid February date TBD

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: WINQT

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 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 pg 1) Bill shared the Helium need- ed is not all the same, some do not have full purity. He found Helium from Party Factory on Amazon is 99% pure and easily delivered in either a 20ft3 or 40ft3 tanks. Bill recommends launching when winds are below 5 knots in an open field clear of trees and utility lines. He has found a work-around to Florida's law stating only a 6 y.o. child can re- lease a balloon. Bill found a space professor who will write a letter on behalf of NASA, which is al- lowed to launch balloons, thereby clearing the way for the club's launch. EARS would like to try and work with a local school to have a child launch the balloon and will make an attempt to do so but the letter is our Plan B.

SECRETARY REPORT: Bernie: Any new mem- bers? None

Minutes from last meeting were published in the newsletter – Motion to approve the minutes as pub- lished was made by Steve Froggatt and seconded by Shirley Duke. Vote: All in Favor.

The **Treasurer's report** was published in the newsletter – Motion to approve the report as pub- lished was made by Mike Reid, seconded by Steve Froggatt. Vote: All in favor.

Bernie: Motion to accept as published-Kelly Combs, seconded by Steve Froggatt. Vote: All in favor.

DX COMMS REPORT: Bill R: Mariana Island, Nor- folk and Faroe Islands. Bernie: Mainland China and Ireland. Member?: French Guyana. Also : New York + Boston were mentioned. Steve (In Keys At- lantic side) heard S. American dialogue, no con- tact. (See page 3)



Minutes from pg 2: CCFLARES: Bernie Schmelz and Steve Bishop reported that CCFLARES will hold an in-person meeting at Perkins in Port Charlotte on January 19th, dinner is at 5:30 and the Meeting will start @ 7:00 pm. Bring your MXDM radios, Bernie will have the Code Plug to program.

SUNSHINE: Ken Blackshaw-Shirley will send card to Ken.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Bill Dolan got Hector's antenna going. Bill Reed helped John set up for HF. Bill R. and Bob M. offer of always being available to provide Mentorship to help with any subject, antenna set-up, advice. Can provide 1v1 Google training to help as well.

EVENTS: Antenna contest, may push back to another time, mild interest.

WINTER FIELD DAY will be on January 24/25 at Ann Deaver Park – set up begins at 0900.

Need for Operators: Voice, CW, Digital, Win-Link. Fox Hunt @ Field Day. Chili Cook-Off (Participate, make some great Chili!) .Would like Public Info Table, people for visitors, Banners, Club Flyers, CCFlares Flyers, Antenna Set-up and Tear down. CONTACT BILL REED TO VOLUNTEER.

January 21st: Clay pigeon shooting via Golf Cart as transportation.

There being no further business – Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Reed. The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

EARS SHIRT AND HAT ORDER INFO:

If you want to order a new EARS hat or shirt, Place your order at: hamthreads.com You'll need to enter the code **N4EAR** In the special instructions.

WINTER FIELD DAY REPORT:

While the rest of the Ham World was coping with Arctic blasts, snow, ice and awful weather,

we here had a great time during Winter Field Day! Weather was PERFECT! Thanks to the planning and coordination of several of the club members, set-up at Ann Deaver



Park began at about 9:00am Saturday. Three HF stations and one vhf station were set up and used for SSB and CW contacts on 20 meters and up! Shown below, Bill Reed, Leslie Rankin



are working 20 meters.

Congrats to Leslie, a new ham on getting her first HF contacts! In addition to radio contacts, a dual foxhunt was conducted by KA9SZX, and several participants had fun looking for and locating the small battery operated transmitters.



W1JP and KE4VEM were successful hunters!



!

Additionally, the club combined WFD with a "chili" cookoff. There were about six pots of chili, cornbread, cookies, brownies, key lime pie, doughnuts and other culinary delights that were enjoyed by all present. The chili was so good, they were all declared winners!

Winter Field Day



After all was said and done, about 40 people had a great day, combining fellowship, ham radio operating and breaking bread together to declare the event was a good one!



WA9LFQ, KM4GX, and KN4YIV around HF Station #1 hooked to a vertical antenna.



KB8WA and K7WWR at HF station #1 hooked to K7WWR's OCF Dipole! Many contacts were made at the multi-banded setup! In addition to the HF rig, K7WWR brought his 2meter/70 centimeter satellite rig to attempt communications as they whizzed by during the day!



KQ4YMQ, one of the club's enthusiastic antenna designers inspecting a homebrew 2 meter MOXON antenna. Bill shared his ongoing experiments using carbon fiber and other materials being used to design a stacked MOXON configuration! Good work Bill!



Another club member, KN4YIV, also an avid antenna designer, brought three "back up antennas" to be used if needed. Steve fabricated a very professional "Wolf River coil" style tunable vertical antenna which he quickly assembled for use.



KQ4SSQ and K1BES operating KQ4SSQ's new 20 watt HF station. Hector has just started his HF Ham Radio adventures and is making great progress in setting up his home station!

Many thanks for all those who worked to bring the event to reality. Special thanks to KE5ODR for obtaining the permit for park usage, KN4YIU and KN4YIV for the event coordination and organization, K7WWR for leadership in getting things done, W2CWL, N3MR, WINQT, KM4GX, and all others for set-up and take down. It was a great event!

73, KN4RKE

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



	Expenses		Income		
		Beginning Balance	4081.22		
January 2026					
1/13/2026	\$0.00	Cash	\$25.00	2026 dues	Williams
1/13/2026	\$0.00	Cash	\$40.00	50/50 (nte said \$41 but only \$40?)	Schmelz
1/13/2026	\$0.00	Cash	\$25.00	2026 dues Froggat	Froggat
Sum	\$0.00		\$90.00	Balance	4171.22

Petty Cash

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

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Tuesday, February 3, 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