



EARS
ENGLEWOOD MATUER 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,
Jon Pelant, W1JP

Englewood Florida

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Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

July 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, August 11th, 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

July 2026 Meeting

Members in Attendance:

K7WWR Bill Reed, KM4GX Steve Bishop, KR4HST Leslie Rankin, KN4RKE Bob McAlister, KQ7YMQ Bill Hopewell, W4ALL Jim Nelson, W1NGT Ken Blackshaw, N9KWB Roger Mattila, K1BES Bernie Schmelz, KE4VEM Matt Henry, KQ4PSG Clive Towndrow, N3MR Michael Reid, W2CWL Bill Dolan, N3GCA Paul Apollonia, KN4NFX Steve Froggatt, KN4KIV Steve Malone, WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman, W4RFV Tony Levenson, KN4JEN Allan Whitman, KN4YIU Shirley Duke

The meeting was called to order at 1912 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction

Bill opened the meeting by sharing some benefits of moving EARS to a 501c3 non-profit, and the general idea of what this could bring in the way of increasing funding and providing a greater opportunity to broaden community engagement. Some of the activities over the last year have been extremely beneficial to both the club and the community: Launching of the EARS PICO balloon in collaboration with Englewood Sky Academy and STEM teacher Jesse Tremaine; in-class instruction at Sky

Academy about radio science and building the crystal radio kits; the 'Alien Hunt' on school grounds; commitment to assist STEM teacher Jesse in future science modules at Sky Academy; the upcoming Buoy adventure, and hopes to broaden the club's further benefit of bringing HAM science to the community. As it currently exists, donations to EARS are not tax deductible which limits the club's fundraising capacity and strains club resources to offer further opportunities to engage in a meaningful capacity. Bernie presented a slideshow of some steps required to becoming a 501c3 and what that may entail. The floor was opened to discuss further exploration of moving the club to a 501c3. There were many questions, comments, and concerns. One being whether the club prefers to remain as-is, become a single entity 501c3, or create a separate 501c3 as a fundraising arm to avoid mixing of club assets and activities and merely use the other entity to bring in grant money and donations for the club to operate for community activities. All had pros and cons. Bill proposed the club vote to spend the next couple of months exploring these pros and cons and after a selected period to have EARS members vote on the future direction of the club in regards to this matter. Do we stay the same, become a 501c3, or create a separate funding 501c3? There was shared concern for the increase in officer commitment and workload this may cause, as well as club assets and what this could entail.

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

Club meeting August 11 at COC

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

Foxhunt TBD

Lighthouse/Light Ship Weekend Third Saturday, August 17 2026

Englewood Beach WaterFest, October 8 –10. Volunteers will be needed

Pioneer Day Parade Labor Day, volunteers needed

Fall Picnic : November 7th at Lemon Bay Park.

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.

Minutes continued from pg 1.....

Bill encouraged everyone take 2-3 months to investigate if this transition would be something we all would like to see EARS transition to or maintain the status quo of how EARS operates now. A vote on becoming a 501c3 will occur at a later time once the idea has been thoroughly vetted. Motion: Matthew Henry, 2nd: Roger Mattila. Vote: All in Favor.

Secretary's Report –

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

Treasurer's Report – Report for June published in the newsletter. Motion to accept minutes as posted – Steve Froggatt and seconded by Ken Blackshaw. Vote: All in favor.

DX Communications Report – Not covered.

CCFlares Updates – Last month's exercise went well, some equipment problems. Jim and Bill are putting in a repeater Tuesday (July 21?) using old call sign for analog side. There is no repeater on the Port Charlotte side of river in Charlotte County. Analog/NXDN Dual mode but they don't cross over, one mode only, UHF, analog side can do more things for chamber. Donation of UPS battery back-up? Get in touch with Jim. There was no repeater on the Port Charlotte side of river in Charlotte County.

Sunshine & Media – Please keep Hector-KQ4SSQ in our thoughts. He's not recovering very well due to ongoing health battle. Victor-K4DHX was in the hospital in rehab but is now home. No word on Cliff Evans-K3CF, ongoing health issues.

Membership Committee – Nothing to report.

Upcoming Events & Notices

7/15 @11:45am - Social lunch meeting at End Zone.

Pioneer Day Parade: The Chamber would like EARS support again for monitoring parade route and parking. Labor Day, 7:30am staging, We NEED people!

Englewood Beach Waterfest: Friday-Sunday October 8-10, EARS will provide support, if you can participate, keep the dates in mind. We'll discuss at a later meeting.

Jesse Tremaine will be back in a weeks (Sky Academy).

Buoy discussion at a later meeting.

Club Picnic on the Horizon. Shirley discussed it is to be held same location as last year (Lemon Bay Park) planned for **November 7th**. Needs \$250 to reserve the park site. Motion to accept: Bill Dolan, 2nd: Ken Blackshaw. Vote: All in Favor.

50/50 Drawing: Ken Blackshaw won!

There being no further business – Bill Reid called the meeting. Motion to adjourn: Herman Hoffman, seconded by Steve Froggatt. The meeting was adjourned at 2022 hours.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

TARC (Tampa Amateur Radio Club), Saturday August 22

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST, Saturday and Sunday 8/22-23 in Huntsville Alabama

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



		Beginning Balance		4407.19		
		Expenses		Income		
July 2026						
7/1/2026	\$0.00	electronic		\$5.00	refund of erroneous bank fee	McAlister
7/14/2026	\$0.00	cash		\$51.00	W1NQT winner, donated \$20 back	Duke
7/14/2026	\$0.00	check	2395	\$25.00	Allan Whittman Dues 12/31/2027	Whittman
6/27/2026	\$92.55	Check		\$0.00	Summer Field Day 2026 food items	McAlister
Sum	\$92.55			\$81.00	Balance	4395.64

Petty Cash

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

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Saturday, August 1, 2026



Englewood Amateur Radio Society

First Name

Last Name

Call Sign

Licence Class

☐

ARRL
MEM

Address

City

Zip Code

Local Phone

Mobile Phone

Email Address

Secondary Address

Secondary City

ST

Zip

Spouse

Please check Activity Interests:

☐

Field Day

☐

Contesting

☐

RFL/TVI

☐

VE Testing

☐

Training

☐

Technical

☐

Computers

☐

Packet

☐

Publicity

☐

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