



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,

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Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

June 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, July 13th, 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

MINUTES ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY June 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1914 hours.
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: K1BES Bernie Schmelz, KM4GX Steve Bishop, KN4RKE Bob McAlister, N3MR Mike Reid, KQ4YMQ Bill Hopewell, W2CWL Bill Dolan, WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman, W4All Jim Nelson, N9KWB Roger Mattila, KE4VEM Matthew Henry, KN4NFX Steve Froggatt, W1NQT Ken Blackshaw, KG4PSG Clive Tondrow, W4RFV Tony Levenson, KN4YIV Steve Malone, KN4YIU Shirley Duke.

There was no scheduled presentation this evening.

The Secretary's report was published in the newsletter – Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by Steve Froggatt and seconded by Roger Mattila. Vote: All in Favor.

The Treasurer's report was published in the newsletter – Motion to approve the report as published was made by Tony Levenson, seconded by Mike Reid. Vote: All in favor.

SUNSHINE: Ken Blackshaw reported on sunshine activities.

MENTORSHIP: Bill Dolan reports that there hasn't been any activity this month.

DX COMMS: There has been a lot of solar activity lately and there has been very much DX activity. Bernie S said that he did hear a station from Mongolia, but was unable to make contact.

CCFLARES : Bernie Schmelz and Steve Bishop reported that continues to plan for refurbishment of the comms trailer which will be scheduled during the summer. The next CCFLARES meeting will be a VIRTUAL meeting on Monday June 15th at 7:00 PM.

EVENTS: Bob McAlister reported that FOX Hunts will resume in the fall after a break this summer. Bob said he needs to scout for new locations to hide the "FOX".

Summer Field Day will be on **SATURDAY JUNE 27** at the South Gulf Cove Club House. This will be a ONE DAY event only.

Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will be the **3rd weekend of August (August 15th)** at the Boca Grande Lighthouse – Bob M and Ken B will check out the site to make sure it is available and reserve the site if available.

Fall Picnic – Shirley Duke and Bill Dolan will start the planning process. They will also check on the availability of the Pavilion at Lemon Bay Environmental Center (same location as last year).

OLD Business

SKY ACADEMY has clearly stated that they welcome the continued participation by EARS in its STEM classes and curriculum and that it "wants us back" in the fall to help with radio related and other projects.

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 July 13th at COC

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

Foxhunt resumes in August

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: WINQT

Week 4: KM4GX

Week 5 (if needed) : Open

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

Minutes from pg 1.....

Steve Bishop reported that the "DRIFT BUOY" Committee met and has solidified a concept for this project with SKY ACADEMY. A drift Buoy will be assembled, tested and launched in the Gulf Stream in cooperation with SKY Academy. Bill Reed has reached out to many organizations and many (NOAA, MOTE Labs) have expressed an interest in this project. NOAA has indicated that they have available a surplus used buoy which they will donate for this project. There is lots of work and funding that needs to be secured for this effort. Bernie Schmelz reported that he prepared and submitted a grant request to the ARRL Foundation for support of this project. More information on this and other projects will be forthcoming.

PICO BALLOON – Unfortunately the balloon stopped transmitting and is presumed to have gone

down on June 2nd in the North Pacific during a tropical storm. The last report indicated that it was at approximately 43,000 feet. The Balloon (N4EAR-1) was aloft for 103 days and completed 6 2/3 circumnavigations of the earth.

NEW BUSINESS

Members were reminded that the Englewood Pioneer Days Parade is scheduled for September 7th. EARS has been requested to provide radio comms and other assistance for this event.

Water Fest is scheduled for October 8th to 11th. EARS will provide Radio Security during the entire event, including BOAT PARADE, BLOCK PARTY and Off Shore Races. Volunteers will need to sign up through the WaterFest web site when it opens up. Jim Nelson is EARS point of contact.

Matt Henry requested time to discuss the creation of a 501 (c)3 entity. Matt said that he received an email from Jon Pellant regarding this matter and was interested in Matt's viewpoint.

Matt indicated that he is not generally in support of creating a 501(c)3 because of the potential additional requirements that may be placed on the EARS organization and how it utilizes its funds, and also the accounting and reporting requirements that could be imposed upon EARS. Matt did indicate that if a separate entity associated with EARS were created – his reservations could then be somewhat relieved – though not eliminated.

Bernie Schmelz added that CCFLARES had similar internal discussions and that is why a separate entity was created for it to receive certain donations as well as request funds from certain potential donors.

This discussion will be continued.

There being no further business – Motion to adjourn was made by Tony Levenson, seconded by Mike Reid. The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

HURRICANE EXPO/HURRICANE PREPARATION:

EARS members volunteered to participate in the 2026 Sarasota County Hurricane Preparation Event held at the Englewood ELKS Club.. Many thanks to **KN4YIU, KN4YIV, N3MR** and **KN4RKE** for the time spent representing the EARS club.

2026 SUMMER FIELD DAY EVENT:



2026 Field Day was held at the South Gulf Cove Community Center. Saturday morning, EARS members started showing up to set up two HF stations and one VHF/UHF position. Among the early birds were KN4YIU, KN4YIV, KN4RKE, KR4FXF, N3MR, N3GCA, W2CWL, K8PBA, KQ4PSG, KE4VEM and KM4GX. A 20 meter/15 Meter Fan Dipole, and a 40 meter through 10 meter off center fed dipole were raised for the HF stations and a 2 meter//440MHz J-pole was set up for the VHF/UHF position. All three stations were checked out with “trial contacts” prior to the official start of Field Day competition. CW and SSB were worked on the 20/15 meter system, SSB on the OCF Dipole and FM and Winlink messaging were accomplished on the J-Pole.

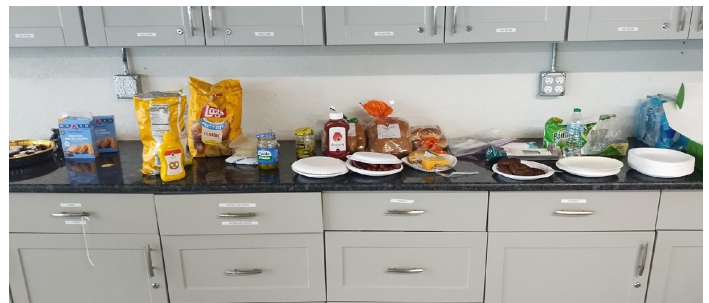
W04KAC displayed some DIGIKEY sound cards and explained their hook up and use for WinLink and other digital HF modes. WINQT and KN4RKE manned the code paddle, while KM4GX, N3MR, N1LRS, KE4VEM, and WINQT manned the SSB, rigs. Of interesting note, WINQT contacted his former Ham Radio Club on Nantucket Island!



KN4YIU and KN4YIV monitored the Club repeater for “talk in” help and sent several WinLink messages.



At lunch time, KM4GX fired up the grill and cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for all to enjoy. Potato chips, cookies, and brownies rounded out the lunch.



All in all, twenty-five folks attended the one day Summer Field Day event. One visitor, Paul Haber brought along an older model (tube type) Hammerlund Receiver, which was the topic of many stories as the older hams looked over the vintage receiver. Another visitor, Carl York, decided to join the club! Carl does not yet have a license, but indicated he is willing to study and get one! Jonathon Henry, nephew of KE4VEM made his first HF contact while operating with KE4VEM.

The event take down started at about 17:00, just in time to avoid a late afternoon rain shower.

Many thanks to KM4GX for securing the facility use at South Gulf Cove, and all the others who helped set up, take down, and operate the event.

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



		Beginning Balance			4325.19		
		Expenses			Income		
June 2026							
6/30/2026	\$5.00	electronic	\$0.00	"bad address" "	Fee	I called and it w	McAlister
6/24/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	dues			York
6/27/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$30.00	dues			Norton
6/8/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	50/50			Duke
6/8/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$7.00	xtal radio			Henry
Sum	\$5.00			\$87.00			Balance 4407.19

Petty Cash

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

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Thursday, July 2, 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