



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
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Facebook: Earsradioclub

Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

March 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, April 17th, 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



MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

March 10, 2026

K7WWR Bill Reed	KR4HST Leslie Rankin	WR9LFQ Herman Hoffman	KM4GX Steve Bishop
KE5ODR Doug Frazier	W2CWL Bill Dolan	KE4VEM Matt Henry	N3MR Michael Reid
K1BES Bernie Schmelz	KQ4SSQ Hector Mena	W4ALL Jim Nelson	Sarah Henry
KN4NFX Steve Froggatt	KN4YIV Steve Malone	KN4YIU Shirley Duke	W4RFV Tony Levenson
K8ZZU Jim Sanford	KN4PHQ John Hodgdon	KB8WXI Mark Thurston	KC1IWF Allan Huston

The meeting was called to order at 1909 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Attendees: KZ4QR Mr. Eldert, WOAC Bob Mott

Bill Reed briefly discussed the absolute joy with the success of the club's Pico balloon as it enters its second trip around the world. Sharing the highlights of the partnership with Sky Academy on this endeavor and the opportunity it presents with future collaboration. Bill introduced Jesse Tremaine,

STEM teacher at Sky Academy Englewood, to the club. It was nice to meet him, and he spoke in depth about his vision of the partnership with the club and the students. Due to his teaching flexibility of curriculum, there are many possibilities for the club to act as mentors and share their expertise. He would like interaction to help spark interest in the students about all older technology and how it works. He said it would have to be simplified to a certain degree to meet middle school academics. He'd enjoy having as many folks as possible from the club be able to come into the classroom to help with hands-on, simple, older technology, preferably. He shared that the students have an interest in early transmission, World Wars I & II, "invisible signals", etc. Some ideas are constructing crystal radios, Foxhunts, etc. There was opportunity for the club to ask questions of Jesse about the students and their learning potential, availability of various materials, tools and equipment to assist project construct, and more. shared that some funds are available for simple projects, such as STEM lab fees, matching funds, but anything more complex may need grants or other support. Considerations needed for the number of students; around 60 kids, and how to group them for projects. General direction for next steps will be hosting a Foxhunt at the school, Building Antennas, and possibly building crystal radio kits. Bill presented the idea of Jesse obtaining his HAM license, potentially getting his own radio in the classroom, and ultimate goal of licensing students who expressed interest in being able to use the radio in the class.

(see pg 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 28th

Summer Field Day June 2026 at SGC

Lighthouse/Light Ship Weekend August 2026

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.

Minutes from page1.....

JT was very amenable to this idea. JT was thanked for attending the meeting and released. Brainstorming of projects, selection of these, budgets and implementation will require the formation of a committee. Volunteers for this committee: Bill Dolan, Bernie Schmelz, Michael Reid, Steven Malone, Shirley Duke, Steve Bishop, with Bill Reid being available to help when needed. Committee Chair position is open.

The club discussed asking Jesse to join on the next Foxhunt. EARS returned discussing the success of the Pico Balloon and all the future possibilities.

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 Steve Froggatt. Vote: All in Favor.

Treasurer's Report – (Steve Bishop covering for Bob) Minutes from last meeting published in the newsletter. Shared amount collected from dues. Presented Budget. Motion to accept minutes as posted – Bernie Schmelz and seconded by Mike Reid. Vote: All in favor.

Bill Reed wanted to award Bill Brown for lending us his incredible technical insight and support needed for the successful balloon launch and what that has done for EARS and offered to make him a full lifetime member of EARS. Motion to accept proposal – Bernie Schmelz and seconded by Bill Dolan. Gratitude was also extended to Mark Thurston for his care and assistance in getting the balloon prepared for flight.

DX Communications Report – Bill Reed got about 50-60 contacts but admitted he's been so into following the balloon, he had to refocus. Steve Bishop was able to get Guam, Mariana Islands, Indonesia, & Eastern Kiribati Island on the 10 Meter band. Bill R. did mention a German station on Antarctica heard our balloon and they want high schoolers to reach out to them as contacts.

CCFlares Updates – A Charlotte County CERT class was to begin the next day on 3/11 for 3 days. Everyone interested in CCFlares must be CERT certified. Bernie said that Doug and he were moving the trailer from South Gulf Gove to CC-EOC next Monday. Bernie and Dwayne had applied for some funds (Patterson foundation and others) to assist with the trailer build out. Regarding the hospital noise issue, it's still ongoing, trying to track the source. Bernie feels the electrical room nearby is the cause. Doug offered that the original antennas are in the Dieticians office. **Next CCFlares meeting 3/16 at 5:30pm dinner/7pm meeting, Perkins Pt. Charlotte. This meeting they will start programming the analog code plugs!**

See page 3

Minutes cont from page 2.....

Sunshine & Media – Nothing to report.

Membership Committee – Nothing to report.

Upcoming Events & Notices

CCFlares 3/16 at 5:30 dinner w/7pm meeting start (Analog Code Plugs)

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

Name/Call Sign Badges: Don't forget, if you haven't already, to pick-up your badge made by Doug (Please consider offering a small donation for his efforts/expenses)

Meshcore: Have interest in this technology, please reach out to Matthew for more information.

There being no further business – Bill Reid called for a motion to adjourn: Bill Dolanso moved, seconded by Steve Bishop. The meeting was adjourned at 2043 hours.

MARCH 28 FOXHUNT:

The weather was beautiful as 8 people registered at 9:00 to 9:30 am at Tringali Park for the monthly Foxhunt. This Foxhunt was a bit different in that after the main fox was found, two additional “walkabout foxes were hidden and waiting for someone to find them! The two additional foxes were provided by **KA9SZX..**

Thirty –seven minutes after the start time of 9:30am, the winning team of **W4RFV, KE4VEM** (with his daughter Sarah) found the Fox. This team is becoming the team to beat.



Second place went to **WA2SRA**, on his first Florida Foxhunt. Malcom said he had a great time and is thinking about building a directional antenna to help him in the future.



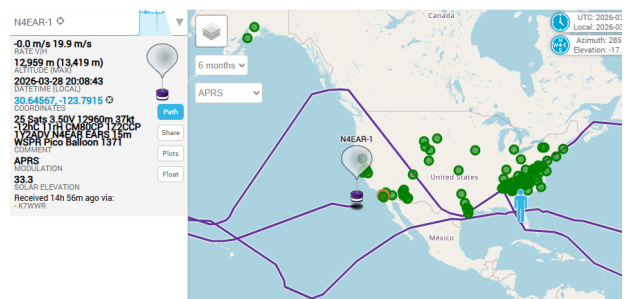
Third place went to **KA8PBA** and **WA9LFQ**. I believe this was Herman's first Florida foxhunt, and by using Jim's homebrew VHF/UHF yagi, homed in on the fox.



There were no first/second/third places for the mini-foxes, but they were located by **KE4VEM** (and Sarah), **W4RFV**, and **WA2SRA**.

N4EAR-1 BALLOON UPDATE:

At the time of this article, the **STEM** project balloon, associated with the **Sky Academy** in Englewood has circled the earth nearly three times!



Latest information can be found at:

[SondeHub Amateur](https://www.sondehub.com/amateur)

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



	Expenses		Income		
	Beginning Balance		4252.53		
March 2026					
3/16/2026	\$0.00	Cash	\$40.00	March 50/50	Duke
3/16/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$29.00	Donation made for badges made by D	Frazier
2/27/2026	\$0.00	Paypal	\$23.64	2026 dues Paypal WA2SRA	Newbold
2/24/2026	\$0.00	Paypal	\$23.64	2026 dues Wessel (Paypal)	WESSEL
Sum	\$0.00		\$116.28	Balance	4368.81

Petty Cash

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

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Wednesday, April 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