



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

May 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, June 9th, 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

May 12 2026

Attendees:

K7WWR Bill Reed , KM4GX Steve Bishop , KR4HST Leslie Rankin , KN4RKE Bob McAlister , WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman , W2CWL Bill Dolan , K1BES Bernie Schmelz , KQ4SSQ Hector Mena , W4RFV Tony Levenson , KB8WXI Mark Thurston , KE4VEM Matt Henry , WO4KAC Kelly Combes , KN4PHQ John Hodgdon , KN4NFX Steve Froggatt .

The meeting was called to order at 1916 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction

Bill shared that Jesse really wants EARS back for the next school year. That we may change up offerings next year as different groups of students will attend. Jesse and EARS would like to do another balloon launch or two. Next time we do a balloon launch we really need to have the kids come over and experience what EARS was doing during the launch. The students enjoyed seeing what EARS can do with the Deep Space Network and would probably enjoy seeing the launch operations too.

The Sky Academy programs were a big hit! Building of the Crystal Radio kits and the Alien Hunts were fun, informative, and really grabbed the students' attention. EARS was dedicated to making it a memorable learning experience for the students. Many EARS members dedicated their time and money and deserve praise for their commitment to teaching others. This is the start of a wonderful partnership between EARS and Sky Academy. Apparently, the Alien Hunt got wild as it moved indoors and the kids had a great time opening doors and surprising teachers in the hunt for the Alien. They picked up on tracking the signal quickly.

Matthew Henry proposed for club to reimburse individuals who spent personal funds on the Sky Academy activities, and

it was suggested that going forward we could collect money ahead of time.

Bill Brown wrote a script to monitor our balloon, check it out on Sondehub, if you have modern radios get yourself a sound card and check it out. It's been a lot of fun. As of the meeting, our balloon has crossed 33 States (some reports say 39 States) and 51 Countries!

Chloe from the Venice-Sun continues to do her best and cover our balloon's journey with a her recent online article.

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 – Minutes from last meeting published in the newsletter. Motion to accept minutes as posted – Matthew Henry and seconded by Tony Levenson. Vote: All in favor.

DX Communications Report – Bernie was playing around with a DMR (Baofeng \$65 comes with 2 batteries, antenna, earpiece, etc.) and the old guys in nursing homes world-wide are talking constantly! He heard from Central China, picked up Slovenia and Southern Europe. Bernie indicated DMR is what will draw youth back to HAM radio. One can talk around the World with minimal skill. Bill asked if Bernie could research DMR more in-depth and possibly share with Sky Academy next academic year. Bernie said he could present something late October. Bill reiterated that DMR and Echolink are only viable with an operable Internet.

CCFlares Updates – Steve shared information on two good back-to-back exercises: The April Hurricane landfall exercise, WINLINK Heavy w/83 messages sent and received, and the May, Charlotte County Hurex drill, all hands. Lee and Collier counties had guests present to observe. 120 messages for Hurex via WINLINK. Bernie said on the 5th of May: Tom, Doug and Bernie had a meeting with the Charlotte Communication Foundation, and a \$2500 grant was awarded to CCFlares for their trailer updates. Bernie spoke with board members, and they said EARS is amazing. EARS has logged over 1200 volunteer hours and provided resiliency after disasters. The decision makers knew "The Ham Radio Guys" and were aware of our ability to dovetail in that window after an event, with both EARS and CCFLares providing support together. We received the maximum grant amount.

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 June 9th at COC

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

Foxhunt resumes in August

Summer Field Day June 2026 at SGC

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.....

Sunshine & Media – Nothing to report.

Membership Committee – Nothing to report.

Upcoming Events & Notices

Fox Hunt: May 23rd meet at Tringali Library (9-00am)

Summer Field Day, Saturday, June 27th (One day only) Steve said it will be held at:

South Gulf Cove HOA building

14859 Ingraham Blvd

Port Charlotte, Fl 33981 Please see Steve with comments.

Ken will make a media announcement to alert the public.

Meeting at End Zone for lunch at noon

Ham Tech Class: Presented by EARS at the EOC Call Center 2-5pm on **May 21st**.

Hurricane Expo: Saturday June 13th (10am-3pm)

We couldn't get table space at first, someone cancelled and now we do have space. Bob McAlister is in communication with the coordinator.

Pioneer Day Parade: The Chamber would like EARS support again for monitoring parade route and parking.

Englewood Beach Waterfest: Friday-Sunday October 8-10, EARS will provide support, if you can participate, keep the dates in mind.

Hector is doing POTA, keep an ear open! (Also, if you are doing POTA, you may wear your EARS shirt.)

Check out a great deal on Lithium batteries on eBay:

Seller posts them 10 for \$10 or 100 for \$98 shipped.

They will arrive flat but charge 'em up and they are good to go for CHEAP!

50/50 Drawing: John Hodgdon won!

There being no further business – Bill Reid called Motion to adjourn: Steve Froggatt, seconded by Bill Dolan. The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours.

MAY 23rd Foxhunt:



Five EARS members registered for the Foxhunt, which started at Tringali Park at 9:30am. Thirty –five minutes later, KE4VEM, W4RFV and Sarah Matthews pulled into the Ceder Point Environmental Park Kayak launch facility. So far the record is 32 minutes, also held by W4RFV and company. The team of WINQT and KQ4PSG was just minutes behind!

The next major Foxhunt will take place in August.

Thanks to all who made the Foxhunt activities a fun event for KN4RKE!

EARS TECHNICIAN LEVEL LICENSE TRAINING ACTIVITY:

Thanks to **K7WWR** for organizing and implementing an EARS Technician License training event, which resulted in several new Ham Operators! EARS members/ Hams K9XV, W1JP, N3MR, K4GDM, W2CWL, W8JJV, KN4RKE, KM4GX, K1BES, KE5ODR, KG4QIV all supported the event by providing lecture and/or examination support. The event spanned an April/May time period.

TRAVEL BY CLUB MEMBER:

By Ken, **W1NQT**

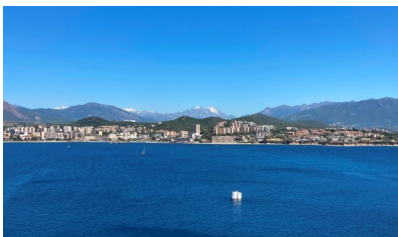
This proved an interesting cruise, first time crossing the Atlantic. First we ended up visiting Puerto Rico instead of Bermuda. Apparently this often happens because the weather can be a problem approaching Bermuda. Still, I got to chat with my grandson-in-law who is deployed to PR from California.



Then – five days at sea to Madeira – rocked and rolled a bit. BTW, cruising the other way, Europe to the US, is better than the way we did it. We had to

set our clocks ahead almost every day. Darkness and loss of sleep and cranky people.

After Madiera – Gibraltar. People didn't like my pic. That's not Gibraltar they said. But – the ship doesn't dock right in front of the rock!

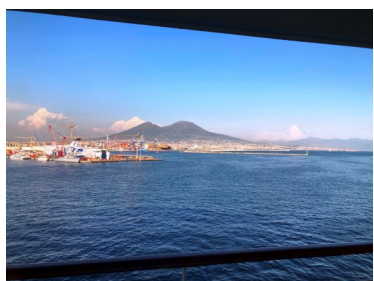


We did Cartagena and then Barcelona. There we found out we were on TWO cruises. 700 people got off and 700 more got on as we continued towards Rome.

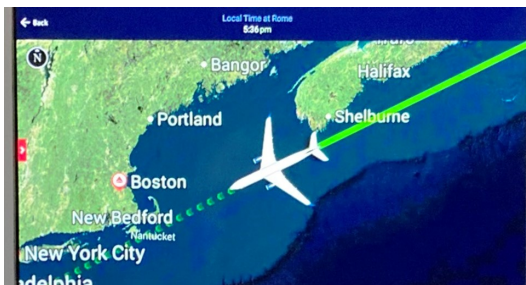
We visited Corsica and also Sardinia. Corsica was fascinating – snow-capped mountains.

And next – Sardinia where we asked the question 'was the island named for the fish? OR was the fish named for the island???' And it turns out – both answers are correct.

And then – Naples, in the shadow of Vesuvius which is dormant right now – thank goodness.



We flew home – Rome to Atlanta – ten glorious hours in the plane – but at one point we were headed right to Nantucket!



HURRICANE EXPO/HURRICANE PREPARATION:

EARS personal manned a table at the SARASOTA HURRICANE EXPO, hosted at the United Methodist Church, Englewood, Fl., on Saturday, May 23rd.



W4RFV, W2CWL, and KN4RKE provided printed and verbal information about hurricane preparation considerations, emergency communications, and how to become a Ham Radio operator to those who visited our table .



The event was well attended and provided an opportunity for the community to learn about Ham Radio's roles in community disaster response. This was the second consecutive year the club participated in the annual event.

Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Treasurer Report



	Beginning Balance		Income		
	Expenses				
May 2026					
5/12/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$7.00	xtal radio kit purchased	Combes
5/12/2026	\$0.00	cash	\$35.00	50/50	Hodgdon
Sum	\$0.00		\$42.00		Balance 4325.19

Petty Cash

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

Robert W. McAlister

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Tuesday, June 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

Spouse

Please check Activity Interests:

Field Day

Contesting

RFI/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