



EARS
NGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



President Bill Reed K7WWR, VP Steve Bishop,
KM4GX Secretary Bernie Schmelz, K1BES
Treasurer Bob McAlister, KN4RKE
Trustees: M. Henry KE4VEM, H. Hoffman, WA9LFQ,
Jon Pellant W1JP

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

November 2025

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, December 9th, 2025** 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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The meeting was called to order on 11/11/2025 at 1915 hours.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

K7WWR Bill Reed, K1BES Bernie Schmelz, KN4RKE Bob McAlister, KM4GX Steve Bishop, W2CWL Bill Dolan, W4RFY Tony Levenson, W1NQT Ken Blackshaw, KN4NFX Steve Froggatt, N3MR Mike Reid, N1COC Jon Blincoe, KE4VEM Matt Henry, W9LFQ Hermann Hoffman, W4All Jim Nelson, KN4YIU Shirley Duke, KN4YIV Steve Malone, KQ4YMQ Bill Hopewell, WO4KAC Kelly Combes, KR4HST Leslie Rankin, KQ4SSQ Hector Mena, KB8WA Mark Thurston, KD8KIT Charles Lane, N3GCA Paul Apollonia, KN4PHQ John Hodgdon, K8ZZU Jim Sanford. Guests: PA3RON Ron Havelaar

Kelly Combes made a presentation on “**MESH CORE**” which is a low power (<1w) repeater system which when properly programmed and deployed can provide a wide area simplex communication system operating on 900Mhz. MESH CORE is an improved derivative of the Mesh Tastic system that has been available for several years. Kelly brought two of the repeaters which are quite small and can be adapted to operate with a 5w solar panel charging the internal battery. This could be a

great tool during storm events when the regular repeaters might be knocked out of service. Right now Kelly and several others are testing the system in South Gulf Cove and expect to make the jump across Charlotte Harbor to Punta Gorda. The MeshCore devices are available on-line and cost @\$50 for two. There was a lot of interest and discussion regarding these tools.

The **Secretary’s report** was published in the newsletter – Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by Steve Froggatt and seconded by Bill Dolan. Vote: All in Favor.

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

SUNSHINE: Ken Blackshaw reported on sunshine activities.

CCFLARES : Bernie Schmelz and Steve Bishop reported that CCFLARES will hold an in-person meeting at Perkins in Port Charlotte on Sept 17th, dinner is at 5:30 and the Meeting will start @ 7:00 pm.

Election Committee – Club Elections will be held in January. Shirley Duke and Mike Reid are chairing the elections committee and said that **there is a need for a candidate for CLUB SECRETARY.**

There are candidates for the other club positions – President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Anyone interested in serving as an officer should contact Shirley Duke. **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. 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. Time **NOW!**

Foxhunt— Held November 22nd co sponsored by TARC

POTA/IOTA December 3rd. Cayo Costa

Winter Field Day January 24-25 2026 to be held at Ann Deever Park' More details TBD

PICO Balloon Launch — Launch schedule for January or February 2026.

Antenna Shoot Out: December 6. Build your VHF/UHF antenna and see if it's the winner. Contact K7WWR for rules



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 pg 1.....

DX COMMS: There has been a lot of solar activity this month and the bands have not been very good

EVENTS: Bob McAlister reported Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend has been cancelled as the beach area at the Boca Grande Lighthouse has been closed in order for a beach re-nourishment project to be done.

Fall Picnic – The Fall Picnic was held on November 8th Lemon Bay Environmental Park in Englewood and was a fantastic success with over 40

members and their families attending. There was lots of food, conversation and camaraderie among the members. The picnic was declared a great **SUCCESS** and members would like for it to continue.

PICO Balloon Launch – Roger Mattila has asked that a new Chair take the lead for this project as his business commitment make it impossible for him to lead this project. Mike Reid has agreed to lead the committee, however he will **NEED HELP** with this project – please reach out to Mike to help out with this project.

Bill Reed reminded everyone that the **ANTENNA CONTEST** will be held on December 13th – contestants will set up at the Rotonda Lakes HOA and the judges will progress outwards away from the HOA building until contestants can no longer be heard.

POTA/IOTA – The club will be setting up on Cayo Costa on December 3rd at Shirley and Steve's camp out on the Island. Three boats are planning to go to the island. Contact Bill Reed for details.

Bob McAlister announced that **WINTER FIELD DAY** will be on January 24th at Ann Deever Park – set up begins at 0900.

Holiday Meals – Last Year EARS Sponsored holiday meals for 4 families in our area. This year two donors have offered to match club donations \$1 for \$1 up to \$150, which would double to \$300 the value of EARS holiday meals donations to families in need in our area. Bernie Schmelz encouraged all members to donate to this worthy cause.

There being no further business – Motion to adjourn was made by Tony Levenson, seconded by Jon Blincoe. The meeting was adjourned at 2033 hours.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2026 MEMBERSHIP!

Membership is valid from **January 1st to December 31st** each year.. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing it early. Membership is required to vote for new club officers, and to approve the upcoming 2026 budget. These activities are just around the corner!

SEE PAGE THREE FOR RENEWAL OPTIONS!

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

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.

Monthly Meetings at COC

As mentioned in the header of the newsletter, the club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce. The meeting starts at 7pm.

PICO BALOON LAUNCH UPDATE:

The club is working with Charlotte County school system to establish a STEM related balloon launch. **Andrew Stancil**, Instructor from **Charlotte County HS STEM** program attended the last meeting to discuss his students interest in HAM radio and the PICO Balloon program. Mike Reid and others are working out the details. The committee will **NEED HELP** with this project – please reach out to Mike to volunteer. We plan on launching in January or February of 2026.

November Foxhunt:

We couldn't have asked for a nicer morning to conduct a foxhunt. Sunny skies, perfect temperatures! But, because of some "last minute complications", the foxhunt registration was moved from **Legacy Park** to the old **Albertson's** parking lot. Luckily, all the hams were listening to the TARC repeater, and the transition went smoothly. Twelve participants registered to

compete. Five were new to foxhunting so 4 teams made up of new and experienced fox hunters were formed.

Team 1: Matthew **KE4VEM** and daughter **Sara** with new hunters Karl **KD8LXA** and YL **Olivera**, and Bill **W2CWL**.

Team 2: Steve **W4SNW** and Paul **KN4BAR**

Team 3: Darrel **K4KSB** and new hunter Cieran **KR4FWZ**

Team 4: Shirley **KN4YIU**, Steve **KN4YIV**, and John **KN4PHQ**

At 9:30 the fox was turned on, and the hunt started. The initial bearing of the signal was pretty much due North. Thirteen minutes later, **Team 1** pulled into the Foxworthy Park parking lot! A new record! **Team 3** finished at 10:07 am in second place . **Team 2** finished at 10:08 am in third place . It was almost too close to call between 2nd and 3rd! **Team 4** finished at 11:00 am. Thanks to the EARS, TARC. And SERC members who participated.





Englewood Amateur Radio Society

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	ARRL MBR
Address	City		Zip Code	
Local Phone	Mobile Phone	Email Address		
Secondary Address	Secondary City		ST	Zip
Spouse				

Please check Activity Interests:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| Field Day | Technical |
| Contesting | Computers |
| RFI/TVI | Packet |
| VE Testing | Publicity |
| Training | 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