Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Practicing and Supporting Ham Radio in Englewood

September 2026

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: *Tuesday, October 13th, 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
2 Meter Chat Net……..pg 2
Upcoming Club Activities …….. Pg 3
General News……..pg 3
Membership Application……..pg 4

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1913 hours by President Bill Reed, who offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction

Introduction of guests and potential new members/returning members: WIEKO Mark Willoughby, Michael Schober, KO4WPN Jack Hawkins.

Club Member of the Year: Steve Bishop presented the Club Member of the Year to Ken Blackshaw who devotes his time to bringing sunshine to members who may need a bit of cheer or a reminder they are in our thoughts. Additionally, he recognizes club members birthdays and other special moments. Ken has done a fabulous job as the weekly Net Control. Congratulations Ken! We appreciate all you do for EARS.

Bill and Bernie worked hard on 4 different grants with the ARRL. EARS was awarded a $1,242.92 for the Crystal Radio/STEM collaboration. They will have to execute an impact report within 6 months. The Buoy project was not successful in securing a grant at this time but appears to be a misunderstanding barrier and so Bill and Bernie will submit a new grant application for the Buoy which hopefully is successful this go around.

Paul Apollonia will be taking over the Newsletter in January. Shout out to Paul who did a fantastic job at the Pioneer Day parade and getting it running smoothly. He organized everything wonderfully and the feedback was extremely positive.

It was a large parade turnout. Paul placed a short video on Facebook, check it out.

Upcoming Alerts: The club elections are fast approaching. Shirley and Mike R will run the elections this year. If a second helper would like to volunteer, please let Shirley or Mike R know. Mike will be headed over to Japan by the way! If anyone is interested in running for any of the positions, feel free to throw your name into the elections.

Annual dues are approaching and due 12/31/2026. Dues can be paid by PayPal (earsradioclub.org – then select the membership tab to pay) or $25.00 cash. Don't forget: If you want to vote in the election in January, your dues must be paid up!

There are no Fall HAM classes scheduled but there are a lot of activities on deck with Englewood's Sky Academy and the STEM class. Jesse would like EARS to take the Buoy over to the school and introduce the students to it because Jesse wants to make an after-school Buoy club and would like to stimulate interest. Also, Bob and Tony plan on hosting an Introduction to Morse Code with the STEM class at Sky Academy. There was interest in Morse Code and this could further generate participation in the buoy club for Jesse.

Secretary's Report – Secretary's Report posted and approved. Motion by Matthew H. Second by Steve Froggatt. All in favor, aye.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer report read and approved. Motion by Steve Froggatt, second Tony Levenson. All in favor, aye.

DX Communications Report – Got contact with a new person in Italy. Nothing further to report.

CCFlares Updates – Report by Doug Frazier

The remodel on the 16' trailer has not yet begun. Charlotte EMS is very heavily involved through their support. CCFlares received a $10k grant to purchase equipment for the trailer. It's going to be very nice. Will have 3 active STNs, solar panels, air conditioned, Starlink, and more!

- **Minutes continued from page 1….**

- Sunshine & Media – Sunshine report was given by Ken B. – W1NPR Friedman Crosby 95 years old. It was Steven Malone's birthday. For the Press: Matthew got parade pictures and will do a press release.

- Visitors – New visitor W1EKU Mark Willoughby is on the air 3-4 times a week and has made over 35,000 contacts. Michael Schober is interested in becoming a HAM operator, and KO4WPN Jack Hawkings enjoys building antennas (has an Electrical Engineering background, spec. RF & Micro ablation.

- Upcoming Events & Notices

- Discussion on Water Fest Oct 8-11; Radio Security, need volunteers. Shirley and Steve need help. There are plenty of assignments.

- Sign up on Water Fest web site Ambassador program, radio operator.

- Fall Picnic, November 7th Saturday. Shirley and Bill D. Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, members bring side dishes/desserts.

- STEM starts soon, last 2 weeks in October. Several activities are planned: Alien Hunt (maybe Halloween themed instead). Bill D. & Bernie are excited to be bring Aviation into the STEM classroom as well. Bill D. has an airplane coming to Buchan airport and would like to coordinate a field trip for the students. Antennas & Propagation along with HF Radio demonstrations allowing students to operate the rig are also planned.

- Old News:

- Lighthouse & Lightship weekend was August 15th at Boca Grande Lighthouse. Bob thanked Shirley, Steve, Ken, Matthew and Sarah, Bill D, Hermann, & Jim for showing up and making the most of the day. They were locked out but eventually set-up under the lighthouse at 10am. Donuts & Coffee were on hand and they were able to grab Lighthouse in New York, Wisconsin, and even one in Nantucket-with some phone work to set frequencies. Lightning in the area shut it down.

- **Thanks go to Jim Nelson for working on getting the condo association approval for the new UHF N4CCF repeater. Tom Chance for providing and putting the repeater together and to Steve Bishop, Jim Porter, Jim Nelson, & Bill Reed for their help with installing equipment. Working great!**

- **Congratulations again to Club Member of the Year: Ken Blackshaw!**

- There being no further business – Bill Reid called the meeting at 20:24. Motion to adjourn: Mike Reid, second by Steve Froggatt. All in favor, aye. The meeting was adjourned.

- 50/50 Raffle Winner: Allan Huston ($36)

- Members present at the meeting:

K7WWR Bill Reed	**KM4GX Steve Bishop**	**KN4RKE Bob McAlister**	**N3GCA Paul Apollonia**
WA9LFQ Herman Hoffman	W2CWL Bill Dolan	N3MR Michael Reid	KR4HST Leslie Rankin
W4RFV Tony Levenson	WO4KAC Kelly Combes	KE4VEM Matt Henry	KQ4SSQ Hector Mena
KE5ODR Doug Frazier	KN4NFX Steve Froggatt	W1NGT Ken Blackshaw	KC1IWF Allan Huston
KN4YIO Shirley Duke	KN4KIV Steve Malone		

End of minutes

TIME TO RENEW 2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

To vote during the January 2027 meeting your dues must be current. That means you should pay your 2027 member dues before 12/31/2026! You can renew by Paypal (on the club webpage), mail (POBOX 572, Englewood, 34295), or by giving cash or a check to any club Officer.

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: KN4JEN

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

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. Come join the fun and fellowship!

Upcoming Club Activities (see minutes)
N4EAR worked all states event. We want to get a worked all states certificate for the club station.
STEM EVENTS:
- **PICO Balloon Launch –** Working with SKY Academy for a confirmed date.
- **ALIEN HUNT** see KM4GX, KN4YIV to offer assistance
- **Morse Code Intro** see K7WWT or KN4RKE to offer assistance

WaterFest— Sign up to help. 10/ 8 – 11. K7WWR
FALL Picnic see KN4YIU/V

ELECTION OF 2027 CLUB OFFICERS:

At the **January 2027** meeting, current members will vote for the 2027 Officers. If you are interested in serving the club, do 2 things: make sure your 2027 dues are paid, and see N3MR (Mike Reid) or KN4YIU (Shirley Malone) to let them know you would like to be on the ballot. There will be at least one vacancy that has to be filled.

CLUB CONTACT INFO:

Current Club Officers:
President: K7WWR
Vice President: KM4GX
Treasurer: KN4RKE
Secretary: KR4HST
Trustees:
W1JP, WA9LFQ, KE4VEM
Sunshine:
W1NQT
Sunshine@ears.groups.io
Webpage:
Earsradioclub.org
Email: info@earsradioclub.org
Groups.io info:
W4AII
main@ears.groups.io | Home
FACEBOOK PAGE: (20+) Englewood Amateur Radio Society | Facebook

ENGLEWOOD PIONEER DAYS:
Many thanks to all the EARs members who participated and enjoyed the 2026 Englewood Pioneer Days celebrations!

Keeping up the longstanding traditions, the EARS club provided communications support to the community during the Pioneers Day Parade.

- Thanks to KE4VEM for taking great parade pictures!







Also thanks to all the EARs members who worked behind the scenes to establish a nice UHF repeater that covered all the parade route parameters, and will no doubt be used by EARS to provide future communications support to the Englewood community!



Englewood Amateur Radio Sociey

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
- ☐ Contesting
- ☐ RFI/TVI
- ☐ VE Testing
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Technical
- ☐ Computers
- ☐ Packet
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Special Events

Yearly Membership Dues $15 ☐

Family Membership Dues $18.50 ☐

Bring form and Check to Meeting, or mail form and check to:

E.A.R.S.
P.O. Box 572
Englewood, FL. 34295