



**EARS**  
ENGLEWOOD 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

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Facebook: Englewood Amateur Radio Society



## Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

**September 2025**

### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, October 14th, 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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#### MEETING MINUTES

#### ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY September 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1920 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, KR4DGO Craig Stadelbauer, W4AI Jim Nelson, K2SDA David Lynch, KN4YIU Shirley Duke, KN4YIV Steve Malone, KQ\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Hopewell, KQ4PSG Clive Towndrow, KE5ODR Doug Frazier, WO4KAC Kelly Combes, N9KWB Roger Mattila, \_\_\_\_\_ Leslie Rankin. Guests: Ed Kinsey, Andrew Stancil

Steve Bishop introduced two new members to the Club – Leslie Rankin and Ed Kinsley.

Jim Nelson discussed EARS' role during Waterfest this year. EARS will be providing radio coordination and security during the Boat Parade on Friday evening and also during the boat races on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are still needed and anyone that is interested needs to sign up through the Waterfest Website. If you sign up for two shifts you will also receive a meal voucher. The second area where EARS is participating is the EARS BOOTH – volunteers are needed for that also, where members will discuss HAM Radio and also man an active HF Station. There will also be a give away of an HT.

Bill Reed discussed the upcoming Technician Class which will begin October 2<sup>nd</sup> and each Thursday for 3 additional weeks with testing on the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Those who will be taking the class must sign up and use HamStudy ([www.Hamstudy.org](http://www.Hamstudy.org)) as a study aid and to also take practice tests. Also, those who sign up will also receive a copy of the No-Nonsense! Technician Class Study Guide. The classes follow this book and it helps round out what you get in HamStudy.

Bill Reed also made a brief presentation regarding PICO Ballons and EARS' intent to offer and balloon launch sometime in January or February. Bill also showed members the web site [AMATEUR.SONDEHUB.ORG](http://AMATEUR.SONDEHUB.ORG) which is used for tracking ballons in real time. Bill invited Andrew Stancil, Instructor from Charlotte County HS STEM program to discuss his students interest in HAM radio and the PICO Balloon program. The HS program also works with robotics and also electric vehicles – the class recently built a functioning electric vehicle.

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

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

SUNSHINE: Ken Blackshaw reported on sunshine activities.

CCFLARES : Bernie Schmelz and Steve Bishop reported that CCFLARES activities have been at a minimum as we stand-by for tropical activity. Members have been participating in the weekly nets as well as weekly WIN-LINK exercises. Activities will pick up in October as team leadership will be back in Florida. (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**— October 18th. Register at Tringali at 9:00am

**Waterfest**, October, on Englewood Beach. Contact

**W4AH** or **K1BES** if you would like to participate

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

**Club Picnic** in early November is being planned by **KN4YIU**, Shirley Duke.

### **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.**

**W1NQT, net control 9/16/2025.** The question - What was your first Hurricane!??

**Net Control acknowledges (call sign)**

1. k7wwr - Waterfest. Check email. '21 hurricane - then Helene and Milton. After Ian.

2. kn4nfx - Steve - David in the 60's in NJ. FL - Irma. Nasty. Then Ian.

3. km4gx - Steve - SGC - 2016 hurricane - name? And then Irma - evacuated.

4. kn4yiu and yiv - Shirley and Steve - Hurricane Donna in the 60's.

6. w4aai - Jim -

7. kq4ymq - Bill - Englewood - Irma! Chased them up Florida

8. kn4phq - John - Rotonda W - Since 2000. Back for the Dr.s - in the 40s up north

9. w4rfv - Tony - Ian, in Pompano Beach. Mainly hit Homestead.

10. kn4rke - Bob - Englewood - Nice BKF. 1969 Camille - MS. Then Charlie 2004.

11. aa4gh Gus - NC - Ian! Helene hit NC where they are.

12. wo4kac - Kelly - SGC - Babe! in MS. David in Savannah.

13. w2cwl - Bill - Placida - #4 in Vietnam! Big one. Then Charlie.

14. I'll fill in W1NQT's hurricane experiences starting with Hurricanes Carol and Edna, back in '55 on Nantucket. From a birdwatching perspective, birds can get trapped in the eye of a hurricane and sometimes get carried all the way up to Newfoundland if the eye stays intact.

*Minutes continued from page 1.....*

**DX COMMS:** The bands are opening up and members reported contacts in Ecuador and Bulgaria. There will be a worldwide DX contest in October, so be prepared for lots of action on the airwaves.

**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 will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> and will be at the Lemon Bay Environmental Park in Englewood.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PICO Ballon Launch** – Roger Mattila will be the Committee Chair and will coordinate this effort on behalf of the club. Roger will **NEED HELP** with this project – please reach out to Roger to volunteer.

Bill Reed asked if the club would be interested in building **MOXON** Antennas as a club project and selling them, similar to how **CARS** built Angelo Antennas a few years ago. Bill explained the progress of design and testing.

Bernie Schmelz announced that the Secretary **OFFICER** position will be open for 2026 and strongly urged anyone interested to let the nominations committee know.

There being no further business – Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Reid, seconded by Steve Froggatt. The meeting was adjourned at 2032 hours.

## **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](http://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](http://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.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

For the year 2025 to date, welcome to new members: KB1RRI, Bob Baldwin, K6BGI, Ron Brownell, KC1JSN, Jeff Cohen, KR4FXF, Sherri Davis, KB2MEO, Sal Figluizzi, KA9SZK, Mark Garrett, KQ4SSQ, Hector Mena, Not Yet Licensed, Leslie Rankin, KR4DGO, Craig Stadebauer, KQ4FUN, Scott Van Sice, KQ4DGX, Larry Van Sice, N0VMD, Al Wessel. If I missed anyone my apologies!

## **ENGLEWOOD PIONEER DAYS:**

Club members provided communications and security support for this year's Pioneer Day Parade.



Additionally, the club manned a booth and handed out club information and held a drawing to give away a vhf/uhf hand held radio!



Leslie Rankin shows off the new UV5R8W which she won at EARS Pioneer Day Radio Giveaway. Leslie plans on studying for her Technician

License this fall and has joined EARS, looking forward to becoming an active Ham Radio Operator!

Thanks to all the club members who participated in the event. The club officers got great feedback from the Event Sponsors.

## **PICO BALLOON 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. **N9KWB**, Roger Mattia and others are working out the details. The committee will NEED HELP with this project – please reach out to Roger to volunteer. We plan on launching in January or February of 2026.

## **EARS FALL PICNIC:**

Mark your calendars for the Fall Picnic scheduled for **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, and will be set up at the **Lemon Bay Environmental Park** in Englewood. If you would like to help, or are planning on attending, please let **KN4YIU** (Shirley Duke) know. More information to come.



## Englewood Amateur Radio Sociey

ARRL  
MBR

First Name

Last Name

Call Sign

License Class

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