



# E A R S

INGLEWOOD MATURE 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

[www.earsradioclub.org](http://www.earsradioclub.org) email: info@earsradioclub.org

Facebook: Englewood Amateur Radio Society



## Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

December 2024

### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be: Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at the COC in Englewood at 19:00, unless otherwise notified. Check the FB page , and groups.io for last minute updates

### CLUB NEWS

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.EARS Monthly Minutes  
December 10 2024

Meeting called to order at 18:14

Attendees: KN4RKE, N1CO, N3MR, K2GQG, W2CWL, WA9LFQ, W4AII, Ed Godievsky, KB8WXI, WO4KAC, KN4NFX, KQ4PSG, W4RFV, KM4GX, K7WWR, KE4VEM

**Presentation:** Tom Chance had a conflict, but K7WWR updated the club members on echolink/repeater status. Biggest news is that the club will not spend money for a modem or expensive computer.

**Secretaries Report:** Published in newsletter. Motion by KN4NKX to approve, second by WO4KAC, passed.

**Treasurer Report:** : Published in newsletter. Motion by N3MR to approve, second by KE4VEM, passed.

**DX Communications Report:** KM4GX, N3MR, K&WWR reported dx qso's and use of 10 meter repeater networks. W4AII reported on FT8 DX contacts

**CCFLARES Updates:** Report given by KM4GX. DeSoto County is being added to the repeater network in the future with NXDN. A grant has been received and will be used to move Babcock Ranch repeater to Landfill/

**Election Updates:** Updates given by N3MR. Slate announced to members. K7WWR, KM4GX, KN4RKE, K1BES, W1JP, WA9LFQ, KE4VEM. Floor nominations will be taken at January Annual Meeting and current dues members will vote.

**Sunshine:** Sunshine cards sent to KA8PBA, W4AII and

KN4PHQ. Please keep these Operators in your thoughts as they recover from their health and situational issues.

**Events and Activities:** Fox Hunts, Winter Field Day at Ann Deever Park, EARS WAS. Fox Hunt December 14<sup>th</sup> at Tringali Park. Winter Field Day (January 25, 26) will be a "POTA" format. Come out to operate the stations set up. Chili Cook Off will be conducted. There will also be a "walkabout" Fox Hunt. The EARS WAS will be hosted to try and get "worked all states" accomplished. Date and time TBD.

**Old Business:** Recap of approved expenses for echolink relocation. (\$1000 plus \$20/month Internet expense).

Thanksgiving Dinners were purchased for Thanksgiving via Publix Groceries, and Christmas Dinners through Englewood Methodist Church.

**New Business:** The club is investigating moving the Tuesday breakfast from Junior and Rosies to their new location, the old "Charley's Good Times Bar and Restaurant. More info to come in January.

**Motion to Adjourn:** N1CO/KN4NFX passed

### REPEATER UPDATES

Recently the club has received some complaints about repeater coverage. As many of you know the repeater antenna is mounted on a 200 foot tower along with a CCFLARES repeater on RTE 776 near the County Baseball Park. The club was offered a very low cost RF cavity tune up, and since the RF cavities had not been checked for over 10 years, the decision was made to do it. Club members K7WWR, KM4GX, KN4RKE, along with Tom Chance, from CCFLARES made the trip Thursday morning (21/12) to remove the RF cavities and transport them to Punta Gorda for inspection and tuning.

Continued on page 4.....

## ***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. Eleven Club members at the last breakfast.

**NOTICE:** The club is investigating moving to JR and Rosies new restaurant. More news to come!

## **Upcoming Club Activities**

- January -** Annual Meeting, elect Officers.  
**Winter Field Day 1/24 - 25 2025**  
At John and Ann Deever Park.  
Will be a POTA style setup.  
Walk about Foxhunt and Chili  
Cook-off
- February-** N4EAR worked all states event  
We want to get a worked all states  
certificate for the club station.  
**Time TBD**  
Foxhunt—TBD

## **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, next door to the Fire Station in Englewood.. The meeting starts at 7pm. After the meeting, we like to have a speaker to present interesting technical, operational, or otherwise ham radio oriented topics. If you have a new rig, antenna , ham radio software, or tips about ham radio operation, please contact a club officer to schedule a time to share your info with the club members!

## **ECHOLINK Update:**

Work continues with the Echolink committee to purchase and install a new link node and associated equipment. with a target of December/January. The new system will be located at the club repeater site, and will eliminate the local RF connection to the repeater. Since the repeater site is "hardened" the echo link telephone connection to the repeater and power should be more reliable during storms.



## **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: W4AII/KM4GX**  
**Week 5 (if needed) : Open**

**If you can not commit to full rotation, please volunteer for "substitution" rotation.**

## **Simplex Emergency Network:**

If you have not participated n the smplex net, and are interested in being added to the list, please let a club officer know. We are hoping to have an alternative/back up to the club repeater for emergency and non emergency communications. The frequency used is 144.200 Mhz. (Simplex). The frequency may change n the near future. The club is developing a spreadsheet to note point-to-point capabilities and relay stations.

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The Editor is always looking for articles and pictures for future newsletter printings. Send pictures of your shack, antenna farms and equipment!

# Member DIRECTORY

This is the list I have of members in good standing through 12/31/2024. Thanks,

Bob KN4RKE, Treasurer, lobanker@hotmail.com.

Paid Dues Query	L Name	Call Sign
JoAnn	Adamy	KC4WJ
Paul	Apollonia	N3GCA
John	Babbitt	K2GQG
Sue	Babbitt	KD2AQR
Brendon	Bertancourt	KB3FUH
Steve	Bishop	KM4GX
Ken	Blackshaw	W1NQT
Jonathan	Blincoe	N1COC
Brett	Boone	KJ7BQQ
David	Bourque	WB1FLD
Joyce	Bourque	N1RUZ
Kelly	Combes	WO4KAC
Freeman	Crosby	W1NPR
Bill	Dolan	W2CWL
Shirley	Duke	KN4YIU
Vic	Emmelkamp	K4VHX
Cliff	Evans	KC3F
Doug	Frazier	KE5ODR
Steve	Froggatt	KN4NFX
Jim	Grimes	KD8OCW
August (Gus)	Hawkins	AA4
Matthew	Henry	KE4VEM
Michael	Henry	KF4KDI

Membership renewal can be accomplished by sending the form on the next page to EARS, or by logging on to the clubs website, [www.earsradioclub.org](http://www.earsradioclub.org) and using the **Paypal** option. You don't need a paypal account to join! Go to the club website to renew via paypal

**Paypal or Credit Card Single Year Membership - \$25.00**

[Add to Cart](#)

**Family Membership - \$30.00**

[Add to Cart](#)

Paid Dues Query F Name	L Name	Call Sign
John	Hodgdon	KN4PHQ
Herman	Hoffman	WA9LFQ
Stephen	Johnson	K1LOV
Karl	Kaukis	KOCIE
Walt	Kline	WB8WNF
Charles	Lane	KD8KII
Tony	Levenson	W4RFV
David	Lynch	K2SDA
Steve	Malone	KN4YIV
Roger	Mattila	N9KWB
Robert	McAlister	KN4RKE
John (Bernadette)	McEnerney	KQ4ELH
Jerry	Meckenberg	K4JWE
Luis	Napoles	KN4ITK
Jim	Nelson	W4AII
Kermit	Noles	KQ4ELK
Geoff & Fran	Norton	KM4UGR/KQ4DHN
Charlotte	O Conner	WD8RIM
Doc	O'Connor	K8DO
Kyra	Pellant	
Jon	Pellant	W1JP
Jim	Porter	KA8PBA
Bill	Reed	K7WWR
Michael	Reid	N3MR
Jim	Sanford	K8ZZU
Bernard	Schmelz	K1BES
James & Mary	Stillwagon	Not yet licensed
Mark	Thurston	KB8WXI
Clive	Towndrow	
Larry	Van Sice	KQ4DGX
Scott	Van Sice	KQ4FUN
Daniel	Williams	N0DRW
Douglas & Jayne	Young	KM4LKC

**Please advise me of any corrections or new additions**

Continued from page 1.....



The repeater was removed from service at about 9:30 am that morning. In the photo to the left, KM4GX is in the final stages of preparing the RF cavities for their trip to the tuning bench.. As you can see, there are 4 tuned cavities. The two on the left (top and bottom) are hooked in series and connect the repeater receiver section to the

antenna. Likewise the two cavities on the right are hooked in series and connected to the repeater transmitter section. The purpose of the cavities is to provide isolation between the receiver and transmitter so that talking and listening can happen at the same time. The cavities are filters, one set tuned to the receive frequency and the other to the transmitter frequency. In our case 146.865 MHZ and 146.265MHZ (repeater receive and transmit frequencies) which are the reverse of our mobile and base station settings. Which we use to talk to each other through the repeater.

Because the repeater is located in a secured area, most of our club members have never seen the repeater. I took a few pictures to show what it looks like.



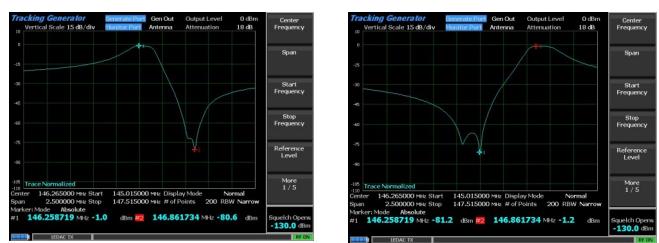
As shown in the picture on the left, the repeater is mounted in a standard equipment rack. The bottom open space is where the RF cavities are normally mounted. This picture was taken after their removal. The unit at the bottom (as shown) is the RF amplifier. The amplifier being used now is not owned by our club. It is “on loan” from CCFLARES. As a club we are looking for an amplifier to replace the CCFLARES unit. Fortunately CCFLARES knows this and are willing to support us until we do find a replacement., The next unit above the amplifier is the repeater and repeater controller unit. As

you may remember, the club purchase the unit about two years ago. For about \$2000 . The unit has worked reliably since it's installation. Mounted above the repeater is a shelf holding the display of the computer that is connected to the repeater. The computer is used to program and monitor the repeater settings.



The picture on the left shows the back view of the rack mounted repeater system. On the bottom shelf is the power supply for the 100 watt amplifier. Above that is the back view of the repeater/controller, and above that is the computer used to control and adjust the repeater/controller settings. Several items remain to be done. to “clean up” and standardize the installation.

The RF cavities were inspected and tuning accomplished., and the repeater returned to service at about 5 pm the same day. Some quick “on the air” checks were conducted to make sure everything was “back to normal”.



Shown above are the VNA graphs showing the “notches” for the receive and transmit cavities. As shown, the filters are showing +80db of isolation between the transmit and receiver frequencies. It was noted by the tuning lab that a few more db of isolation could be obtained by replacing the cabling between each cavity, although the replacement is not a priority.

# Englewood Amateur Radio Society

## Treasurer Report



	Beginning Balance	4275.01		
	Expenses	Income		
<b>November 2024</b>				
11/12/2024	\$0.00	cash	\$78.00	50 - 50 drawing
11/12/2024	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	2025 dues
11/12/2024	\$0.00	check 684	\$25.00	Bill Hopewell
11/12/2024	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	WA9LFQ
11/12/2024	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	W2CWL 2025 dues
11/12/2024	\$0.00	check 260	\$30.00	KN4YIU and KN4YIV
11/12/2024	\$0.00	cash	\$25.00	2025 dues
11/12/2024	\$0.00	Cash	\$25.00	2025 dues
Sum	\$0.00		\$258.00	Balance 4533.01

### Petty Cash

\$101.50	\$68.19	Balance	\$33.31
Amount Received	Amount Paid		

*Robert W M McAlister*

Robert McAlister, Treasurer

Thursday, December 5, 2024



## 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

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