



# E A R S

President Jon Pellant, W1JP  
VP Jim Nelson, W4AII  
Secretary Herman Hoffman, WA9LFQ  
Treasurer Bob McAlister, KN4RKE

Englewood Florida  
[www.earsradioclub.org](http://www.earsradioclub.org)  
Facebook: Englewood Amateur Radio Society



## Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

March 2021

### MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be: Tuesday, April 13th at the COC in Englewood, unless otherwise notified. Check the FB page , and groups.io for last minute updates

#### CLUB NEWS

#### **ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

#### **March Minutes:**

Open the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. (19:08) Led by Jon Pellant

Secretary's January Minutes Report Accepted– Motion to accept by Steve Frogett 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob McAllister, as submitted by H. Hoffman, Secretary

Treasurer's Report Accepted – Motion by Steve Frogget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Frasier., several Dues deposits/Balance on March 09, \$5,308.41. Check for Secretary. H Hoffman P.O. Box Rent \$ 134.00 Year of 2021 thru Feb. 2022. Submitted by Bob Mcalister. Motion for acceptance of report by Jon Pel-lant, 2cnd by H. Hoffman

**Correspondence:** None to report. H Hoffman, Secretary, however, will pick up mail pick again before next meeting on 4/13/2021 unless requested.

Members Present: Jon Pellant W1JP/ President, Jim Nelson W4AII /Vice President, Robert McAlister KN4RKE/Treasurer, Herman Hoffman WA9LFQ Secretary, Matthew Henry K4VEM/Trustee, Jon Blincoe N1COC/Trustee, Jim Grimes KD8OCW, Dave Young KM4LKC, Steve Frogget KN4NFX, Kenneth Blackshaw W1NQT, John Hodgdon KN4PDQ, Pam Eggleton

K1UEG, Jim Reske NB3P, and Tom Chance K9XV

Meeting VIA Google MEET Courtesy of Jon Pellant/President with 14 Hams on board, thank you all. This was a dual meeting via F to F at COC with Jon Pellant, Jon Blincoe, and Jim Nelson a connection of the 11 oth-ers via Meet.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Sunshine** –Nothing to report this month.

**ARES** – (Formerly RACES) – Tom Chance fielded discussion regarding concerning AR33 conversion. Ball Field repeater site is being re-engineered by the Charlotte County to accommodate Verizon's placement of cellular antenna farm. Currently our VHF Antenna is not located on the East side of the tower. Perhaps mov-ing to that location would be better. Sug-gestions regarding other changes, adds, and moves affecting EARS should be di-rected via Tom Chance. Also, there may be a issue with the K8ONV repeater and its requirement of a 600 KHZ RX/TX Fre-quency Spacing. These suggestions must be submitted so that the Combiner can be ordered by the County. Manufac-turer is Sinclair.

*Minutes continued.....*

April 24<sup>th</sup> Emergency Drill with HF Testing and advanced Winlink applications. CARRS has Group IO Page; CARRS-FL.groups.IO

**Publicity** – Past month none but will “Training & Testing” will be placed this month.

**DX** – Band conditions are tough again. Propagation extremely poor.

**Training & Testing** – Discussion regarding Training for CERT Members. Current training curriculum subjects are Radio License Q&A & Ham Radio Operations. Was held at the Beach Complex, Port Charlotte. Next 3 weekends scheduled. Membership possibilities?

**Technology** – Bob Mcallister; EARS Website and Facebook Page are operating and stable. Thanks Bob, your efforts on behalf of EARS are yielding real results.

### **Ham-Fests –EVENTS-**

April 24<sup>th</sup> Emergency Drill with HF start at 10AM ending 1 PM. Thank you, Doug Frasier and Jim Nelson for your efforts to get emergency communications into the mainstream of Ham Radio activities again. Also, Duwain Hunt and Tom Chance moving EARS plus the other neighboring ham clubs like EARS in size and scope to take on new and existing technology.

**Repeater** – See ARES

**NEW & OLD BUSINESS**-Need volunteers/organization April Picnic

**ADJOURNMENT** called by Bob McAlister, 2nd by John Hodgdon at 20:22

Presentation by Bob McAllister, HOME BREW Hex Beam. See last page.

Some parts and info available at [www.hexbeam.com](http://www.hexbeam.com)

### **2 Meter Chat Net:**

The club conducts a two meter chat net every Tuesday evening on K8ONV, 146.865 136.5HZ tone, -600 transmit. On Tuesdays that the club holds its meeting, no net.

3/2/2021

Hi All - Here are my notes from this evening's k8onv net. Nice to hear so many stations including Greg on Nantucket, via Echolink. 73's - Ken

1. k8zzu - Jim - brought qsl from Azerbaijan to breakfast.
  2. w8jjv - Duwain - Murdock -
  3. w4aii - meeting next Tuesday -
  4. kn4jen - Alan - bank of the Myakka - Red Sox won! - Sunshine net control. Hamfest CARS this weekend.
  5. kn4nfx - Steve - in the backyard - Rotonda West.
  6. ke5odr - Doug - Placida - Tringali innoculation site tomorrow. Tomorrow night CCFLARES net.
  7. ka8pba - Jim -
  8. wb8wnf - Walt - Englewood - 2nd shot! Stuffed peppers.
  9. k1uh - Greg Nantucket - 40-50 mph winds from the north.
  10. k2gqg - John - missing breakfast next week. Alligator eating a football at Myakka!
  11. kn4rke - Bob - Google meet meeting next Tuesday.
  12. km4lkc - Doug - late April - 2nd phase emergency comm exercise - East Charlotte County.
- Check for NCS next week.  
EARS meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at Englewood Chamber of Commerce, or virtually on N4EAR.  
EARS members and friends meet every week on Tuesdays at 8 AM at Maria's on Indiana in Englewood.  
Information on EARS can be found at QRZ.com at N4EAR, or on website [earsradioclub.org](http://earsradioclub.org), or [ears.group.io](http://ears.group.io). Closed net at 7:25 pm and the repeater is back to its normal open operation.

3/16/2021 2mtr Chat net

This is W1NQT for the EARS K8ONV Net. I will now take checkins. We got our 2nd shots yesterday!

1. kn4phq - John - Painting the house. One Covid 19 shot. Extra Monitor.

2. k1ueg - Pam - Echolink no? nice signal.

3. w4aii - Jim - CERT class. Needs PC donation.

4. kn4nfx - Steve - Rotonda West - ke5odr's antenna.

5. ke5odr - Doug -

6. kh2op - Charlie - Overcast and foggy in Mo. 2nd shot!

7. k2gqq - John - Breakfast - 2nd eye is doing well! Venice Rookery. Alligators in great numbers.

8. kn4jen - Allen - Banks of the Myakka. Echolink advice.

Dentist visit - not so great! :-(

9. wO0S - Chip - First timer! Lake of the Ozarks in Mo.

10. W8JJV- Duwain - FT8 and Winlink

11. kn4rk - Bob - Breakfast

12. k3cf - Cliff - So. Gulf Cove

13. ka8pba - Jim

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73's - Ken

Have you joined the EARS Groups.IO email messaging system? It's a great way to keep current about what's going on in the EAR's Radio Club.

## **It's Time to Renew Your EARS 2021 Dues!**

Until I get it figured out differently, we only have two ways of paying dues. Mail in the form with a check, or pay at a meeting. Hopefully we will be able to have face to face meetings again soon, but in the meantime, please consider mailing your dues for 2021 in. The last sheet of this newsletter is a membership form. Dues are \$15.00 per year, single member and \$18.50 for a family membership. Please take time to submit your dues as soon as you can. Thank you!

 EARS  
Englewood Amateur Radio Society

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	AMIC Member
Address		City	Zip Code	
Land Phone	Mobile Phone	Email Address		
Secondary Address	Secondary City	ST	Zip	
Spouse	Please check Activity Interests:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contesting	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers		
	<input type="checkbox"/> RTTY/TVI	<input type="checkbox"/> Pocket		
	<input type="checkbox"/> VE Testing	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

## CURRENT EARS MEMBERSHIP LIST

If your call sign is not on this list, you are not yet a paid up member of EARS for 2021!

K1UGE  
K2GQG  
K4KUO  
KC3F  
KC4WJ  
KD2AQR  
KD8OCW  
KE4VEM  
KF4KDI  
KD4EDG  
KM4LKC  
KN4ITK  
KN4LFC  
KN4PHQ  
KN4RKE  
N1TKN  
NB3P  
W1JP  
W1NPR  
W1NQT  
W2YJ  
W4AII  
W4VV  
W8JJV  
WA9LFQ

If you are not on the list, please consider renewing your membership for 2021! The more Amateur Radio Operators we have, the better the club will be.

If you have paid and I missed your call, please let me know

KN4RKE, Treasurer.



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**CUT OFF FOR EARS SUBMISSIONS:** 18TH of each month Please, no articles of a political, religious, controversial or argumentative nature. The Club reserves the right to accept, edit, or reject any submission.. **Bob McAlister KN4RKE Phone: 941-416-2516 (cell) 941-474-4190 (Home) E-Mail: bob.mcalister@outlook.com** Please use the email shown..



## Englewood Amateur Radio Sociey

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	ARRL MBR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address		City	Zip Code		
Local Phone	Mobile Phone	Email Address			
Secondary Address		Secondary City	ST	Zip	
Spouse					

### Please check Activity Interests:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RFI/TVI    | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VE Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training   | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |

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

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## Hex Beam Presentation

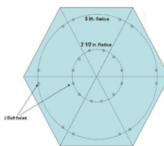


What got me interested in building a hex beam was this year's Winter field Day Jon, W1JP brought his hex beam to run 20 meters contacts for the contest.

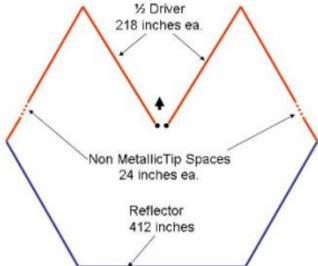
I was impressed at the "portability" and light weight of the antenna, and decided to try making one for myself. When the antenna was connected to the transceiver, it seemed to work really well, considering it was only about 10 feet off the ground. There are several versions of the hex beam out there, and depending on the number of antenna elements you get the cost ranges from about \$400 to \$800 dollars



I started out by printing the complete parts list. The list provided suppliers names/websites for the various parts. Except for some minor hardware pieces, I ordered the parts from the suggested suppliers. The most expensive "parts" were the aluminum base plate, the fiberglass tubes and the wire/dacron rope used for the director/reflector sections of the beam elements. A template was linked on the site that simplified the cutting and drilling needed for the base plate. I cut it to shape with a jig saw with a metal cutting blade



My jig sawed base plate.  
Not yet drilled in this photo.



Next, I assembled the antenna wire sets. So far I have only built the 20, 15, and 10 meter sets. Included on the web site is a chart that gives the dimensions for the directors, reflector, and spacers. The 20 meter 16 AWG pvc covered braided wire sketch is shown. The wire cost me 27 cents a foot. About \$77 for all the wire needed for the 6 bands. I used a dacron 1/8 inch rope to make the spacers



All the information you will need to make a hex beam is located at:  
[www.hex-beam.com](http://www.hex-beam.com)

## Build your own Hexagonal Beam

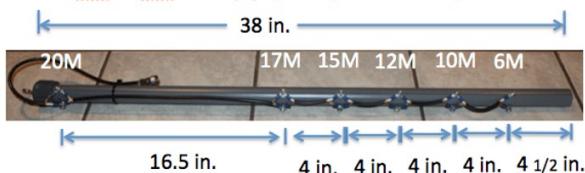
G3TXQ Broadband Hexagonal beam by K4KIO

BUILD YOUR OWN HEX STEPS TO BUILD SPECS THE MAST PARTS FAQ'S CONTACT US

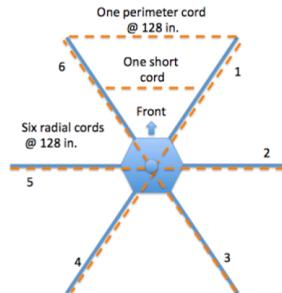
The site has complete information for building the antenna

### Center post specs

Sch 80 pvc water pipe, 1 in. (O.D. = 1.3 in.)



Next I assembled the center post. I was a little apprehensive because I had to make short "interconnecting links" out of rg 58 to feed each antenna wire. The commercial versions have an internal scheme and nothing shows on the outside except the terminals where the wires connect.



Perhaps the easiest part of the project was fabricating the spreader cords. 7 cords 128 inches long (including the "s" hooks on each end) and one shorter cord, about 90 inches. I pre-stretched the dacron cord when I made the measurements to cut.

I assembled the antenna and used a [nano vna](#) to check for resonance and SWR. All three bands were resonant, with a range of about 1.3 to 1.7 to 1 SWR across the bands.

I plan on doing some field strength measurements to get an idea of the directivity and front to back ratios of the antenna.

