



EARS
ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



President Jon Pellant, W1JP
VP Jim Nelson, W4AI
Secretary Herman Hoffman, WA9LFQ
Treasurer Bob McAlister, KN4RKE
Trustees: M. Henry KE4VEM, H. Hoffman, WA9LFQ

Englewood Florida
www.earsradioclub.org email: info@earsradioclub.org
Facebook: Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Supporting and Practicing Ham Radio in Englewood

April 2023

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTES

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be: **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the COC in Englewood at 19:00, unless otherwise notified. Check the FB page , and groups.io for last minute updates**

CLUB NEWS



MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for April 11, 2023

Meeting opened at 18:59 with Jon Pellant W1JP, Presiding President and attending members delivering the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Jim Nelson W4AI Vice President, Bob McAllister KN4RKE Treasurer, Herman Hoffman WA9LFQ Secretary, Jon Blincoe N1COC, Steve Froggatt KN4NFX, Steve Malone KN4YIV, Shirly Duke KN4YIU, Mark Thurston KB8WXI, [Bill Reed](#) K7WWR, Bill Dolan W2CWL, Michael Reid N3MR, Doug Vanderlaan K8RFT, Bernie Schmelz KOLZQL, Jim Porter KA8PBA, Steve Bishop KW4SAB, John Hodgdon KN4PHQ, Bob Bowes KC1MAM, Ken Blackshaw W1NQT Director of Publicity & Sunshine Distribution

19 Members, Guests, and a hardy welcome to anybody I missed!

TREASURERS REPORT: Ending Balance: 3/31/2023: \$3012.81, Post Office Box Rent Expenses \$201.00 with late fee. Petty cash \$29.81. Motion to accept Treasurers Report by Steve Bishop & 2nd by Jon Blincoe

SECRETARIES REPORT: April 2023, monthly meeting minutes were recorded by Herman Hoffman and placed into the March Monthly EARS Newsletter by Bob McAllister, membership accepted minutes as published with a motion by Jon Blincoe and 2nd by Steve Froggatt.

Before the regular committee meetings there was a discussion regarding the conversion from the current deilement as a Club to a 503C Corporation. There are tax provisions, State of FL reporting responsibilities and various other more stringent requirements for tax records. Therefore, feedback from the membership is critical before any action is taken. Further discussion was tabled for the time being in leu of looking at this now.

SUNSHINE: Ken Blackshaw had no Sunshine deficient members or friends of EARS during the past month since our last meeting. He did, however, have several publicity opportunities and lined up some exposure for our next Field Day exercise. Ken canvased other potential periodical publications as well.

PUBLICITY: Winter Field Day photos were submitted to Sun News weekly & daily by Ken Blackshaw, W1NQT, EARS Publicity Director.

Also, well over 100 contact submissions have been verified and credited to EARS for the last FD event, thanks to Bill Reed, operations folks, and member support.

DX: Band activity is gaining great attention as the Sunspot cycle continues to assist propagation on nearly all HF wavelengths. It has been a long time since 40 & 80-meter communications have yielded contacts around the world as it does now.

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Boerie Oreilles, circular particle formations, many black spots, and great ham activity are all the current rage throughout our space playground, that planet Earth occupies. When the last splurge of activity, eleven years ago, paid us a visit, we were ignorant of just how secret our solar system was. And, it was much more complicated not having the observation, computer, and tracking systems that exist today. With various particles getting belched toward Earth, bands above 20 Meters are making DX fun again. Summer ducting is also influencing VHF bands with surprisingly long range. UHF Bands seem to be stable, but we have several years to go in the current cycle. Jim Nelson has been able to use FT8 to complete his goal of a "Worked all Countries Certificate". Perhaps eager pursuit insured Jim's completion, but the Sunspot Cycle had to be a little help? With a good DX performance, Winter Field Day was enjoyed by EARS Hams. EARS members that put in considerable effort for great contact performance and supporting our public exposure efforts.

A committee (KN4RKE, K7WWR, W2CWL, K8RFT, K8ZZU) was formed to develop guidelines for upcoming club DX and antenna testing activities.

HAM FEST: The Orlando Ham Fest event in February was enjoyed by many attendees including several EARS members. The Sarasota Ham Radio Club bus trip makes the trip worthwhile for those of us that are attaining maturity. We thank the Sarasota folks for their efforts on our behalf.

ARES and Training /Testing: Bernie Schmelz reported significant interest in CERT training courses. Charlotte County CERT has done a very good job getting the training program established. Success has been made getting members for Charlotte County Cert and new members for our Ham Club. Thank you, all, for your persistence and ambition. Interested parties can get more information on the appropriate Charlotte County Web Page for new class launch dates.

TECHNOLOGY: Jon Pellant discussed the resetting of the time clock on the N4EAR repeater. Currently the clock is about nine hours off, however the Echolink system follows the repeater with its more accurate announcement.

OLD BUSSINESS: The new Band Pass Filters have been delivered and will make the FD experience interference free.

Discussion followed that it is now time to do an inventory of the equipment the Club owns. Several options were discussed but more discussion is needed.

Motion to adjourn by Jon Pellant and seconded by Steve Bishop at 20:07.
See You May 8th, 2023, 19:00.

2 Meter Chat Net:

The club conducts a two meter chat net every **Tuesday evening on N4EAR, 146.865 136.5HZ** tone, -600 transmit.at **7:15 PM.**



On Tuesdays that the club holds its meeting, no net. If you are using echo link to check in, 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 rotation is:

Week 1: KN4NFX

Week 2: Club meeting, net not held

Week 3: KN4RKE

Week 4: W4AII/KW4SAB

Week 5 (if needed) : Open

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

3/28/2023 KN4RKE Net control

Net opened at 19:18 local time

K7WWR Bill in Englewood. Checked in on echo link

W2CWL Bill in Venice (temp) via echo link.

Getting house repaired

W4AII Jim on Manasota Key. Hosting family visit. Grandson said hello on rig

KN4YIV Steve in SGC. Making progress on Hurricane Ian

WO4KACK Kelly, SGC testing rig coverage.

New attic antenna

KN4PHQ John in Rotoda. Making progress on home repairs. Enjoyed breakfast at Jr and Rosies

KE5ODR Doug in Placidagabe updates on CERT training

K8RFT Doug in Englewood. Working on home and local shack and antenna

KN4JEN, Alan in SGC reported on Vet Appreciation Day this coming week

W1NQT Ken in Englewood enjoyed breakfast at JR and Rosies although he had to sit at overflow table. Working on club history (thanks

Ken)

Net closed at 19:42 local

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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

Fun and fellowship at Junior and Rosie's

POTA Activation—Myakka State Forest

On Saturday April 1st a group of Hams from EARS set up a POTA activation at Myakka State Forest. It was an informal gathering and any and everyone were invited. The event was organized by Bill **K7WWR**. The morning started out with just a few of us, Bill **K7WWR**, Steve **KW4SAB** and Doug **K8RFT**. We began the day by setting up our antennas, radials and feed lines, followed by our individual stations. Doug had all of his antenna analyzer equipment with him, and was very helpful in getting our setups working at peak performance! We did have a few issues getting everything working right at first, especially Steve with his new go box and antenna, but we were soon up and running. We had 3 rigs set up, Bill and Steve working SSB on their 100 watt transceivers and Doug with his QRP rig and really cool home brew wire antenna utilizing a fishing pole! The bands weren't very cooperative, but we did manage to make some QSO's, especially Bill. He really had 17 meters dialed in and was able to log quite a few stations and should qualify for a POTA activation after submission of logs. Throughout the day several other hams stopped by to lend a hand, bring out treats or to just say hi and enjoy the company of others. Thanks to Shirley **KN4YIU** and Steve **KN4YIV** for bringing some delicious brownies! They were a big hit. Bill **W2CWL**, John **KN4PHQ**, and Jim **KA8PBA** all stopped by to say hi and lend a hand as well.

All in all it was a good ham radio day. We had a successful activation, learned some valuable information about various antenna setups, analyzers, SWR readings,

logging programs and self sufficiency using alternative power such as battery and solar chargers. Myakka State Forest is a real nice place for field operations. It has a good shelter, clean restrooms and plenty of room to spread out with various antennas and radial fields. There is no source of power or water so self sufficiency is a must. We all agreed that it is a great spot and will definitely plan more POTA and maybe even a field day event at this nice location.

Submitted by:
Steve, **KW4SAB**

EARS Club History on Groups.i.o

Here's a resource in the sky that **EARS** members can use to learn more about your club's history.

First enter ears.groups.io into the address line on your web browser. This will bring up the [group starting page](#). Looking down the left side of that page you can see a list of menu options. Look for 'Photos.' Clicking on that you'll see an icon that says 'Emailed Photos,' and another that says 'EARS SK Photos.'

Just below the 'Photos' option you can see 'Files.' Clicking on this brings up a list of all the folders and files that members have uploaded to our group records. I've created a folder there that is called 'EARS Silent Keys.' Here you can see the obits on some of our old club members. When viewing the 'Files' you can see a blue button at the top right that says 'New/Upload.' This gives you the option to upload your own files or create a folder to hold a new category of files.

Similarly when viewing 'Photos,' you can click on 'New Album' to create a folder for a new group of pictures you might like to add to this resource.

Submitted by Ken, **WINQT**

EARS Equipment Inventory

If you are storing Club equipment or property, please send me a list of what you have. The club is updating (I think re-establishing) a list so that we know what is available for use by members for field day type activities. You can email me at lobanker@hotmail.com or of course see me at **Jr and Rosies** Tuesday mornings or the 2nd Tuesday of the month club meeting at the COC.

Upcoming Club Activities

As noted in the April Minutes, a committee is formulating a couple of events for this coming Summer and Fall. Information about an EARS Summer DX contest will be coming out soon. It will be open to all EARS members (local and "snowbird". And an "Antenna Star Wars" / chili cook off is being organized for the Fall. More information will be sent out via groups.io, the FB page, etc!

Member DIRECTORY

If you are *not* on this list, I don't have you marked for 2023. Please contact me if I've made an error. Thanks, Bob KN4RKE, Treasurer
lobanker@hotmail.com

Newsletter Paid Dues Query F	L Name	Call Sign
JoAnn	Adamy	KC4WJ
Brendon	Bertancourt	KB3FUH
Steve	Bishop	KW4SAB
Ken	Blackshaw	W1NQT
Jonathan	Blincoe	N1COC
Bob	Bowes	
Freeman	Crosby	W1NPR
Bill	Dolan	W2CWL
Shirley	Duke	KN4YIU
Cliff	Evans	KC3F
Doug	Frazier	KE5ODR
Steve	Froggatt	KN4NFX
Jim	Grimes	KD8OCW
Matthew	Henry	KE4VEM
Michael	Henry	KF4KDI
John	Hodgdon	KN4PHQ
Herman	Hoffman	WA9LFC
Duwain	Hunt	W8JJV
Karl	Kaukis	KOCIE
Walt	Kline	WB8WNF
George	Krickovich	W2YJ
Charles	Lane	KD8KII
Steve	Malone	KN4YIV
Robert	McAlister	KN4RKE
Jerry	Meckenberg	K4JWE
Luis	Napoles	KN4ITK
Jim	Nelson	W4AII
Doc	O'Connor	K8DO
Jon	Pellant	W1JP
Jim	Porter	KA8PBA
Bill	Reed	K7WWR
Michael	Reid	N3MR
Jim	Sanford	K8ZZU
Bernard	Schmelz	KO4ZQL
Bernie	Silverberg	K4KUO
Mark	Thurston	KB8WXI
Leonard	Trudeau	N4LJT
Doug	Vanderlaan	K8RFT
Jay	Wilson	KB1HNE
Douglas and Jayne	Young	KM4LKC

[Groups.io Website](https://groups.io)

If you are not getting the EARS groups.io emails, please contact one of the club officers. Groups.io is used to send emails concerning

club activities and other supportive functions. If you don't get the messages you are missing out on club information! Get more information at [main@ears.groups.io/Home](mailto:main@ears.groups.io) or main+subscribe@ears.groups.io

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! Thanks in advance!

Options

Single Membership one year \$15.00 USD ▾

Buy Now



Use the BUY button above to purchase a membership on line with Paypal

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4/4/2023 Net

This is w1nqt - Ken - Net Control for the EARS Net. I will now take check-ins. First Check-in please come now.

1. k8rft - Doug - Park activation at Myakka Forest - All hf ops started as newbies.
 2. w4aia - Jim - Bill's park activation efforts. Meeting next Tuesday. Opinions on Myakka State Forest FD??
 3. kw4sab - Steve - POTA weekend write-up -
 4. kn4yiv - Steve - SGC - Also enjoyed POTA - FD at the State Forest could be good. Lots of antenna space.
 5. kn4rke - Bob - J-Pole working.
 6. k7wwr - Bill - E/L - Doc & Charlotte heading north. POTA notes - and you learn about your equipment by what is not working. Fishing rod antenna contacted Slovenia.
 7. kn4phq - John - Also went to POTA and brownies.
 8. ka8pba - Jim -
- Net control W1NQT is now closing the EARS Net at 7:39 pm and returning this repeater to normal amateur use.



Englewood Amateur Radio Society

ARRL
 First Name Last Name Call Sign License Class MBR

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 |

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