

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

December 4, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: KO4NTH, AK4MM, KJ4PR, N4HHN, WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, W4KWS, K1ST

Via Zoom: KA4PPM, KG2CS, K8ACW, N1BGK

VE Testing at 6PM: No one signed up so there were no exams at 6:00 PM.

Old Business:

Currently thirty-five paid members for 2024. We are starting to collect dues for 2025. Dues are Twenty Dollars. Make checks payable to Florida Keys ARC. They can be sent to FKARC, 624 ASHE ST, KEY WEST, FL 33040-7111.

The Club currently has \$2042.22 in the Checking account and \$60 in savings.

The [Diex DXS-1 20-15-10 Meter Rotatable Dipole](#) was given to K1ST for assembling and testing. This task is still open but will be completed in plenty of time for Winter Field Day.

W4KWS and K1ST are working to move the Cross Mode Bridge function to the Cloud. Tony, W4KWS, has made significant progress and the Cloud Cross Mode Bridge should be operational in December for our Nets and any other special operations.

K1ST asked at the November Meeting if we should provide an Honorarium for invited Speakers? This was discussed at the December Meeting it was decided that it was a higher priority to make a donation to the Big Pine United Methodist Church. A \$50 check will be sent to the church.

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status: The Islamorada GMRS Repeater at the Treasure Village Montessori Charter School, MM86, has been installed and is now operational. The Cudjoe Key GMRS Repeater was down but in the process of being repaired.

Ham Repeater Status: W4KWS has mentioned that the Key West VHF Repeater is still deaf. This will be addressed when the repeater is moved to Stock Island (probably in December). The noisy squelch tail on the Scout Key VHF Repeater was fixed on 12/03.

We are starting to occasionally hear interference from the County Paging System. This is most likely occurring on the Plantation Key UHF FM Repeater. This repeater can be remotely turned off if the issue worsens. The UHF Paging System is expected to be turned off around the end of the year as the paging moves to the 800 MHz system.

The somewhat deaf Marathon DMR Repeater will be looked at in December.

The current status of the Repeaters in the County can be found on the [Repeaters Page](#) of the FKARC web site.

K1ST asked if there was interest in having a Club Christmas Party. It's too late this year but we could make plans to have one in 2025. K1ST proposed having a Potluck Christmas Party instead of a December Club Meeting. We could use a different room at the Church which has ample seating for a sit-down dinner. There was strong interest in the idea so the Club will work towards holding one in 2025.

Ten Minute Break / For Sale

Steve, K1ST had a DMR Duplex Hotspot with Raspberry Pi Zero 2W for sale for \$70. He also was selling FKARC CAR Stickers for a dollar.



Tony, W4KWS, was selling a VHF Amplifier. He is also looking for a 2 Meter SSB Transceiver if anyone is selling one.

Main Presentation / Discussion

We discussed our plans for [Winter Field Day](#) January 25th & 26th. It will be held once again at Camp Wessumkee, 34200 Overseas Highway on Scout Key next to the Boy Scout Camp.

The MCSO Comms Van will be in use by the Sherriff's Office so it will not be available for WFD. We can, however, use the Tower Trailer and the three IC-7300s, power supplies and feedlines.

There will also be overnight Dry Camping (no fires, no alcohol, self-cleanup). Notify [KO4NTH](#) if you plan to stay overnight.

The group decided to combine operations with [Keys Cares](#) under the building near the entrance. We will use the EOC callsign, [KW4EOC](#), as it has a Logbook of the World account so we can easily confirm all of the QSOs via LoTW.

Setup will be on Friday, January 24th. The contest 30-hour operational period starts at 1600 UTC on Saturday (11 am EST), the 25th, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 26th (4:59 pm EST).

KA2BYU will ask KN4GPN if we can use his solar power system for powering our joint operation.

KA2BYU suggested we ask John, KW4FLA, to be our Safety Officer. KO4NTH volunteered to be the Site Manager for the weekend (thanks Michael!!!).

KA2BYU will make arrangements for the Porta Potty which will be paid for jointly by FKARC and Keys CARES.

Plans for a Group Dinner or Lunch on Saturday will be decided at the January Club Meeting.

We now need volunteers for Setup, Operating, Meal Coordinator and Teardown.

Setup: W4KWS, KA2BYU, KO4NTH

Operating: KJ4PR

Meal Coordinator: TBD

Teardown: TBD

Everyone is welcome to attend. Hams, Hams-to-Be, Friends & Relatives. Last January we had a total of twenty-nine Hams visit our WFD site. Please volunteer for setup/teardown or operating to help with our Emergency Preparedness Practice. Let [K1ST](#) know how you would like to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary