

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

January 8, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: K8ACW, KO4NTH, KA2BYU, K4HG, N4HHN, KK4HG, AK4MM, KF5VZB and sons Wyatt & Jack, KJ4PR, W4KWS, WA4JFK, WA4FJF, KB7ZDO, K1ST

Via Zoom: N1BGK

VE Testing at 6PM: No Test Session. No one signed up.

Old Business:

The Club has over \$2000.00 in the Bank. WA4JFK is currently updating the Club financials and membership with the 2025 updates.

Membership and Finance Update from Shirley, WA4JFK. 2025 dues can now be paid via Zelle or Venmo. Payment will be made to K1ST who will then forward on to WA4JFK. Contact [K1ST](#) for details.

The [Dix DXS-1 20-15-10 Meter Rotatable Dipole](#) was given to K1ST for assembling and testing. This task is still open. The rotateable dipole will not be used for Winter Field Day.

The [DVSwitch](#) Cross Mode Bridge in the Cloud is now fully operational. This is how we will be linking the DMR Keys TG and the FM Repeater Networks together going forward for our Nets and any other Special Events or Emergencies as required. We will also be looking into the possibility of adding Yaesu System Fusion linking capability in the future.

So now Allstar users can link to the DMR Keys TG by linking to Allstar Node 439398. Allstar users linking to DMR will be identified on DMR as K4FLK. The Hamshack Hotline link to the Keys TG is in the process of being reactivated. Links to the DVSwitch Dashboard and Allstar Node 439398 Supermon Dashboard have been added to the [FKARC DMR Webpage](#).

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status: The Islamorada Repeater is having Internet connectivity issues.

Ham Repeater Status: The Key West VHF FM and UHF DMR Repeaters have moved to the Sheriffs Office, MM05, on Stock Island. The Key West UHF FM Repeater is targeted to move at the end of January. We are also making progress on the Marathon VHF Repeater. Stayed tuned for updates.

Repeaters Update January 10th. Brian Myers, K4HG and K1ST tested the Marathon DMR Repeater. The antenna and transmitter were in good working order. K4HG found the receive side of the duplexer had 10 db of loss and retuned it. A Service Monitor was then used to test

the receiver sensitivity. The receiver required -85 dbm for full quieting, it should be over -100 dbm. We have a spare receiver and will replace it next week. We also configured and tested a replacement VHF repeater for Scout Key to eliminate the noise problem we have been experiencing on the FM Repeater Network. The Pepeater will be swapped out next Wednesday.

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

Winner of the FKARC December FM Activity Contest was KB7ZDO. K8ACW came in second. Thanks to Tony, W4KWS, for organizing, running the event and donating the Motorola EX600 VHF Handheld.



Left to right: KB7ZDO, W4KWS

Keith, KB7ZDO, has acquired two large rolls of [LMR-400](#) coax. Contact [Keith](#) if you might be interested some.

K4HG mentioned the Club used to have the Wacky Award for anyone working a minimum of the five Hams in the Keys. A certificate was issued to anyone that earned the award. W4KWS expressed interest in resurrecting the award and administering it. Stay tuned for developments.

K1ST is pursuing developing a new FKARC Club Logo. Below is an example created in PhotoShop. Stay tuned for future developments.



Marathon Seafood Festival participation with Keys CARES on March 8th & 9th 2025.

Main Presentation Winter Field Day:

Final planning for Winter Field Day January 25th & 26th, 2025. We will join forces with Keys CARES and have one operation. The callsign that will be used is KW4EOC. We will be at Camp Wessumkee, 34200 Overseas Highway on Scout Key next door to the Boy Scout Camp.

KO4NTH will be Site Manager. KA2BYU will be running the event with a lot of assistance from KO4NTH (thanks Michael!!!).

Operator: W8UF, KJ4PR, W4KWS (Sat), **who else?**

Let KO4NTH know if you plan on Dry Camping over the weekend.

Setup and Tear down? N4HHN, K4HG, KK4HG, WA8TTZ, W3JXY, KA2BYU

Site Safety Officer: KO4NTH, KA2BYU will provide training

Contact K1ST to add your callsign to the list of participants (Thanks!!!).

Group Lunch on Saturday will be coordinated by KN4GPN. Cost will be shared by the three radio Clubs. The estimated cost per Club is \$50.

KN4GPN will lend us his solar power system for powering our WFD operation.

KA2BYU is coordinating the Porta Potty which will be paid for jointly by FKARC and Keys CARES. KA2BYU will be borrowing Tables from the Church.

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS!!!

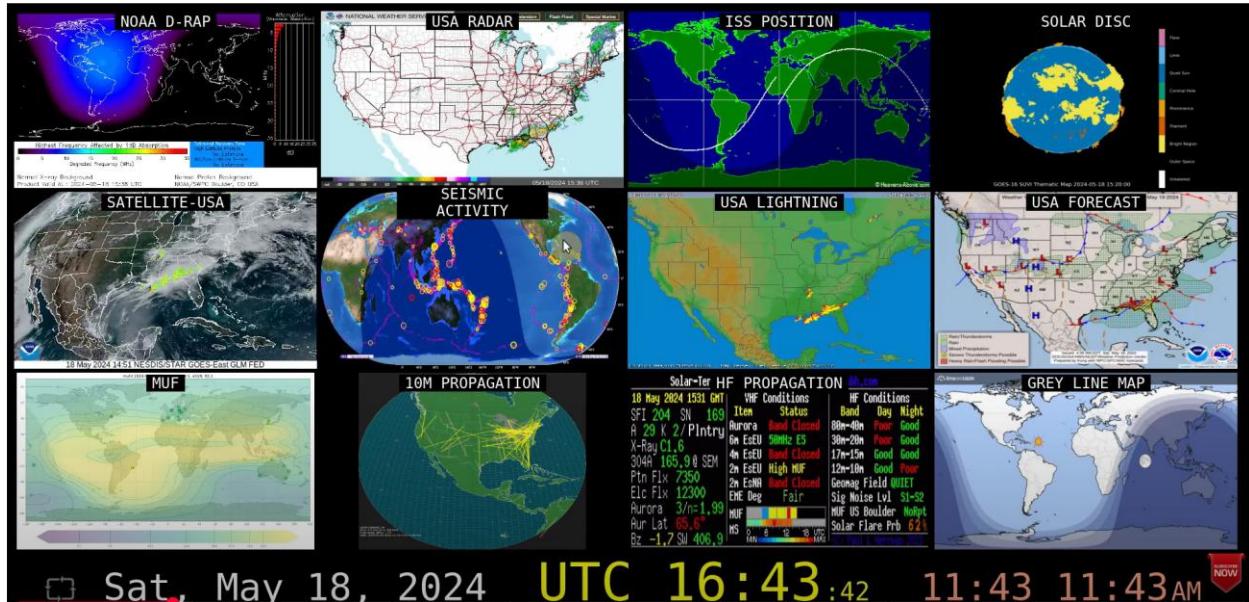
We will be using wire antennas provided by K1ST. We will not be using the MCSO Comms Truck or the Tower Trailer. The two MCSO HF Go Boxes will be available plus the IC-7300 from the Comms Truck.

Schedule is set up on Friday afternoon, operate 11AM Saturday to 5PM Sunday (probably finish up before the contest ends).

People may bring Ham Radio related items to sell on site as a Flea Market/ Tailgate.

Ham Dashboard Demo

Art, K8ACW, demonstrated his implementation of VE3HDL's [Ham Dashboard](#). Here is a [YouTube Video](#) by VE3HDL describing it. It's FREE and fully customizable.



Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Session is at Islamorada Public Library on Saturday January 18th at 10 AM. You must sign up in advance [here](#). We won't go to the Test Session if no one signs up in advance.

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on February 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary