

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

December 5, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, W4KWS, KJ4PR, KA2BYU, K4VRZ, KK4HG, KB7ZDO, KF0VOD, KN4TPR, K1ST

Via Zoom: KA4PPM, KG2CS, N1BGK, K2JCU, KB1PA

VE Testing at 6PM: No Exam Session before the meeting as no one signed up to take an exam.

Old Business:

The [minutes](#) of the November Club Meeting were approved. Motion made by KA2BYU and seconded by WA4JFJ.

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 36 paid members for 2025. Several people paid their 2026 dues. The Club currently has \$3,039 in the Treasury. **A total of \$2,654 has been collected for the Grassy Key Tower Project. So far \$254 has been spent for the VHF antenna at Grassy Key. Thanks again to every who contributed to the Repeater Projects.**

Please consider joining/renewing your membership for 2026. You can send a check to FKARC, 624 ASHE ST, KEY WEST, FL 33040-7111 or send a Zelle or Venmo payment to K1ST. Contact K1ST before sending funds. Annual dues are Twenty Dollars.

Club Swag. Club Swag. K1ST contacted Gold Medal regarding their Proposal but never heard back from them. **K1ST will pursue a local option that KR4IF suggested.**

Wacky Award Diploma. **The plan is to move forward and to allow QSOs on the Repeater Networks. You need to Five Keys. W4KWS will create the Diploma and administer the award. We'll add details to the Club Website.**

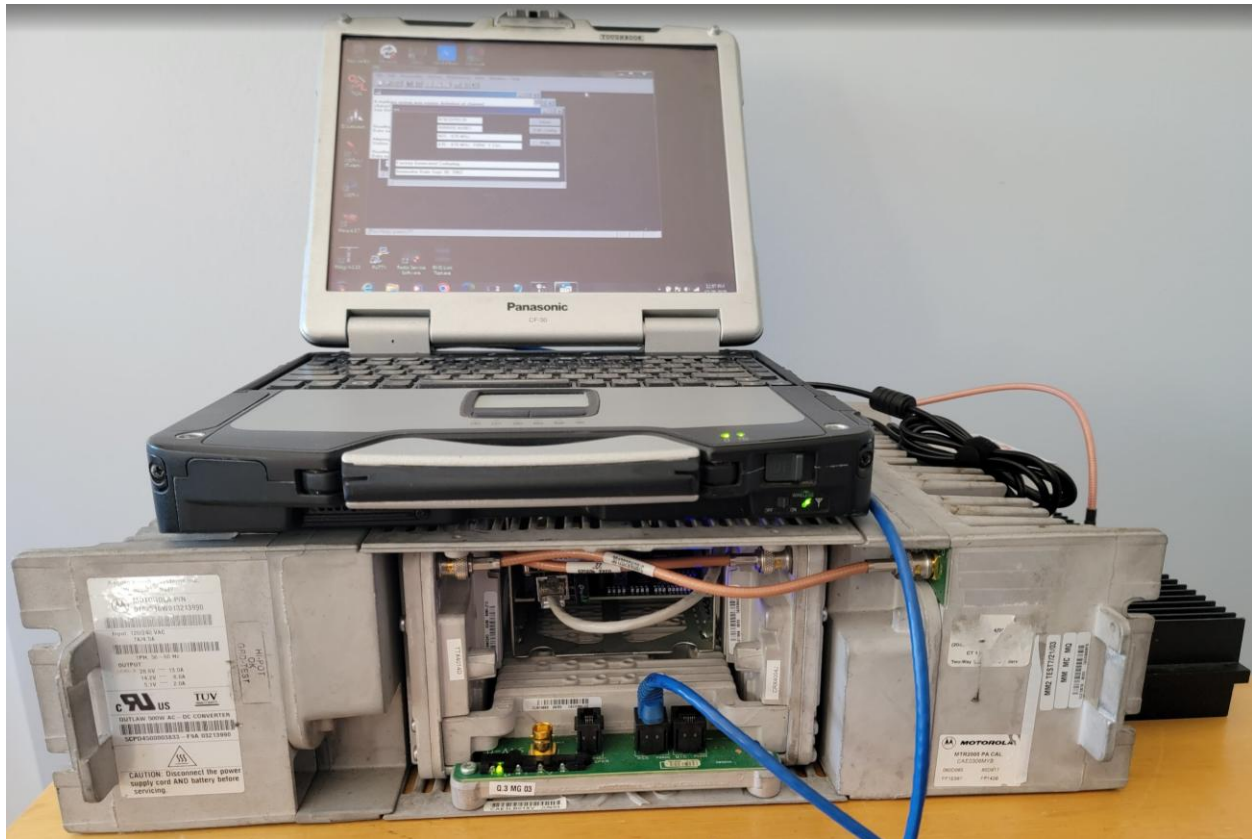
W4KWS is once again sponsoring a Keys QSO Party for December. One Point for a Repeater QSO (No Nets), 5 points for a simplex QSO (minimum 5 miles) and 20 points for a VARA FM Winlink QSO over the Repeaters. The winner will receive a new condition Motorola CDM1550LS UHF FM Mobile Radio pre-programmed for the Keys Repeaters. Winner to be announced at the January Club Meeting.



New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU. ORC GMRS Repeater may have a blown Power Amplifier. **Layton GMRS is online but temporarily on a 20 foot high mast. Plan is to move to the Layton EOC in January with the antenna on the same tower.**

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST. **The UHF Repeater for Key Largo (at the State Rd 905 Transfer Station) is progressing. The repeater is in the Keys and the Digital Board has been installed and configured. Installation on site is delayed until January.**



The tower crew for the Grassy Key Tower has been delayed due to the Holidays. I will update everyone when I know they are planning to be in the Keys.

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.

K4VRZ donate several Baofeng BF-888S handhelds to the Club to be used for special events like the 7 Mile Bridge Run. Thank you Greg.

Ten Minute Break

Several people purchased the \$22 AIOC ([Allin one Cable](#)) digital mode (VARA FM) for the Handhelds.

The remaining DM-1701s were also purchased. K1ST has since bought to additional DM-1701s with Programming Cables. They are available for \$45 each.

Main Presentation:

The main presentation was a discussion of the Club 2026 Budget. A lot of good ideas were brought up and will be considered for 2026. The Club was also made aware of a club member that has purchased a [Kraken SDR](#) for RDF (radio direction finding). The unit will be made available to the Club if we need to do any radio direction finding. It was

also discussed about setting up some Fox Hunts in the Keys. WA4JFJ took the action to verify that the Club Fox Transmitter is still working. It was also suggested that we consider having a Fox Hunt during Winter Field Day. At the January Club meeting we will finalize plans for [WFD](#). We also need to practice raising and lowering the MCSO Trailer Tower at WFD to make sure everything is in good working order.

Barry Porter, KB1PA, ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager, attended out Club meeting via Zoom. He also gave a short update to the Club from the ARRL. Thank you Barry.

Major events for the 2025-2026 season include:

[Grid Expedition to EL84 on 6 Meters by WE9V & K1ST January 14th-19th](#)

Winter Field Day January 24th & 25th

Marathon Seafood Festival March 14th & 15th

Seven Mile Bridge Run April 5th

ARRL Field Day? June 27th & 28th

Any other events or activities we should be considering?

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Sessions will be on Big Pine January 5th, Key West January 15th and Islamorada on January 17th. You must sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on January 7th and the topic will be the Winter Field Day Planning.

We are looking for Volunteer for Winter Field Day and the Seven Mile Bridge. Please let K1ST know if you are interested in participating.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary