

## **Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting K4FLK**

**February 6, 2024**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

**Attendees:** KQ4OOT, KQ4OOQ, KO4NTH, KK4HG, KE8CVM, KA2BYU, KW4FLA, K1ST

**Via Zoom:** KO4HLC, KQ4OAB, KA4PPM and one other (apologies...)

**VE Testing at 6PM:** Four new licensees. Congrats to KQ4OOQ, KQ4OOR, KQ4OOS and KQ4OOT.

### **Old Business:**

We had four people pay their 2024 dues at the meeting. We now have twenty paid members for 2024.

The Club has \$1983.10. in Checking and \$60.42 in Savings for a Total of \$2043.52

The Yaesu FT1500M 50 watt two Meter mobile radio is being evaluated by KO4NTH for purchase. Michael is also evaluating K1ST's donation to the Club of a Leixen UV-898S dual band FM mobile transceiver for \$50.

KA2BYU, K1ST and new Monroe County new ARES EC Steve, KN4GPN will work on the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for the Ham community for post storm operations for working with the County Emergency Management. (Still in the Queue)

### **New Business:**

Dues are now being accepted for 2024. Cost is \$20. Mailing address is available [here](#).

Rachel, KO4HLC, participated via Zoom and thanked the Club of their support of her Jules Undersea Lodge HF Experiment. She said they were interested in coming back next year with an improved HF antenna setup. She also talked about the ARRL's Teacher Training Institute and bringing the Ham Radio message to the schools. She recommended we start working with the schools. K1ST took the action to discuss with W4KWS who works for the Key West School System.

### **GMRS Repeater Status**

KA2BYU reported on progress on the GMRS Repeater Network in the Keys. All the Key West Repeater was fixed with an assist from W4KWS. The Layton Repeater is still off frequency but hope to have it switched to the proposed frequency soon. The Ocean

Reef GMRS Repeater has been delayed by Winter Field Day and repairs to the Ham Repeaters.

### **Ham Repeater Status**

The Ocean Reef DMR Repeater was repaired and placed back in service. Tested the feedline/antenna on the Ocean Reef FM Repeater showed high SWR. The reason the FM Repeater had to have it's power reduced was due to the reflected power. We believe the issue is the hardline connector at the antenna. The antenna has already been replaced.

K4HG is purchasing a MTR2000 to replace the damaged one for the Marathon DMR Repeater. The repeater should be here the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>. The repeater will then be quickly installed in a new location at the Grassy Key Tower. This will be a much better location than the original one.

Plan to visit the Key West site the week of February 12<sup>th</sup> and troubleshoot the DMR Repeater. Stay tuned.

Visited the Scout Key Tower Site to determine why the VHF Repeater has limited coverage. The duplexer was retuned but the issue appears to be a bad antenna. This will require tower climb and will take time to repair. In the interim we may borrow temporarily one of the other VHF antennas on the tower.

### **Winter Field Day Lessons Learned**

The general consensus was that WFD went very well. Setup for FKARC took about an hour except for the one misbehaving computer. This was the one PC that wasn't pretested... (LL: pretest everything)

People liked the Keypads and Headsets.

Thank you to KN4GPN for providing lunch.

We did not have enough operators. Operations stopped about 7PM Saturday Night. Only K1ST operated on Sunday. A total of 197 QSOs were made. Two thirds of the contacts were made by K1ST. K1ST, KN4GPN, WB2AMN, KD4BJM and W8UF made QSOs. We had twenty hams visit WFD but only five hams actually operated.

K1ST suggested it would make more sense to have one operation on site by the combined Clubs as opposed two locations 300 feet apart. The interference from AK3ML was quite strong at times at K4FLK. No big surprise.

K1ST will be traveling at the time of next year's WFD. Someone else will need to manage the event. I'll be happy to help with the planning.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary