

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

October 2, 2024

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

Attendees: K1BUX, N4HHN, KQ4VWC, KA2BYU, KO4NTH, KQ4OOR, KQ4OOS, WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, K1ST

Via Zoom: KA4PPM, K2TVY, N1BGK, K8ACW, KG2CS

VE Testing at 6PM: Eric Raslich of Grassy Key passed the Technician and General Exams. His new callsign is KQ4VWC. FKARC awarded the free FM dual band handheld to him after the Test Session. Please say hello to Eric if you hear him on the air. Congratulations Eric!!!



Old Business:

Currently thirty-four paid members for 2024.

The Club has \$2,154.37 in the Bank.

The [Diex DXS-1 20-15-10 Meter Rotatable Dipole](#) was given to K1ST for assembling and testing.

The Girl Scouts have approved KA2BYU's request to use Camp Wesumkee, MM34, on Scout Key for [Winter Field Day](#) on January 25th & 26th. There will be dry camping and a tailgate swap available. We plan to have the MCSO Emergency Comms Truck. More details to follow. **We are looking for someone to help organize this event. Let K1ST or KA2BYU know if you are interested in helping.**

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status: KA2BYU reported on progress on the GMRS Repeater Network in the Keys. The Cudjoe Key GMRS Repeater is operation but discounted from the Internet. The GMRS Repeater at the [Treasure Village Montessorri School](#), MM86, should be installed in the next few weeks.

Ham Repeater Status: The Marathon DMR Repeater is online but a bit deaf. The Key West VHF & UHF FM Repeaters and the DMR Repeater will be moving to the Sheriff's Office on Stock

Island sometime in October. After the move, UHF FM Repeater will be offline until the County UHF Paging System is turned off. This is expected to be around the end of 2024. The UHF FM Repeater will use the Paging antenna which is at the top of the tower.

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

K1ST proposed that the Club buy five more Baofeng UV-5R handhelds for the newly licensed Ham giveaways. We currently have two left. KA2BYU made a motion to purchase the radios. The motion was seconded by WA4JFJ. The handhelds were ordered and delivered on October 4th.

Fall election time for FKARC. K1ST asked if anyone was interested in the role of Vice President. KA2BYU suggested KO4NTH for the position. Michael has accepted the position on an interim basis. Please let me know if anyone is interested in being an officer of the Club. We will hold elections at the November meeting if required. All positions will become official at the November meeting for 2025.

KG2CS mentioned that the [Melbourne Hamfest](#), the second largest Hamfest in Florida after Hamcation will be on October 11th & 12th.

Short Break for anyone interested in Selling anything

K1ST will have three Simplex DMR Hotspots (\$50 each) and one Duplex DMR Hotspot (\$70) for sale at the meeting. These are being sold at the cost of materials. Amazon has a Simplex version for sale for [\\$120](#).



Anyone interested in Hamshack Hotline should consider purchasing these [Cisco SPA525G2 VOIP Phones](#) on [Amazon](#) for \$48.95. We can help you get started.



Presentation:

K1ST presented information on the October 5th [ARRL SET](#) (Simulated Emergency Test). The Callsign of the Monroe County EOC Radio Room on Amateur frequencies is KW4EOC.

TIME	NET	NET CONTROL
10:00 AM	County FM & DMR Networks	Mary Ellen, AF4VY
10:20 AM	GMRS Repeater Network	Adam WSJA494
10:40 AM	7.188 LSB	Steve, K1ST
11:00 AM	Ham Simplex 146.52 FM	Tom, AF4VZ
11:20 AM	GMRS Simplex 462.55	Steve, WRYS305 (K1ST @ EOC)
11:40 AM	Winlink Summary to State EOC	K1ST via SHARES Winlink Gateway

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the SET.

Next Ham Exam Test Session is in Islamorada on Saturday October 19th 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 meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary