

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

April 2, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: AK4MM, KQ4OOR, KQ4OOS, KO4NTH, N4HHN, KJ4PR, WA4JFK, WA4FJF, KW4FLA, K4VRZ, KA2BYU, K1ST

Via Zoom: K8ACW, N1BGK, KA4PPM

VE Testing at 6PM: Mirek Kucera from Key West took and passed the Technician Exam. Since he had an expired General Class License he was grandfathered to General. Congratulations Mirek!!! He is now awaiting his callsign from the FCC. I want to also thank WA4JSA, KW4FLA & K1ST for being the Volunteer Examiners. VEs AK4MM, KO4NTH and KA2BYU also observed.

Mirek was awarded a dual band FM handheld to help get him on the air.



Above K1ST on the left and Mirek Kucera on the right.

Old Business:

Treasurer, WA4JFK, reported the Club has \$2,432 in the bank and 29 paid members for 2025. Please consider joining/renewing your membership. 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.

The [Diex DXS-1 20-15-10 Meter Rotatable Dipole](#) was given to K1ST for assembling and testing. This task is still open. **May be completed in April...**

Club Swag. No one ordered their FKARC Shirts. K1ST will investigate the Orlando Amateur Radio Club model and report back. We could adopt the Orlando Amateur Radio Club model and partner with [Gold Medal Ideas](#) to create a store for FKARC Merchandise like [OARCs](#). K1ST will investigate and report back.

W4KWS will start working on the WAKY Award for working at least Five Keys in the Florida Keys. QSOs can be made on HF and also on Repeaters. Stay tuned for updates. **No update**

Marathon Seafood Festival participation with Keys CARES on March 8th & 9th 2025 was a success. KA2BYU, KO4NTH and KB3NG manned the booth. KA2BYU will not be organizing this going forward. Need a someone else to step forward to organize this going forward. **Open**

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU. ORC GMRS Repeater squelch is too tight (making plans to fix). Marathon GMRS Repeater under repair. All other Repeaters are working well.

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST. Scout Key VHF Repeater squelch was tightened April 2nd and appears to have solved the noisy squelch issue. Stock Island UHF FM Repeater installation will be sometime in April (hopefully). Marathon VHF FM looking for a new site to install. ORC UHF FM repeater still running 40 watts on a mobile duplexer but working well. All other Repeaters are working well.

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.

Looked for one or two more Volunteers for the 7 Mile Bridge Run to help with Communications. Contact [K1ST](#). Here is the [information sheet](#) from the 2024 Race. K4VRZ and XYL volunteered to support the race. We used Ham, GMRS & Cellphones to support the race.

Main Presentation:

K1ST demonstrated the usage of [Winlink](#) on HF from both the RMS Gateway and Winlink Express (User) perspectives using [VARA](#). There was some interest in setting up a UHF FM Winlink Gateway.

Winlink is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band radio frequencies and government frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency and relief communications, and message relay. The system is built and administered by volunteers and is financially supported by the [Amateur Radio Safety Foundation](#).

[Ham RMS Gateway System Information](#)

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Session is at the Islamorada Public Library on Saturday April 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 next [Club Meeting](#) will be on April 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary