

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

June 4, 2025

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

Attendees: AK4MM, KQ4OOR, KQ4OOS, N4HHN, KJ4PR, WA4JFK, WA4FJF, KR4EKU, K4VRZ, KA2BYU, W4KWS, K1ST

Via Zoom: KG2CS, KA4PPM (we had some issues with Zoom due to a last minute room change at the church)

VE Testing at 6PM: Premek Koch from Key West took and passed the Technician and General Class Exams. Congratulations Premek!!! His new callsign is KR4EKU with a new Vanity Callsign in the works. I want to also thank KA2BYU, KG2CS (Remote) & K1ST for being the Volunteer Examiners. VE AK4MM was also present and observed.

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



Above KR4EKU on the left and K1ST on the right.

Old Business:

Treasurer, WA4JFK, reported the Club has \$2,832.39 in the bank and 35 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. **K1ST assembled the antenna and brought it to the Club Meeting.**

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. **K1ST spoke to the vendor and the Club is too small for a separate Web Store. After discussion at the meeting K1ST spoke to Gold Medal Ideas and communicated the Club's interest in moving forward. Recommended items were the Hat, the T Shirt and the Polo Shirt. Gold Medal indicated there is a set up charge. K1ST is awaiting feedback on the cost so the Club can approve the set up charge if the Club so desires. We can probably do an online survey for the approval instead of waiting until September.**

W4KWS has started working on the Wacky Award Diploma graphics using AI and the Club's Logo. K1ST checked with K4HG on the original Wacky Award rules and they were very simple: a minimum of Five Keys and no using Repeaters. Tony will post a draft award on the Club User Forum when available.

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU. All Repeaters are operational. The Marathon and Cudjoe Key GMRS Repeaters swapped frequency pairs and the updated allocations are on the FKARC Repeater Page.

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST. The Scout Island UHF FM Repeater is now operational and working well. The SO UHF FM Repeater can be worked with a mobile radio all the way to Big Pine Key. The Scout Key VHF Repeater still has a lazy squelch. A replacement repeater has been brought on the bench and properly aligned. The SK VHF FM repeater is planned to be replaced on June 10th. A Grassy Key VHF FM Repeater is also on the bench being aligned before install in the next two weeks at Grassy Key. The ORC UHF FM Repeater is still running 40 watts awaiting availability of a high power duplexer.

All six DMR Repeaters are now operational. The new Grassy Key DMR Repeater can be worked on DMR Mobile from Founder Park in Islamorada to Big Pine Key.

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.

The [Baofeng UV-5R](#) Handhelds have been programmed and are ready for handing out to any newly licensed Hams. We currently have six UV-5R handhelds in stock.

MEMA expressed interest in the Hams implementing a VHF/UHF email capability in the event of a major communications outage. K1ST took the action to install a VARA FM Gateway at the EOC Radio Room. The plan is to host it on the FM Repeater Network as it's already in place and covers the entire Keys. We'll be doing testing on this to verify that it will work reliably. K1ST has ordered and received five [NA6D AIOCs \(All in One Cables\)](#). Cost is \$22 a piece. **The Club unanimously approved the purchase of a VARA software modem license for KW4EOC. K1ST ordered and has received the license key. W4KWS volunteered to provide a Windows PC to host the Winlink FM Gateway. The Winlink wireless email network may eventually move the the FM side of the DMR Repeaters. We'll first get it working on the County Wide FM Repeater Network.**

Everyone is encouraged to join Monroe ARES (it's free). Just fill out the [form](#) and send it to [KA2BYU](#). MEMA also encourages everyone to register for [Volunteer Monroe](#).

W4KWS has an APRS Digipeater/IGate operational in Key West on 144.390 Mhz. Contact W4KWS for details.

Main Presentation:

K1ST brought the Club's [Diex DXS1 20-15-10](#) Meter Rotatable Dipole, the [Hustler G6-144](#) antenna for the Grassy Key VHF FM Repeater and a [Tram 1477](#) dual band base station antenna for show and tell. The meeting ran long so the Club members present didn't have time to do the final tuning on the Diex DXS1 and assemble and tune the Hustler G6-144 antenna using a [DG5MK FA-VA5](#) Vector Antenna Analyzer (replaced by the [FA-VA6](#)).

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Session is at the Islamorada Public Library on Saturday June 14th at 10 AM. You must sign up in advance [here](#). The first Ham Exam Test Session on Stock Island will occur on Thursday, July 17th at 6:00 PM. Please sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on September 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary