

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

September 3, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: KA2BYU, N4HHN, KQ4OOR, KQ4OOS, K1ST

Via Zoom: N1BGK, AK4MM

VE Testing at 6PM: No one signed up for an exam so the Test Session was cancelled.

Old Business:

Treasurer, WA4JFK could not make the meeting due to the water main break at Cok Key Channel Bridge. Shirley however reported later that the Club has 36 paid Members and \$2,800 in the Bank. 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.

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

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. **We would like to know if anyone plans to pursue this award. Let K1ST know. If no one is interested this effort will be shelved.**

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

Contact W4KWS for details.

New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU. ORC GMRS Repeater may have a blown Power Amplifier. **K1ST to check.**

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST. **The Scout Island UHF FM Repeater was repaired 9/05. The Scout VHF FM Repeater's Receiver was replaced with a New Old Stock (NOS) and working well.**

The potential tower work on the Grassy Key Tower for the VHF FM has been delayed as the tower crew left the Keys. They will be back in October. We need to check the one spare feedline on the tower before we consider hiring the tower crew to install a new [VHF Antenna](#).

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.

KQ4IMK has offered to help the Club get started in [Meshtastic](#). Meshtastic is an Open Source 900 MHz unlicensed service. There is a lot of activity in the Miami Dade Area. Is anyone interested? **Contact KQ4IMK**

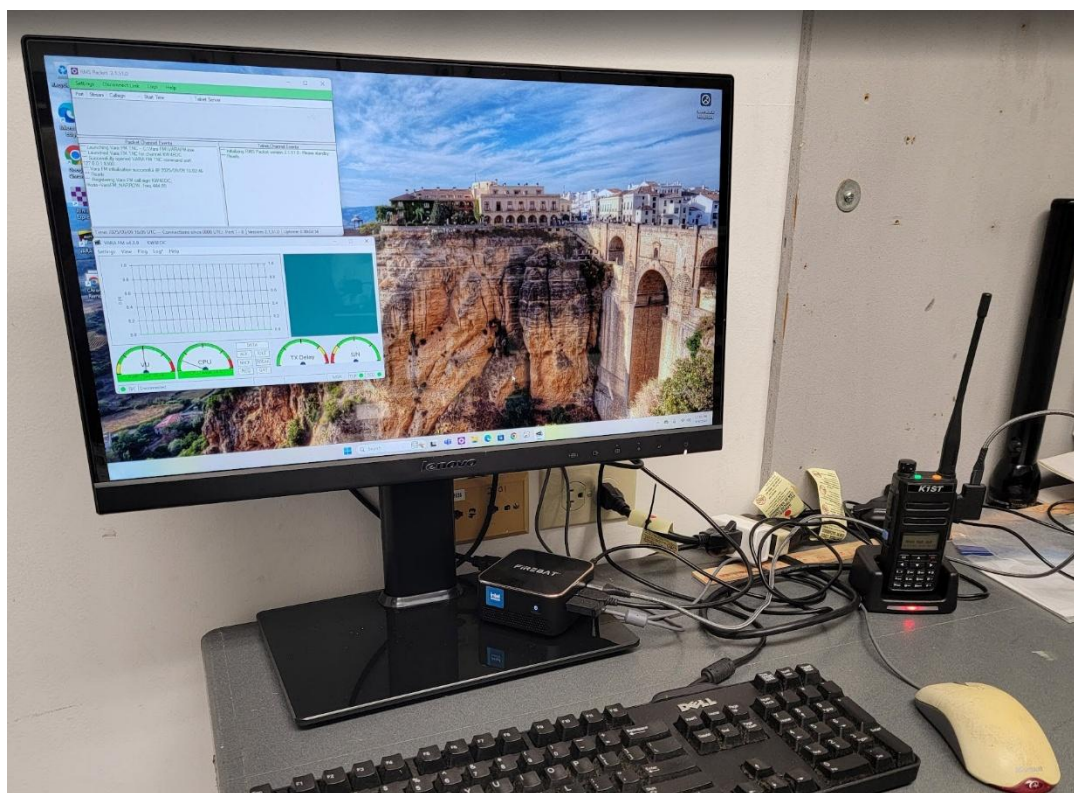
Club Elections. October is the Club Meeting planned for Officer Elections. The current Club Officers are listed on the [Club Contact Page](#). We'll check at the meeting whether the existing Club Officers are willing to continue to serve and if anyone else is interested in serving. **The offer is still there if anyone wants to become a Club Office. Contact K1ST.**

Club Christmas Party. I contacted the Church and verified that the Club meeting dates are reserved for the upcoming season. We need to verify if everyone is interested in holding a Club Holiday Party. The proposed plan was to hold a Potluck Supper on the date of the December Club Meeting, December 5th. **Let me know if you will come to a Club Holiday Party. So far, I have heard from one person that is interested. Without more interest, this event will not be held.**

Hamshack Hotline went offline on August 28th. We have switched our VOIP Infrastructure to [HamsOverIP](#) (HOIP). HOIP is free and doesn't require you to have a physical phone first like Hamshack Hotline did. You can use the [Groundwire](#) app on your cell phone. The Groundwire app costs \$9.99. We can provide you with help in setting up your Groundwire App or VOIP Physical Phone.

We have a HOIP RF Link to the FM Repeater Network at ext 15130 and are working to add one to the DMR Keys Talk Group. The HOIP ext at the EOC Radio Room is 102455. We have also added an FKARC Conference Bridge at ext 10419 (Pin Number Required). There is a [Club Member HOIP directory](#) you can add to your VOIP physical Phone.

The VARA FM Gateway, KW4EOC was installed on September 13th in the EOC Radio Room in Marathon and is accessible on the County Wide FM Repeater Network.



K1ST will be away for the October Meeting. Need someone to volunteer to run the meeting. K1ST can provide an Agenda and a Meeting Presenter. Otherwise, the meeting will be cancelled.

Main Presentation:

The main discussion at the meeting was the Club's plans for Events for the 2025-2026 Season and what if anything we should be purchasing as Club Property to support these Events. I bring up these questions as I see what the Club I belong to at the Cape is doing.

Major events for the 2025-2026 season include:

- Club Elections October 1st
- ARRL SET October 4th
- Club Holiday Party December 5th
- 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?

There will be no elections if additional people don't volunteer. We are assessing interest level in a Club Holiday Party (contact K1ST).

What materials should the Club consider owning and if so, where should they be stored?

Generator for Field Day and other events
Triplexer for 40, 80 & 160 and a 160 Band Filter (2 antennas 160-10)
Tables and Chairs for Field Day and other Events
Banners
Popup Tent

These are just ideas and some of these materials may already be available. Part of this exercise is so that the Club can put together a budget for 2026.

Suggestions for Club Purchase at the Meeting were:

A Popup Tent, a Generator, RF Direction Finding Gear, Classroom Ready Demos for School Show & Tells, Remote Receiver for Duvall Street in Key West

The plan will be to finalize the plan at the November Club Meeting.

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Sessions will be on Stock Island on September 18th and Islamorada on September 20th (not at the Library as it's under renovation. You must sign up in advance [here](#)).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on October 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary