

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

January 7, 2025

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

Attendees: WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, W4KWS, KJ4PR, KA2BYU, K4VRZ, KK4HG, KB7ZDO, W8UF, WE9V, W3JXY, N4HHN, KN4TPR, K1ST

Via Zoom: KA4PPM, KG2CS, K8ACW, K2JCU, KB1PA, KD4BBM

VE Testing at 6PM: No Exam Session before the meeting as no one signed up to take an exam.

Old Business:

The minutes of the December Club Meeting were approved. Motion made by WA4JFJ and seconded by KA2BYU and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 19 paid members for 2026. The Club currently has \$3,241.39 in the Treasury. **A total of \$2,074 remains for the Grassy Key Tower Project.**

Please consider joining/renewing your membership for 2026. 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 pursue a local option that KR4IF suggested.**

Wacky Award Diploma. **W4KWS will create the Diploma and administer the award. We'll add details to the Club Website. Rules are work a minimum of Five different Keys. Repeater QSOs are okay but not on Nets. The award will be provided to applicants via email in PDF form or in person at one of the FKARC Meetings.**

W4KWS announced that Greg, K4VRZ, of Long Key won the FKARC December QSO Party. Greg is interested in setting up a VARA FM Gateway in the Long Key area and will probably be using the radio for that application. Initial thoughts are to tie it to the FM side of the Grassy Key DMR Repeater.



W4KWS on the left awarding the CDM1550LS Motorola UHF Transceiver to K4VRZ on the right for winning the FKARC December QSO Party. Congratulations to Greg!!!

K1ST will be away for the March Club Meeting. **Need someone to run the meeting. Contact K1ST.**

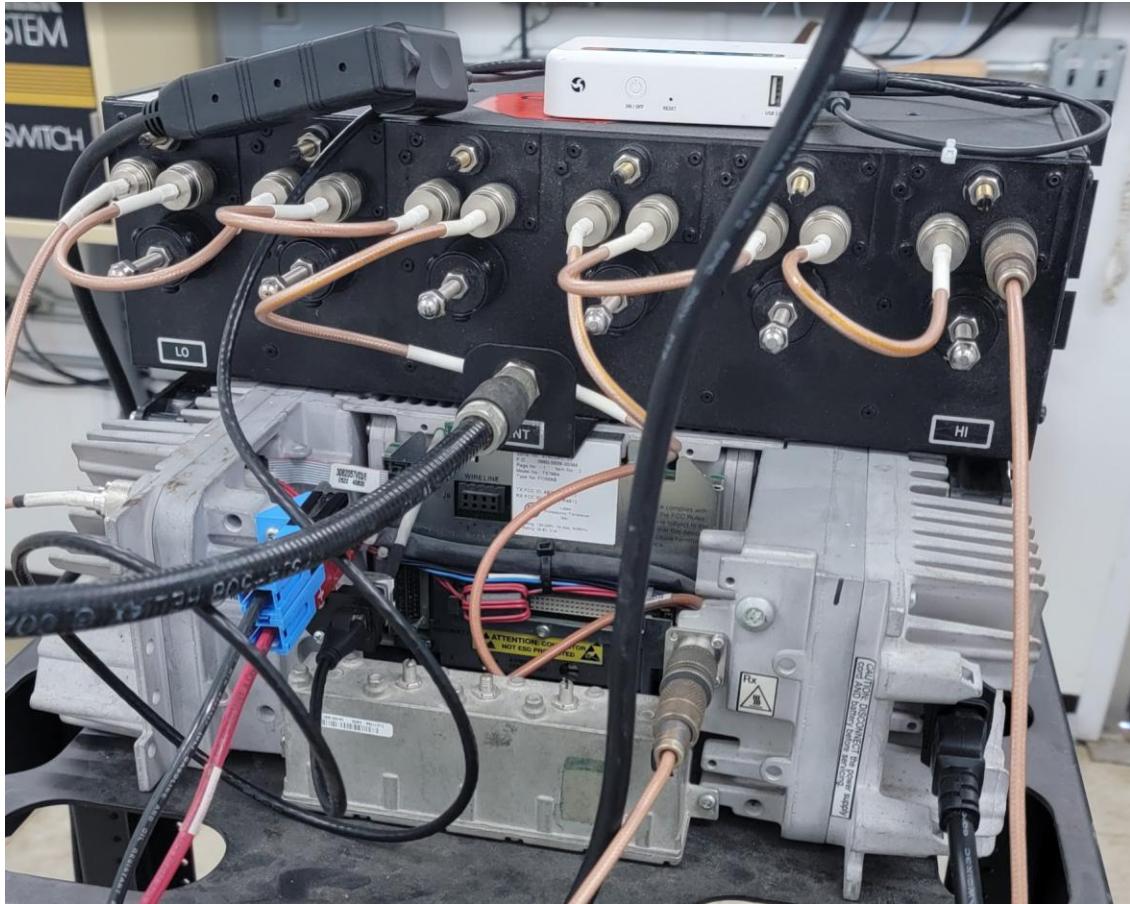
New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU. ORC GMRS Repeater may have a blown Power Amplifier. **Layton GMRS is online on a new antenna on the tower.**

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST. **The UHF Repeater for Key Largo (at the State Rd 905 Transfer Station) is online as of January 5th and initial reports are that it is working quite well. High power mobile coverage should be in the 50 mile range. The antenna is a [DB420](#). It has a cardioid (figure 8) pattern pointing up and down the Keys. Antenna is 340 feet up the tower and has a gain of 10.4 dBd. Battery back up for the Repeater was added January 9th. There is no generator at the site. The**

battery backup and duplexer for this repeater came from the paging transmitters on Plantation Key which were retired last summer. See photos of the Repeater below. Materials for the Allstar Link have been received. The Club voted to approve the reimbursement of K4HG for \$72 and K1ST for \$897.24 for the expenses for this repeater.





The tower crew for the Grassy Key Tower Project is scheduled to arrive February 2nd.

The Tuning of the replacement duplexer for the ORC FM Repeater has been delayed to February.

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.

K1ST requested the Club purchase two Lenovo N23 Chromebooks for \$70.20 for evaluation to use at the Repeater Sites for remote Repeater configuration changes. The Club approved the purchase, KA2BYU ordered the units and they are scheduled to arrive on January 14th.

Ten Minute Break

KA2BYU had two HF power amplifiers for sale at the meeting. An Ameritron 84 with one soft 6MJ6 tube for \$300 and an Ameritron 811H with spare 811A tube for \$850. K4VRZ bought the Ameritron 84. Contact KA2BYU if you're interested in purchasing the 811H (good price!). The amplifiers are owned by the Keys Cares Club.

K1ST sold a DM-1701 to K3OCM and has one remaining for sale for \$45.

Main Presentation:

Winter Field Day. We will start initial setup on Friday afternoon January 24th. KO4NTH will be staying on site for the weekend. Dry camping is allowed all weekend. We will be operating Saturday and Sunday. MCSO will be bringing the 100 foot tower trailer to use and is also planning to bring the Comms Truck (not 100% certain yet).

Who wants to help with set up?

KB7ZDO will be responsible for setting up the computers.

WB2AMN will be helping with antennas.

Brian Myers, K4HG, K1ST & ??? will be setting up the Tower Trailer.

Most setup will be happening starting 9 AM Saturday. Let me know if you can help

Who wants to operate? We will be using a generator so we won't have noise issues from the solar panels like last year.

W9UF, K1ST, WE9V? K2JCU?

Who wants to help breakdown? K1ST

We will NOT be doing a Fox Hunt during WFD. Too much to do for WFD.

Lunch will be provided. KA2BYU will coordinate KN4GPN.

The Club budgeted \$150 for expenses associated with WFD.

Who wants to volunteer for the Marathon Seafood Festival? Let K1ST know.

Who wants to volunteer for the Seven Mile Bridge Run? K4VRZ & XYL, KM4VCR, KD4BJM & who else?

You don't need a Ham License. We will also be on GMRS and a radio can be provided.

Barry Porter, KB1PA, ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager, attended our Club meeting via Zoom. He also gave a short update to the Club from the ARRL again. He also mentioned that EA5HVK, VARA creator, can provide volume license discounts for Radio Clubs. Thank you, Barry.

Major events for the 2025-2026 season include:

Grid Expedition to EL84 on 6 Meters by WE9V & K1ST January 14th-19th

Winter Field Day January 24th & 25th

Marathon Seafood Festival March 14th & 15th

Seven Mile Bridge Run **April 11th**

ARRL Field Day? June 27th & 28th

Any other events or activities we should be considering?

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Sessions will be on Key West January 15th and Islamorada on January 17th. You must sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on February 4th and the topic will be the Marathon Seafood Festival Planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary