

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

March 4, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: KA2BYU, KO4NTH, K4HG, WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, KW4FLA, KB7ZDO, W4KWS, KN4TPR, KF0VOD

Via Zoom: W8UF, N1BGK, AK4MM, K1ST

VE Testing at 6PM: No Test Session before the Meeting. No one signed up.

New & Returning Members for 2026:

K2TVY, K1DFM

Old Business:

The [minutes](#) of the February Club Meeting were approved. Motion made by WA4JFJ and seconded by W8UF and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 39 paid members for 2026 (one additional after the meeting for a total of Forty!!!). The Club currently has \$2,300 in the Treasury and \$574 left over from 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. The two shirts that K1ST had at the meeting were sold. One to KO4NTH and the other to WA4JFJ.

Shirts are \$30 each. They will be ordered in groups of four to get free shipping. No re-shipping. You must pay in advance. You'll need to pick them up at the next meeting or have someone pick them up for you. All sales will be final, no returns. Make sure you order the right size and color. Current Colors are Black, White, Grey and Heather Grey. Contact [K4VRZ](#) to make arrangements to purchase.

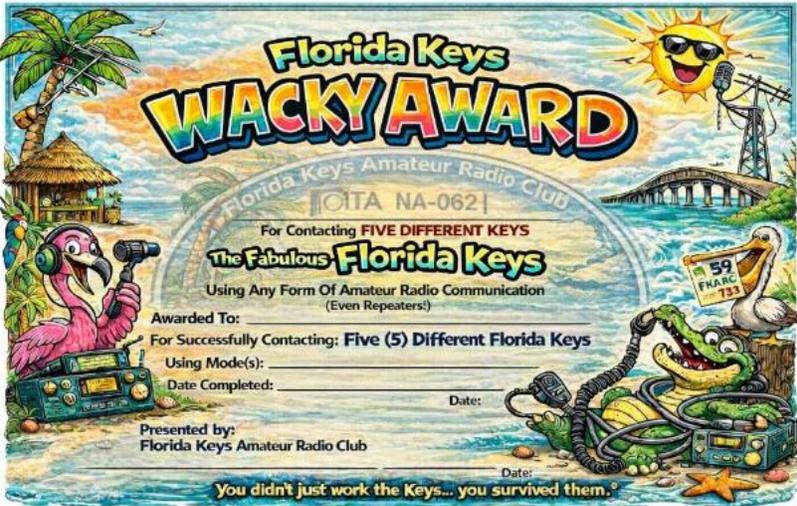
Link tat VistaPrint for Color Selection:

<https://www.vistaprint.com/clothing-bags/t-shirts/district-r-very-important-tee-r-with-left-chest-and-back-print>



Wacky Award Diploma. **Details at:** <https://fkarc.net/wacky.htm>

The first number has already been claimed but the winner, W8UF, wanted to let the special prize go to the next next certificate holder so get your logs in ASAP.



New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU.

ORC GMRS Repeater has been repaired. K1ST will install it when he gets back the week of March 16th. The Layton GMRS Repeater has been moved to the Layton EOC.

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST.

Grassy Key Tower VHF Repeater Antenna Installation troubleshooting has been delayed until late March.

Work has progressed on remote access for the DMR Repeater sites. Two sites have Raspberry Pi 4s. K1ST will donate a third Pi 4 to the project.

Work has started on installing a UHF DMF/FM Repeater once again on the CGC Ingham so the FM and DMR Repeater Networks better cover the west side of Key West. I wish to thank Bill, KK4INP and Bob, WB2AMN for the approval and anticipated help with installation. I also want to thank Steve, K4HG, for lending the Club his personal Bridgecom Repeater. The antenna is a 10 dBd Yagi pointed up the Keys at 60 foot elevation with ½ inch hardline for the feedline. The Repeater is expected to be operational in late March. Details are on the [Repeater Page](#) of the Club Website.

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 VARA FM Winlink Gateway at the Key Largo Repeater site had to be shut off due to excessive data usage. This will probably be relocated to a site in Ocean Reef and made available via the FM Repeater on the DMR Repeater at ORC.

Ten Minute Break

K4HG showed the Bridgecom Repeater that will be used initially on the CGC Ingham.

K4HG also had a high end Wireless Router for sale for \$100. Contact Steve for details.

Main Presentation:

Who wants to volunteer for the Marathon Seafood Festival? So far K4VRZ, AB1Y, K3OCM and who else? Let K4VRZ know.

Who wants to volunteer for the Seven Mile Bridge Run? K4VRZ & XYL, KM4VCR, K3OCM, KN4TPR, KO4NTH, KN4TPR, KQ4IMK (tentative), KD4BJM & who else? You don't need a Ham License. We will also be on GMRS and a radio can be provided for GMRS or Ham frequencies.

Major events for the 2025-2026 season include:

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 March 19th and Islamorada on March 21st. You must sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on March 4th and the topic is still being determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary