

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

April 1, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: KA1UIK, K4HG, KQ4OOS, KQ4OOR, K4VRZ, K1ST, KA2BYU, KB7ZDO, W4KWS, WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, WB8UYK, KJ4PR, KO4NTH

Via Zoom: KB1PA, KG2CS, N1BGK, W8UF

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

New & Returning Members for 2026:

K1DFM

Old Business:

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

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 43 paid members for 2026 (one additional after the meeting for a total of 44). The Club currently has \$2,970 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. 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 to 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 prize of a pre-programmed Baofeng DM32 FM/DMR Handheld is still available to the next person who submits a log for the WACKY Award. Send your submission to W4KWS.



New Business:

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU.

ORC GMRS Repeater returned to KA2BYU for troubleshooting. All other GMRS Repeaters are operational.

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST.

Grassy Key Tower VHF Repeater feedline needs to be replaced. Donation requests were solicited and \$3,405.00 was received. Details on donations is available [here](#). A big Thank You once again for everyone's support!!!

Awaiting a quote from Clifton Tower to do the work. Hope to have the Quote for the May 6th Club Meeting. Work could be done in the next 2-3 weeks.

Work has progressed on remote access for the DMR Repeater sites. Four sites, Stock Island, Grassy Key, Key Largo, & Ocean Reef have Raspberry Pi 4s installed.

Key West DMR/FM Repeater on the CGC Ingham Museum Ship. Repeater was successfully installed on 3/24 by W4KWS, KB7ZDO & WB2AMN. The Repeater is a Bridgecom Repeater running 40 watts with an outboard MMDVM Raspberry Pi digital mode controller. Repeater works on the County DMR Repeater Network and as an unlinked FM Repeater. The antenna is a 10 dBd gain yagi pointed up the Keys on the back mast at 60 feet. Full details on the [Club Website](#). Updated OpenGD77 and UV-5R Codeplugs adding the Repeater on the Club Website [Files Page](#). Initial coverage feedback has been excellent. Give it a try.

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 in early May.

Ten Minute Break

Does anyone have anything radio related they want to buy, sell or trade?

Radio programming might be available at this meeting. Contact K1ST to see if we can arrange assistance for you and your radio.

Main Presentation:

Update from Keith, KB7ZDO, on the repeater remote control access initiative.

K1ST donated three Raspberry Pi 4Bs. They are installed at Stock Island, Key Largo and Ocean Reef. At the Meeting, K4HG, donated a fourth Pi 4. This was installed at Grassy Key.

The Club approved at the meeting the purchase of four additional Raspberry Pi 4s to complete the remaining sites. \$500 was allocated, \$320 was actually spent. The material has been received and is in the process of being configured and installed.

Major events for the 2025-2026 season include:

ARRL Field Day? June 27th & 28th

Any other events or activities we should be considering?

Upcoming

Next Ham Exam Test Sessions will be Thursday, April 16th, at Stock Island and Saturday, April 18th, at the Islamorada Public Library. You must sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on June 3rd and the topic is still being determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary