

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

May 6, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM at the Big Pine United Methodist Church.

Attendees: WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, K4VRZ, KQ4OOS, KQ4OOR, K1ST, KA2BYU, KN4TPR

Via Zoom: KB1PA, KG2CS, W8UF, K3OCM

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

New & Returning Members for 2026:

KA1UIK

Old Business:

The [minutes](#) of the April Club Meeting were approved. Motion made by K1ST and seconded by KA2BYU and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 43 paid members for 2026. The Club currently has \$1,899.92 with \$3,541.89 for the Grassy Key VHF Repeater Feedline Replacement in the Treasury.

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 will be awarded at the June meeting to KA2BYU. Congratulations Bill!!! Send your submissions to W4KWS for anyone completing the Wacky Award and wants to receive a Diploma.



New Business:

There was an issue with the wall-mounted TV and we weren't able to use it. K1ST has purchased a power cord and an extra set of batteries for the remote so we can use the TV in June.

K1ST will be traveling next September and will be unable to attend the September Club Meeting. Does someone want to run the meeting in his absence? Instructions and an agenda can be provided. Contact K1ST.

GMRS Repeater Status from KA2BYU.

ORC GMRS Repeater was given to K1ST at the Meeting. The Repeater was installed on Monday, May 11th. Networking is currently not working but the Repeater is otherwise working quite well. KA2BYU is investigating the networking issue.

Ham Repeater Status from K1ST.

Grassy Key Tower VHF Repeater feedline needs to be replaced. It was decided at the May Club meeting that the Club would wait until a tower company was already in the Keys working on another project so we don't have to incur travel costs for the project.

Remote access for the DMR Repeater sites. As of May 26th, all eight sites are now accessible. We just (5/26) identified an issue with the Marathon DMR Repeater and are currently investigating remotely.

Key West DMR/FM Repeater on the CGC Ingham Museum Ship. Repeater was successfully re-installed on the Ingham on May 26th. A big thank to W4KWS, K3OCM and KB7ZDO for making this happen. We also wish to thank K4HG for letting us use his repeater. The Repeater info has been updated on the Club Website and Repeaterbook. Give the Repeater 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 KQ4IMK was installed at ORC on the FM side of the ORC DMR Repeater on May 11th. It's working quite well. Six different users have accessed the Winlink Gateway. We can also install one on the FM side of the Scout Key DMR Repeater. We would need to purchase a used PC/Laptop to get it up and running. Cost would probably be around \$200. We can discuss this at the June Club meeting.

Ten Minute Break

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

K9KIC offered to donate an IC-737 to the Club but it might need it's capacitors to be replaced. There are 99 capacitors in the replacement kits sold online. No one in the Club was interested testing/troubleshooting/repairing the IC-737.

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

Main Presentation:

ARRL Field Day 2026. We discussed whether the Club wanted to do anything this year. It's too Hot. No one was interested.

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 Wednesday, June 3rd, before the Club Meeting on Big Pine Key. You must sign up in advance [here](#).

The next [Club Meeting](#) will be on June 3rd and the proposed topic will be a presentation by Kevin, KJ4PR on his trip to the Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention 2026

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary