

Minutes of the Florida Keys Amateur Radio Club Meeting

K4FLK

June 3, 2026

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

Attendees: AI4GK, WA4JFJ, WA4JFK, KN4TPR, KW4FLA, KQ4OOS, KQ4OOR, K1ST, KA2BYU,

Via Zoom: KB1PA, KA4PPM

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

Welcome New & Returning Members:

KR4HEM

Old Business:

The [minutes](#) of the May Club Meeting were approved. Motion made by WA4JFJ and seconded by KA2BYU and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer, WA4JFK reported we have 37 paid members for 2026. The Club currently has \$1,869.92 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.

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

The prize of a pre-programmed Baofeng DM32 FM/DMR Handheld was awarded at the 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.

All GMRS Repeaters are operating normally.

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.

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 Gateways. We now have three in the County. One on the Scout Key DMR Repeater on the FM Side. Ocean Reef on the DMR Repeater on the FM and Marathon accessible on the Stock Island FM Repeaters, Plantation Key FM Repeaters and on the Marathon FM Repeaters. Details are on the Repeater Page fo the Club Website:

<https://fkarc.net/repeaters.htm>

Ten Minute Break

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

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

Main Presentation:

Main discussion was on VARA FM Winlink coverage in the Keys. The Club agreed to pay for the Gateway at KA2BYU's QTH on Cudjoe Key. We initially tried it tied to the AK3ML VHF FM Repeater but were unsuccessful due to audio delays in the Repeater

Controller. The Gateway was then switched to the FM side of the DMR Repeater on Scout Key where it is working properly.

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 October 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Perpall, Secretary