

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
October 7, 2009

The meeting was chaired by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser and was called to order at 12:00 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 22 club members in attendance were: Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Hugh Katz – K3HU, John Miller – KE4JEM, Rick Low – N6CY, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Tom Azlin – N4ZPT, John Croft – K3NJ, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Curt Bartholomew – N3GO, Dan Hausauer – W0CN, Bill Curry – WA3LPQ, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Bob Lipp – W4LIP, Harry Mamaux – K3NF, Doug Lindsey – KB3HER, Steven Karty – N5SK, Michael Caiafa, Matt Skowronski, and via telephone conference call, Troy Warshel – KG6MGE.

A motion was made by Mr. Uldis Adamsons to approve the September 2009 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Daryl Noel seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser updated the club membership on continued efforts to secure line item budget funding and the ongoing talks with the Joint Staff about a new tower and beam antenna in order for the MARS station to be in a better position to be able to provide communications support to the NMCC under the DoD Emergency Communications Plan.

Captain Rick Low gave an update on station operations. The four radio operating positions and the work bench are operational, but additional work remains to be done on the stations. The cabling for the DC power distribution system and termination of the cables with power pole connectors remains to be completed. The K4AF Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) node should be reinstalled and operational by this weekend.

Mr. Gary Sessums gave an update on station facilities. A grand opening / open house / ribbon cutting ceremony for the new MARS station is scheduled for Wednesday October 21, 2009 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10:30 AM. Refreshments will be served. Volunteers are needed to staff the station during the open house to answer questions from guests, serve refreshments, hand out brochures, and demonstrate the communications capability of the station.

Mr. Tom Azlin gave an update on Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) communications support operations that will be conducted out of the Pentagon MARS radio room on Sunday October 25th during the race. The 23 cm D-Star digital radio equipment will be tested on the Columbus Day along with the 2 meter digital packet station connectivity as well as other components of the MCM communications system. Additional volunteers are needed to staff the station during the marathon.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for November 4, at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM.