

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
April 7, 2010

In the absence of club president Dr. Gene Kaiser, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Gary Sessums and called to order at 12:00 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 19 club members in attendance were: Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, John Croft – K3NJ, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Bob Carroll – N3KDC, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Arnal Cook – N9ACC, Van Evans – KB3XC, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Rick Bunn – N4ASX, Rick Low – N6CY, Walter Jones – KC7HEX, Kavoris Fruster, Quante Ferguson, Allen Hunt, and via telephone conference call Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI.

A motion was made by Mr. Ken Heitner to approve the March 2010 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Claude Hennessey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser reported via telephone conference call that there are now two Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) state officials and one region official who are members of the club. Mr. Bruce Freund has just been appointed as the Virginia Army MARS State Director and joins Mr. David Trachtenberg who is currently serving as the Virginia Air Force MARS State Director. Mr. Larry Caramia is the Navy-Marine Corps MARS Region Three Director. Dr. Kaiser also gave an update on the repair progress of the HF vertical antenna. A work party to re-install the antenna is scheduled for the weekend of April 17th. It was noted that the Chief of Air Force MARS is retiring in June. An interim chief will be appointed by the Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) at Scott Air Force Base, IL until a permanent replacement can be named.

Mr. Van Evans gave an update on the MIL-STD HF radio modem provided by USSTRATCOM. The modem was checked and calibrated on the test bench at the High Frequency Global Communications System station located at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington and is now installed in the Pentagon MARS Station. This modem will be used for providing standardized interoperable contingency digital radio communications capability with DoD airborne assets.

Captain Rick Low, USN gave an update on the annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test scheduled for Saturday May 8, 2010. Operations will be conducted from the Pentagon MARS Station using the DoD call sign WAR and we will again be one of the stations broadcasting the Secretary of Defense digital message. Club members wishing to participate in this event should contact Captain Low. The event details can be downloaded from URL http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/AMC_Test_2010.pdf

The radio telescope located at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico will be used in an Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) radio transmission event later this month. The U.S. Navy pioneered the use of "moon bounce" techniques after World War II that allowed radio teletype links reflected from the moon's surface to connect military installations in the days before communications satellites. For details on the EME event at Arecibo please visit URL <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/04/07/11420/?nc=1>

A presentation was given to the group on the Department of Defense Mystic Star HF radio network which provides air-to-ground communications connectivity for the NAOC, ABNCP, TACAMO, VC-25A presidential aircraft (Air Force One), and other Special Air Mission (SAM) executive support aircraft.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 5, 2010 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.