

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
February 3, 2010

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

The 14 club members in attendance were: Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Ken Laughman – AF6HA, Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, John Miller – KE4JEM, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, Joseph Tock – K4RFS, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Van Evans – KB3XC, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Michael Caiafa, and John Greenhill.

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Kania to approve the January 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 that the club's UHF amateur radio repeater was inoperable. He plans to take a trip to the off-site DoD transmitter site location to investigate the cause of the outage and to try and restore service.

A report was given on the DoD communications exercise that took place on January 28th in which several club members participated. The exercise involved providing contingency voice and data radio communications support between the Pentagon MARS Station, airborne DoD assets, and Federal government HF stations.

STRATCOM has agreed to provide MIL-STD HF radio modems for installation at both the Pentagon and Raven Rock Mountain Complex MARS stations in order to provide standardized interoperable contingency digital radio communications capability with airborne DoD assets.

Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps MARS have unified their operations in providing communications support to the relief effort for victims of the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th. MARS operators are on the ground in Haiti with relief organizations and are providing communications support to military and medical teams. CONUS MARS operators are using HF radio to connect in-flight military aircraft en route to and from Haiti with phone patches using the Air Force MARS phone patch network.

It was noted that the Frostfest hamfest is scheduled for Saturday February 6th at the Richmond Raceway Complex and that the Winterfest hamfest is scheduled for Sunday February 28th at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Flyers for both events are available in the radio room.

The vertical HF radio antenna that was mentioned in the January meeting minutes as having suffered damage from the high wind conditions present on the Pentagon roof has been repaired. A work party to reinstall the antenna will be scheduled soon, when weather conditions improve.

Mr. John Greenhill from the Department of Energy (DOE) gave a very interesting presentation to the group on solar geomagnetic storms and the effects these storms have on radio communications and the electric power grid.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 3, 2010 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM.