

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
January 6, 2010

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

The 28 club members in attendance were: Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Bob Lipp – W4LIP, Ben Baddley – W4FQT, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Rick Low – N6CY, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Johnathon Berlin – KJ4QKM, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Judson Stone – KB0RVR, Ken Roh – KB3OXX, Chuck Holt – AG4GM, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, Juan Hernandez – KB3TRB, Bob Carroll – N3KDC, Bill Bequette – W3ATM, Mike Bartos – KB3RES, Morris Hornik – WB9JHW, Steve Butler – W4HA, Curtis Royster, Christina Nelson, Michael Caiafa, Marland Thurston, and Christine Willett.

A motion was made by Mr. Hugh Katz to approve both the November and December 2009 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Phil Kania seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser commented on the number of club members in attendance and noted that due to the size of the MARS Station that we may have to seek a larger room in which to hold meetings to alleviate the standing room only conditions if attendance at the monthly PARC meeting continues to increase.

A report was given on the new Department of Defense Instruction number 4650.02 – Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) that was recently issued by the office of ASD(NII)/DoD CIO and how it will affect the Pentagon MARS Station.

Captain Rick Low, USN gave an update on station operations. The vertical HF antenna suffered damage from the high wind conditions present on the Pentagon roof and has been removed from service to effect repairs. A phone patch has been installed at station operating position number four to be able to provide radio-to-telephone connectivity.

Mr. Gary Sessums gave an update on station facilities. He stated that he would have the building management staff change the lettering of the room door sign from “affiliate” to “auxiliary” to reflect the change in the MARS acronym as well as resolve the issue of several club members whose swipe access to the station is not working properly.

Mr. Mike Bartos gave an update on the progress of the refurbishment of the MARS Station located at Raven Rock Mountain Complex (RRMC). Both the MARS stations located at RRMC and the Pentagon are able to work in tandem to provide contingency radio communications support to DoD officials under the Department of Defense Emergency Communications Plan.

A DoD communications exercise involving military airborne assets is scheduled for January 28th. The participation of the Pentagon MARS Station has been requested to provide both voice and data communications during the exercise. Several members volunteered to staff the station during the exercise as well as during the upcoming State of the Union Presidential address to Congress which is designated as a National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) event.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM.