

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
March 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 27 club members in attendance were: John Croft – K3NJ, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Joseph Tock – K4RFS, John Miller – KE4JEM, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Van Evans – KB3XC, Johnathan Berlin – KJ4QKM, Rich Corrigan – N0RMC, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, Ken Roh – KB3OXX, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Juan Hernandez – KB3TRB, Chuck Holt – AG4GM, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Bob Carroll – N3KDC, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Mike Bartos – KB3RES, Teresa Drag, Michael Caiafa, Marland Thurston, Allen Hunt, John Rodriguez, and David Shobe.

A motion was made by Mr. Harry Rensel to approve the February 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 that was mentioned as being inoperable in the February meeting minutes was again operational and after he was able to repair some electrical power issues and restore service. The output of the repeater is 444.550 MHz and the PL tone is 88.5 Hz.

The annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test will be held on Saturday May 8, 2010. Captain Rick Low, USN will once again be coordinating our participation in this event. 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 e-mail Captain Low or sign up in person at the April meeting.

The two MIL-STD HF radio modems provided by USSTRATCOM mentioned in February meeting minutes are currently being checked and calibrated on the test bench at the High Frequency Global Communications System station located at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington. After software updates, the modems will be placed into service at the MARS stations located at the Pentagon and at Raven Rock Mountain Complex in order to provide standardized interoperable contingency digital radio communications capability with airborne DoD assets.

The unified operations of Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps MARS in support of the Haiti earthquake relief effort have concluded. An after-action report detailing amateur radio and MARS communications support can be found on-line at the American Radio Relay League web site at URL <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/03/11371/?nc=1>

Mr. Ken Heitner gave a presentation and demonstration to the group on WINMOR, a new HF radio digital transmission protocol. Radio contact was made with a MARS station in South Carolina and digital message traffic exchanged. Additional information about WINMOR can be found on-line at URL <http://www.winlink.org/winmor>

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 7, 2010 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.