

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
November 3, 2010

The meeting was chaired by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser and called to order at 12:02 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 18 club members in attendance were: Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, John Miller – KE4JEM, Don Lewis – KI4D, Dennis Wilson – KD4WGN, Sean Anderson – KR4YO, Bob Carroll – N3KDC, Joel LaBuda – KG4BLY, Anthony Davit – W7AJD, Arnal Cook – N9ACC, Tom Azlin – N4ZPT, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, and Marland Thurston.

A motion was made by Mr. Ken Heitner to approve the October 2010 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Lt. Colonel Anthony Davit, USAF, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Eugene Kaiser and Mr. Larry Caramia reported that the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is working on updating the annexes to the classified National Military Command System – Department of Defense Emergency Communications Plan (NMCS-DoD ECP) to reflect the new DoDI 4650.02 changes to the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) and how MARS provides contingency radio communications support under that plan.

Mr. Tom Azlin gave a briefing on amateur radio support provided to the 35th annual Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) that was held this past Sunday October 31st. Mr. Darrell Adams- KA5DWZ manned the station during the marathon which hosted the digital operations/medical net support using D-STAR 1.2 GHz and 2-meter packet radio equipment. The Marine Corps has sent us a letter of appreciation for our communications support of the marathon and would like to take steps to formalize and make permanent the use of our radio communications equipment installed in the Pentagon.

Mr. Gary Sessums announced that he had procured a Micom 2RS HF Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) radio from our partners at the 89th Communications Squadron located at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington. With the addition of this radio we now have a MIL-STD HF ALE capable radio installed at each of the four operating position to be able to fulfill DoD mission requirements in addition to the amateur radio equipment located at each position.

Mr. Richard Jenson, a Program Manager at the Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) located at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, has been appointed as the new Chief of Air Force MARS. A news story on the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/air-force-mars-gets-new-leadership>, relates additional details.

Mr. Claude Hennessey reported that we have a backlog of QSL card requests for amateur radio station K4AF and that we have run out of cards. He solicited support for designing and producing a newer, updated card for distribution. Members wishing to contribute ideas and designs for a new card are asked to contact Claude.

Major Sean Anderson, USAF, volunteered to organize an amateur radio special event station in September 2011 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

Mr. Phil Kania showed the group an excerpt from a video recently shown on public television dealing with solar flare activity and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) with a follow-on discussion as to how this affects radio communications.

The next PARC meeting will be the annual Christmas party with refreshments scheduled for Wednesday December 1, 2010 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.