

Minutes Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

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April 6, 2011

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

The 25 club members in attendance were: Terry Hines – N4ZH, John Croft – K3NJ, Joe Tock – K4RFS, John Miller – KE4JEM, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Gary Sessums- KC5QCN, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Don Lewis – KI4D, Ben Baddley – W4FQT, Sean Anderson – KR4YO, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Mike Barrett – K3MMB, Murray Price – KJ4BLP, Van Evans – KB3XC, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Darrel Adams – KA5DWZ, Dan Hilliker – VE4EOD, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Bill Johnson, Tejis Daya, and via telephone conference bridge, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

The National Communications System SHARES HF radio net was in progress at the start of the meeting and the station was checked into the net using the DoD call sign WAR.

A motion was made by Mr. Claude Hennessey to approve the March 2011 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Terry Hines seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Club members celebrated Dr. Kaiser's retirement after 42 years of Federal civil service, the most recent as GS-15 National Military Command System Senior Engineer and Technical Advisor for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), while enjoying a custom decorated chocolate cake and drinking refreshments during the meeting. Dr. Kaiser will continue to serve as the president of the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club.

The annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test will be held on Saturday May 14, 2011. Operations will be conducted from the Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (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 MARS Station Manager Gary Sessums or sign up in person at the May meeting. Event details can be downloaded from URL http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/AMC_Test_2011.pdf.

Major Sean Anderson, USAF, announced that he will be opening up the station for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Rookie Roundup on Sunday April 17 from 1800 Zulu through 2359 Zulu. This event is held each April, August, and December for newly-licensed operators in North America to experience radio operations with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter amateur radio bands.

Mr. Gary Sessums reported that he had procured additional equipment for the communications center with the addition of two Harris Falcon II ANC/PRC-117F(C) multiband, multimode secure voice/data military radios. The radios will be used for interoperable communications with public safety and military agencies during public safety, ground-to-air, and satellite operations. A Polycom SoundStation EX full-duplex conference telephone system has also been procured which will facilitate unclassified conference bridges during NS/EP activations and improve the sound quality for participants dialing into the conference bridge during monthly club meetings. Additionally, a L-3 Communications 6000-SF plain-paper laser facsimile machine was acquired that interfaces with the station's Secure Terminal Equipment (STE), allowing for the transmission of both classified and unclassified faxes.

A briefing on several recent military exercises conducted between the Pentagon and DoD airborne assets was given. Offline encrypted message traffic was accepted by the Pentagon MARS Station and handed off to the National Military Command Center (NMCC) for decoding and action as part of the military exercises, validating the MARS mission of providing contingency radio communications support to Department of Defense missions as defined in DoDI 4650.02.

It was noted that Maryland/District of Columbia US Army MARS will hold their annual meeting on Saturday April 9, 2011 at the offices of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency located in Reisterstown, MD. All National Capitol Region MARS personnel are invited to attend.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 4, 2011 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.