

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

December 7, 2011

As this was the annual club Christmas party, no formal meeting was called to order by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser. Introductions of members present were made.

The 22 club members in attendance were: Claude Hennessey – W4AT, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Jerry Stueve – K4INT, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Rick Bunn – N4ASX, Keith Brown – WP4OKI, Keith Weisz – W3ISZ, John Miller – KE4JEM, Bob Hughes – K4YWV, Sean Anderson – KR4YO, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Bob Lipp – W4LIP, Ben Baddley – W4FQT, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, Steve Butler – W4HA, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT, and Gerri Sollenberger.

Dr. Kaiser welcomed club members to the annual Christmas party. Members enjoyed fellowship while eating cake, brownies, cookies, and other refreshments while informally discussing club activities.

The door to the station was decorated with Christmas wrapping paper and a ribbon bow as part of the annual Pentagon Christmas door decorating contest and a lighted Christmas tree was present in the station during the party.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed that a copy of the 2011 hard cover edition of “The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications” had recently been donated to the club’s library of technical information. This is the 88th Edition of this comprehensive RF Engineering reference.

Mr. Harry Rensel reported that the process of replacing the current card swipe readers around the building with new units capable of reading both the current Pentagon building pass and Common Access Cards (CAC) as mentioned in the March 2011 meeting minutes had begun. The conversion to the use of CAC cards for access control is required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive -12. The conversion of the MARS station door to swipe access via CAC card will take place sometime next year.

Mr. Steve Butler discussed the recent decision by HQ Army MARS to phase out the use of Winlink 2000 (WL2K) on Army MARS circuits due to non-compliance with Information Assurance (IA) regulations. Mr. David Trachtenberg stated that both Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS may continue to use WL2K for intra-MARS and amateur radio gateway use but would be using MIL-STD digital protocols for interoperable communications with military and Federal stations.

Major Robert Anderson, USAF, announced that he had made progress on the printing and addressing of QSL cards from our 9/11 Special Event Station and hoped to have the cards in the mail before December 31st.

It was noted that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for amateur radio operators using the 60 meter band. The FCC replaced one of the channels in the band, increased the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in the band, and authorized amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators in the five channels in the 5330.6 – 5406.4 kHz frequency range. These new rules will take effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 4, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.