

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

January 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser at 12:03 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 15 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz –K3HU, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, John Croft – K3NJ, Carl Swanson – K6CRS, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, John Miller – KE4JEM, Darrel Adams – KA5DWZ, Terry Hines – N4ZH, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Don Lewis – KI4D, Darryl Noel – W4EC, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, and via phone bridge Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Kania to approve both the November and December 2010 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Terry Hines seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

It was noted that the 2011 American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Radioteletype (RTTY) Roundup contest is scheduled from 1800 Zulu Saturday January 8 through 2400 Zulu Sunday January 9. Worldwide contacts may be made using Baudot RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31 and Packet attended digital modes on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter amateur radio bands.

Mr. David Trachtenberg reported that the National Guard Bureau has invited the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) to set up an exhibit at the Guard's annual Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) Conference scheduled for January 18-20 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center located on the Potomac River at National Harbor, Maryland. Several members from the Pentagon MARS Station are planning to attend the conference to demo live communications, hand out literature, and answer questions on how MARS can provide contingency radio communications support to the National Guard Bureau in their role of providing Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA).

Dr. Kaiser reported that he and Mr. Harry Rensel have been in talks with Mr. Steven Calvery, Director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) to discuss the possibility of using the station's capabilities in support of the Pentagon's Integrated Emergency Operations Center (IEOC) and to support PFPA during special events, emergency preparedness drills, and actual emergencies.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will conduct an emergency communications exercise on Wednesday January 26th. The scenario involves a catastrophic earthquake occurring along the Hayward Fault Zone in California. TSA will exercise HF radio assets located at commercial airports CONUS wide. MARS, as well as other Federal, state and local agencies will be participating. Several members volunteered to staff the station and provide communications support for the duration of the exercise which runs from 1400 – 2200 Zulu.

Mr. Gary Sessums announced that he had procured the addition of a Relm / Bendix King DMH5992X digital mobile APCO P25 compliant 100 watt VHF radio for the station. The radio is backwards compatible with older analog radios and is programmed with Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) digital encryption for interoperable communications with Federal agencies in the National Capitol Region (NCR) during National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) events.

It was noted that the Pentagon MARS Station has been requested to provide contingency radio communications support during the upcoming State of the Union Presidential address to Congress later this month which is designated as a NS/EP event.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 2, 2011 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.