

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

March 2, 2011

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

The 19 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz – K3HU, Terry Hines – N4ZH, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Steve Butler – W4HA, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, John Miller – KE4JEM, Sean Anderson – KR4YO, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Van Evans – KB3XC, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Mike Bartos – KB3RES, Richard Jenson – AGA5C, Gerri Sollenberger, and via telephone conference bridge, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

A motion was made by Mr. Hugh Katz to approve the February 2011 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Steve Butler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser reported that he and Mr. Gary Sessums had met with Mr. Steven Calvery, Director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) and his staff as a follow-up to Dr. Kaiser's previous letter to PFPA that was reported in the January meeting minutes. The meeting revolved around using the station's capabilities in support of the Pentagon's Integrated Emergency Operations Center (IEOC.)

Mr. Richard Jenson – AGA5C, Chief of Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) attended today's meeting. Richard is TDY to the Pentagon this week on official business from his home base located at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois and gave a brief update on the MARS program.

It was noted that the Pentagon Force Protection Agency will be transitioning from the traditional building pass to the use of the secure DoD Common Access Card (CAC) for physical access to the Pentagon in order to be compliant with Homeland Security Presidential Directive -12. This change will be implemented by the end of this calendar year and will impact access to the Pentagon MARS Station for those non-DoD employees and retirees who are currently sponsored for a building pass.

Mr. Gary Sessums gave a briefing on contingency radio communications testing conducted between the Pentagon MARS Station and the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC). He and Mr. Doug Donnell flew aboard the aircraft during a recent exercise and used the plane's HF radios to make contacts with stations WAR (Pentagon), AAZ (Fort Huachuca, Arizona), NAV (Virginia), and several other MARS stations located around the continental United States.

Mr. Van Evans gave an update on digital communications operations and his recent discussions with our partners at the 89th Communications Squadron located at Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington regarding the integration of MIL-STD modems into station operations.

Mr. Mike Bartos gave an update on the status of the Raven Rock Mountain Complex (RRMC) MARS Station. Several construction projects are underway at the complex and an updated MARS station will be the result when renovations are completed. Antenna repair work on the mountain top will resume when the snow melts this spring.

As a follow up to the short video clip presentation mentioned in the December 2010 meeting minutes, the full version of the National Geographic Channel television special entitled "American Doomsday" was presented on the station's wall mounted 42-inch high-resolution flat screen monitor. The video profiled several of the U.S. Government's publicly disclosed Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) / Continuity of Government (COG) facilities.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 6, 2011 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 PM.