

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

May 4, 2011

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

The 14 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz – K3HU, John Miller – KE4JEM, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Peter Kean – K2AXI, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Gene Harrison – N3EV, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Van Evans – KB3XC, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT, Jerry Stueve – K4INT, and Doug Lindsey – KZ3H.

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

Dr. Gene Kaiser reported that the club's UHF amateur radio repeater, K4AF, is temporarily off the air due to construction and building renovations underway at the DoD transmitter site location. Service is expected to be restored when the contractor finishes electrical system upgrades.

A report was given on the recent inspection of the station conducted by the Office of the Pentagon Fire Marshall. The inspector issued a citation for the use of daisy-chained power strips to provide electrical power to the radio repair work bench. A work order was requested with building management to have additional electrical outlets installed, negating the need for power strips. A follow-up inspection is scheduled in 30 days.

Final details were briefed on the annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test to be held on Saturday May 14, 2011 from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Operations will be conducted from the Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Station using the DoD call sign W-A-R. Members wishing to participate in this event should contact MARS Station Manager Gary Sessums. Event details can be downloaded from URL http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/AMC_Test_2011.pdf . A work party at the station is scheduled for this Saturday morning to check radio equipment and antennas.

It was noted that the annual Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 20-22, 2011 in Dayton, Ohio. Several club members said that they plan to attend this year's hamfest. Complete details and a list of forums can be found on-line at URL <http://www.hamvention.org/>

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) annual Field Day event is scheduled this year for Saturday June 25th. The Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) and the Arlington Amateur Radio Club (AARC) will again conduct joint Field Day operations at the American Red Cross located at 4333 Arlington Boulevard Arlington, Virginia 22203. PARC members are invited to come out to visit and/or operate during the 24 hour period from 2:00 PM Saturday through 2:00 PM Sunday. Food and beverage will be provided.

Mr. Gary Sessums gave a briefing on a Department of Defense (DoD) contingency communications exercise involving military airborne assets scheduled for later this month. During the exercise, off-line encrypted message traffic as well as unclassified messages will be relayed through the Pentagon MARS Station to the National Military Command Center (NMCC) from active duty military airborne and ground units located around the United States as part of the MARS mission of providing a viable means of contingency radio communications support to DoD, as described in DoDI 4650.02. Several members volunteered to staff the station during the exercise.

Mr. Hugh Katz announced some upcoming area hamfests. The Memorial Day Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday May 29, 2011 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Additional information is available at <http://www.marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm> . The Manassas Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday June 12, 2011 at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. A PDF flyer can be downloaded from <http://www.w4ovh.net/hamfest.htm> .

A club roster was passed around for correction and addition of member contact information. An updated membership roster will be distributed at next month's meeting.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 1, 2011 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 PM.