

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

September 7, 2011

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

The 22 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz – K3HU, Ben Baddley – W4FQT, Bob Lipp – W4LIP, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Jerry Stueve – K4INT, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Eric Ervin – KK6AIR, Claude Hennessey – KG4TVN, Doug Donnell – KD4DMD, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Keith Brown – WP4OKI, Terry Hines – N4ZH, John Miller – KE4JEM, Bill Johnson, Heather Cole, Dave Dick, Edward Ohlert, and via telephone conference bridge Robert Anderson – KR4YO and Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

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

Major Robert Anderson, USAF, gave a briefing on the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club's special event station that will run from September 11-September 12 1100Z-0100Z during the 10th anniversary commemoration of the 9/11 attacks on the United States with special remembrance of the 184 people who lost their lives at the Pentagon and on board American Airlines Flight 77. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to sign up for a time slot to operate the radios during the event. For additional details, visit the K4AF website <http://www.k4af.org> or the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/Events/view/35620>.

Mr. Gary Sessums, Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) station manager, gave a briefing on MARS operations conducted during Hurricane Irene. Contingency radio communications support was provided in response to a request from the Joint Staff to support the National Military Command Center (NMCC). An after-action report has been forwarded to the Joint Staff.

As a follow-up to previous discussion about reviving the PARC Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to be able to offer regularly scheduled amateur radio examination sessions for all levels of licensing exams (Technician Class, General Class and Amateur Extra Class), it was noted that PARC now has a team accredited by the ARRL and is also seeking accreditation by the Laurel Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization. Mr. Curt Bartholomew is leading this effort.

The 36th annual Marine Corps Marathon is scheduled for Sunday October 30, 2011. The Pentagon MARS Station will again be providing digital communications support to marathon medical operations. Additional amateur radio volunteers are also needed to provide communications support along the 26 mile course and may sign up online at <http://www.ncacdc.com/>.

Captain Heather Cole, USN, gave a very informative unclassified briefing on the U.S. Navy's Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) aircraft that provide survivable, reliable, and endurable command, control, and communications support to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). TACAMO communications links re-broadcast Emergency Action Messages (EAMs) between National Command Authority (NCA) and strategic nuclear submarines, missile silos, and bomber aircraft. A factsheet on the TACAMO E-6B Mercury aircraft is available on-line at URL <http://www.tacamo.navy.mil/factsheets.html>.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.