

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

August 1, 2012

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

The 22 club members in attendance were: Kathy Croft – KC3T, John Croft – K3NJ, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Van Evans – KB3XC, Dave Maples – WB4FUR, Dennis Wilson – KD4WGN, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, Claude Hennessey – W4AT, Jonathan Branker – KJ4GYR, Sean Anderson – KR4YO, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Terry Hines – N4ZH, Nicholas Curcuru – KI4LFG, Ben Baddley – W4FQT, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Ron Startzel – KB5LNC, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Jerry Stueve – K4INT, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, and Tom O’Neill – KB1VNS.

A motion was made by Lieutenant Commander Tom O’Neill, USN to approve the July 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Major Sean Anderson, USAF seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

It was noted that the 62nd Annual Berryville Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, 2012, at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds in Berryville, Virginia. A PDF flyer can be downloaded from <http://www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest/BerryvilleHamfest2012Flyer.pdf> . A joint-service MARS meeting is scheduled at the pavilion for 11:00 AM.

Dr. Gene Kaiser gave a report on the status of the club's General Electric Master II UHF radio repeater. The repeater committee is working with the installation commander's staff at the off-site DoD location for final approval to install the repeater on base.

The ARRL August UHF contest runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, August 4 through 1800 UTC Sunday, August 5. The objective of the event is to work as many amateur stations in as many 2 degrees by 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized amateur frequencies above 222 MHz and all authorized modes of emission during the contest window. For complete contest details, visit <http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf> . The station is available to those wishing to participate.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed on Military Auxiliary Communications System (MARS) contingency radio communications support to Joint Forces Headquarters-Florida National Guard/J6 and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) for the 2012 Republican National Convention being held in Tampa, Florida later this month. Joint-Service MARS personnel will support the mission requirements of the JFHQ-FL/J6 and assist Guard personnel with the deployment of Regional Emergency Response Network (RERN) systems and assisting with the HF operations of the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) units to provide direct reach back capability to DoD command centers via HF radio using ALE and MIL-STD 110A/110B modes during the week of August 27-August 30, 2012.

Major Sean Anderson, USAF, gave a presentation entitled Solar Max for Radio Amateurs. He discussed the upcoming Solar Maximum and its importance to the ham radio community, the dynamics of the 11-year solar cycle, common space weather events, the interactions of solar flares & particle events within the ionosphere, and the impacts of space weather on radio communications. The presentation ended with a review of space weather resources publicly available on the Internet including SpaceWeather.com, www.spaceweather.com , and the National Weather Service's Space Weather Prediction Center, www.swpc.noaa.gov .

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM.