

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

January 4, 2012

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

The 30 club members in attendance were: Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Nicholas Curcuru – KI4LFG, Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Terry Hines – N4ZH, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Ross Merlin – WA2WDT, John McNamara – KG4HZC, Van Evans – KB3XC, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Marland Thurston – KK4FQX, Doug Lindsey – KZ3H, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, John Miller – KE4JEM, Dave Maples – WB4FUR, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Carl Langford – WL7AF, Keith Brown – WP4OKI, Steven Karty – N5SK, Jack Parker – W4JJ, Chuck Holt – AG4GM, Mike Carey – KK4EXV, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Mike Rooney, Alfredo Fernandez, and via telephone conference bridge Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

A motion was made by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Parker, USA, to approve both the November and December 2011 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Major General Michael Carey, USAF, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

It was noted that the 2012 American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Radioteletype (RTTY) Roundup contest is scheduled from 1800 Zulu Saturday January 7 through 2400 Zulu Sunday January 8. 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 briefed that the National Guard Bureau's annual Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) Conference will be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center located on the Potomac River at National Harbor, Maryland Wednesday February 22 through Friday February 24, 2012. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) has again been invited to attend, display, and brief at this annual conference. Members from the Pentagon MARS station will demo live HF radio communications, distribute informational literature, and answer questions about Federal HF radio communication programs and how MARS can provide contingency radio communications support to the National Guard Bureau in their role of providing Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA).

Mr. Steven Karty, National Communications System (NCS), requested that the Pentagon MARS Station provide contingency radio communications support through the SHARES HF Radio program during the upcoming State of the Union Presidential address to Congress scheduled for Tuesday January 24th which is designated as a National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) event. Several members volunteered to staff the station during the event.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed on the donation from Dominion Power Corporation of two General Electric Master II UHF radio repeaters and also the donation of an Icom model IC-746 PRO HF/50MHz/144MHz 100 watt all-mode transceiver with built-in automatic antenna tuner and electronic keyer along with the matching power supply from the estate of a local MARS member. The repeater committee will use one of the new units to upgrade the K4AF amateur radio repeater and the Icom radio will be placed into service at station operating position number three.

Mr. Michael Rooney, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), gave a very informative unclassified briefing on the effects and mitigation options available as the result of a High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP) and other nuclear weapons effects on the survivability of High Frequency (HF) radio systems, Command and Control (C2), commercial communications, and other key elements of supporting critical infrastructure to survive, operate, and succeed in battlespace where a Nuclear Detonation (NUDET) has occurred.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM.