

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

July 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser at 12:00 PM. Today's monthly meeting was delayed one week due to the 4th of July holiday. Introductions of members present were made.

The 17 club members in attendance were: Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, John Miller – KE4JEM, John Croft – K3NJ, Kathy Croft – KC3T, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Peter Kean – K2AXI, Nicholas Curcuro – KI4LFG, Claude Hennessey – W4AT, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Jonathan Branker – KJ4GYR, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Jerry Stueve – K4INT, and Don Lewis – KI4D.

A motion was made by Mr. Claude Hennessey to approve the June 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. David Trachtenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

It was noted that the annual Department of Defense (DoD) command & control exercise, Global Thunder, is scheduled for October. The Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) station has been tasked to provide contingency communications support between the Pentagon and other key military installations.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed on the recently signed Presidential Executive Order -- Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications (NS/EP) Functions and its possible impact on NS/EP communications policies, programs, and capabilities, including the National Communications System (NCS) SHARES HF radio program.

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.

Mr. Ken Heitner gave a report on the status of station radio equipment.

In the wake of the recent massive storm that struck the Washington, D.C. area which left hundreds of thousands of residents without electrical power, telephone, cell phone, and Internet communications during a record breaking heat wave for several days, a discussion ensued about the role of amateur radio and MARS contingency radio communications support during such an event. Several local amateur radio repeaters were off the air during the event due to not having emergency power available. Local area governments requested the support of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) communications due to the degradation of public safety communications and the failure of local 911 emergency telephone service. The Pentagon MARS station was never without electrical power and contingency radio communications with Federal, state, and local government agencies was always available. The repeater committee will look into placing the spare K4AF repeater into service on the Pentagon roof as a backup to the main K4AF repeater installed at an off-site location.

The club bid farewell today to Lieutenant Colonel Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T. Hans's assignment to the Pentagon from the Dutch military as an exchange officer to Army CIO/G6 has ended and he will be returning to the Netherlands. Hans has been a great asset to PARC over the years with his participation in many of our amateur radio contests and contingency radio communications operations.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.