

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

www.k4af.org

June 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser at 12:01 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 23 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz – K3HU, John Miller – KE4JEM, John Croft – K3NJ, Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Walter Jones – KC7HEX, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Marland Thurston – KK4FQX, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Robert Anderson – KR4YO, Peter Kean – K2AXI, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Claude Hennessey – W4AT, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, David Trachtenburg – N4WWL, Doug Lindsey – KZ3H, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, Nicholas Curcuru – KI4LFG, Ronald Startzel – KB5LNC, and via telephone conference bridge Larry Caramia – WA2NBT.

A motion was made by Major Robert Anderson, USAF, to approve the May 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Lieutenant Colonel Walter Jones, ARNG, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Mr. Gary Sessums, station manager, briefed on the annual Armed Forces Day Communications Test (AFDCT) that was conducted on Saturday May 12, 2012 from the Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Station.

Mr. Hugh Katz gave a report on the annual Dayton Hamvention held May 18-20 2012 in Dayton, Ohio. Several PARC members also attended this year's event as well.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) annual Field Day event is scheduled this year for Saturday June 23rd. The Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) and the Arlington Amateur Radio Club (AARC) will again conduct joint Field Day operations at the Knights of Columbus located at 5115 Little Falls Road Arlington, VA 22207. PARC members are invited to come out to visit and/or operate the Field Day event during the 24 hour period from 2:00 PM Saturday through 2:00 PM Sunday. Food and beverage will be provided. Talk-in directions to the Field Day site will be on the W4WVP repeater, 145.470 output / 144.870 input, with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed on a Department of Defense (DoD) contingency communications / interoperability exercise involving military and MARS assets taking place beginning next week at the United States Army Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) in Harford County, Maryland which will involve the Pentagon and other key military HF radio stations. MARS has also been invited to provide contingency radio communications support to DoD for the Eagle Horizon 2012 National Level Exercise (NLE).

It was noted that the 38th annual Manassas Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday June 10, 2012 at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. A PDF flyer with hamfest details can be downloaded from http://www.w4ovh.net/ManHamfest/HamfestFlyer_20120405.pdf.

Mr. David Trachtenberg briefed on the recent United States House of Representatives House Armed Services Committee report contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 that expresses support for the MARS program and calls for greater coordination among the three services MARS programs. An ARRL news article with links to the committee's report can be found at URL: <http://www.arrl.org/news/house-armed-services-committee-urges-mars-coordination>

It was noted that the Office of the Pentagon Fire Marshal recently conducted a Fire and Life Safety Inspection of the Pentagon MARS station. With the exception of some radio equipment being stacked on top of a cabinet being too close to overhead lighting fixtures, the station was found to be in compliance with AI-112, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) Fire Regulations, National Fire Codes, and good fire and life safety practices.

Due to the 4th of July Holiday, the next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 11, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.