

**Minutes**  
**Pentagon Amateur Radio Club**  
[www.k4af.org](http://www.k4af.org)

**March 7, 2012**

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

The 24 club members in attendance were: Dennis Wilson – KD4WGN, Nicholas Curcuru – KI4LFG, Van Evans – KB3XC, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Rae Ohlert – N5VFR, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, Terry Hines – N4ZH, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, John Miller – KE4JEM, Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Rebecca Starborne – KB3WTW, Don Lewis – KI4D, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Daryl Noel – W4EC, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Steve Butler – W4HA, Chris Allen – W9CCA, Richard Bunn – N4ASX, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Gordon Miller – NQ4K, Julie Birt, and via telephone conference bridge Larry Caramia – WA2NBT and Ross Merlin – WA2WDT.

A motion was made by Mr. Rick Bunn to approve the February 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Mr. Terry Hines seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser gave a report on the recent National Guard Bureau's annual Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) Conference that was held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center located on the Potomac River at National Harbor, Maryland Tuesday February 21 through Thursday February 23, 2012. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) again this year displayed, briefed, and demonstrated live HF radio operations at this annual conference.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed that MARS has been requested to provide contingency radio communications support in conjunction with Joint Forces Headquarters-Florida National Guard/J6 and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) for the 2012 Republican National Convention to be held in Tampa, Florida the week of August 27- August 30, 2012. 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.

It was noted that transmit and receive crystals have been ordered for the new K4AF UHF amateur radio repeater, a General Electric MASTR II model that was mentioned in the January 2012 meeting minutes. The repeater committee expects to have the machine back on the air soon after the installation of the crystals and the tuning of the duplexer.

Mr. Uldis Adamsons, club treasurer, delivered mail retrieved from the club's post office box and gave an accounting of the club's finances.

Ms. Rae Ohlert briefed the club on the donation of a new Keurig brand single-serving coffee brewing system for the club's use during late night extended radio operations.

Mr. Gordon Miller, NQ4K, president of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) gave a presentation to the club on the 2012 Virginia QSO Party that will be held the weekend of March 17-18, 2012. The operating hours of this annual amateur radio contest are Saturday 17 March 1400 UTC–Sunday 18 March 0200 UTC (Saturday 10 AM – 10 PM local) and Sunday 18 March 1200 UTC–Sunday 2400 UTC (Sunday 8 AM–8 PM local) The objective of the Virginia QSO party is to promote amateur radio activity in the 95 Virginia counties and 39 independent cities. Categories include multi-band or single band, fixed or mobile station, high and low power operation, phone, CW, digital, and mixed-mode categories. Visit [http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/2012\\_VQP/2012\\_VQP\\_Main.html](http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2012_VQP/2012_VQP_Main.html) for complete contest details.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 4, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.