

**Minutes**  
**Pentagon Amateur Radio Club**

[www.k4af.org](http://www.k4af.org)

**May 2, 2012**

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

The 21 club members in attendance were: Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Hugh Katz – K3HU, John Croft – K3NJ, Peter Kean – K2AXI, Larry Caramia – WA2NBT, John Miller – KE4JEM, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Eric Ervin – KK6AIR, David Trachtenberg – N4WWL, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Darrel Adams – KA5DWZ, Van Evans – KB3XC, John Lagozzinio – KK4AHY, Claude Hennessey – W4AT, Harry Rensel – KF4CFZ, Don Lewis – KI4D, Hans Blondeel Timmerman – NB2T, Tom Cross – WA4PMD, Ann Buckingham, and Jeremy Hodges.

A motion was made by Mr. Harry Rensel to approve the April 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Master Gunnery Sergeant Eric Ervin, USMC, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Dr. Gene Kaiser briefed that the annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test will be held on Saturday May 12, 2012. Operations will be conducted from the Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Station from 0800-2000. WAR will once again be one of the stations broadcasting the Secretary of Defense digital message. Club members wishing to participate in this event should contact MARS Station Manager Gary Sessums to volunteer.

It was noted that the annual Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 18-20 2012 in Dayton, Ohio. The meetup/rally point for PARC members attending this year's event will be the Joint-Service MARS booth located in the exhibit hall. Complete hamfest details and a list of scheduled forums can be found on-line at URL <http://www.hamvention.org/>

A Department of Defense (DoD) contingency communications exercise involving military airborne assets is scheduled for later this month. During the exercise, off-line encrypted message traffic as well as unclassified messages will be relayed from active duty military airborne and ground units located around the United States. MARS will participate in this exercise as part of its mission to provide contingency radio communications support to DoD.

Mr. Curt Bartholomew briefed the group on a Federal study on amateur radio impediments mandated by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is reviewing amateur radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications. The FCC is soliciting comments from the public on this issue through May 17, 2012. Visit the URL <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/> and type docket number 12-91 to enter comments.

Ms. Ann Buckingham, Deputy Assistant Administrator, and Mr. Thomas Cross, Chief Continuity Communications, both from the Continuity Operations Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Continuity Programs Directorate, gave a very informative unclassified briefing on secure and nonsecure High Frequency (HF) Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) continuity radio systems. These systems include the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), the Department and Agency Continuity Network (DACN), and the National Emergency Coordination Net (NECN) that provide the President and other Federal officials with resilient and assured voice and data network connectivity to the FEMA Regions, State Emergency Operations Centers (SEOCs), key alert and warning facilities, and other locations to help meet information sharing requirements at any time, across the full threat spectrum. These radio nets directly support the Federal Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations Programs (COOP) independently of terrestrial and space-based (satellite) infrastructure in providing National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) communications capabilities.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 6, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM.