

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

April 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 16 club members in attendance were: Don Lewis - KI4D , Phil Kania - KJ4GYJ, Ron Startzel - KB5LNC, Hugh Katz - K3HU, Dennis Wilson - KD4WGN, Gary Sessums - KC5QCN, Matt Skowronski - KJ4PUR, Bryan Clements - KC1ENT, Claude Hennessey - W4AT, Brian Norton - KJ4PRZ, Dennis Orcutt - W5WHY, John Kim – KM4HAQ, William Riley – KA8IUL, Jonathan Heinlein – N4ERD, Rob Bowers – KA0SER, and via telephone conference bridge, Eugene Kaiser - KI4BUI.

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Kania to approve the March 2019 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via email. Mr Jonathan Heinlein seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

The Department of Defense (DOD) plans to take advantage of a provisional time slots on radio stations WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises along with information on how amateur radio operators can participate. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past the hour on WWV and at 50 minutes past the hour on WWVH. Both stations transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

It was noted that the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Rookie Roundup is scheduled for Sunday April 14, 2019 from 1800 Zulu through 2359 Zulu. This event is held each April, August, and December for newly licensed operators in North America to experience radio operations with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter amateur radio bands. The Pentagon MARS station is available for those wishing to participate. Complete contest rules are available on the ARRL website.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will hold an emergency preparedness exercise, (APEX 19) on Saturday April 27, 2019 from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM. The APEX 19 exercise will simulate an aircraft accident in order to test emergency response plans. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates that airports conduct an exercise every three years. Arlington County, Virginia Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has been requested to provide communications support during the exercise to track mock victims as they are triaged and transported to area hospitals. PARC members should contact ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) Gary Sessums at kc5qcn@arrl.net to volunteer in providing amateur radio support during the exercise.

The annual Armed Forces Day Cross Band Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test will be held on Saturday May 11, 2019. The Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) station will conduct operations from 11 MAY 1200Z - 2400Z using the DoD call sign WAR and will once again be one of the stations broadcasting the Secretary of Defense digital message and transmitting in Morse code. Club members wishing to volunteer should sign up at the May meeting.

Guest speaker Mr. Rob Bowers gave a briefing on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) and how it relates to other digital mobile radio standards with an overview of amateur DMR networks, zones, time slots, color codes, talk groups, code plugs, vocoders, scanning, roaming, talk-around, admit criteria, and digital repeaters.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 1, 2019 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.