

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

February 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 19 club members in attendance were: Dennis Wilson – KD4WGN, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, Edward Ohlert – KN4DKI, Steven Karty – N5SK, Ron Startzel – KB5LNC, John Kim – KM4HAQ, Tim Cary – K4CTC, Bryan Clements – KC1ENT, Curt Bartholomew – N3GQ, William Riley – KA8IUL, Doug Donnel – KD4MD, Jonathan Heinlein – N4ERD, Uldis Adamsons – N4TE, Ken Heitner – WB4AKK, Tom Boney, and via the telephone conference bridge, Hugh Katz – K3HU, and Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennis Wilson to approve the January 2019 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via email. Mr. Ron Startzel seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

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

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed that The Mid-Atlantic Repeater Council (TMARC) has approved the frequency coordination modification request for the move of the PARC UHF repeater to a new tower site. The new site provides greater coverage with a radius of about 35 nautical miles. Club members are encouraged to try to access the K4AF repeater, 449.550 MHz input / 444.550 MHz output, using a CTCSS tone of 88.5 Hz, from their residences. Several club members made monetary contributions to the repeater fund to help finance the purchase of a new repeater controller and replacement Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) batteries.

It was noted that Mr. Bob Carroll has secured the use of a new Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Enterprise Audio Conferencing telephone bridge for those members unable to attend the monthly meetings. The telephone number and PIN will change monthly and can be obtained by calling the MARS station immediately prior to the start time of each meeting.

Mr. Phil Kania gave a report on his trip last weekend to attend the Frostfest hamfest at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, Virginia. There were plenty of bargains on radio gear and accessories and he noted that there were many in attendance at the hamfest from the Northern Virginia area.

Guest speaker Mr. Edward Ohlert gave a very informative unclassified briefing on Increasing HF Radio Resilience to Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Effects. The current generation of communications equipment, networks, and the power grid is more vulnerable to EMP threats than earlier generations of electronic equipment due to the transition from tubes and transistors towards the use of integrated circuits and microchips. The briefing covered EMP damage caused by lightning, Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), and Nuclear Detonation (NUDET) and the shielding, operational procedures, grounding, and routine protective measures needed to increase communications equipment resilience to EMP effects.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 6, 2019 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.