

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

January 9, 2019

The meeting date was shifted forward one week due to the New Year's Day holiday and called to order at 12:00 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 18 club members in attendance were: Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Hugh Katz – K3HU, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, Cynthia Kellums – KJ4CLK, Dennis Wilson – KD4WGN, Ron Startzel – KB5LNC, John Kim – KM4HAQ, Bob Lipp – W4LIP, Tim Cary – K4CTC, Bryan Clements – KC1ENT, Don Lewis – KI4D, William Riley – KA8IUL, Doug Donnel – KD4MD, Jonathan Heinlein – N4ERD, John Lagozzino – KK4AHY, and via the telephone conference bridge, Steven Karty – N5SK and Eugene Kaiser – KI4BUI.

Mr. Hugh Katz noted that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has suspended operations due to the partial government shutdown caused by the lack of an appropriations bill to fund the Federal government. The processing of Amateur Radio applications has been halted. The Universal Licensing System (ULS) and the Commission Online Registration System (CORES) will remain available but will not be updated until normal government operations resume.

The Pentagon Military Auxiliary Radios System (MARS) station was recently upgraded to the new HID Access Control System that uses a contactless proximity card to enable/disable the alarm system to replace the old magnetic swipe card system. PARC members should check their access card to make sure they are still able to enter the station.

Mr. Ron Startzel noted the new Element 3 General Class Question Pool has been released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams administered on or after July 1, 2019.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will conduct monthly communications exercises (COMMEX) on the third Wednesday of each month from 1730 - 1900 UTC (12:30 PM - 2:00 PM). The exercises are to test and exercise interoperable communication for use in disasters in which the communication infrastructure is overwhelmed or destroyed. The FEMA call sign WGY910 will be used on frequencies on 60 meters - including 5330.5 kHz, 5346.5 kHz, 5357.0 kHz, 5371.5 kHz, and 5403.5 kHz. Amateur Radio operators are invited to take part in the exercise.

Mr. Gary Sessums, PARC repeater trustee, gave an update on the K4AF Amateur Radio Repeater Relocation Project. PARC has filed a frequency coordination modification request with The Mid-Atlantic Repeater Council (TMARC) for the move of the 449.550/444.550 repeater from the old coordinated location to a new tower site that will provide greater radio coverage. The repeater committee is looking to purchase and install a new a new repeater controller with voice ID when the repeater is moved to the new site.

The Pentagon MARS Station has been requested to provide contingency radio communications support during the President's State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress scheduled for Tuesday January 29, 2019 at the United States Capitol. Net operations will provide backup communications to the Department of Homeland Security's SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program. Several members volunteered to staff the station during this National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) event.

Mr. Phil Kania noted that the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention is slated to be held at the Frostfest hamfest scheduled for Saturday February 2, 2019 at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, Virginia. Visit <http://www.frostfest.com> for hamfest details.

Mr. Gary Sessums gave a very informative unclassified briefing on Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) located in Wahiawa, Hawaii that provides long range communications for DoD command and control communications support to the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Joint Forces around the globe using VLF, LF, HF, UHF, SHF, EHF radio circuits.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.