

Minutes
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
www.k4af.org

March 6, 2019

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

The 20 club members in attendance were: Ron Startzel - KB5LNC, Hugh Katz - K3HU, Dennis Wilson - KD4WGN, Phil Kania - KJ4GYJ, Gary Sessums - KC5QCN, Matt Skowronski - KJ4PUR, Tim Cary - K4CTC, Bryan Clements - KC1ENT, Doug Donnell - KD4MD, Cynthia Kellums - KJ4CLK, Claude Hennessey - W4AT, Don Lewis - KI4D, Rae Ohlert - N5VFR, John Lagazzino - KK4AHY, Brian Norton - KJ4PRZ, Dennis Orcutt - W5WHY, Scott Berg - WA0LSS, Dan Carpenter, and via telephone conference bridge, Eugene Kaiser - KI4BUI and Uldis Adamsons - N4TE.

A motion was made by Mr. Hugh Katz to approve the February 2019 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via email. Mr. Matt Skowronski seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Mr. Gary Sessums briefed that the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has revised the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) program to better define its mission, goals, objectives, and training requirements to align with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). The revised ARES program has a three-tiered membership requirement based on responsibility and training levels with the the ARRL EC-001 and FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS 700, and IS-800 on-line training courses as the minimum requirement for ARES membership.

The annual Virginia QSO Party will be held the weekend of March 16-17, 2019. The operating hours of this amateur radio contest are Saturday, 16 March 2019 1400 Zulu - Sunday, 17 March 0400 Zulu and Sunday, 17 March 1200 Zulu - 2400 Zulu. The objective of the Virginia QSO party is to promote amateur radio activity in Virginia. Categories include multi-band or single band, fixed or mobile station, high and low power operation, phone, CW, digital, and mixed-mode categories. Visit https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2019_VQP/2019_VQP_Main.html for complete contest details.

Mr. Phil Kania reminded members of the upcoming Winterfest hamfest on Sunday March 24, 2019 at the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus. Visit <http://viennawireless.net> for complete hamfest details.

The Office of the Pentagon Fire Marshal recently conducted an inspection of the Pentagon MARS station. The station received a citation for non-compliant use of a power strip and remedial action has been taken.

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 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.

Guest speaker Mr. Scott Berg gave a briefing on marine communication systems. He lives and sails the high seas aboard his 60 foot yacht, the SV Chardonnay. Scott discussed radio and navigation systems commonly used by mariners including onboard radios, EPIRBs, SARTs, GMDSS, MMSI, AIS, DSC-enabled radios, Navtex, satellite communications, and the use of Pactor modems for SailMail and AirMail, marine single side band versus amateur radio, marine antennas, transatlantic nets, public coast stations, and long-range voice and data communications on the high seas.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 3, 2019 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 PM.