

Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes, 5 Aug 2026

ATTENDEES

Pentagon: Ron Startzel KB5LNC, Hugh Katz K3HU, Steven Karty N5SK, Doug Donnell KD4MD, Claude Hennessey W4AT, Sean Gallagher K4KBK, Stefano Fonda K4IEW, Cynthia Kellams KJ4CLK, Mike Hollock NI4U, David Irwin KX4PW, Jason Dib, Jeffrey Miller NU6ZW, Josh Brown KQ4LEV

Zoom: Dennis Wilson KD4WGN, Rae Ohlert N5VFR, Dan North W5FJN, Richard Strait AL8AL, Roger Bouch K3WIV, Karen KD8HJ, Don Lewis KI4D, Bob Carrol N3KDC, Ed Ohlert KN4DKI, Emmett Price K3ED

The meeting was called to order at noon and led by Ron Startzel.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NFCU Account: \$2,495.30; includes \$100 deposit and \$0.12 interest in the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

Badge Update: Some newly issued badges did not open the room. Ron updated with PFFA and everyone tested their badges today (Closed).

MARS update: Ron talked with the head of AF MARS. Our station license (WAR) is active. Goal moving forward will be further our involvement in the MARS program, including getting more members to become trained on MARS procedures. (Open)

QRZ Page: Doug is now managing the K4AF QRZ page (closed).

Email list and website: Doug has updated the website and will keep it updated. Meeting minutes are now being posted to the website. Also, Doug sent emails to those on the PARC email list asking if they wanted to continue to receive PARC emails. Those that have not responded will be dropped from the list (Closed).

Trustee – Ron volunteered to be trustee for K4AF and the repeater and Sean will assist in updating as required. Ron's appointment as trustee was moved, seconded, and approved by the members (Open, pending application and approval).

Inventory and radio room cleanup: Need to inventory equipment and get rid of excess. This will be an ongoing process. Ron can get property passes to remove items from the building. We will include cleanup as part of our Sept 11 special event (Open).

Written operating instructions for station's equipment: We need to write operating procedures for each of the station's four positions and make sure that each position is fully operational for its assigned task. Position #3 is fully operational for HF and available for daily use. Doug and Ron will update documentation for each position (open).

SHARES: need to post info and start checking into the Wednesday SHARES net. Rae sent Ron an email with additional SHARES info (open, Ron working)

List of contacts: Ron has reached out to essential contacts (USAF MWR, Mr Robert Cooper; PFFA for room and roof access, etc) (consider this item closed as we will keep an ongoing list of contacts in the radio room).

Bylaws: These need to be updated. Jeff Miller volunteered to help with this – we'll form a committee at a future meeting to address this (open).

Publicity: Cynthia reiterated the need for publicity to get the word out about the club and MARS station. This was tabled and will be addressed at a future time (open).

Celebration of Life event for Gary Sessums, SK: Details not worked out yet; info will be sent to PARC members as info becomes available (no PARC action, open)

Plaque honoring Gene Kaiser and Gary Sessums: Proposed design was circulated to members. Minor adjustments were suggested. Plan would be to have plaque ready to display in the room by the October PARC meeting. Gene's daughter and Gary's nephew will be invited to participate via Zoom (open).

Repeater: Doug talked with the Chief Engineer for WETA, William Harrison. We're welcome to keep our repeater at their location but need to update the trustee and insurance info. (working, see item above regarding trustee).

Nobody knows about the STU-III phones or the safe combo. (open)

25th Anniversary of 9/11 Special Event: Claude is leading the event and presented a draft QSL. Plan is to operate from 0800 to 2000 EDT, only SSB. We will have two active positions, each with operator and logger. Contact Claude to sign up for a time slot. QSL will be by mail only. There will be several pauses built into our program to memorialize key events of the day. Ron will come in early to set up station. Doug will update the QRZ page (open, ongoing actions).

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: The following officers were elected by the members to fill the positions indicated:

President: Ron Startzel

Vice President: Rui Amaral

Secretary: Doug Donnell

Treasurer: Claude Hennessey

Marine Corps Marathon Support: There was a discussion about club support to the Marine Corps Marathon. Our participation has been minimal to non-existent in recent years as the Marine Corps has overhauled their comm procedures and generally don't need volunteer radio coverage. Our 6m digipeater will be available (unmanned) if needed, but no further action on the part of PARC will be needed (closed).

The meeting was adjourned at 1318.

Note that the September meeting will be delayed a week due to the Labor Day federal holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Donnell KD4MD, PARC Secretary