Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes, 7 Oct 2026

ATTENDEES

Pentagon: Ron Startzel KB5LNC, Hugh Katz K3HU, Doug Donnell KD4MD, Claude Hennessey W4AT, Cynthia Kellams KJ4CLK, Josh Brown KQ4LEV, Dennis Wilson KD4WEN, Rae Ohlert N5VFR

Zoom: 12 on Zoom

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Claude reported that the NFCU Account has $2,496.34

OLD BUSINESS

The following are ongoing open action items which we will track in the minutes but have no updates this month.

- MARS
- Inventory and radio room cleanup
- Written operating instructions for station's equipment
- SHARES: need to post info and start checking into the Wednesday SHARES net.
- Bylaws update
- Celebration of Life event for Gary Sessums, SK: Info will be sent to PARC members as info becomes available
- Publicity: need to get the word out about the club and MARS station.
- Follow up on STU-III phones and safe combo.

25th Anniversary of 9/11 attacks: Claude presented a summary of the club's 9/11 special event. Overall, during the 12 hours on the air we made 660 contacts. Over 100 requests for QSLs have already been received and Claude has ordered an initial 250 of the QSL specially designed for the event. During the event were visited by the Honorable Kirsten A. Davies, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Department of War and members of her staff.

NEW BUSINESS

The club unveiled its plaque recognizing the contributions of Gene Kaiser and Gary Sessums to the club, DoD, and to the amateur radio community. Member of Gene's family were able to monitor via Zoom. Thanks to Jonathan for leading the presentation, including highlights of the contributions of each of these special leaders in our ham radio

community. Several members added their personal remembrances of Gene and Gary. The plaque will permanently hang in the radio room.

Gary, KC5QCN

- Extensive work in the National Military Command Center and Continuity of Government program
- Contributions to amateur radio in his home state of Mississippi, including support to the annual “Run through History” 10k event in Vicksburg
- Deployed as a member of an ARRL team to Puerto Rico for support after Hurricane Maria devastated the island
- Instrumental in deploying a VHF repeater to the US Virgin Islands
- De facto president of the PARC and president of the Arlington ARC
- And much more!

Gene, KI4BU

- In a long and distinguished career as a federal employee, was recognized for many contributions to national security. Served as the Defense Information Systems Agency’s liaison to the National Military Command Center
- Essentially “rescued” the PARC when the Pentagon Renovation Program overlooked the club in allocating space as part of the renovation process. Ensured that a suitable PARC facility was built out as part of the renovation.
- Served as long time president of PARC, responsible for equipment upgrades and ongoing operations
- And much more!

A special vote was taken to approve Ron Startzel KB5LNC, as the trustee for K4AF and the K4AF repeater.

The meeting was adjourned at 1310.

Respectfully submitted,

//Signed//

Doug Donnell KD4MD, PARC Secretary