

*UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA*  
*AMATEUR RADIO CLUB*



**Minutes of the Amateur Radio Club**  
University of Pennsylvania  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**

<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/amateurradioclub/home.html>

Monthly Meeting: August 28, 2008 at Houston Hall.

Attendees:

In attendance at Houston Hall:

Burnell Brown – WA3OXY; Russ Miller – WA3FRP; Hesham Wahby – KB3RNV.

In attendance by telephone:

Jan Carman – K5MA; Howard Dicker – WB2IMB; Dave Pascoe – KM3T; Fred Serota – K3BHX; Jim Talens – N3JT

President's Welcome, Update and Comments

President Russ Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the August Club meeting. The meeting was held in room 313 in Houston Hall.

Russ congratulated Hesham Wahby, Club Vice President, on his recent achievement in passing the FCC exams and receiving his first Amateur Radio license – KB3RNV.

Russ also thanked Hesham for making arrangements for the meeting as well as the food and refreshments.

## Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April Club meeting minutes.

## Student Activities Fair

The annual Student Activities Fair will take place next week on Locust Walk. This is a great opportunity for the Club to reach out to recruit new members. Club Vice President Hesham Wahby will be leading this effort. Burnell Brown will work with Hesham and with Penn Facilities to see how power can be arranged and if an antenna can be hung from nearby trees. This will facilitate a demo station, possibly on-the-air during the Activities Fair.

## On-Campus Station

Club President Russ Miller reported that the Club met the Challenge presented by Faculty Advisor Prof. Sarkar to develop and offer support for at least three Senior Design Projects in order to get space in the SEAS complex. Russ is waiting to hear the next steps in the process. A report will be made at the next Club meeting.

## Option for Remote Controlled Off-Campus Station

Club President Russ Miller recently met with Club member Perry Habecker for a tour of the New Bolton Center property, a part of the Penn School of Veterinary Medicine, located in Kennett Square, PA.

Perry indicated that the best location for a remote controlled station in the vicinity of the farm shops. It is on the highest point on the property near the intersection of Township Line and Byrd Rd, Marlborough TWP, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Kennett Square, 19348. The site is on the southernmost edge of the 640 acre New Bolton Center campus.

Russ and Perry also viewed the unused 50 / 60 foot tower self-supporting tower is erected on this site where there is near-zero interference to the routine ongoing farming operations would take place. However, there is no present Internet connection available at this farm shop site.

A future meeting at the site is planned that will include Russ and Club Secretary Jan Carman.

The following pictures of the area in question are included for review:



## HUP (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania) Interest in Club

Officials at the University Hospital, including the Director of Emergency Management, have indicated interest in the use of amateur radio facilities, and the UPenn ARC in particular, for public service and emergency communications work.

A recent message from HUP indicates that the funds originally earmarked for the project needed to be used for an emergency project. However, HUP will be purchasing equipment as soon as a new funding source is identified.

## Drexel University - W3MGF

Russ reported that he was recently contacted by a student at Drexel, Diana Mitchell – KB3QDW. Diana e-mailed to say that she has been in contact with Drexel Club Trustee and Penn Alum Dr. Dave Kutzik – WA3JKD. While the Drexel University Amateur Radio Club is currently inactive due to lack of membership; it will probably be restarted in the near future. There is a shack with HF/ VHF/UHF capabilities. Diana hopes that the two Clubs will come together for a few projects.

## Club QSL Cards

The Club is about to run out of QSL cards. At the April meeting, Club member Bob Bartlett recommended that we look to use his QSL Manager AI4U. Bob contacted him and it developed that this route was not a complete solution as AI4U is focused on handling only incoming QSL cards. While this would work well for a DX station, this solution would handle less and 1% of the Club's QSL needs.

Also at the April meeting, we discussed the loss of most of the Club's older QSL card collection prior to 2004. Club Secretary Jan Carman contacted ARRL and asked that they place a short article in their Strays column making note that all QSL cards in the W3ABT / N3KZ collection dated prior to 2004 have been lost and to ask that readers who have previously worked and QSL'ed QSO's with W3ABT or N3KZ prior to 2004 send a replacement QSL card to the Club.

Russ reported that this worked out very well and Club member Jeff Otto – WA1QYW retrieved and sent scans of a couple of W3ABT QSL cards from the late 1960s when Jeff was still in High School, prior to acceptance at Penn. One of the cards that Jeff sent was from a QSO with Russ! In addition, German Amateur Falk Weinhold - DK7YY sent an airmail letter to the Club containing an N3KZ QSL card from September 1990. The card has been added to the Club Internet Archive that is located at:

<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/amateurradioclub/QSLCards.html>

Minutes prepared and submitted by:  
Russ Miller, President