

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: Monday, January 22, 2007 at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering, Room 317

Attendees:

Jan Carman* – K5MA, Howard Dicker – WA2IMB*, Cameron Finucane, Perry Klein* – W3PK, Russ Miller – WA3FRP, Terry Smith – K7YNO*, Jim Talens – N3JT*, Donald Ying – KB3NFJ

* Attended meeting via conference telephone call.

President's Welcome, Remarks, and Update

President Russ Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed everyone, including those on the conference call (indicated by asterisk following name in attendance list).

Russ asked for comments on the November 27, 2006 club meeting minutes. There were no comments, and the minutes were accepted. He also noted that the club web page has some information on ARRL scholarships, for which application must be made prior to February 1, 2007. Russ also mentioned that the club is receiving publicity in the form of meeting notices in the DP's 'Today's Activities' section, and that it is listed as a 'hobby and service activity' in list of University Student Organizations. The question was asked regarding how many students read the DP (newspaper copies as opposed to the web version). Cameron noted that there are still stacks of DP's placed in each

building during weekdays, and the stacks are usually gone by the end of the day. Cameron also noted that a web publication known as the 'Face Book' is a popular social networking tool, possibly challenging the DP in popularity. There was a short discussion on searching for internet-based information to identify students, faculty and staff who are licensed amateurs. Some of these topics will be discussed further at upcoming club meetings.

Student Membership Drive

At the November 27, 2006 club meeting, a discussion took place regarding ideas to increase the club's presence with the student membership and to recruit new student members. One of the ideas mentioned was to ask Philadelphia area amateur radio clubs for contact information regarding students at Penn.

Jan volunteered to send letters to ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs in the Philadelphia area soliciting contact information for current students, faculty, staff and alumni at Penn who might have an interest in amateur radio or who are licensed radio amateurs. Using information on the ARRL web site, letters were sent to 20 amateur radio clubs in the Eastern Pennsylvania ARRL Section, 9 letters to clubs in the Delaware ARRL Section, and 14 clubs in the Southern New Jersey ARRL section (total of 43 letters).

We received replies from more than half of the clubs contacted by mail, and also from many additional hams that were referred to us. The response was more than I had expected. Many of the clubs that responded indicated that they would refer to us any of their members and ham friends of members who have Penn connections. The Club added two students and a staff member as a result of this process. We greatly appreciate the kind help we received from the regional amateur radio clubs.

ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2007 - Discussion

There was a short, general discussion about plans for a W3ABT entry in the 2007 ARRL Field Day competition, June 23-24, 2007. Don and Fred will be meeting January 23rd with school management to discuss options for use of University property. Other options were briefly mentioned, including joining forces with Temple University, K3TU (Dennis Silage, K3DS is on staff at Temple) and also approaching Drexel University. The Holmesburg ARC, which has a 2-meter repeater site on the Penn high-rise dorm building, is another possibility for a joint FD operation.

W3ABT Strategic Plan

Terry Smith, K7YNO initiated a discussion of his strategic plan for the establishment of one or more remote controlled HF/VHF stations for W3ABT. The general idea is to make a remote station available to club members who have access to high-speed Internet service. The member accessing the W3ABT remote station can be physically located literally anywhere (dorm room, automobile, hotel, home, etc.) as long as he has a computer and high-speed Internet access.

The long-term goal is to establish an on-campus station at Penn. That goal will not be achieved easily in the near term and might take a year or more to accomplish. In the mean time, an operational remote controllable station could be made available to club members, especially on-campus members who do not currently have access to a permanent station facility.

Here are the main points from the long discussion which followed:

- The basic requirement is an equipment rack, a simple vertical antenna and transmission line and a suitable physical location.
- Internet access would be used to remote control the station
- Possible use of the WXPN transmitter site was discussed. It was concluded that this site, which is a commercial broadcast transmitter site in Roxboro is probably not viable (Lat/Lon: 40 2 36/75 14 33), possible contact roger@xpn.org
- Russ mentioned that the planned Nanotechnology building at 33rd and Walnut Sts. makes a 1 KW RF signal less than welcome on that side of campus.
- The old N3KZ/R site at the University Hospital might be a possibility as this site has a telephone line and AC power readily available.
- The Holmesburg club has a repeater on the University Hospital roof, which has access, power, etc.
- Terry suggested that a relatively simple remote controlled radio system could be set up using a FT-8750 transceiver with CAT facility and a PC sound card. Most of the software is 'freeware' and readily downloadable. This would provide voice operation only by means of a computer sound card. Information is available on the W7DXX and K5AX web sites.
- This discussion was ended before completion because the room was scheduled for another activity beginning at 2 PM
- Terry noted that those who are interested in learning more about remote transmitter operation via internet connection should look at this web site: <http://www.W4MQ.com>

The meeting was concluded at 2:01 PM. Russ announced that the next Club meeting will be held on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 1:00 PM EST in Moore School Room 317. The telephone call-in number remains the same.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:
Jan Carman, Secretary and Russ Miller, President