

*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: January 26, 2009 in room 317 – Moore School Building

**Attendees:**

In attendance on campus:

Bob Berkovits; Russ Miller – WA3FRP; Professor Jonathan Smith – Faculty Advisor;

In attendance by telephone:

Jan Carman – K5MA; Howard Dicker - WA2IMB; Perry Habecker – KA3SVQ; Jim Talens – N3JT

**President's Welcome**

President Russ Miller called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the Club's first meeting of 2009. The meeting was held in room 317 in the Moore School Building.

Everyone was introduced, both in person and on the phone.

## Campus Station Update

There was an excellent hour long discussion about antenna alternatives resulting in the following decisions:

1. The club will replace the forty foot tower that was dismantled in 2000.
2. Jim Talens, N3JT, Club Trustee will send the following message to the Potomac Valley Radio Club:

“The University of Pennsylvania amateur radio club, W3ABT (and N3KZ, W3KZ), is embarking on creating a new on-campus station to attract new students into am radio and provide a station for use by others associated with the University. Space has been made available and an Icom 706 has been donated by a faculty member.

The Club still needs 4 or 5 sections of Rohn 45, a suitable rotator and tribander. Donations are ultimately tax deductible from the University of Pennsylvania.

Please contact Russ Miller, WA3FRP, [rumiller@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:rumiller@seas.upenn.edu).”

3. Jan Carman, K5MA will send a similar message to the Yankee Clipper Club.
4. Russ Miller will confirm the location of the previous tower on the roof of the Graduate Research Building. Jeff DePolo, WN3A provided the following description of that tower and antenna system:

“On Moore, we had 40' of Rohn 45G, with a tapered top section. There was a T2X mounted with a lower mast bracket to the stub (no shelf or thrust bearing). Originally there was a KT-34A tribander installed when the tower went up. Later, a 220 yagi and a Diamond X200 dual-bander was installed above the tribander. There was a 440 yagi on the side, along with a Hy-Gain V2R for packet. One end of the 40m wire attached to either the tower or to the side of the staircase wall, and the other end attached to the other staircase wall on the other side of Moore (diagonally) so it was stretched northeast-southwest.

The tower was attached to the cinderblock wall of the west side of the staircase using three sets of Rohn wall brackets. The wall brackets were attached to the block walls with Hilti anchors as was requested/required by Facilities. The base of the tower was set on a standard Rohn base plate which was resting on the roof but otherwise not attached. There was PT lumber under the base plate to protect the roof.”

5. The goal is to build the tower, rotator and antenna system during the spring and summer and have everything completed before the fall semester.

## Club Callsign Usage Proposal

The following club callsign usage proposal was offered by Russ Miller and seconded by Jan Carman:

### **Club Callsign Proposal**

#### **1. Background and History**

##### **Early Years -- 1909 to World War I**

The University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1909, has held a number of callsigns in its long history. The first callsign used by the Club was the self-assigned callsign "UP" in 1910. The Department of Commerce did not begin to issue radio licenses until 1912. Before that time, call radio station callsigns were self-assigned. The Amateur Radio callsign records from 1912 until the cessation of Amateur Radio activity due to World War I are incomplete. Unfortunately, few of the Department of Commerce records associated with Amateur Radio callsigns are available. Apparently, few records made their way to the Library of Congress. The first Department of Commerce callsign that has been located to date is 3ASO that was issued in 1916.

##### **3KZ and W3KZ (1924 – 1930; 2007 – Present)**

The first callsign issued to the Club after World War I was 3KZ, issued in 1924. The W prefix was mandated as of October 1, 1928. Since the Club held the 3KZ callsign at the time, the Club callsign became W3KZ and held that callsign for about two years. It is unclear why the Club failed to renew the W3KZ callsign in the early 1930s. The holder of the W3KZ callsign post-1930 became Club member and University of Pennsylvania alumnus Rodman Buggy, EE '35. The Club, through the fine efforts of Club Trustee Jim N3JT reacquired W3KZ in 2007.

##### **W3ABT (1932 – 1976; 2006 – Present)**

Callsign W3ABT was first issued to the Club in 1932. This callsign was used by the Club from 1932 until 1976. In 1976, the Club petitioned the FCC to acquire callsign N3KZ. W3ABT was returned to the FCC and luckily remained unassigned for 40 years. The FCC approved our request to return W3ABT to the Club effective January 10, 2006.

##### **N3KZ (1976 to Present)**

The Club petitioned the FCC for the N3KZ callsign in 1976 when the 1x2 blocks became available. The Club selected N3KZ as the "new" 3KZ based on the former Club callsign from 1924. Club callsign W3ABT was dropped at that time.

Use of the N3KZ callsign continues today via the University of Pennsylvania Repeater System. For more information about N3KZ/R see:

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

#### **2. Previous Discussion about Club Callsign Usage**

There was some general discussion at the May 2007 Club Meeting as to when each of the three club callsigns should be used. W3ABT is listed on the ARRL web site as the primary callsign for the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club, with N3KZ and W3KZ as secondary calls. All three Club callsigns feed to the Club's DXCC credits. A proposal was offered at the meeting to use N3KZ solely for the Club's Repeater system, with W3ABT as the campus station callsign (or used for non-campus activities prior to the

establishment of a permanent on-campus station) with W3KZ for everything other than repeaters and remote control. It was agreed that further discussion is needed before any firm conclusions can be made.

### **3. Proposal for the Club's Usage of W3ABT, N3KZ and W3KZ**

The University of Pennsylvania has three FCC issued callsigns. I am making the following proposal in order to clarify when each callsign should be used:

1. All on-campus University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club activity should be conducted using the Club's oldest FCC assigned callsign – W3KZ.
2. All University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club Repeater System activity should be conducted using Club callsign – N3KZ/R.
3. All University of Pennsylvania Alumni Amateur Radio activity off-campus, generally from Alumni home stations, must be coordinated via the Club's Trustee, N3JT, using callsigns W3ABT or N3KZ.

Following discussion, a vote was taken and the Club Callsign Usage Proposal was unanimously approved by the club.

### **Club Meeting Wrap-up**

Since time was short and some attendees had commitments following the meeting, the following items were tabled for discussion until the next meeting – Club 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration and QSL Cards.

### **Next Club Meeting**

It was decided that the next club meeting will take place on February 23 at 3:00 PM in room 317 of the Moore School Building.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:  
Russ Miller, President