

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, March 26, 2007 at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering, Room 317

Attendees:

Rob Brown – VE3SHZ, Jan Carman* – K5MA, Mike Feeley – KB3NDC, Perry Klein* – W3PK, Russ Miller – WA3FRP, Jim Talens – N3JT*

* Attended meeting via conference telephone call.

President's Welcome, Remarks, and Update

President Russ Miller called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM and welcomed everyone, including those on the conference call (indicated by asterisk following name in attendance list).

The Club faculty advisor, Dr. Sarkar is keeping up with club interests by email and the Club Web site while now traveling in India. She has received Terry K7YNO's Strategic Plan document and will comment on the Plan. There is the possibility that a student senior project may result from the Club planning activities.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved by unanimous club vote and have been uploaded to the Club web site.

Field Day 2007 Planning

There was a short discussion on Club participation in the annual ARRL Field Day activities the last weekend in June. Fred Serota and Donald Ying have been driving this activity but were unable to attend today's meeting. The most likely site for our FD operation will be on the College Green area across from College Hall and the Library. One of the issues to be solved is how to erect an efficient antenna given the available trees and buildings in the area. One suggestion was to use a single multi-band dipole and carefully selected supports – trees and/or buildings. This needs to be investigated in more detail and a specific proposal developed.

W3ABT Station Location Committee and Strategic Plan

There was some discussion regarding the activities of the Station Location Committee, which was created at the Club Meeting on November 27, 2006 and includes Tom Archer, Rob Brown, Mike Feeley, Cameron Finucane and Donald Ying. Primary consideration is still being given to using the rooftop location on one of the University high-rise buildings in the vicinity of 39th and Locust Streets. This discussion eventually moved to a review of the relationship between the Holmesburg ARC and UPenn ARC. The Holmesburg Club has a VHF repeater with remote receive UHF links on the roof of High Rise South.

Mention was made that the Radio Club at Drexel University is currently inactive. Antennas are in place on the roof of one of the buildings, but the condition of the antennas and rotator systems is unknown. The present Drexel Club leader is a Penn alumnus. Consideration could be given to using this site for locating a remote UPenn station.

Visit to Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club

Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC)
PO Box 6253
Philadelphia, PA 19136
Trustee: Robert A. Josuweit, WA3PZO
Club station callsign: WM3PEN
E-mail – wm3pen@arri.net

Mike Feeley attended a Holmesburg club meeting during this past month. Club meetings are held at the 8th District Police Station Courtroom in Northeast Philadelphia. Holmesburg club members refer to UPenn ARC as "UPARC". All UPARC members are invited to Holmesburg club meetings. By formal link between the Holmesburg Club and the University, all UPARC members are invited to attend Holmesburg club meetings and we are entitled to one seat on their board of directors. The Holmesburg club has a web site at this URL: www.harcnet.org. The Holmesburg club repeater system, WM3PEN has inputs in Abington, Cherry

Hill and on the UPenn high-rise building at 39th & Locust Streets. There is no formal link between UPenn ARC and the Holmesburg club; the relationship is best described as an informal working relationship. UPenn ARC members are invited to participate in the Holmesburg club Field Day activities this June. The club is actively looking for new members. The Club membership spans from teenagers to about 80 yrs old. Most current club members are in the 40-50 year age group. Note was made of an old, non-working 440-MHz repeater system located in the high-rise building rooftop shelter next to WM3PEN. This might serve as a possible location for the proposed UPenn remote controlled HF station. Note was made that the Holmesburg club has no concern about interference issues from a co-located UPenn HF station on the high-rise roof.

CQ WPX CW Contest 2006 - W3ABT

Jan gave an overview of the W3ABT contest activity in the 2006 CQ WPX CW Contest (May, 2006). This was a single-operator, high-power entry from K5MA's home QTH in Falmouth, MA. The contest results published in the March 2007 issue of CQ Magazine indicate –

W3ABT, Single Operator, High Power –
#3 in the first call area
#17 in the USA
Certificate winner
Score – 3,324,564 points 1737 QSO's 662 Prefixes

Note: W1AF (Harvard University club station)
Single Operator, Low Power (NF1R operator)
Score – 2,207,348 points 1370 QSOs 572 Prefixes

Discussion of Getting W3KZ for UPenn ARC

It has come to the club's attention that the previous holder of the W3KZ callsign became a SK in 2004. The current license expires at the end of June, 2007. The original W3KZ callsign was held by the UPenn ARC from 1928 through 1932. The callsign was most recently held by UPenn Alumnus Rodman Buggy (SK), Class of 1935. It would be of great benefit to UPenn ARC if we were successful in returning the W3KZ callsign to its original owner! Jim Talens has volunteered to use his influence with the FCC to make this happen! Good luck Jim!

Miscellaneous Items of Discussion

Perry W3PK suggested that we recent DX QSO information to Web site.

There was a general discussion of the optimum day/time for future club meetings. A suggestion was made to place club meeting notices in the DP and on various University bulletin boards, particularly in the schools of physical science and engineering and on the Club web site.

Note was made that exams will occur near the end of April. It was agreed to hold a club meeting in April or May, particularly for discussion of Field Day planning. There will be no Club meetings in June, July or August. The first meeting of the fall semester will be in September. Also, the Club will participate in Activity Night to be held the first or second week in September by setting up and manning a booth with club promotional material.

UPenn ARC Centennial Celebration

Russ discussed some ideas for a Club Centennial Celebration, following on to his initial discussion at the February Club meeting. Amateur radio clubs were started at several major Universities in 1909, including Penn, Cornell, Harvard, MIT, and Princeton. Russ has contacted these clubs to determine activity status and generate interest in possible joint Centennial Celebration activities. Radio clubs at Harvard, MIT, and Cornell are currently on-air and active. The club at Princeton is in the process of re-activating.

Russ also mentioned that in 1910, there was a plan to have an on-the-air chess match between Penn and Princeton but due to technical problems and finally exams, the on-the-air chess match was not held. Russ proposes that one Centennial activity might be holding the chess match 100 years late.

A general discussion ensued on radio history beginning in 1909, including mention of Tesla's experiments.

The meeting finally wound down with final comments that Perry was working on Space Day at AMSAT.

The meeting was concluded at 6:02 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:
Jan Carman, Secretary