

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, May 7, 2007 at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering, Room 317

**Attendees:**

Jan Carman\* – K5MA, Mike Feeley – KB3NDC, Reuven Gevanyahu\* – KB3EHW, Perry Klein\* – W3PK, Russ Miller – WA3FRP, Fred Serota\* – K3BHX, Terry Smith\* – K7YNO, Jim Talens\* – N3JT, Donald Ying – KB3NFJ

\* Attended meeting via conference telephone call.

President's Welcome

President Russ Miller called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed everyone, including those on the conference call (indicated by asterisk following name in attendance list).

Fred K3BHX mentioned that W3ABT placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the ARRL Sweepstakes Phone competition in 2006. The Club will receive a plaque and a mug for this effort. Great job Fred!

The following two changes to the March 2007 meeting minutes were approved:

1. Rob Brown was physically at Penn during the meeting; although the meeting notes indicated that he attended by telephone conference call.

2. The meeting notes stated "There is no formal link between UPenn ARC and the Holmesburg club; the relationship is best described as an informal working relationship." This is not a correct statement. There is a formal document dating back to 1979 that details the working relationship between the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. Members of the Holmesburg Club are associate members of UPenn ARC, and they hold one seat on the UPenn ARC club board of directors. With the following changes made, the March Meeting minutes were approved.

Concern was raised about sharing email addresses. Russ agreed to send an email list of club members email addresses for the private use of members only.

### ARRL Field Day 2007 Discussion

Following on to previous discussions regarding club participation in the annual ARRL Field Day competition in June, a question was raised as to whether or not we should continue plans given that there appears to be little interest. A suggestion was made to do a very informal Field Day effort with battery power and minimal antennas. Fred agreed to send out another inquiry to members (and others) to build interest. Fred left the meeting at 1:17 PM due to another commitment. A final comment was made that the Holmesburg club welcomed all UPenn ARC members who might like to join their annual Field Day event in Jenkintown, PA ([www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org)).

### Holmesburg ARC

Mike KB3NDC from the UPenn ARC attended the recent Holmesburg ARC Board of Directors meeting. The trustee of the Holmesburg ARC, Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, prepares the monthly public service column for CQ Magazine. Upcoming activities include a Flag Day event and activation of the old fort on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River (an IOTA island and Delaware State Park) if they can secure a permit, although the permit may not be issued until next year.

### Discussion of High-Rise Building Roof Access for Antennas

Donald Ying has attempted to contact the Facilities person to work out a roof access arrangement for the Club. Our inquiry has been passed on to the Director of Housing, but as of now, there has been no firm response. Another approach was discussed which involves adding an extension to the existing agreement with the Holmesburg ARC for additional repeater equipment, or possibly negotiating an entirely new agreement with the University for high-rise building access for UPenn ARC. It was decided that the best approach was to request an all new agreement specifically for the Club. An agreement for roof-top communications equipment will usually include details regarding the following as a minimum:

- Right to roof access
- Insurance requirements
- Feed thru requirements
- AC power requirements
- Equipment enclosures
- Antenna mounting detail

The suggestion was made to prepare a written description (Word document) of what we want to put on the roof and in a protected enclosure or room. This should include detailed descriptions of electronics equipment, antennas, cabling, support structures and equipment containers (indoor racks and/or sealed outdoor enclosures).

The specific University high-rise building to which these discussions refer is located at 3910 Irving Street, which is in the block of 39<sup>th</sup> Street between Spruce and Locust Streets.

### Senior Project Proposal

Terry, K7YNO, suggested the Club via Russ make a formal proposal to the University for a Senior Project for the development of an Internet accessible remote HF amateur radio station.

There was much detail in this discussion, some of which is summarized here:

- Station scheduling issues include timing (groups of 15-minute blocks of time can be reserved)
- Logging onto the remote station
- Master Schedule – remote access security is a major issue. The schedule should be put on a secure area on the Club web page. Scheduling preference issues will be included (students take preference over faculty and alumni).
- Remote station control issues – a detailed plan must be prepared on how operational control and access issues will be handled.

Terry agreed to prepare a document and send it to members by email attachment.

Russ commented that development of a secure, economical, Internet-based remote control system for an HF amateur radio station could have significant commercial potential. There are relatively few radio amateurs in North America who have options for substantial HF and VHF/UHF antenna systems – those which would be very effective in communicating on a world-wide basis on HF and on a regional basis on VHF/UHF.

## Club QSL Cards and QSLing Issues

Russ is currently acting as Club QSL Manager. Russ commented that it is time to design a more professional Club QSL card that will truly represent the Club and the University as a whole. Russ agreed to begin the process by looking into printing costs and also agreed to find some stock photographs of various University scenes that might be used on the card. We also need to locate a printer and determine the cost of the cards. LZ1JZ is one option for reasonably priced cards with outstanding photographic reproduction capability. Other printers will be considered as well. The club agreed to determine a candidate printer and costs for an initial printing of either 1000 or 2000 QSL cards.

At this time, most of the club on-air operations take place from the stations of alumni members K5MA (MA), WA3FRP (PA) and N3JT (VA). Most of the club station activity is during contests and major DXpedition activity, although K5MA and WA3FRP were very active with W3ABT during the past fall, winter and spring seasons working general DX and adding to the Club's DXCC band-country totals. Note should be made that ARRL considers ONE total DXCC list for each ARRL Affiliated Club, regardless of the number of callsigns held by the club. Russ periodically updates a spreadsheet record of the current club band-country totals and posts a subset of this information in the Awards section of the Club Web site.

Contest activities are recorded in files sent to the contest sponsoring society (ARRL, CQ Magazine, IARU, etc.) in the currently accepted file formats: Cabrillo and ADIF.

## Club Funding

The Club Fund is set up. Only the Club's Treasurer and Faculty Advisor can access the funds. These funds will come available to the Club at the end of the University fiscal year that ends on June 30. Russ agreed to work with Club Treasurer Mike KB3NDC to determine –

- How much money is currently in the Fund
- What is the current level of donations in the Fund
- How does the Club management obtain access to Club funds

Russ thinks we have at least hundred's of dollars in club funds. It was agreed that the Club needs a working balance of approximately \$3000 to start to fund the Club station project that is being proposed. FCC license fees, new QSL cards, associated mail and QSL Bureau costs represent another portion of the budget that requires funding.

## W3KZ Callsign

Russ came into contact with the Barbara Robbins, the niece of Rodman V. Buggy EE '35 (SK), ex W3KZ. Mr. Buggy was very proud of his callsign, which was issued to him in 1930 or 1931 and which he held until his death in 2004. Ms. Robbins noted that all of Rodman's amateur radio equipment was sold at auction but that she is in possession of a number of boxes which she has not inventoried that may contain some of Rodman's amateur radio records, logs and QSL cards. Russ will stay in touch with Ms. Robbins and hopefully obtain some historical records that the Club can place in the University Archives. The Penn ARC held the W3KZ callsign from 1928 to 1930. There is some detailed information on the Club Web site about the early history of W3KZ.

The Club, through the fine efforts of Jim N3JT, recently reacquired the W3KZ callsign.

There was some general discussion about 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. 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 on-campus activities prior to the establishment of a permanent on-campus station) with W3KZ for everything other than repeaters and remote control. Further discussion is needed before any firm conclusions can be made.

## Miscellaneous Items

Recent Club DX includes the following new entities: N8S, the DXpedition to Swains Island worked by K5MA and N3JT using W3ABT and the BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition worked by N3JT using W3KZ.

Mention was made that the Club should look into publishing a small handout for incoming freshmen students that could be placed in their information packets or distributed as a part of Activities Night.

A major upcoming event is the Club Centennial Celebration in 2009. This presents an opportunity for the Club to promote itself to the University Community in a big way. On-campus members should make themselves aware of Centennial activities suitable for Club participation.

The Swarthmore College ARC W3AJ has been contacted to participate in a Centennial of College and University Amateur Radio Clubs in 2009. Swarthmore claims, via its Web site, that it has the second oldest University Amateur Radio Club. Professor Art McGarity AC3V, whose son Sam McGarity KB3DZU is a Wharton student and Club member, is on the faculty of the Engineering Department at Swarthmore College.

Perry Klein noted that he is involved with "Space Day" activities for children in the Washington, DC area. The event is sponsored by Lockheed Martin and typically has 10,000 children attending this annual event at the Air and Space Museum.

### Next Club Meeting Date

The next Club meeting scheduled for August 20, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:  
Jan Carman, Secretary