

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: October 14, 2008 at Houston Hall.

Attendees:

In attendance at Houston Hall:

Professor Matt Blaze - WB2SRI; Burnell Brown – WA3OXY; Hal Emmer – SEAS '09; Cameron Finucane – KB3PPX; Fred Hellmig – KA3NKK; Professor Jonathan Smith – Faculty Advisor; Mike Thomas – Dental; Hesham Wahby – KB3RNV.

In attendance by telephone:

Scott Alexander – AB2WF; Bob Berkovits; Art Clemons – N8BLK; Russ Miller – WA3FRP; Colin Phoon - AE3A; Fred Serota – K3BHX;

Vice President's Welcome

Vice President Hesham Wahby called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the Club's October meeting. The meeting was held in room 313 in Houston Hall.

Everyone was introduced, both in person and on the phone, including Prof. Smith as Faculty Advisor and Professor Matt Blaze and several other alumni who are interested in Amateur Radio. Cameron Finucane is back from his year in Japan and we have one new student, Hal Emmer, who is newly interested in the club.

Unfortunately, we didn't get any of the signups from the activities fair to attend.

Professor Smith's Vision for the Amateur Radio Club

The Club's newly appointed Faculty Advisor, Professor Jonathan Smith, thanked everyone for coming and provided his vision for the Amateur Radio Club.

Professor Smith spoke about his personal interest in ham radio and his vision for the Club including an experimental focus, an academic focus and a public-service focus. Professor Smith spoke about his interest in Software Defined Radio (SDR) and interest in proposing a spring 2009 project course for undergraduate students to design and build an operational campus station using Internet technology. Professor Smith offered to sign up a few students to get the project underway and also as a means to get a few undergraduate students licensed.

Professor Smith introduced Professor Matt Blaze – WB2SRI to the Club. Prof. Blaze spoke about his interest in the Club, his interest in supporting the Club since he is a licensed ham, his interest in experimenting and that this is great time to be involved in amateur radio. Matt also mentioned that is currently constrained in his current location and as a result has offered is ICOM 706 for Club use as a part of the proposed remote controlled station. His focus will be to get students doing cool stuff.

Talk about getting licenses for new club members. Hesham was recently licensed and can offer his help and insight to those who wish to get licensed. Prof. Blaze and Fred Serota are VEs and there are other Club members are also VEs.

Status for the Remote Controlled Campus Station

There is good news concerning this long-term Club project. Thanks to Prof. Smith, the Club will have access to a small room on the third floor of the Moore School Building (this was a part of Emeritus Professor Ralph Shower's EE '39 old office) with access to the roof for installation of Club antennae.

Talk moved to HUP proposal, possible access to Penn Towers and New Bolton Center as other locations that need further investigation.

Action Item: Professor Smith and Cameron will follow up with SEAS Facilities (Ira Winston) to make sure that the antenna installation process is understood and can get started quickly.

Student Activities Fair

The annual Student Activities Fair took place in early September on Locust Walk. Club Vice President Hesham Wahby led this effort which resulted in twenty students signing up to find out more about the Club.

Club Meeting Wrap-up

After the meeting, Professor Blaze took everyone to visit his lab in the Moore School Building where he is working on Software Defined and Controlled Radio.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:
Russ Miller, President and Hesham Wahby, Vice President