

Minutes of the Amateur Radio Club at the University of Pennsylvania Saturday, February 4, 2023 on Zoom

Website: <https://w3abt.seas.upenn.edu/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pennamateurradio/>

Attendees

Micaela Alpert - President (alpertm@sas.upenn.edu)

Nitin Seshadri - Vice President (nitin25@sas.upenn.edu)

Prof. Jonathan M. Smith "JMS" (jms@cis.upenn.edu)

Cecilia Shuler

Alex Kyimpopkin

John Campbell

Devin Carroll

Christopher Powell

Meeting Topics

- Introductions
- Getting licensed
 - Micaela discussed the classes of licenses available and went through the process of getting licensed.
 - Contact Micaela when you are ready to take your exam.
- Study resources
 - [Hamstudy.org](https://www.hamstudy.org/) - free
 - KB6NU's "No Nonsense" study guides
 - These cost about \$10 but the Technician one is available for free here: <https://www.kb6nu.com/beta-version-of-the-2022-no-nonsense-tech-study-guide-now-available-for-free-download/>
- Installing an antenna, finding a permanent space for the club
 - JMS mentioned that there is enough equipment in the Moore basement to erect some kind of antenna. The issue here is cost; last time we installed an antenna, it cost over \$10,000. Our budget right now sits around \$3200. There is also the question of convincing the Engineering School to allow this.
 - Alex suggested that we could work with the local chapter of IEEE, which he is a member of, to get an antenna up and find a spot in the Engineering makerspace.
 - John Campbell suggested that, for the time being, we can use a temporary antenna and bring it to the roof of the Wharton building when we need to transmit.
- Ways to get on the air
 - WebSDR

- WebSDR is a network of Software Defined Receivers (SDRs) linked to websites that lets you listen into the amateur radio bands. You do not need a license for this.
 - <http://websdr.org/>
 - Remote Ham Radio - Youth Network (free for students under 25)
 - Remote Ham Radio is a “remote station” service which allows users to transmit and receive through equipment that others have set aside for Remote Ham Radio in various locations around the world.
 - <https://www.remotehamradio.com/youth-network/>
 - EchoLink
 - App available for desktop and mobile
 - <https://www.echolink.org/>
 - Contesting
 - Last fall, we had some really dedicated alumni compete on our behalf in the Collegiate QSO Party, and we won first place with over 55,000 points!
 - <https://collegiateqsoparty.com/>
 - Equipment people can get
 - Nitin explained what handheld transceivers (HTs) are, as well as the other kinds of radios you might see.
 - QRZ, a social media-like site for amateur radio operators, is offering a handheld, the QRZ-1, for \$22 complete with programming cable and software. This offer is available to people who got their license within the past six months.
 - (This is a rebadged version of the TYT UV-88.)
 - <https://www.gigaparts.com/qrzjumpstart>
 - Equipment available to the club
 - Last fall, we purchased an RTL-SDR device for a demo in the Club Fair. Nitin can set this up for a future meeting if there is interest.
 - JMS mentioned that he found an ICOM IC-R2500 receiver in the Moore basement, complete with all accessories except for a power cord, which we will probably need to order from DX Engineering or another site.
 - <https://icomamerica.com/en/products/receivers/mobile/r2500/default.aspx>
 - <https://www.dxengineering.com/>
 - John Campbell mentioned that he would like to donate a Baofeng transceiver to the Club.