WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY

13 JANUARY 1999 MEETING MINUTES

The 13 January 1999 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at Greenstreets Restaurant in Cedar Falls, IA with 35 members and 5 guests present. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Schoenfelder at 7:50 PM. Following introductions of guests, the past Presidents and Honorary Members were recognized. The minutes of the 11 November 1998 meeting were read and approved. Lindy Linquist introduced new members Mark Voss and Rick Baroom.

Dick Michael presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of $768.67. There are currently 68 paid members for the 1998-1999 year compared to 60 at this time last year. The report was approved as read.

Tim Schoenfelder announced that a web site for WTS would be made available. He is looking for volunteers to help construct this site. Tim also announced that long time WTS members Jim Tucker and Craig Christie had passed away over the last 2 months.

Chuck Angel announced the 10 February 1999 meeting would be a tour of the Red Cross Center in Waterloo. Dinner will be at Greenstreets Restaurant before the tour.

Chuck Angel, program chair for January, introduced the evening speakers Larry Wessels, Don George, and George's police dog Brit. Don is a member of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Department and Brit is a 3-year-old German Shepherd that was trained in the Checz Republic. Brit has been used mostly for tracking people but has also been used for drug identification. Don shared several success stories of Brit finding people, protecting his master, and intimidating prisoners. Brit will not stay in a kennel and lives with Don and his family. If Don leaves town there are only 2 other people that can handle Brit. The Sherrif's Department has a second dog, Cedar Fall Police has 2 dogs, Waterloo Police has 2 or 3 dogs, and the Tri-County Drug Task Force has one dog. The cost of training with a dog is about $7900 and the monthly maintenance cost is about $50.

Larry Wessels has been a member of the Tri-County Drug Task Force for the past 9 years. In 1991 crack cocaine was the major problem in the Waterloo area. Now the main concern is methetamine. In 1995 there were 16 methetamine cases, 18 in 96, 47 in 97, and 63 in 98 so methetamine use is growing rapidly. Most of the methetamine comes from Mexico and is 95% pure. The drug is cut numerous times by dealers and the drug sold on the street is about 5% pure. The street value of crack cocaine is $20 for 1/10 gram and methetamine is about $100 per gram. Larry estimated that 30% of the people in Black Hawk County had tried drugs. He also estimated that 95% of the people in the Black Hawk County Jail were there for drug-related crimes including stealing, possession, domestic abuse, etc.

President Tim Schoenfelder adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrell Wright, Co-Secretary