

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



April 2006 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Program for Tuesday April 11

The DFMA meeting will be at McMannen United Methodist Church 7:00 PM. The speaker for the meeting on April 11, 2006, will be Dr. Larry W. Hedlund, W4ST. He is a research professor in the Department of Radiology at Duke University. The topic is the nature and operation of WCPE, a listener-supported FM broadcasting station. The website is

www.theclassicalstation.org

and for folks who do not know about this station, that address is a big clue regarding the programming. Larry is one of the volunteers who run the station, his specialty being host/announcer on one of the night shows. Come hear his presentation on this unique operation which began on the NC State campus as a student built and run station many moons ago.

Minutes from March Meeting

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Joseph (KF4QYY), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Al (KE4IHX), Rene (KE4UCR), Mac (WQ8U), Dave (KD4WQU), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Paul (KE4OXN), Travis (WB4EYT), Bill (KM4UO), Tanner (KB4TYE), Derek (KO4T), Eli, Skip (WA4BNT), Don (KE4UVJ).

Wilson presided. They are still working on getting the lettering done on the MCU. The hamfest is happening. Linda is sending letters out to vendors.

Secretary's report: Getting volunteers for the Thursday night nets (at 9pm, on 147.225) was a success for the previous month. Wilson, Rene, Dee and Rhett agreed to be net controls for the next interval.

Treasurer's report: --- in savings and --- in checking. There was a dip due to the annual tower site payment of --- and for the holiday dinner. Pinnacle pays us --- a month to lease the tower. Dues were also collected.

Vice president's report: Programs are lined up for April, May and June!

Dave talked about the Durham Crop Walk, which is one of the largest crop walks in the nation. He tried to recruit hams to work at the rest stops.

Jim pointed out that it is still difficult to carry on a conversation on the repeater and urged us to do something. The historical problems with the repeater and the interests involved were recounted. Al pointed out that using a mobile rig putting out 50 watts brings up all of the voter receivers and that it can be more effective to use lower power. Wilson mentioned that supposedly the new voter will fix all of this.

Introductions. Rhett gave a program on home brew and kit building. Rhett suggested that **anyone who is interested in building a kit on the last Saturday of April or the 1st or 2nd weekend June should let him know** by e-mailing rtg@ee.duke.edu or JR at kg4nnt@yahoo.com

Minutes from the Board Meeting

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2005

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Charlie (WA4WTX, Repeater Manager), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Sidney (W4QWM, Board Member).

Wilson presided. He said that Jim said that the repeater had to be fixed. Charlie and Sidney wanted to talk about the MCU instead. Wilson has talked to the letter guy. The MCU is at the Parkwood firehouse and it's been approximately 6 weeks since it's been

started. Wilson will take the MCU to the letter guy in a week or two. He will try to get it ready for the next meeting. Charlie asked about the status of the ARRL grant and Wilson did not know. Wilson said he had problems with the date scheduled for the HamNic. We will have to have it after the hamfest instead. Wilson vowed to write something for the newsletter before he leaves office. JR mentioned Kid's Day.

For the secretary's report, Lenore volunteered to purchase door prizes for future meetings by ordering them on-line. The board approved spending \$35 per meeting. She will get 2 or 3 prizes for each meeting. **[We will have door prizes at the next meeting!]**

Treasurer's report: Nothing new since the general meeting. 60 members renewed. Discussed removing people from the mailing list. Sending newsletter using colored paper for expired members was suggested. Postage is expensive and we send the newsletter out to over 110 people. The mailing list will be circulated at a future board meeting for further discussion. Repeater Manager: Charlie thinks it's a waste of time to convert 147.225 to a single site repeater again. He said that the coverage has improved for some people. Sidney said that it will be a lot of work to install a new voter. They said that the work needs to be done at the Hill (tower site). Neither of them wants to spend all day there and it's not a matter of knowing how to do it. Wilson wants to help, so he requested a schematic. The problem is that a lot of it is hardwired. The 2m remote base and IRRLP are holding the VA up.

Hamfest vendor letters to vendors have gone out. Discussed potential meeting locations. Golden Corral? Shoney's? Village Diner? Spartacus? Mayflower? We must get access to the website. Disk space is costing us \$100 a year. Discussed logo art. It should not be used without permission of the board and this is stated in our membership directory along with a copyright notice.

Charlie and Sidney pushed for a move of future board meetings from the Bennett Point Grille to Charlie's office. There was no coherent opposition to the move.

May Meeting Location

We will meet at Shoney's May 9 at 6:00 PM for supper and 7:00 PM for the meeting. Shoney's will provide us a private room at no charge as long as a majority of us eat with them. No minimum will be required either. Shoney's is located on Hillandale Road at I-85 exit. Thanks to JR kg4nnt for setting this up.

Dues for 2006

Did you forget to send your dues in this year? Look at the mailing label. If there is a "05" after your call, then you should send in your dues which are \$12 per year. The other codes are "ex" for expired, "sp" for sponsored and "06" for current.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 7:00 PM