

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



September 2007 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday September 11

DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM

PRESENTER: Meg Millard, KI4LLL

TOPIC: Ham Radio in the Classroom

Meg is a fifth grade teacher at Central Park School for Children in Durham and has a ham radio station in her classroom. She is also moderator of the school radio club.

Her presentation will show how ham radio is being used as a teaching tool in the elementary school classroom and its value to the students.

September Meeting Location

Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

Upcoming Events:

The **Hamnick** at Rhett and Joanna George's house will be Sunday Sept. 16th at 3 PM and will be a Pot Luck.

DFMA MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2007

PRESENTER: J.D. "Mac" MacAulay

TOPIC: Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices

This is a presentation prepared by Dr. Al Torres, PhD who for many years was an Air Force scientist working in Electronic Warfare. He is now in private industry and has prepared this presentation using all unclassified resources from the Internet and elsewhere. It is an eye-opening look at how the terrorists have evolved in sophistication using various radio control devices, including ham radios, to set off their explosives. The presentation includes photographs and video of various devices and their effectiveness.

All DFMA members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. You are welcome to come at 6 PM and enjoy dinner; however, **you can just come around 7 PM and attend the presentation** and post meeting eyeball QSOs.

DFMA Meeting Minutes

DFMA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2007 meeting

Attending:

Dee (KU4GC), Treasurer), Mac (WQ8U, Vice President), Paul (KE4OXN, Board), Charlie (NC4CD, Repeater Manager), MK (W4MKR, Board), Wilson (W4BOH), Kelly (KI4WTS), Dave (W4DAP)

Treasurers Report: Funds in checking and savings account are the same as last report. Dee is waiting for expense reports from MCU repairs, field day, etc. Dee also reported that the DFMA original charter, title to the MCU, and the DFMA tax exempt certification are in the club safe deposit box.

Repeaters: Dee reported that Rhett (KE4HIH) says some Possum Trot Net participants are having unusual trouble getting into the repeater. Charlie will give Rhett a box to diagnose which receivers are not working properly. The issue of the level problems was discussed. A plan was agreed upon that Wilson and Charlie would get together and address the problem. There have been episodes of repeated keying of the 147.225 machine. Charlie said there had been trouble due to a non-licensed person in Johnson County; this may be similar. Charlie has been successful in temporarily disabling that receiver which discourages the person who disappears after a while. Message: ignore malicious interference and the source will go elsewhere.

Charlie is working on the replacement for the machine at the VA site (145.45 / 444.10). The remote-base capability and the inclusion of IRLP were discussed. If they become a delay factor they may not be included at this time. The low usage of the repeaters was discussed. It was agreed that other than the Possum Trot Net there is very little use of the 147.225 machine and even less of the other machines. Wilson suggested linking all of the DFMA repeaters together to give more exposure to users. Charlie will look into that. The Thursday night DFMA net has not been well attended and net control has been inconsistent. Wilson agreed to be net control this Thursday (8/30/08) and Rhett will be net control on 9/6/07. The need for net controllers and for net participants will be discussed at the next DFMA meeting. Maybe the secretary should continue to schedule them.

The Hamnick at Rhett and Joanna George's house will be Sunday Sept. 16th at 3 PM and will be a Pot Luck. BoD members should encourage everyone to attend; it will be promoted at the next DFMA meeting.

The meeting room at the Mayflower was discussed. It is felt that the room is too cramped and is a factor in discouraging some folks from attending. Mac will discuss using the larger back room with the Mayflower managers. Dee will again check the suitability of the Golden Corral.

The lack of progress on selecting activities for the club and identifying leadership and interested participants was discussed. It was agreed that the BoD would select one activity a month which would be brought up at the club meeting and a plan developed at the meeting for moving forward with the activity or dropping it.

Charlie has a number of items to add to the MCU. Wilson will make arrangements to move the MCU to Charlie's house and a work party will be scheduled. Any club member can be involved.

Mac announced that the speaker for the September 11th meeting will be Meg Millard (KI4LLL) who is a 5th grade teacher at Central Park School in Durham and has a ham station in her classroom. She will talk on using ham radio in education.

Mac announced that he will be the speaker for the October meeting and the topic will be Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices. It will be a look at how various radios, including ham radios, are being used by the terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere.

Other possible meeting presentations were discussed including the ALICE programming language, the NC Highway patrol radio system VIPER, Nick England's Heathkit collection, and the NASCAR and Indy car communications systems.

Dave Pegram, W4DAP, announced that the Durham ARES new web site is in beta form awaiting feedback from Lisa Armour and John LeMay. The URL is www.durhamares.org

Lisa is working on a written agreement between the Durham ARES and DFMA.

Paul reported that he has been in contact again with the staff at the Durhamfest site. We are on their calendar and they are sending him the forms to submit. Paul will talk with Bill Foard about getting hobby club (robotics) demonstrations and vendor participation at the DurHamfest. Dee will see if Rhett can check with the robotics club at Duke for interest.

Recorder:

J. D. MacAulay, WQ8U

73's Sidney

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM