

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



May 2009 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday May 5

DFMA Meeting Tues. May 5th, 2009 at the Mayflower, 6:00pm dinner, 7:00pm

meeting. Cindy Bailey, Director of Durham County Animal Shelter, will be presenting disaster preparedness for pet owners. Members are invited to bring donation items like old towels or bath rugs, canned dog and cat food, chicken-based baby food (stage 1) for newborn kittens, or other items as listed at www.dfma.org.

DFMA Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2009

Attendees: WQ8U, KU4GC, W4KSP, W4MKR, W4DAP, W4BOH, NC4CD, W4SAR, KE4QOZ, KE4HIH, KF4LJZ, KA4AVM, WB4YYY, W4RWC, AD6Q, KE4OXN, KD4AGQ, KE4UCM, Wanda, KJ4GDW, KI4RAN, Pres, KO4T, KB4NQH, Sarah, KI4QXJ, KF4QYY

KU4GC opened the meeting. Introductions.

Officers Reports:

W4DAP indicated the May 5 program would be Cindy Bailey of APS, providing info on emergency preparedness for pet owners. W4MKR listed \$8361.90 in checking and \$10192.44 in the CD, which is soon up for renewal. NC4CD reported temperature alerts from the 147.225 machine, so he turned on the A/C in the building. W4BOH mentioned good MCU progress: generator in, exhaust repaired, larger wire installed, power booster ready to be installed, and MCU will soon be returned to Parkwood. W4DAP reported the ARES EC and most AECs had a meeting 03-28-09 to discuss local hospitals' needs. A decision was made to restart the ARES net, possibly Thursdays at 20:00 on the 145.450, beginning in May. KE4UCM added that he had been working with Durham Regional regarding a station there, and had recently been talking with Duke who also wants a radio and antenna site. Some initial tests had been done at Duke with his HT, but he wanted additional tests. KE4UCM also indicated that his contact at the 911 center wanted to work with ARES. The suggestion was made to have the ARES net Thursdays at 20:45, closer in time with the DFMA net. W4SAR reported that Orange County had approved the request for use of the New Hope Park area for Field Day, and that several Band Capt. positions remained. W4BOH and WQ8U offered to run two CW stations from the MCU. KU4GC indicated he had updated the DFMA webpage to reflect the joint field day plans.

Announcements:

RARSFest Saturday April 11th! Talk-in 146.646. KE4OXN would be there selling batteries, and there would be an OCRA table. The OCRA VE session has been cancelled, as RARS would be holding one the same day.

KU4GC indicated the BOD had approved providing the Port-o-Potty for the joint FD operation in June.

Door Prizes:

KA4AVM won a pair of channel lock pliers, KO4T won adjustable cargo straps.

Program: May 23rd DurHAM FEST, Show-&-Tell

KE4OXN and KF4LJZ discussed current status of DurHAM Fest, passed around volunteer sheet for various needs such as set-up, parking, tickets, club table, talk-in, MCU, and clean up. Please contact KE4OXN or KF4LJZ to volunteer and help make this years DurHAMFest a success. Thanks Linda and Paul!

Early tickets are available, and an email-only drawing is being considered.

KI4QXJ brought in a simple but elegant Salt-water Dummy load with 50-ohm impedance that he had recently made. Thanks Ken!

BOD Meeting, April 21, 09

Attendees: NC4CD, W4BOH, W4RWC, KE4QOZ, KE4HIH, KE4OXN, W4MKR, KU4GC, W4DAP, W4KSP

KU4GC opened the meeting. **Officers Reports:**

W4DAP stated that Cindy Bailey of Durham Animal control would be presenting at the May 5th meeting. He will also contact W4SAR to see if he wishes to speak about field-day (FD) in June. W4DAP also indicated he was disappointed that the new D-Star net was Thursday at 21:00 as he would like to participate in both the DFMA and D-Star nets. KU4GC suggested that NC4CD and W4DAP request a change in D-Star net time if possible. W4DAP mentioned he had several items for discussion from member KE4UCM who was unable to attend the BOD mtg. Ideas shared for extensive discussion included a trailer for the MCU to carry extra items needed for emergency deployment and the telescoping mast donated by WTVD, a post-card style announcement to area amateurs inviting them to the DFMA and participate in our functions, a tabletop DFMA display unit for use at HamFests or other functions, and use of a projection device at the hamfest to provide info about the vendors present, DFMA events, or other items of interest. It was pointed out that the club had approved purchase of a Tarheel HF antenna and turbo-tuner as the telescoping antenna was too difficult to incorporate into the MCU. Cost, storage, upkeep, and fuel expenses of towing a trailer were considered to be prohibitive. Post-card approach was tried as recently as 2007. The cost versus return on earlier mailings was poor. BOD agreed it could be tried again if someone was willing to take lead. The suggestion was made to expand mailing of Link before HamFest and FD, and use of email only prize to gain valid email addresses for HamFest/FD notification was discussed. Requesting HamFest info be passed by email with RARS and OCRA was also mentioned. The projector does not appear to be feasible with short notice, nor does the display although we will try to create a DIY display.

W4MKR listed \$8107.88 in checking, and \$10194.59 in the CD that renewed for 1.26%. NC4CD indicated that the A/C was on in the 147.225 building. KE4HIH mentioned some propagation issues noticed during the PT net. KE4OXN mentioned that Little River School had accepted our payment for the DurHamFest date. W4DAP mentioned the State ARES meeting on May 2, 09 at the state EOC. W4BOH reported that the booster was installed and the MCU need to be returned to Parkwood. NC4CD offered to help take it back.

Announcements:

DurHAMFEST May23, 09 8-2pm Little River Community Complex, Bahama.

New Business:

KU4GC feels that public service is lacking in the DFMA, and wants to appoint a Public Service liaison, to help identify events and organize support from DFMA members. The 2009 directory should be completed soon and will likely be printed at Kinkos. Any changes should be emailed to wksp@arrl.net. Coffee for Hamfest will be provided by the club using a drip maker to be purchased by W4RWC. KU4GC will contact Bill Foard. Meeting adjourned.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 2411
Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM