

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



May 2011 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Note: the separate DurHamFest Flyer

Tuesday May 3

MEETING LOCATION: Our Meeting will be held at **Bullocks Barbeque 6:00PM**. For more information, see <http://www.dfma.org> Durham FM Association

PROGRAM: Charlie, NC4CD, on "**Watt Meter Basics**". He will do a "show and tell" about wattmeters, starting with the basic models designed for the amateur radio market and finishing with the commercial models used by the radio shops and other commercial users. I recently made an upgrade to my Bird 43 Thru-line wattmeter which makes it a much more versatile piece of test equipment. Then Paul, KE4OXN, will lead the final **Planning Session for DurHamFest 2011**.

Notes DFMA Meeting 4/5/11 Bullock's BBQ By Dee Ramm, DFMA Vice President

Sign-up list:

Dee, ku4gc; MK, w4mkr; Dave, w4sar; Karen, kd4yjj; Rich, kd6vk; Derek, ko4t; Jim, w4ksz; Jim, wb4yyy; Sue, ka4avm; Ben, kb4nqh; Dave, na4vy; Wayne, kj4gdw; Pete, k4phs; Charlie, nc; Austin, kf4olc; Mike, kw4hf; Eleanor, nc; Randy, k4xrm; Bob, w4rwc; Sam, kj4vwg; Joanna, ke4qoz; Rhett, ke4hih; Paul, ke4oxn; Dewey, wa4ahr; Charlie, nc4cd; James, wd4cey; Terry, wa4bvy; Shelley, nc; Bill, ki4ran; Prez, nc; Jim, kb4ot; Vic, k0oux; Wilson, w4boh; Larry, k1zw; Jim, ki4hqo; Ed, n4zqe; JR, kg4nnt; Ken, ki4qxj; Thomas, n4tmd; Don, ke4uvj;

Attendance 40 people including 4 non-hams (a record for recent years).

VP Dee, ku4gc, presided (w4boh was still eating).

Self introductions

REPORTS

VP- ku4gc: No formal program plans yet: One topic will be to prepare for DurHamFest. We will possibly have a very short program in addition.

Treasurer - w4mkr: Checking -----, CD -----. There are 52 paid up members. [That went to 58 with dues paid at the meeting.]

Repeater Manager: nc4cd: He had a crew work on tower: went over antennas, grounding, etc. Performance of the 225 seems better but not perfect.

Secretary - (w4boh acting): Reviewed key points of minutes.

ARES - k4xrm: Randy gave a report on the DFMA/OCRA/ARC Shelter Drill. He announced a Durham ARES meeting for April 21, 7:00pm at the Durham EOC. This will be joint with Durham CERT.

Field Day - w4sar: More intensive planning is coming up at a future meeting.

Announcement - w4sar: VE session Saturday, 4/9, 10:00am, Orange County EOC.

DOOR PRIZES

Mini Leatherman tool : Rich, kd6vk

1 to 3 117 VAC power outlet adapter with USB charging ports, Bill, ki4ran

Donated Prizes

From kj4gdw - technical book: Vic, k0oux

From anon - safety vest: Jim, kb4ot

PROGRAM

Vic Merryman: k0oux Vic gave a great presentation on PSK31.

His slides covered theory, hardware/software, and screen shots for digipen software. He then did a live demo with an outside antenna.

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Board Meeting Minutes – 04/19/2011 Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Charlie (NC4CD), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Paul(KE4OXN)

President – Wilson(W4BOH): Wilson called the meeting to order.

Reports:

Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):

Minutes from our 3/15/2011 board meeting were distributed.

Action 2011-04-19-01: The minutes from the March 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):

For our next club meeting, Charlie(NC4CD) will talk about "Watt Meter Basics" and Paul (KE4OXN) will talk about the upcoming Durhamfest.

Question: Do we have information to give to new members?

Action 2011-04-19-02: Dee will work on pulling together information for new members.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Financial numbers were sent after the meeting:

There are 59 paid members

Repeater Manager-Charlie(NC4CD):

There is still noise on the 147.225 when duplexing on the DB224 antenna. Next step is to use separate TX and RX on same tower with Duplexer in line to each.

ARES:

No Shelter was opened in Durham. Manned MCU at the EOC. Worked to get Winlink working. There were no messages originating from Red Cross. There is only one antenna and radio so there was discussion about using multiple antennas and radios.

MCU:

Tarheel antenna was mounted on the MCU several weeks ago. Today ran the control cable and coax through ducts. Designed and installed a lockout so the antenna will only go up with the hand-brake on, and will come down when the hand-brake is off.

Old Business**Maker Faire:**

OCRA will be coordinating with DFMA and RARS. Date is June 18 at the NC State Fairgrounds.

Field Day: No Report

Action 2011-04-19-03: DFMA will supply the porta-potty for Field Day.

Durhamfest:

- Have ARRL package.
- Flyer is available and handed out at the meeting.
- Dee and MK will buy food.

New Business

There was no New Business

Meeting Adjourned.

President's Corner

WOW, I used to be skeptical when people told me they were busy in retirement, but now I see what they meant. It isn't that there's really a lot we "have" to do, but rather that we find things we want to do and let them fill a lot of time. Next thing we know; we are "busy" again! So I have no excuse. I've taken on things that keep me busy and generally I'm glad. I'm certainly glad to have the health to have a choice and I urge you to think a little about taking care of yourself, so you too can be busy with things you don't really have to do, retired or not! Think twice about that big slice of cake, second Bojangles biscuit, or big bowl of ice cream. After all, your friends may need you to climb their towers, dig some holes, or load their hamfest purchases into their vehicles. Splitting firewood is good exercise and saves you real money, enough for a couple of HTs or mobiles every year!

Speaking of hamfests, it's been a good spring for getting together at hamfests and looking over other people's stuff, occasionally even buying something! I had a great time at the Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Raleigh hamfests. Several DFMA members enjoy hamfesting and it's a pleasure to meet them and have short eyeball QSOs. Short because there are many people to meet and much valuable Junque to peruse! Remember, when the curtain starts down and we are reviewing our lives it's the friends we have made and the experiences we have shared that will dominate our thoughts. Possessions, bank accounts, and petty grievances will fade to insignificance. I just helped my mother move to an assisted living place and am still dealing with possessions left behind, so perhaps that's what motivated my philosophizing. Not radio, but I hope you don't mind.

It's spring, so there has been a lot of radio and antenna talk on the bands and in person.

If you are a new, or even old, ham, I urge you to tap the considerable expertise and experience available within our club. Beware of wild claims about the performance of antennas and other equipment. There is no magic antenna! Not only that, cheaper and simple antennas can often be your best bet!

There's also been talk of Field Day, which we will share with our friends in OCRA. I'm encouraged that there's been talk of more CW operation and we have some members working on their CW proficiency. Hopefully we can get a few more of those valuable CW points and raise our score this year. We'll also have digital stations going and additional interest in digital has been stirred up the excellent program we had last meeting, presented by Vic, K0OUX. Vic not only presented a little theory and operating methods, but also gave a live demo of PSK-31 in action! Interestingly, attendance at the meeting was the highest in quite a while, so we'll keep trying to bring you some interesting technical topics, thanks to our VP and program guru Dee, KU4GC!!

And before Field Day is our own DURHAMFEST! PLEASE come out and help Paul, Linda, and all the stalwart volunteers who make Durhamfest the great gathering it is. There are tables to set up, tickets to sell, and food to cook, so there's a job for everyone.

OK, that's all the room Sid will give me (I hope he will give me), so DXing, building, and storytelling will have to wait for next time. 73, Wilson W4BOH

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM