



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 4, Bullock's BBQ 6:00pm

Program: Preparing for Field Day 2013

By Dave, W4SAR

Dave, our Field Day Coordinator will present the latest plans for Field Day 2013. He will show the layout of the new site and the proposed locations of the antennas – placed to minimize interference. (Some of this is already available on the Field Day page of our web site.) There will be lots of things for volunteers to do.

Field Day planning should use up just a part of our meeting time, so there might be some time for some **Show & Tell**. If you've got something new or different handy, there should be some time for you. Share!

DurHamFest 2013 –

Hope you Didn't Miss It

It's over and by all measures, a success. Many, many thanks to the following:

- Hamfest Chair: Paul, KE4OXN
- Vendor Chair: Linda, KF4LJZ
- Club Table: Rhett, KE4HIH
- Talks-In: Vic, K0OUX; Lowell, KK4PH
- MCU: Lowell, KK4PH
- Food Prep and Sales: Wilson, W4BOH; Bob W4RWC, Ken, KI4QXJ
- Food logistics: MK, W4MKR; Dee, KU4GC
- Ticket sales: MK, W4MKR; Skip, N4SKP
- VE session coordination: Ed, W4EJG; Dave, W4SAR
- Sound System: Lowell, KK4PH
- Transportation (Hoover Rd, etc.): Paul, KE4OXN; Lowell, KK4PH; Don, KE4UVJ; Dan, KR4UB; Wilson, W4BOH
- Donation of Grand Prize: Jim, KI4HQO
- Setup and breakdown: many of the above + Dick, KK4CCX, Bryan, N3TXU; Mark, KJ4NPF; Michael, KK4EIB;

July DFMA Meeting

Bennett Pointe Grill

2nd !!! Tuesday – July 9

For several years now, we have been meeting at Bennett Pointe Grill (while Bullock's has their annual July holiday). This year, the first Tuesday was taken. (The Civitan now meets there the first Tuesday of each month.) So, the Board decided that we would meet July 9th, the 2nd Tuesday of July. This should also help those who planned a vacation away from home around the July 4th holiday.



NA4VY, NC4CX, KI4RAN, KJ4GDW – DurHamFest 2013

OCRA/DFMA Field Day 2013

June 21-23 - Dave Snyder, W4SAR

With the new location, this year's Field Day presents some new opportunities and challenges. With the loss of the field at Blackwood Farm, we had to search for a new location. After looking at several candidates, the field next to OE Enterprises in Hillsborough proved the best in terms of usefulness and accessibility. Looking at the aerial view, we determined that the field alone (half the size of Blackwood's) would be rather tight for nine stations. After a walk-through with the band captains and a little brainstorming, we reached a solution- use part of the parking lot as well! See the websites of the two clubs for the layout of the site.

We will again be running as a 9A Battery operation, 5 watts maximum output. Following is a list of the stations, their captains, and antennae:

- 80 CW- Danke W4YAS – Dipole antenna
- 40 CW- Andy W4KIL – Zepp, Delta Loop
- 20 CW- Wilson W4BOH & Bruce N1LN – Yagi
- 15/10 CW – Michael KK4EIB – Yagi
- 80 Phone – Steve W3AHL - Dipoles
- 40/15 Phone – Adriano KV7D & Joe K4SAR- Beam Antenna and Zepp
- 20 Phone – Russ KF4WXD & Lad W4ORD – Vertical and Dipole
- 10M Phone – Dave NA4VY & Derek W4DTB – Yagi (possible 40 M digi via dipole after dark)
- All-Band Digital – Dave W4SAR – Skyloop

If any bands /modes catch your interest, contact the band captains. There always is a need for relief CW operators, and nighttime ops for all modes on the low bands.

Setup- We may officially start setting up after 2:00pm on Friday, 6/21, but since the owners have requested we keep the parking lot clear until after 3:30 pm, only set up on the grassy field itself should start at 2. After 3:30, we will rope off part of the parking lot to start setting up towers. During this time, lot of help will be needed to pull up wires into trees, to help raise towers and to put in anchors. Ideally, we should get as much done by sundown as possible, with any further lifting done early Saturday. Testing of stations should be done by Noon Saturday, so that all can have a leisurely lunch. Then at 2:00pm, we'll be off and running until 2:00pm Sunday. At the close of operations, we'll again need many hands to safely take down everything and clear the field.

Food- Dee and M.K. once again will be running a superb operation. For \$5 per head per meal, dinner will be provided on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Cold soft drinks and water will be available at all times.

Safety- Grounding rods will be driven in at each station for both electrical safety and RF. Battery terminals should be shielded. All ground cables should be marked with flagging tape. Guy lines should be marked daytime with flagging tape, nighttime with glow sticks. Fire extinguishers and first aid kits will be kept at all stations. Insect repellants are recommended to deter mosquitoes and ticks. Also, beware of poison ivy and thorns within the tree line. When raising towers, helmets and gloves should be worn. If you are lobbing missiles to lift pilot lines for wire antennas, be sure the impact area is clear of personnel.

Logging- An updated version of the N3JFP software is available, this year Ontario has been split into 4 sections by the RAC. Any band captain needing an upgrade, contact me, I have a license; you do need to have Microsoft NET 4 installed.

Directions:

The site address is:
OE Enterprises, 348 Elizabeth Brady Road,
Hillsborough, NC 27278

From Interstate 85:
Exit #163, turn North onto Highway 86.
Go about ¾ mile to the traffic light, Hwy 70A intersection.

Go straight through the light, about ½ mile on the right, turn driveway for OE Enterprises and

From Interstate 40:
Exit #266- turn North onto Highway 86, proceed until you pass over I-85, follow rest of direction above.

Talk-in: 442.150+ pl 131.8 and 147.225-

Fun at DurHamFest 2014 - Plan Now - Lowell Tieszen , KK4PH

We have “the drill” down pretty well for the DurHamFest. There are some changes in responsibility but people know their respective jobs and everything gets done. Much of what is seen happens between Friday noon and Saturday mid-afternoon. What isn't seen is all the work done prior to each DurHamfest event.

The chairperson for the past few years has been Paul (KE4OXN) who has been instrumental in pulling this off, with the help of some other very committed club members that have specific responsibilities that are listed elsewhere in this copy of The Link. We appreciate what each of you does! The DurHamFest chairperson, and some others, needs to do many things during the year. I'll list just some that I've heard discussed at club meetings and board meetings.

- Encourage vendors to come to DurHamFest
 - Paul talks to other vendors as he attends other area hamfests
 - Linda (KF4LJZ) confirms which vendors will attend and coordinates tables
- Negotiate for the Facility, and be sure there is a room for VE testing

- Be sure there are enough tables and that someone is getting them from Hoover Rd.
- Be sure tickets are available
- Be sure there is food
- Get publicity out in publications and to other hamfests

Since it doesn't all have to be done in a short time-frame, I don't believe it's overwhelming, but it takes some attention and effort to stay on top of it during the year to be sure everything is ready when it is "show time" on Memorial Day weekend.

The numbers were down a bit this year, but then I overheard some good comments, one was about how "fun" the DurHamFest is.

DurHamFest is "fun"? This got me to thinking about what makes a hamfest fun. Over the years, I have really enjoyed seeing all the stuff that is brought to the tailgate and tables indoor. I have enjoyed figuring out what it is, and what condition it is in. Perhaps what modifications have been done – or could be made. This year I focused on a Yaesu linear amp. I looked it over but it was just not quite what I wanted, but interesting to see and evaluate. I have learned a lot about vintage equipment.

I enjoyed meeting people I only see once a year, like Clint (KJ4UZU) and his dad Butch (NC4CX) as well as others. It was great to see Jim (WB4YYY) and Sue (KA4AVM) out at DurHamFest, and Sue's progress in recovering from a serious injury which has kept them at home for months.

At DurHamFest the tailgate area was about half-full on a beautiful day. While I have really enjoyed the tailgating at hamfests, with Ebay and Craigslist, I doubt tailgating will ever be what it once was. If people aren't bringing stuff to sell at the tailgate area, maybe we need to find where the joy is for hams and tweak what we do at DurHamFest.

In the coming months, I would suggest we have a positive discussion about what makes DurHamfest "fun" and how it could be more "fun". I'll throw out three ideas that are only ideas.

- A hospitality area with DurHamFest free coffee served
 - With seats where OT's can sit comfortably.
 - With host or hostess to welcome and facilitate introductions and such. Perhaps serve OT's or those who are not very mobile.
- We have available to us technical experts who could provide seminars in specific subject areas
 - SDR

- DX (maybe just a DXer reunion)
- Building Tube Amplifiers / Building Solid State Amplifiers
- ARES
- ATV equipped Balloon Launches
- Of course any new aspects of DurHamFest would be publicized in advance to generate interest.

We want it to be "fun" but we don't want to lose money doing it. Part of the reason for making the DurHamFest more "fun" would be to increase attendance to offset the declining income from renting tables and tailgaters.

We shouldn't expect the hamfest chairperson to pick up more to do during the year. The answer to making a more successful, and "fun" DurHamFest, would be for more of us to be involved in planning and doing something a little different. Let the DFMA leadership know how you will contribute to make next year's DurHamFest May 24, 2014 more "fun".

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting - 5/7/13 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending: Steve, W3AHL; Dewey, WA4AHR; Wilson, W4BOH; Mike, KK4BPH; Charlie, NC4CD; Terry, WD4CEE; Justin, KD4CPM; Michael, KK4EIB; Bill, WA3FHM; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Rhett, KE4HI; Roy, WA2JLW; Linda, KF4LJZ; Duke, K2MZ; Nancy, WB2MOM; Jim, WA4OPI; Jim, KB4OT; Paul, KE4OXN; Lowell, KK4PH; Dennis, N4QM; Bill, KI4RAN; Kitty; Dick, WA2ROC; Bob, W4RWC; Dave, W4SAR; Karen, KD4YJZ; Skip, N4SKP; Dan, KR4UB; Don, KE4UVJ; Duane; Dave, NA4VY; Sam, KJ4VWG;

A total of 34 attending, 32 of them hams.

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

REPORTS

Vice President - Michael, KK4EIB

Nothing to report.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Dee had nothing specific to the secretary position. However, he reported that the sale of the items from the KC4JGI gift was now finished and the DFMA had netted about \$695. (Of course the DFMA still has the fairly complete HF station which is planned to become a "portable" station for use both with and

separate from the MCU. That is worth approximately \$1500.)

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Members: 71 in good standing (who had paid 2013 dues by the end of the meeting)

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

Charlie reported that SERA coordination had come through for moving the VA repeaters to TV Hill. He also noted progress by the group (KV7D, KK3PH, and KK4EIB) programming the new controller for that site.

Field Day Coordinator - Dave, W4SAR

Dave announced that the Field Day layout had been set for the new site (and will be tweaked as needed). The plans, which he had for perusal on his laptop, now include using the O E Enterprises parking lot as well as the Field.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob led a discussion about making **changes in the Thursday night nets**. Currently the Durham County ARES Net meets at 8:30 and the DFMA Thursday Night Net at 9:00. It was proposed that the nets be combined and started at 8:00pm. There was much support for moving to an earlier time. It was agreed that this be an experiment and would be reviewed at the next DFMA meeting. Since Dee would be taking the first net on Thursday (5/9), he agreed to draft a new script.

Door Prizes

Bill, KI4RAN won an iron HT holder donated by Bob, (This was actually an old fixture designed to hold matchboxes.) Rhett, KE4HIH, won a compact, high intensity LED flashlight. Karen, KD4YJZ, won a set of stainless steel picks.

Program (Part 1): DurHamFest Planning

Hamfest Captain - Paul, KE4OXN

Paul reminded everyone that DurHamFest would be from 8:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, May 25. We can use lots of help starting with set-up the Friday before from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. We also need help starting at 6:00am Saturday when vendors can come in and do their set-up. Paul also suggested everyone make an extra effort to be welcoming and helpful to all of our vendors because we wouldn't have much of a hamfest without them.

Dee announced that Jim, KI4HQO, had donated a brand new Yaesu FT 7900R mobile rig to be used as one of the door prizes. As in past years, there will also be an early drawing for a \$50 cash prize on Friday night. People coming to the work session and others who bought tickets early will be eligible for this prize. (Tickets were available during the 5/7 meeting.)

Program (Part 2): Show and Tell

Wayne, KJ4GDW, showed off his **new spectrum analyser**. It was a Rigol DSA 815 which is good up to 1.5GHz (He had lots of jealous onlookers :-)

Dan, KR4UB, showed off and recommended **Techflex braided sleeves**. They are constructed like Chinese finger puzzles and will expand around connectors and allow the insertion of bundles of wire. When pulled taught, they produce a nice, neat package. Dan brought in examples assemblies that he uses in his car.

Dave, NA4VY, brought in an old Navy **TBY transceiver**. It is an ancestor to the modern HT. The Navy version was typically carried in a backpack by one man and operated by a second person. These were the radios used by the Navajo code talkers during WWII. He also showed, with the help of a Geiger counter, that the dials still emitted radiation from the radium-based paint used to produce glow-in-the-dark displays..

Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

Board Meeting - 5/21/13 - KU4GC, Secretary

Location: 1920 Front Street, Durham

Attending: Charlie, NC4CD; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Bob, W4RWC; Skip, N4SKP; Michael, KK4EIB; Karen, KD4YJZ; Dave, W4SAR; Sam, KJ4VWG; Paul, KE4OXN; Adriano, KV7D; Dan, KR4UB

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

REPORTS

Vice President - Michael, KK4EIB
No report.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Current members: 72 are paid up so far for this year.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

The 4/16/13 Board minutes and the 5/7/13 Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Bullock's BBQ closes each year for two weeks in July including July 4th. In the past we have been able to use Bennett Pointe Grill as an alternate meeting site since they have a room that can hold 40. This year, Civitan has reserved BPG on the first Tuesday of each month, so that option is no longer available. After some discussion, the Board voted to move the July meeting to the 2nd Tuesday, 7/9/2013, when the BPG room is available.

We had received email from Bill Foard, KI4JWA, (a former DFMA member) offering to donate a 40' free standing crank up tower and two Yagi multi-band antennas (10,15, 20 meter and 12,17 meters). We would have to provide transportation. The Board voted to accept the gift. Wilson, W4BOH, has already sent some email to the Foards offering to transport the equipment with his trailer.

Dee reported that the final yield for the KC4JGI gift was \$694.50, very close to the estimate presented at the last club meeting. (Payment from one person is still pending. [Cleared up at DurHamFest])

It was also noted that the call NC4FD is about to expire. At last Field Day, operators chose not to use that call because of potential confusion, especially with CW. MK suggested that maybe we could get NC4MCU (currently unclaimed -- as is K4MCU and W4MCU) and try to obtain Ham plates with this call for the MCU. Charlie, trustee of the WR4AGC call used on our repeaters, offered to look into it.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

The new 2 meter antenna for TV Hill has been ordered for \$1253. A usable 440 antenna is already in place. Work on controller programming is continuing. Charlie also asked for the IRLP hardware so it can be integrated into the system. Michael said he would get it to him.

Hamfest Chair - Paul, KE4OXN

Paul asked that Lowell set up his PA system again. It had been a great improvement in 2012 over previous years. He noted that Little River Community Center had another event at the same time as DurHamFest and that we might not have enough tables. If necessary, he will rent some.

So far, only DBJ Electronics was a confirmed vendor. Usually, no-one commits until the last minute. Since Jim, KI4HQO, donated the mobile rig as the main

prize, it was decided to get a small Baofeng HT from DBJ as a second prize.

Dee expressed worry about pickup of things from Hoover Rd since he was tied up with tricky scheduling involved in borrowing his daughter's van to get the grills and other stuff to LRCC. Paul said that he would take care of Hoover Road. Dan, KR4UB offered to come by Dee's place with a trailer to help transport stuff. [Thank you, Dan!]

It was noted that Dick, KK4CCX, was ready to help -- he lives near the LRCC. Also, MK reported that she would be going to the bank and have plenty of small bills for the "bank".

Field Day Coordinator - Dave, W4SAR

Dave gave an update and noted that final insurance/liability matters are being taken care of. After a meeting at the site with most of the band captains, it was decided to put some of the stations in the parking lot. Also, he reported that the Piedmont Electric bucket truck will be available.

Dan brought up the need for a generator early to power the electric ground rod driver. Also, setup cannot start before 3:30 Friday because the parking lot will still be in use by employees before then.

NEW BUSINESS

Dee noted that it was time to think about next years officers. Elections are just around the proverbial corner

Meeting adjourned.

Buy – Sell – Trade

W4NNE Estate Sale

- Collins 75A4 Receiver Excellent condition with original manual SN 4245 \$1000
- Collins 30L1 Amplifier Wing Label with manual \$700
- MFJ HF/VHF SWR Analyzer with manual \$175
- Kenwood TS850S Transceiver with ext. speaker and power supply. All manuals no Mic \$500
- Henry 3k Amplifier with manual (Still in Georgia) pictures available

For more info contact Sid, W4QWM at sedwards11@nc.rr.com

New Coax Deal

I now have another vendor, endorsed by a user on Towntalk, which will get us 1000 feet for 50cents/ft, delivered. Their specs are the same as LMR-400.

I don't really need much at all, but will bankroll an order IF people speak for most of it. Let me know... Wilson - W4BOH

Beach House for Rent

My wife and I do not rent our beach house on a regular basis. We have talked it over and since the HAMS in the area have been so helpful to me I would like to show my gratitude. If anyone in your club is interested in going to the beach for a vacation please contact me for more details. Steve Bartis - K1MAR steve.bartis@duke.edu

Wanted: Dead Microwave Ovens

I can use dead/dying/unwanted microwave ovens. The power transformers can be used for power supply construction. Thanks. Wilson - W4BOH

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 6/4 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ
- 6/8 10am VE Testing, Orange County EOC
- 6/10 7pm OCRA Meeting, Orange County EOC
- 6/18 7pm DFMA Board Meeting, NC4CD Offices
- 6/21-23 Field Day, by OE Enterprises, 348 Elizabeth Brady Rd, Hillsborough
- 7/9 6pm DFMA Bennett Pointe Grill

73 - Dee, KU4GC, editor
 Send copy to ku4gc@amsat.org
 Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting
 (Images courtesy of KU4GC or as credited)

Web Site: **dfma.org**

And a few more DurHamFest Pix



Dan, KR4UB, enjoying a W4BOH product
Picture courtesy of N4SKP



Andy, W4KIL, visiting with Clint, KJ4UZU - DurHamFest



At DurHamFest 2013
Picture courtesy of N4SKP