

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



July 2011 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday July 5

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

PROGRAM: NC Near Space Christopher Gorski, **KJ4CQQ**, and Alan Porter, **KR4JB** will introduce us to "NC Near Space". This organization has launched several weather balloons with cameras and other equipment into near space. The camera is retrieved after tracking it using APRS and having it descend by parachute. This has yielded some spectacular pictures. Chris and Alan will report on both the technical aspects and the beautiful results.

News Flash

Field Day score was 17K+ this year, better than the 14K+ last year.

Notes by ku4gc DFMA Meeting 6/7/11 Bullock's BBQ

Sign-up list:

Dee ku4gc; MK w4mkr; Dave w4sar; Karen kd4yjj; Derek ko4t; Jim wb4yyy; Sue ka4avm; Wayne kj4gdw; Randy k4xrm; Bob w4rwc; Sam kj4vwg; Joanna,ke4qoz; Rhett ke4hih; Dewey wa4ahr; Charlie nc4cd; Jim kb4ot; Vic k0oux; Wilson w4boh; Ed n4zqe; JR kg4nnt; Thomas n4tmd; Don ke4uvj; Dick wa2roc; Woody k3vsa; Mark kj4nfp; Dan kr4ub; Linda kf4ljz; Jeff wd4ihi; Josh kk4ckp; Bill k4hvh.

Attendance: 30 people, all hams.

President Wilson, w4boh, presided.

Self-introductions

REPORTS

Treasurer - w4mkr: Checking -----, CD -----. There are 75 paid up members.

Repeater Manager: nc4cd: To overcome some lingering problems, he is planning to go back to the remote receiver system. He does have a new voter.

Secretary - (was not able to attend) [ku4gc made notes for this meeting.]

VE session - w4sar: Had 21 candidates at DurHamFest (2nd to previous record).

Next VE session on Saturday, 10:00am, 6/11 at Orange County EOC.

Maker Faire -- k3vsa: Have tables for projects, demoing or making something. Will definitely have soldering demo. Will be held on Saturday, 6/18, 10am to 5pm at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

VP- ku4gc:

Preliminary figures indicate that DurHamFest 2011 was a great success. We cleared almost \$1000. Attendance was down a little from last year -- but was actually quite good considering the awful weather on Friday. Spread sheets with these preliminary figures were distributed to Board members.

No final program plans yet for July. Reminder: Our July meeting (7/5) will be at Bennett Pointe Grill since Bullocks is closed for their summer break.

Announcements:

* There will be a joint OCRA/DFMA field day prep event at the Orange County EOC on Saturday. Have your radio checked out for problem radiation, filters checked out for effectiveness, and pick field day logging software if you are providing a laptop.

* N4ZZI has an older mobile rig with power supply to sell. See web page for details.

DOOR PRIZES

Book, donated by k0oux; auctioned off -- winner: w4boh for \$7

Mini Leatherman tool -- winner: wa2roc

ARRL \$25 gift certificate -- winner: k0oux

Book, donated by k0oux -- winner: ku4gc

PROGRAM - Part 1

Field Day Prep: Dave Snyder, w4sar

Dave presented the plans and layout for Field Day 2011. Much of that is on the DFMA web site now.

PROGRAM - Part 2

Show and Tell

JR, kg4nnt: related his childhood interest in electronics; brought Heathkit rig (but did not transmit)
Wilson, w4boh: Brought old VFO he bought at DurHamFest; he highlighted some of the old tuning and control mechanisms.

Dee, ku4gc: Presented a slide show on constructing a fan dipole.

Adjourned

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Board Meeting Minutes – 06/21/2011

Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Ken(KI4QXJ), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Bob(W4RWC), Charlie (NC4CD), Paul (KE4OXN)

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

Reports:

Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):

Minutes from our 5/17/2011 board meeting were distributed.

Action 2011-06-21-01: The minutes from the May 17, 2011 meeting were approved.

Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):

Proposed officers for next year:

President: Bob(W4RWC)

Vice Pres: Wilson(W4BOH)

Secretary: Dee(KU4GC)

Treasurer MK(W4MKR)

Board: Jim(KI4HQO)

Board: Vic(K0OUX)

Repeater Manager Charlie(NC4CD)

Hamfest Chair Paul (KE4OXN)

Hamfest

Hamfest went well but there was a last-minute raise in the price from \$25 to \$35/hour after we believed that the agreement had already been made.

Hoover Road Site

There is a leak in the roof of the building on Hoover and a workday needs to be scheduled late summer or September.

Action 2011-06-21-02: Lowell will coordinate the effort to repair the roof of the building at the Hoover Road site. Costs will be covered by the club.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Financial numbers were sent after the meeting:

Checking -----

CD -----

There are 79 paid members

Repeater Manager:

There was discussion on the problems with the repeater.

1. Acquired some needed parts for the future voting system at Dayton.
2. Planning on two-site solution to solve noise problem at the Hillsborough site. This also will provide better coverage in areas away from the repeater.
3. The siding of the building at Hillsborough needs repair.

Action 2011-06-21-03: Wilson will coordinate the effort to repair the siding of the Hillsborough site. DFMA will pay for costs for the repair.

ARES:

- No update

MCU:

- Tarheel antenna is mounted and tested. Can be run manually with the Kenwood and using the Turbo-tuner with the Yaesu.
- Marine radio is available to be installed but awaiting an antenna.
- Ken (KI4QXJ) – Will get the Yaesu from MCU at Field Day and work to get WinMore on HF working.

Action 2011-06-21-04: We authorize \$200 for equipment to deploy a WinMore station in the MCU.

Meeting adjourned

President's Corner

Well, we have survived Field Day again. No one was hurt, if you don't count chigger bites, and no equipment was damaged. The worst thing I know of was that the combination on my locking briefcase, where I carry my bug and small stuff, got spun off its open setting. Not a problem, except that I didn't remember the combination. This happened after I had taken everything out, so it didn't interfere with FD. Since I was rested up today, I considered fishing for the combination, but with 999 possibilities that didn't seem a good idea! It only took about 20 minutes to push out the hinge pin, reach in and take the latch apart, get the top off, figure out how the lock worked, dope out the old combination, figure out how to reset a new combination, and put the hinge back together. Doesn't that sound like fun?

And back to FD. It was another great success, with nine stations set up and running on batteries. There may be a full report later, but here are some important highlights. There was great cooperation. Anytime anyone needed help with an antenna, tower, power cord, etc., they just called out and soon had a crew at work! There

were a 40 ft tower, two masts, and several nice wire antennae held up by trees and the great 70' bucket truck loaned by the power company. Steve Ahlbom brought his great motorhome, known as the FD Hilton, and supplied a cool resting place throughout the weekend. He also supplied AC power to anyone who could muster enough extension cord to reach an outlet. We likely had close to 1000 ft strung out, including the 300 ft carried on the MCU.

And our very own MCU worked great throughout, as the home of three stations that ran almost the entire 24 hrs. 20 CW WAS on 24 hr and made 500 contacts vs 300 last year! It also hosted 80m CW and 10m CW. When 80 was stone dead Saturday, we put the 80m rig on our new Tarheel whip and made quite a few contacts we would not have had otherwise. The Tarheel is no match for a "real" antenna, but it's WAY better than nothing. Dewey, Charlie, Adro, and Dan really moved us along with that installation! Lowell's work with tidying up loose ends and connecting the autotuner for the Tarheel put that project over the hump. It's neat to see the Yaesu HF rig control the tuner and get the antenna matched up on whatever frequency you want to use. In other words, you missed seeing a good show if you didn't come out to the joint OCRA/DFMA Field Day extravaganza. You also missed Dee and MK's burgers, dogs, pancakes, and sausage, and bottomless drink cooler.

I'm going to stop now, so Sid can use larger type this issue. Please come out and support DFMA and its several ongoing projects. We need more help from our old and new members and, most importantly, we need to work harder on recruitment of new members, especially young ones! It's amazing what gets done when a few people pitch in. We had TWO new experienced 20m CW ops out this time and it really made a difference, both in QSO count and in my exhaustion level. I even slept a couple of hours!

And please try to make the July meeting, remembering it's at Bennett Pointe this time. We'll be taking nominations for DFMA officers, ahead of the August election, so raise your hand if you want to join the elite group that works hard to keep DFMA moving.

73, Wilson W4BOH

DurHamFest Prizes:

Early Drawing W4RWC \$50

KI4OTO \$50 ARRL GC, K4PHS \$50 ARRL GC, KK4BPH \$25 ARRL GC

ARES 50/50 W4KIL \$80

Grand Prize KB4VAN Dual Band HT

Grand Prize K4WIX Dual Band HT

The Roof is Leaking! By Lowell – KK4PH

One detail of the DFMA club organization that many club members may not know – or have thought about, is where DFMA stores the Durhamfest tables the other 364 days of the year. I can answer that for you.

Somewhere in East Durham, under a rather tall radio tower, and behind a no-so-tall fence, is a storage shed that DFMA has had access to for many years. How we have access, I don't know - and sometimes better not to ask too many questions.

When several of us arrived to load the tables for their once-a-year outing to Durhamfest, we found them to be damp. The roof of this shed is leaking and is in need of new shingles. This sounds like a project that would be better done in late Summer or fall, so I'll give the plan for the project in next month's edition.

While we're on the subject of property repairs, the siding on the building that we own at the Hillsborough repeater site needs new siding. Wilson (W4BOH) will head up that project and will be looking for younger men to pick up a hammer and put new siding on the building.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM