



### Next Meeting (**NOTE DATE**)

**Tuesday, July 17, 6:00pm, Bullock's BBQ**

**Program: Civil Air Patrol – an Overview**

**By: Dawn Stange and Son**

The Civil Air Patrol is an all volunteer auxiliary of the US Air Force. Adult members participate in Search and Rescue operations and deployment efforts during natural disasters. There is also a youth cadet program. Many initiatives of the Civil Air Patrol are of interest to amateur radio operators. Find out how amateur radio operators can participate in Civil Air Patrol operations.

### President's Corner

#### Field Day 2018 & Elections

For the DFMA, Field Day 2018 was the second of two big annual events. Just as I felt the DurHamFest was a great event, there was certainly no let-down and I think Field Day went extremely well as an event for the OCRA and DFMA Partnership. While Dave (W4SAR), our leader in all of this, has given us a hint of how we performed in the "contest side" of this below, we won't know until November how that all worked out. Regardless of that result, I feel that most people had an excellent time. Again many thanks to the always gracious hosting by the Lamb family on their beautiful property. And thanks to all of you who made this happen.

A few very short comments on some of the details:

- The weather was rather hot, humid, and exhausting, but we were not bothered by thunderstorms. Thanks for that.
- The food operations went very well and I think the food was great. (I'll comment more on food later).
- Propagation was mixed and, I assume, typical for this phase in the sunspot cycle. Our QSO counts were mostly up.
- Dave, Dan (K44UB), Wilson (W4BOH) and others worked hard to have some accessible stations and that seemed to work quite well.
- Despite heroic efforts by Steve (W3AHL) the attempt to network the logging computers again ran into trouble fairly early on and was abandoned for all but the CW stations in the MCU (like last year).
- The 6 meter effort led by Doug (KA5ETS) with super hardware support from Bill (N8BR) seems to have yielded quite good results.
- The setup and takedown seemed to go smoothly. There seems to be some group learning there. And underlying this is the, now seemingly routine, dealing

with some infrastructure support like AC power, grounding, and guying, not to mention the safety aspects of all of this. So here's to Field Day 2019!

But, for DFMA members, there's more. Elections are coming up in August. Lenore (KF4PAB) has agreed to head the Nominating Committee. While nominations from the floor on the night of the elections are always appropriate, letting the Nominating Committee know in advance of your interest in an office, or your support for someone else for an office is much preferred. So think of how you might be able to support the club. By meeting time on July 17 we hope be more certain about officers and at large board members willing to repeat and that could influence your preferences (and you can, of course, elect someone else). But give Lenore some feedback. **73, Dee, KU4GC**

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### Preliminary Field Day Results

This will be a quick synopsis of our operation this year a more detailed report will be given for the August Link. As usual, we had successes and



**Two towers up – antenna ready for Saturday morning**  
**Picture: W4KSZ from his drone**



challenges. We had a great turnout, a lot of folks came to help with setup and tear down, with all stations staying manned for most of the operation.

The weather was hot, though not as bad as some previous years, and though there was a predicted threat of thunderstorms, none materialized close enough to be of concern so operations were not interrupted! We tried again with a full networking of all stations on site, but that failed early on, and was shut down, so only the CW stations in the MCU remained networked with each other.



Doug, KA5ETS, working at the 6m station in the Field Day Hilton, Picture: KK4BPH

The table below will give a comparison of last year's QSO counts with the raw data from this year's logs. I caution you that this year's numbers will change slightly as I thoroughly comb the combined log to eliminate duplicate contacts, fix broken exchanges, and eliminate broken exchanges that cannot be made good:

BAND	CW		Digital		SSB	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
80	219	194	--	--	125	88
40	431	462	85	98	93	171
20	377	415	74	117	62	94
15	227	184	--	47	126	143
10	116	127	--	--	37	58
6	--	12	--	4	11	37
Satellite	--	--	--	--	1	--
Total	1370	1394	159	266	455	591

For Bonus points, we are 200 points down from last year as we had no Elected Official show up and did not work a satellite contact. However, the raw score, pending correction shows that we had 398 more QSO points than last year (CW and DIGI are 2 points, SSB is 1). So, our score has incrementally increased again! Good work everyone!

- Dave Snyder, W4SAR

## Have Another Meal

I wanted to comment on one aspect of Field Day that has always been of interest to me and that has been discussed at several OCRA Board meetings. I did get a bit more involved than originally planned, so that does not make me an entirely neutral observer.

First the obvious. Again, under the managerial leadership of John (KM4MDR), the Friday Potluck dinner was a great event. He got people to sign up, he kept the contributions from being too lopsided, he rounded up the necessary tables, chairs, etc. Of course, I should mention Wilson (W4BOH) who provided the main course using his new grill. Thanks! What more can I say. Super Job!

The second noteworthy food related event featured, who else?, John. He provided a much appreciated lunch for the setup crew on Friday. The sandwiches were good and the fruit salad was excellent. And he paid for it all. Thank you so much John!



Dan KR4UB and xyl Jean Eddleman work on the food purchase plan as Dee, KU4GC looks on

Picture: KR3AM



Not so obvious was how the traditional Saturday evening and Sunday morning meals would go. I, for one, ate both meals last year. They were very good. Problems were in other dimensions, the most glaring was financial. The clubs had to pitch in to cover the losses. One of the major causes of this problem was that there was no way of knowing how many people would eat. Another was timing which led some people who normally eat "in" to go to town for alternate food aggravating the almost impossible task of predicting the amount of food needed. This year there was some flirting with the idea of having things catered, but that seemed unsatisfactory to some.



**Wilson, W4BOH, cooking the main course on his new grill, Picture: KK4BPH**

This year the breakthrough came when Dan (KR4UB) spearheaded the drive to make the meals pay-in-advance. This worked remarkably well with most people paying at the preceding DFMA and OCRA meetings. A very few, probably unaware of the new system, actually paid just before eating.

The second break was that Jean (Dan's xyl) volunteered to do the actual shopping. There were actual planning meetings after a tally of actual payments came in (representing a budget cap). I was called in as a consultant and had records from many previous Field Days. Careful plans were made; Jean also knew what was on sale where, etc. She also received storage space in the Lamb freezer negating the need to buy things the day of the meal.

One piece was still missing. Who would do the actual cooking? At the OCRA meeting before Field Day, Dave (KW4XL) volunteered and allowed that xyl

Felicia (KN4KH) would also help. So there was still some uncertainty. I guess that worry was unfounded. A little less than an hour before meal time, people sprang into action. It was almost an explosion. In addition to David and Felicia, Peter (KM4DNU) and Chris (K40GP) Lamb and, of course, John jumped into to action. Food was great and prompt. No-one left hungry. The only glitch was that the cooking team had not been fully informed of all that was available to cook and the bacon, for example, planned for bacon-burgers was not used until breakfast. (Note for next year: prepare a list of items planned for dinner or have a menu.)

Speaking of breakfast, most of the same people served again. The addition was Gretta (KM4LCW) Lamb who cooked pancakes. Again superb food. I should also mention eggs donated by Peter and Loren (KV4ZR). These were a superb addition to the menu. Thank you Loren and Peter!



**Chefs John, KM4MDR & Peter, KM4DNU, as Saturday dinner winds down  
Picture: KK4BPH**

Preliminary results suggest that one of our other goals was met as well. Instead of a deficit, there was a surplus which, by tradition, will go into the OCRA treasury. This will be supplemented by additional funds due to gift certificates arranged by Lad (W4ORD). Thank you, Lad! There will be more detailed reports made at the coming club meetings. They will also include a list of the many other people

that contributed to the success of the meals whom I didn't mention here. There were quite a few. Thank you.

73, Dee, KU4GC

## Awarding of the DFMA Lid

Bob Milback, K4WCV, the last DFMA Lid awardee and his selected recipient seemed to have a hard time both being at a DFMA meeting at the same time. But Bob learned that his "target" was planning to be at Field Day. So, on Friday, June 22nd, Bob honored Bill Creery, KI4RAN, for being the Field Day Weather Monitor. Bill was quite surprised.



Bob, K4WCV, awards the DFMA Lid to Bill, KI4RAN, for his service as Field Day Weather Monitor

## Welcome to our New Members

We picked up two new members at Field Day. Be sure to welcome husband and wife team of **Molly Starback, W4WQN** and **Peter Starback, KN4CSO** of Chapel Hill.

## DFMA Board Meeting Minutes

**DFMA Board Minutes** – 06/19/2018 - Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** 1920 Front Street, Durham, NC

**Attending:** (y) Dee, KU4GC - president; (y) Chuck, KW4KZ - vice president; (y) MK, W4MKR - treasurer;

(y) Dan, KR4UB - secretary; (y) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (y) Jack, KM4MBG - DurHamFest chair; (y) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day coordinator; At-Large Board Members: (y) John, KM4MDR; (y) David, KW4XL; (y) Paul, N2XZF; (n) Karen, KD4YJZ; Club Members: David Jr, Lenore, KF4PAB

## REPORTS

**President** - Dee, KU4GC called the meeting to order at 7 pm with the call for officer reports. Minutes of the last Board and Regular meetings were passed out.

**Vice President** - Chuck, KW4KZ said the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) presentation is on for the July 17th club meeting.

**Treasurer** – MK, W4MKR presented the treasurer's report and membership status (119 with dues current) to the board. Club Treasury Balances were reported.

**Secretary** – Dan, KR4UB The minutes for the 5/15 board meeting and 06/05 club meeting were approved with corrections.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD reported that the batteries at the Hillsborough site are in need of replacement and that Adriano, KV7D has obtained some good used batteries available for \$40.00 each. A motion was made and passed by unanimous vote to purchase 6 replacement batteries for \$240.00.

**DurHamFest:** Jack, KM4MBG reported the DurHamFest final results with \$999.37 profit with 288 tickets sold. The club table cleared \$254.25 thanks to the Georges. Food proceeds were \$160.11 thanks to Wilson and others. There were 15 tailgaters and vendors purchased 24 tables for indoor sales. The DFMA club gained seven new members and 4 renewals. There were 10 VE candidates with 9 passing their exam. The feedback survey is complete and Jack will be awarding a \$10 gift certificate to a participant. Jack has agreed to continue as chairman for the 2019 DurHamFest.

**Field Day Coordinator** – Dave, W4SAR reported that band captain organization meetings have completed for the 9A field day operation. John, KM4MDR reported that 56 attendees have confirmed their attendance at the Friday night potluck dinner and that chairs and tables are lined up. There will be a good selection of foods and 5 people have signed up for setup duty. John also will graciously provide sandwiches for the Friday set up lunch. Dan, KR4UB reported that food will be purchased on 6/20 and



delivered for freezer and refrigerator storage at the W4BOH QTH for the Saturday 5pm dinner and Sunday breakfast. At present time members have prepaid for 38 dinners and 31 breakfasts, with additional member interest expressed for an additional 6 dinners and 6 breakfasts. Dee, KU4GC will purchase for the event: soft drinks, bottled water which will be available starting at the Friday setup and provide ice for the coolers. M.K., W4MKR will collect money from 5pm dinner and Sunday breakfast attendees who have not prepaid. John, KM4MDR, David, KW4XL and Felicia, KN4FKH have volunteered for food preparation duty.

Dave has contacted several local news stations and the News of Orange for Field Day publicity.

Insurance Certificates of Liability have been obtained. A motion was made and passed by unanimous vote for DFMA to pay for the porta-potty and ½ the costs for the insurance policy rider obtained by Wilson, W4BOH and \$100 gift to Dee Anne, W4BOH XYL. OCRA will fund the corresponding other ½ of the total cost.

## NEW BUSINESS

It has been reported that the current batteries in the MCU are not maintaining their voltage. A motion was made and passed by unanimous vote to take advantage of the 100AH battery availability at greatly reduced cost from Adriano, KV7D and purchase 4 batteries for the MCU at a cost of \$160. Dan, KR4UB has agreed to store the existing batteries until testing can be performed using Adriano's Alber CRT-400 commercial battery system tester to determine the degree of deterioration that has occurred due to the MCU uncontrolled temperature environment and charger maintainers not being powered for periods of time during MCU temporary storage. This information is needed to consider if options such as MCU solar panels would be justified, considering the existing batteries were placed in operation only 4 years ago and the expense now being incurred for replacements.

Lowell, KK4PH will be relocating out of the area shortly and has been the keeper of several DFMA items that need to be disposed of or assigned to a new custodian. By unanimous vote a motion was made and passed to sell the small gas engine powered generator, donated to the club in years past, to Lowell for a \$100 bid (or more if a better offer is made -- KW4XL will look at it). Dan, KR4UB

volunteered to be the custodian for the back-up service monitor.

Dee, KU4GC suggested that the board make a decision at the July 17th club meeting whether a board meeting needs to be held on July 24th.

Lastly, Dee reminded all that DFMA officer and board member elections are coming up in August and polled those present regarding their interest in serving for another year in their current or an alternative position. Lenore, KF4PAB volunteered to head the nominating committee.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

## Club Meeting Minutes

### Durham FM Association (DFMA)

**DFMA Meeting** – 06/05/18 – Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** Bullock's Barbeque, Durham

**Attending:** KR4UB, Dan; W4MKR, M.K.; WA4AHR, Dewey; N2XZF, Paul; NA4VY, Dave; KV4ZR, Loren; W4SAR, Dave; KD4YJZ, Karen; WB4ROI, Henry; W4BOH, Wilson; N8BR, Bill; KM4MDR, John; KU4GC, Dee; KW4XL, David & David Jr.; W4JWA, Jim; N4RME, Frank; KG4QOF, Dan; WA4UJM, Wally; KM4MBG, Jack; KF4PAB, Lenore; AJ2X, Mark; KK4PH, Lowell; KN4MPH, David; N3GO, Gary; KW4KZ, Chuck; KF4NTC, Bob; N4JQR, JR; KD8VBX, Cecilia; KE4UVJ, Don; KJ4VWG, Sam; KA5JUJ, Martin; KE4HIH, Rhett, Joanna, KE4QOZ; Guest: Ashley Hedrick

A total of 35 attending, 33 of them currently licensed hams.

**President:** Dee opened the membership meeting at 7 pm with introductions, greeting first time attendees as noted below, followed by officer's reports.

### First time attendees:

KD8VBX, Cecilia was licensed 5 years ago, but not active and is looking for a radio to use. John, KM4MDR had a spare radio to lend. Ashley from Vance County is getting ready to take the exam.

**Announcements:** Dee, KU4GC had the following announcements:

- Due to the Bullocks vacation schedule closure, the next club meeting will be on July 17th.

- MCU maintenance volunteers are needed, in particular someone to serve as MCU maintenance coordinator.
- Starting in July, the new editor for the DFMA Link will be Martin, KA5JUI.

## REPORTS

**Vice President** – Chuck, KW4KZ is negotiating for a presentation on the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at the July meeting.

**Treasurer** – MK, W4MKR reported there are 119 members with dues current. Club Treasury Balances were reported.

**Secretary** – Dan, KR4UB no news to report.

**Repeater Manager** – Charlie, NC4CD (not able to attend)

**DurHamFest** – Jack, KM4MBG has sent out a survey to obtain feedback on the DurHamFest event. Participants in the survey are eligible for a \$10 gift.

DurHamFest yielded a \$999.37 profit with 288 tickets sold. The club table cleared \$254.25 thanks to the Georges. Food proceeds was \$160.11 thanks to Wilson and others. There were 15 tailgaters and vendors purchased 24 tables for indoor sales. The DFMA club gained seven new members and 4 renewals. There were 10 VE candidates with 9 passing their exam.

**Field Day & VE Coordinator** - Dave, W4SAR led the Field presentation and discussion as noted below.

Presentation of the DMFA “Lid” Award - The last presentation of the LID was at the March meeting by Lowell, KK4PH to Bob, K4WCV for instituting and running 53.45 MHz 107.2 Hz PL 8 PM Wednesday night net.

**Door Prizes** - Door prize winners were as follows; Multimeter - Wally, WA4UJM; Microfiber cloth - David, KN4MPH; Screwdrivers - David, KW4XL; Flashlight - Lenore, KF4PAB

Show & Tell: - Mark, AJ2X showed his Turner (the microphone company) 54-200 Mhz signal booster used in the early days of television. He has a collection of around 150 signal booster amplifiers. Members expressed interest in Mark making a program presentation on his collection.

Program Presentation: Dave presented and led the discussion for the combined OCRA/DFMA 2018 Field Day. This year’s operation will be 9A with nine HF stations operating at 5 watts. The 24 hour setup period will begin at 8AM, June 22. Field Day contacts will run from 2PM Saturday, June 23rd to 2PM Sunday, June 24th.

John, KM4MDR will be coordinating the Friday 6 PM potluck dinner and passed out information flyers for that event. 60 - 70 people are expected to attend. Dewey, WA4AHR and Dee, KU4GC will supply folding canopies for the event.

Dan, KR4UB covered the plans for the Saturday 5PM and Sunday morning breakfast. In order to prevent losses to the clubs or charging higher prices for the meals, the clubs are asking attendees to pre-pay in advance \$5.00 for each meal. This payment also covers the cost of bottled water available to all during the event. This change will give far better guidance on the exact quantity of food to be purchased. Meals orders must be received by June 18th. If a member pays and must later cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, refunds will be made if written cancellation is by June 19. Additional information is available on both club’s websites, and a member pre-payment status listing will be frequently updated on the OCRA website. John, KM4MDR has volunteered for food preparation and cooking duty. Additional volunteers are needed.

Digital stations captained by Dave, W4SAR and Sherri, WB4OSU will be setup in the garage area available to anyone who cannot negotiate stairs. One of the stations will be available for SSB operation as needed. Networking of the N1MM logging computers will be attempted again this year. A presentation by Bruce, N1LN covering software levels and critical setup necessary for the networking will be made at the next OCRA meeting. Operator scheduling will be done on groups.io. The Winlink message will be sent by Seve, W3AHL. Receipt of the W1AW message will be done at the W4SAR digi station. Education activity will be led by Dee, KU4GC; Dave, W4SAR and Sherri, WB8OSU on several topics including Field Day rules, FT-8 digi and HT programming. All band captains should log youth operator participation (18 years and younger) for additional bonus points. Further Field Day discussion will be at the next OCRA meeting on June 11th.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.**

## Buy – Sell – Trade

Wilson – W4BOH

### For Sale: High Quality Coax

Wilson is usually putting together a bulk order for high quality, LMR-400 equivalent coax. By ordering full spools he can usually get it for about one half the typical retail price. Contact him before buying larger lengths on your own.

Web Site: **dfma.org**

## A Few More Field Day Pictures

### Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

7/03 NO DFMA Meeting - moved to 7/17  
7/09 VE Test Session, Efland Bahai Center 7pm  
7/09 OCRA Meeting, Efland Bahai Center 7pm  
7/17!!! DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ 6pm  
7/21 Cary Swapfest, Ritter Park, Cary 8am-1pm  
8/07 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ 6pm

**73 - Dee, KU4GC, Editor**

**- MK, W4MKR, Proofreader**

Send copy to [ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org)

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

(Images and copy: KU4GC or as credited)

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Teamwork (KM4MDR, N1LN, N8BR, KU4GC, KA1HPM, KW4XL, DJ and N4KW Picture: KK4BPH



Adriano, KV7D, with visitors Picture: KK4BPH





Jim, W4JWA and Bill, N8BR work on rotor



Newlyweds (about 3 months) Jack, KM4MBG and Lenore, KF4PAB enjoy delicious bbq on setup day



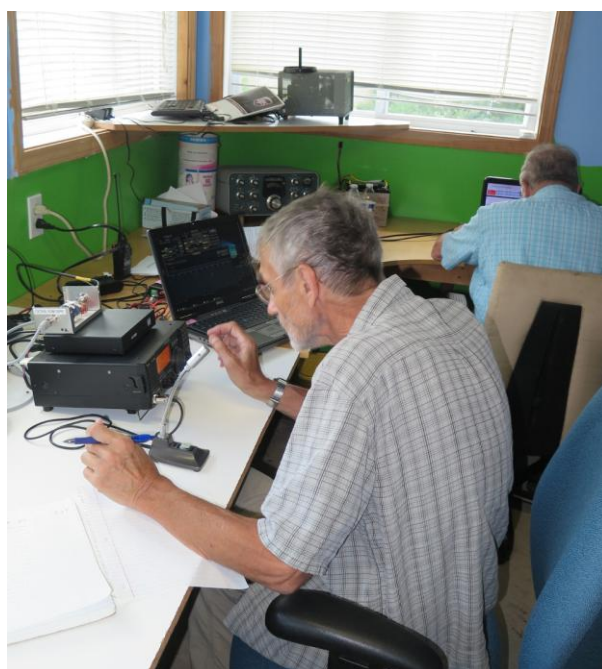
CW in the MCU with KV4ZR, KA2WDL, N1LN, KX4GP, N8BR, Picture: KK4BPH



Baofeng Programming Class: NA4VY, KU4GC, KK4BPH, KD4YJZ, Picture: KK4BPH



Sam, KJ4VWG, all 2 of him, work 80m, Picture: KK4BPH



Dave, NA4VY, & Paul, N2XZF, (logging) work 10 meters, Picture: KK4BPH