



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 6, 6pm.

At Bullock's BBQ

Business Meeting starts at 7pm

Program:

Meshtastic: How does it work?

By: Tom Beckett, KR4BTP

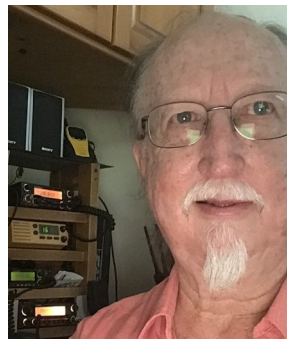
Tom writes: Meshtastic is "open source, off-grid, decentralized, mesh network built to run on affordable, low-power devices." The same family of wireless technology used in your home WiFi router has been applied to tiny long range (LoRa) devices. Meshtastic is a software protocol designed to enable these devices to form a mesh network over neighborhood-sized distances. This mesh forms a regional off-grid text messaging system. Meshtastic is "going viral" and the mesh now spans North Carolina. Tom KR4BTP will give a brief introduction to Meshtastic and show how it works."

President's Korner

Welcome to May everyone! Mother's Day, Memorial Day, BBQ Month, and a personal favorite of mine, Star Wars Day! All occur this month. Also from my vantage point peering out to the horizon with my sea captain's spyglass. I can see the beginnings of Field Day approaching for next month.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2nd Annual DFMA Springtacular Picnic. Especially John Boone ,KM4MDR, who provided the tables and chairs and a radio station set up. Truly the logistics expert.

I think everyone liked the place and the food and fellowship were not to be missed.



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As always, the more the merrier, so if you missed it please try to make the next one.

On another note the club elections are in June. The bylaws state that the elections are to be held in June and we will return to doing that.

The club needs people to keep the club running. If you enjoy what the club does and you haven't served in a leadership position then I urge you to think about it.

There are two board positions up for re-election. The other four are President, VP, Treasurer, And Secretary that are up for grabs every year.

I would like to have a slate of candidates by Mays end of meeting.

Hope to see everyone there!

Bob Cook
W4FK
President of DFMA
73

DFMA Hillsborough Generator:

Installation of a back-up generator at the DFMA tower site at Hillsborough is now complete. The Generac generator is rated at 25 KW and operates on propane fuel. We previously relied on battery power to keep the repeaters on the air during a power outage. On one extended outage, the batteries carried the site for 24 hours. Commercial power was restored so I don't know how much longer the batteries would have lasted. For a longer power outage, such as might be caused by a winter snow or ice storm or a tornado or hurricane, we could have plugged our building into the Verizon generator-power IF we could have been able to get to the tower site.

Now, when a power failure occurs, the generator waits a few seconds to be sure it is a real outage and not just a voltage fluctuation, then cranks automatically, and after a few seconds, transfers our equipment to generator power. During the

crank and transfer time the batteries and a UPS keep everything operating normally. When this occurs the system sends messages to my cell phone to tell me that the generator is running and that it has transferred to carry the load. When utility power returns, the automatic transfer switch switches our equipment to commercial power. The generator continues to run for a few minutes without load to cool down. Then it shuts down. I get messages on my phone when these two operations occur.

Several things occur in the generator to insure its reliability when needed. The four cylinder engine is water-cooled and has a block heater which aids in cold weather cranking. The generator cranks and runs once a week for about 15 minutes which is good for the engine and is a good indicator if a problem has developed that might keep it from functioning when needed.



As seen in the pictures, the generator is inside our fence but the 200 gallon propane tank is outside the fence which makes access for fuel delivery easier. There is a small box on top of the tank that contains a cell phone. Cell phone signal should be excellent from Verizon on our tower. When the propane gets low, it notifies

our propane supplier to come and fill the tank. I expect 200 gallons will last a long time



with the 15 minute exercise each week. Our load is less than 10 Amps and I saw the generator put out 91 Amps under full load testing during installation.

DFMA's repeaters at Hillsborough on 147.225, 224.26, and DMR digital should now be fully operational at all times regardless of bad weather conditions or storm damage. We already have generator power at our TV Hill Durham site, home of 145.45, 444.1, and 53.61.

The generator and its installation was provided to DFMA by Communications Structures at no cost. DFMA's only cost will be filling the tank with propane.

73 de NC4CD

Question of the Month:

Who has the LID????

The LID was last seen, as far as I know, in 2018. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the LID? It would be great to start awarding this coveted achievement again. If you have it, or have a guess on the whereabouts please let us know.

For those new to the hobby, the DFMA lid is an award that was made monthly (with gaps - some rather large) from the previous recipient to a new awardee. While calling someone a Lid in on the air is not a compliment, the DFMA award is almost always a positive call out. Occasionally it is to tease someone about an on-the-air boo-boo or something similar. Either way it is meant to be in fun.

Norman-Skip-Flinton-Carden-III?
obId=40259699&source=tco_email

Norman "Skip" Flinton Carden, III WA4BNT, SK



Norman "Skip" Flinton Carden, III, 88, passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Person Memorial Hospital, Roxboro, NC. He was born in Durham County to the late Norman Flinton Carden, Jr and Hattie Lee Carden Jones. Carden Printing Company was a family business for seventy-five years.

Skip attended Fork Union Military Academy, Durham High School and Duke University and was raised Methodist at Duke's Chapel UMC. He was a member of the Durham Civitan Club for sixty-one years, served on the Durham County ABC Board, founded two airplane clubs: Ercoupe Owners Club and Cessna 150-152 Club, and was a member of Quiet Birdman and Freedom Cruizers Car Club. His loves were flying, fast cars, motorcycles, horses, and dogs.

Skip is survived by his wife, Carolyn Jean Tally Carden; son, "Tal" Carden and wife Jane; daughter, Tanya Lee-Ann Carden; and grandchildren, Kenneth Cohn and wife Meshell, Brooke Cohn Roberts and husband Tommy, Kyle Carden and wife Hayley, Colby Carden and wife Brittany, Trent Tanner, and wife Allison and twelve great grandchildren

A link to his obituary is located at [HERE](https://www.clementsfuneralservice.com/obituaries/).
<https://www.clementsfuneralservice.com/obituaries/>

Interesting Facts:

Did you know that a DFMA repeater still has autopatch running?

The Some information is on the DFMA website. More detailed information is in the DFMA printed Directory. This can be very useful if you have no cell service, but can reach the repeater on your Ham radio. Do you know what autopatch is?

SOTA, POTA, but NOTA?

NOTA (NASA On The Air) is a ham radio consortium formed among the 12 NASA field centers across the agency. NOTA stations operate together on-the-air throughout the year in a coordinated fashion to celebrate significant events that hallmark the rich history of NASA.

[HERE](#) is a link to their events.

<https://nasaontheair.wordpress.com/>

BTW, the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club W5RRR is also have an active participant in NOTA. <https://www.w5rrr.org/>

Telegraphy Morse and Radio Morse not the same?

I was just made aware there are different versions of what we call Morse Code. American Morse, European Morse, International Morse, and maybe others. If someone knows more on this and would like to give a short presentation about the history and why the differences please contact Bob W4FK.

If you use ARL LOTW, TQSL has been updated:

Apr 22, 2025: TQSL Release 2.7.8 Now Available --
The latest version of TQSL (version 2.7.8) can be downloaded [HERE](http://arrl.org/tqsl-download) (<http://arrl.org/tqsl-download>)

DFMA Presentation at the Durham Public Library

Ed Neely W4AEN reported seeing an article in the Indyweek about a presentation DFMA gave at the Durham Public Library on April 16, 2025. The article can be seen [HERE](https://indyweek.com/culture/ham-radio-durham/)
<https://indyweek.com/culture/ham-radio-durham/>



Picture at the Image DFMA Presentation at the Durham Public Library - courtesy of W4FK's XYL

DFMA Picnic

A grand time was had at the 2nd Annual DFMA Springtacular Picnic.



[Click here for the entire DFMA Picnic set on Flickr](#)

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ICOM PW-1 Solid State Amplifier.

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Price \$2,000.00.

Wilson, W4BOH

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Do you have something that you need or something you want to get rid of? There's this spot in The Link set aside just for you. Just email the appropriate info to TimKC1TWR@gmail.com and it will be included with the next issue. Make sure to include contact info and feel free to include a picture (that is yours – please no copyrighted stuff from the web).

73, Tim, KC1TWR



73 – Tim KC1TWR, Newsletter Editor

Send copy to TimKc1twr@gmail.com

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

(Images and copy: KC1TWR or as credited)

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The DFMA Mailing Address

This is actually a mail service which costs less than a post office box and provides some extra services.

Please address any mail you have for the club to:

Durham FM Association

9169 W State St #644

Garden City ID 83714

Web Site: dfma.org

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

05/06 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

05/12 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center,
7:30pm

05/20 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm

06/21 VE Test Session, Efland Baha'i Center,
10am