

# DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



## June 2005 Newsletter      Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

### Program for Tuesday June 14

We will be meeting at Fuddruckers at 1809 Martin Luther King Parkway which is back of the old South Square Hamfest location. Social eating time begins at 6:00 PM and meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Our program this month J.R., KG4NNT will talk about "Kids QSO" an ARRL sponsored program that should make good use of the MCU. It's also our last meeting before Field Day. Plan to get involved!

### MCU Progress Report

I hope all DFMA members had the opportunity to check out the club's Mobile Communications Unit (MCU) on Saturday at the Durhamfest. It was hard to miss in its prominent spot in front of the main entrance to the Armory. It was used for talk-in for the Durhamfest and OCRA's Saturday morning net was called from the MCU too.

If you missed the MCU, it is still a work in progress. There are three main operating positions with expansion possibilities to four or five operators. The MCU has several radios installed already. Position 1 has a new Yaesu FT-897 which also covers 2 meters and 440. The second radio at position 1 is a Yaesu FT4700 duoband 2 meter/440 rig. Position 2 has a Kenwood TS-430 for 10-80 meters and a Yaesu FT4700 duobander. Position 3 has a Motorola 800 MHz. trunking radio for Durham Public Service channels. A new Kenwood TM-271 is mounted on the console for use by the driver or navigator.

The thing that all of these radios have in common is that they were all donated to DFMA for the MCU. With the exception of the FT-897 and the TM-271 which were brand new, the others were used (or previously-owned as they say in the car business).

Several ham clubs in Ohio had their MCU's on display at the Dayton Hamvention this year. I spent an hour talking with the club member who designed and built both units and he was glad to show us the results of his hard work and experience. I made plenty of pictures of both units which will be available at the board and next regular meeting.

We are still in the procurement phase of our MCU project. There are many things that we still need so I am listing some of those items here to see if any DFMA member might have an extra that might be donated to the cause. A new item might also be purchased and donated. One of the units in Ohio had a plaque in the unit with names and/or call signs of all of the donors. We will probably do the same.

Here are some of the things we need for the MCU (in no particular order):

- 220 MHz. Mobile Radio
- Marine VHF Mobile Radio
- CB Mobile Radio - 40 channel
- Trunking Scanner
- Small TV - 12v dc & 110 vac - built in VCR
- Satellite Receiver/Antenna - to pick up Weather Channel, CNN, etc.
- Small Refrigerator - Apartment/Dorm room size.
- Small Microwave Oven
- Three roll-around office chairs
- Comfortable Headphones (3-6 sets)
- Weather Station
- Mobile Home Canopy and lawn chairs
- Someone with cabinet-making capability to make cabinet doors.
- Do we have some donors ?? Give us a call.

## Newsletter

Please submit any material for the newsletter by the third Wednesday of the month to [Edwards@tunl.duke.edu](mailto:Edwards@tunl.duke.edu) . Any material submitted after date that will appear in following month's newsletter.

## Possum Trot Net

Can a ham radio net have a rich, glorious history? It can and it does if it is the Possum Trot Net. Begun by WA4LZD almost 25 years ago, the net clocked its 7200th regular weekday morning session on April 22. The originator is Judge, sometimes known as E. H. Godwin. He envisioned a friendly, good morning net which fairly quickly found a home on the DFMA Flagship repeater, WR4AGC. The extent of the net is better understood when you know that it runs concurrently on three repeaters most of the time. Of course this takes three net ops. Some of the DFMA members have checked into the net at hamfests, some just after the stroke of midnight rings in a new year, and some at other events. How many individual check ins? The 600,000th check in occurred a couple of years ago. In years past there have been annual PT dinners and a PT Queen was crowned.

The size of the PT Net is impressive. There are over 3200 members with a few new ones added almost every month. Some of these members have made more than 5000 check ins each. How does one become a member? Easy. Make five check ins in a row or ten check ins over some weeks, months, or even years. For hams living more than 100 miles from the repeater on which they are checking in, five check ins staggered over weeks or longer is sufficient. An inspection of the rolls will show a few pets that have barked, meowed, or tweeted their way into membership.

Why do folks check in? Principally because it is a friendly, good morning net. It has certainly eased a few new hams into the active side of the hobby. Some interesting friendships are established thru this net. KO4T and I greeted each other on the net for a year or more before having the opportunity to shake hands. It is the sort of good-natured get-together that causes folks to want to see one another in person.

If you have not checked in on the PT Net, try it. Tie the alarm clock to your little toe so you get to the transceiver between 0605 and 0715 and check in. The warmth of the net control and the PT members will please, even charm, you. Here's a plug for new PT Net control ops. The regular PT ops have been at the post for some years. New ops are needed to spell them so that vacations may be taken, illnesses and deaths may be dealt with. My own experiences as net control op have been most rewarding. The early hour is not even so much as an inconvenience. It is likely that I will log in another couple of weeks as net op this summer. If you are retired or are able to start your work day at or after 0900, please consider taking a weekday morning position on the PT Net. Rhett - KE4HHH - PT 2120

## Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM  
Fuddruckers 1809 Martin Luther King Parkway