

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



October 2005 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Program for Tuesday October 11

The program for October 11 features Dr. James Kiser, former member of the Technical Staff, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Visiting Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University. Jim will speak on the topic "Digital Signal Processing - WHY?" He is in a unique position to do this since his background was in the original development of DSP at Bell Labs. This will be an entertaining and largely non-math presentation.

The DFMA meetings will be at McMannen United Methodist Church in October and November. Since McMannen hosts a Durham precinct in the elections, there will be a change in the meeting room. The meeting room will be to the left of the sanctuary (the west end) since the election process will be in the fellowship hall. Please remember to vote.

Minutes from Meeting September

DFMA Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2005

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), MK (W4MKR), Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Derek (KO4T), Sidney (W4QWM), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Tanner (KB4TYE), Janell (KI4BZG), Bram, Jonathan (KC2GRP), Joseph (KF4QYY), Don (KE4UVJ), Mark, Bill (KI4JWA), Will (KI4KNR), JR (KG4NNT), Charlie (WA4WTX), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Paul (KE4OXN), Ed (WA4MXA), Virginia (NC4VA)

Wilson presided over the meeting. He described ham operator efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and commented on the features of the new meeting place, such as being able to hear. Rhett talked about how nice it would be if more people became involved in the club and would run for office.

Treasurer's report: --- in checking and --- in savings as of 8/31/05.

Secretary's report: Minutes are now being taken and the former secretary, Paul, has provided everything he had.

Repeater Manager's report: There was a break-in at the Hoover road site. Nothing was missing that we know of, nothing was added and it's still messy. The back up for the 147.225 repeater is ready to go to the TV hill.

Wilson noted that Bill Cole has been doing a great job sending out information on opportunities for local hams to volunteer for events in the community. Rhett introduced a discussion about nuisance signals on the repeater.

Lid presentation: missing. Door prizes were not given out.

Introductions were almost forgotten. Jonathan mentioned how much he liked the new meeting location.

The former officers, with the exception of the recently elected secretary, were re-elected.

The nominating committee was not thanked for their efforts, since they only found one new officer. J.R., Bill (KI4JWA) and Sidney were elected as members at large.

Sidney's term is a single year, while the rest are two-year terms. Just when we thought all was settled, Tanner resigned from the board, which means that this open slot will have to be addressed at the next meeting. It was noted that the ham-fest chair, currently held by Joseph, is a lifetime appointment.

Jim, asked about the welfare of the Mobile Communications Unit. Graphics still need to be added to the vehicle and an alarm system has been purchased. Principle members responsible for the MCU are Dave, TD and Don. Rhett mentioned that on October 1st, the MCU will be making an appearance at the fall festival for the McMannen United Methodist Church, where the club meetings are held.

Rhett introduced the speaker and Virginia Enzor, the Central Carolina Skywarn EC, gave a presentation on Central Carolina Skywarn. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes from Board Meeting

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2005

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Wilson (W4BOH), Sidney (W4QWM), Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), J.R. (KG4NNT, Board) Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), Joanna KE4QOZ, Charlie (WA4WTX, repeater manager), Bill (KI4JWA, Board)

Wilson, President, presided over the meeting. He even ate dinner.

Rhett reported that, for our next meeting, at McMannen United Methodist Church at 4102 Neal Road, we will meet at the other end of the church due to the elections. Dr. James Kaiser will be our next speaker and he will give a presentation on digital signal processing. He worked at Bell Labs, where it was started and perfected. Our December Christmas meeting will start at 6pm and we will have a potluck supper. It was proposed that club will provide the meat, but this has not been finalized.

Treasurer's report: --- in checking and --- in savings. It was noted that the club is collecting --- each month in rental fees for our Hillsborough tower. A dues increase was discussed, but the majority of the board was opposed.

Wilson said he would talk to Bill about lettering on the Mobile Communications Unit and if Bill were not able to do it, he would find someone else. There was concern as to whether the MCU would be available for the harvest festival at the McMannen United Methodist Church. Wilson expressed an interest in obtaining a key to the MCU. It was noted that there exists a draft of procedures for certifying drivers, but it was never finalized. Wilson said he would report to the board via e-mail regarding his communications regarding the lettering. Wilson explained that if the club truly wanted to be prepared for emergencies, then it should acquire trailers that we could sleep in, because it might be necessary to camp out. Alternatively or additionally we should have tents.

Charlie brought up the Hoover Road storage-building break-in and reiterated that the back up to the 147.225 repeater was ready to go to TV hill. He also mentioned that the VA hospital repeater needed fixing.

Lenore reported that she updated the membership list based on all the new membership forms and ones that the previous secretary, Paul, had handed over. She said that she would soon add dates, based on the Treasurer's records, to determine which members were up to date with respect to dues.

J.R. proposed that the hamfest be conducted all in one day, without preparations on the previous night. He was thinking that this would reduce the number of hours that the club would be charged for by the Armory. It was thought that this would be too much work and some vendors like being able to set up the night before.

Door prizes were discussed. It was agreed that there would be two door prizes each month with a total value of \$30. Sidney agreed to procure them.

Dee brought up the fact that a member had requested a ride to the meetings several months ago and that we still needed to find someone to volunteer. The meeting was adjourned.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM