

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



February 2006 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Program for Tuesday February 14

"A Different Look at Computers and Processing."

Bill Foard, KI4JWA, will discuss data-handling problems with computer software and hardware solutions.

We'll be in the Fellowship Hall starting at 1800. For those who wish to eat together, bring your supper along and gather at that hour.

The DFMA Net

Is this news to you? It should not be. It has been on the 147.225 MHz repeater on Thursday evenings at 2100 for several years. If you have not heard it, you

are missing good ham radio activity. If you have not participated, you are missing good ham radio activity, valuable when the need to communicate arises.

The several steps to the process are to log in and out so that your presence is known. Then log in and give a rag chew. Finally, sign on to be the net control one Thursday evening a month. Get to know your fellow members of DFMA and other hams in the neighborhood. You will find greater pleasure in amateur radio by

immersing yourself in this and other DFMA activities. 73 Rhett - KE4HHH

Build Yer Own??

Build yer own what? Some years ago (DFMA met in the Piccadilly Restaurant), DFMA folks, about a dozen, got together and built super-regen radios from Ten-Tec kits on a Sunday afternoon. Eight or nine were completed that day and stations were received. Who would like to do this again? Would you? What would you like to build?

Many kits are available in the low-power transceiver group (QRP). Other Ten-Teckits are produced.

Ramsey has a number of kits in its line (the cabinet is up to you). Some test gear can be had in kit form.

Interested? Please speak with JR or myself about your desires in kit or scratch building your ham gear. 73 Rhett - KE4HHH

Minutes from December Meeting

DFMA Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2005

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm. Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), MK (W4MKR), Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Derek (KO4T), Sidney (W4QWM), Sandy, Rhett (KE4HHH, Vice President), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Tanner (KB4TYE), Janell (KI4BZG), Bram, Jonathan (KC2GRP), Joseph (KF4QYY), Don (KE4UVJ), Mark, Bill (KI4JWA, Board Member) Will (KI4KNR), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Connita, Charlie (WA4WTX, Repeater Manager), Lee (WA4HYL), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Dee, Camilla, Paul (KE4OXN), Ed (WA4MXA), Virginia (NC4VA), Thomas (KG4FTT), Jim (KG4ZWS), Skip (WA4BNT), Bill (WD4BZP), Woody (K3VSA), Lisa (KG4PFB), Michaela.

Wilson presided and welcomed everyone.

Everyone ate the club's contribution of a tasty meal of barbecue and fried chicken from the Shrimp Boat and then we enjoyed desserts that were brought by the members.

Dee handed out a new membership directory that he put together. He encouraged people to let him know if there were any errors. [Members who were not present at the December meeting should have received them in the mail.]

Progress has been made as far as the lettering for the MCU. Now they are looking for notes from the board meeting saying what was to be put on it. The hat was passed for the Durham Rescue Mission and collected \$174. As is tradition, the club added \$350 to the sum collected. Members also brought gifts for children that were donated to Durham Social Services. Virginia handed out a schedule of nets for Central Carolina Skywarn.

Fun and fellowship was had by all.

Minutes from January Meeting

DFMA Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2006

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Jim L. (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Derek (KO4T), Sidney (W4QWM), Rhett (KE4HHH, Vice President), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Jonathan (KC2GRP), Joseph (KF4QYY), Don (KE4UVJ), Bill (KI4JWA, Board Member), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Paul (KE4OXN), Jim D. (KG4ZWS), Skip (WA4BNT), Al (KE4IHX), Rene (KE4UCR), Chuck (KE4UCO), Allen (WD4DEG), Jim W. (KD4KSZ), Mac (WQ8U),

(I might have missed someone, because half of the attendees didn't sign the list.)

Wilson presided and welcomed everyone. He pointed out that former DFMA member, Merri, KF4OAD (now AB0MV), was mentioned in the December issue of QST.

Treasurer's report: At the end of the year we had ---in savings and --- in checking. An influx from dues should help.

Secretary's report: Working on minutes from December meeting.

Vice president's report: Trying to get someone from Duke gardens to give a talk and that will most likely be at the February meeting. He requested that, twice a year, DFMA contribute \$50 to the McMannen Methodist church, where our meetings are held. This was passed.

Joseph thanked everyone for the success of the December holiday party and suggested that we needed to have a potluck party in the summer. He said it was important that this party, like the December one, not involve work. Wilson volunteered to host a party on May 6th. Jim L. urged people to call members and encourage them to come to meetings. Dee suggested that we divvy up the former members listed in the directory that have not paid their dues and call them.

There was extensive discussion about the state of the 147.225 repeater. The main observation was that hams in outlying areas, such as Virginia, have an easier time using our repeater because only one remote receiver picks them up at a time, while hams closer to Durham are picked up by multiple receivers, resulting in unintelligible transmissions as the voter system switches back and forth between them. The repeater identification and courtesy tone were also thought to be excessively loud.

Paul said that May 27th was secure for holding our hamfest at the National Guard Armory again. They are now charging \$500 for non-profit organizations, a \$200 cleanup fee, and \$25 an hour for a monitor (\$325). The total will be \$1025. There is a \$200 deposit. They apparently have had trouble with gangs breaking windows there and are trying to spread out the cost of their expenses. These expenses were approved by the membership and Paul will also place an ad in the SERA journal.

Rhett gave away QSTs, repeater journals and talked more extensively about the virtues of being an officer. He did urge people not to run against Dee for Treasurer. Wilson reminded people not to forget about Field Day and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes from the Board Meeting

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2006

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Rhett (KE4HHH, Vice President), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Bill (KI4JWA, Board Member), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Charlie (WA4WTX, Repeater Manager).

Rhett presided. Possible meeting programs were discussed and he hoped to finalize one in time for the information to go in the newsletter. Discussed having the weekly net on a different day. Lenore said she would be prepared with dates to get volunteers for net control at the next meeting. For the treasurer's report, Dee expected there to be a flurry to renewals at the next meeting and said that the renewal forms need to go in with the next newsletter. Rhett said that we should start putting membership expiration dates on the address labels. Consolidation of membership lists is necessary. Dee, Sidney and Lenore need to get together to discuss what makes the most sense. We also need to decide how many issues should be sent to former members. We should call the former members and encourage them to attend meetings. JR suggested more dinner meetings and Rhett said that people can come to the church (McMannen Methodist) at 6pm and bring food to eat for themselves while socializing.

The hamfest will be in approximately 90 days. Jim proposed that Linda start contacting dealers now.

Incentives for vendors were discussed. The consensus was that having volunteers for helping vendors load and unload would be the most helpful.

Rhett suggested that we offer another ham class and a discussion regarding the pros and cons of having classes ensued. The challenge is to recruit students, since recruiting instructors is comparatively easy.

Rhett will write something for the newsletter regarding classes.

Jim recruited people to take the back-up repeated to TV hill. Someone asked about the MCU. Wilson is working on it.

JR thanked everyone for their contributions to Kids' Day. Bill talked more about getting kids into the hobby and about getting homeschool organizations involved. Dee mentioned Meg (KI4LLL), at Frank Porter Graham Middle School, in Orange County, who has gotten a grant to get all kinds of ham radio equipment.

Sue announced that member, John Fish (N4SHX), is seriously ill.

Rhett said that tonight's meeting covered a lot of topics, but there were no actions passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 7:00 PM