

# DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



## May 2006 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

### Tuesday May 9

#### May Meeting Location

We will meet at Shoney's May 9 at **6:00 PM for supper and 7:00 PM for the meeting.** Shoney's will provide us a private room at no charge as long as a majority of us eat with them. No minimum will be required either. Shoney's is located on Hillandale Road at I-85 exit. Thanks to JR kg4nnt for setting this up.

#### Hamfest Notes

Our Hamfest this year May 27 will be at the same location as last year, National Guard Building off North Duke street. We will have a club table as always. Be sure to bring your goodies to us to sell so you can enjoy and work at the Hamfest. Joe KF4QYY is chairman again this year, so please check with him and give him help putting this show on. Also Linda KF4LJZ will be doing vendors, tables, and tailgate area. She too will need all the help you can give her. A VE session will be available also.

#### Minutes from April Meeting

DFMA Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2006

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), Joseph (KF4QYY, Hamfest Chair), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Rene (KE4UCR), Mac (WQ8U), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Derek (KO4T), Eli, Skip (WA4BNT), Sid (W4QWM), Thomas (KG4FTT), Camilla, Magnus, M.K. (W4MKR), Charlie (WA4WTX), Bill (KI4JWA), Bill (KM4UO), Grace (KF4TMS), Larry (W4ST).

Wilson presided. Introductions. Talked about ham license testing at the hamfest. Dave Snyder will run them. OCRA normally tests on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every even numbered month.

Treasurer's report: --- in savings and --- in checking.

Secretary's report: Lenore coerced Dee, Wilson, and Joseph to serve as net controls for the Thursday night 9pm net on 147.225. Rhett always volunteers for the first Thursday in the month. Lenore also described this month's door prizes: a cold heat soldering gun and a key shaped multi-tool.

Hamfest Chair: Called lady from ARRL, who will mail brochures. The hamfest will be held at the National Guard Armory, the same place as last year, on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Repeater Manager: Went to the Hill to work on plans for repairs. Made adjustments and the plans are underway. The back-up machine at TV Hill is almost ready to go.

Wilson did not take the MCU to get the lettering put on it, because he had to go to Rhode Island. He did determine that the lettering guy, Mark Gordon does actually exist and is an ex-ham. We need to get publicity out about Field Day and the information should go in the news letter. Charlie said he would check on a new site, the TV Hill location.

J.R. talked about the new meeting location, for the May meeting. It will be at Shoney's on Hillandale Rd., in Durham. Most people will have to eat and the room holds 25 – 30 people. Overflow will sit outside the room. It is tentatively booked through November. The room itself will not cost anything.

Tanner will take over the website. Charlie announced the new board meeting location: his office at 7:30pm, on the last Tuesday of the month. Bring your own beer.

RARSfest will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. J.R. suggested that we take DurHamFest flyers.

Larry Hedlund (W4ST) gave an excellent talk on being a volunteer announcer at WCPE. Wilson announced that there would be no HamNic in May, but perhaps in June instead. Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

## **Minutes from the Board Meeting**

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2006

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Rhett (KE4HIH, Vice President), Charlie (WA4WTX, Repeater Manager), Wilson (W4BOH, President), Sidney (W4QWM, Board Member), Bill Foard (KI4JWA, Board Member).

Wilson presided. The board discussed RARSfest, the lack of vendors (including Communications Headquarters). DBJ Radio and Electronics will be at the DurHamFest again. Discussed food for our hamfest. The vendor that Linda knows has a fryer, grill, water, etc. Wilson will ask him to do it and will try to get 10% of his gross sales for the club. Dee was concerned about the DFMA's actually losing money on the hamfest, since the club's selling the food was a major source of revenue last year. We used to make a lot of money from our annual hamfest.

Wilson took the Mobile Communications Unit (MCU) home and discovered that it has very low gearing. The speedometer is not accurate. It has 3 gears and shifts perfectly, runs smoothly and sounds good. It will take a long time to actually get anywhere.

Wilson said he would try to get the letters put on there by the hamfest.

OCRA is starting a 10 meter slow code net. The board discussed changing the meeting night of the general meeting to a different Tuesday, since RARS has moved their meeting to the same night. Discussed having a survey to find out what the membership really wants. Lenore volunteered to create an on-line survey using SurveyMonkey. We need to make an effort to talk to new members when they come to a meeting and make them feel welcome.

The board will serve as the nominating committee, since we have the most interest in getting people to replace us. Discussed potential officers. From what we know, the effort to get an ARRL grant for the MCU is dead. Talked about getting grants for helping schools. Board members suggested talking to larger corporations and the Triangle Foundation regarding potential grants. Wilson asked Rhett if we could get Red Cross person to talk to us at a future board meeting or possibly have a board meeting at the Red Cross.

Discussed supplies needed if MCU traveled to a disaster location for emergency communications. Charlie expressed interest in working on the MCU again and Wilson offered to host work sessions at his house. Discussed getting people to volunteer to attend events with the MCU, including Hillsborough's Hog Day or Durham's Centerfest. It would be good to have crossband capability. Noted that MCU has batteries in the back. One problem is that the passenger seat does not have a seatbelt.

We need to encourage people to bring stuff to sell at our club table at the ham fest.

The meeting was adjourned.

## **Dues for 2006**

Did you forget to send your dues in this year? Look at the mailing label. If there is a "05" after your call, then you should send in your dues which are \$12 per year. The other codes are "ex" for expired, "sp" for sponsored and "06" for current.

## **Durham FM Association, Inc.**

Post Office Box 2411

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Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM