

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



December 2006 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday December 12 December Meeting Location

The DFMA meeting will be a Holiday Party at McMannen Methodist Church on Neal Road, starting at 6:00pm.

Open to members and spouses. Free dinner including desert and refreshments. White elephant gift exchange To continue a one-year-old tradition, the DFMA will have the December (Tuesday 12/12) meeting meal catered.

All you need to do is bring yourself (and family). Like last year, we will be having barbeque, fried chicken, two vegetables, iced tea, and dessert.

This was a lot of fun last year! Join us!

This is our Holiday Meeting! In that tradition:

- o Bring a Christmas gift for a child to be distributed to Durham's needy. Mark gender and age range on the outside.
- o Bring an inexpensive (but no "junk"), possibly gag gift to be shared with your fellow hams.
- o The Club will make its annual gift to the Durham Rescue Mission. We will be passing the "hat" for additional personal contributions to that cause.

REMEMBER: All of the above are totally optional! If you do not have the time or the resources to participate in all or any of the above; or maybe you just plain forgot: Please come anyway!

Your presence is worth a lot to the rest of us.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

It would really help if you could send email to edwards@tunl.duke.edu

to tell us how many you will be bringing to dinner. (If you forget to reply, come anyway -- we'll have some extra.)

If you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary restrictions, please let us know and we'll have something for you. But you must let us know.

Mail to Sid at the address above or Dietolf (Dee) Ramm

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

A White Elephant (WE) gift is something lying around the house or ham shack that is not needed or you really don't want. Frequently gifts from relatives fit this category. In ham radio this is frequently something that you picked up at a hamfest with the best of intentions and it has been collecting dust on a shelf for a while with no prospects of getting used. When WE gift exchanges are an annual event the same gifts seem to appear each year – consider starting a tradition with your gift. The nominal value should not exceed \$20.00. For example consider ham related gifts, such as an interesting tube or home-brew antenna or home related gifts.

Every person coming to the party should bring a gift to exchange.

Each gift must be completely wrapped so it cannot be identified before opening. No gift bags. Sometimes a small gift is placed in a large box along with a brick to confuse the recipient (you'll understand this later). Do not put any identification on the gift.

THE GAME

Upon arriving each person puts their gift in a pile and puts their name on a piece of paper which is dropped in a box next to the gift pile.

After dinner everyone will form a circle around the pile of gifts and the first name will be drawn. That person will select a gift and open it for all to see.

The next name is drawn and that person can select a wrapped gift and open it or take the already opened gift – in which case the person now without a gift will select one and open it.

The next name is drawn and that person can select a wrapped gift and open it or take one of the already opened gifts – in which case the person now without a gift can select a wrapped one and open it or take an already opened gift (not the one the person just lost).

This continues until every person has had a chance to select a wrapped gift or take someone else's open gift. Gifts may only be taken three times after which the final holder puts the gift out of sight so it is no longer in play.

This is generally how the game works. The finer points, such as how it ends, will be discussed before starting the game. Everyone gets a gift to take home and it is a lot of fun.

President's Corner

I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party on December 12th at McMannen Church.

73's ke4ucr, Rene' Couch

Upcoming Events:

All DFMA members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. You are welcome to come at 6 PM and enjoy dinner; however, **you can just come around 7 PM and attend the presentation** and post meeting eyeball QSOs.

January 9, 2007 Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

Program: Woody Woodward, ARRL Regional Public Information Officer, will talk about how everyone of us can be an ambassador for ham radio, what resources are available and some of the recent noteworthy ham radio activities in the news. This will be entertaining as well as informative and motivating.

February 13, 2007 Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

Program: Dewey Thompson will talk about battery back ups and emergency power systems from small to large. Come and get some tips on what you can do to keep your rigs, computer and lights on during the next ice storm.

March 13, 2007 Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

Program: Either a talk and demonstration of new digital gear OR Show and tell night for all mobile rigs and the MCU.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM