

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



April 2007 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday April 10

3D Sensing Opportunities for Everyday Life

Carlo Tomasi will speak to us. One of the virtual keyboards he was working on (built into a cell-phone) was featured in one of the programs last year in the show "CSI Miami",

Recent ideas and technologies are making it possible to build small and inexpensive sensors that can see in three dimensions. He will discuss two product concepts that may help improve various aspects of everyday life. One is a virtual keyboard, which replaces a physical computer keyboard with an image of it projected, say, from your cell phone. The other is a 3D time-of-flight sensor that can be used, among other applications, to determine who is sitting in the front right seat of a car, in order to deploy airbags with appropriate power in case of an accident.

April Meeting Location

April 10, 2007 Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

Upcoming Events:

Tim Slay, N4IB, to be our May speaker. Tim is the ARRL NC Section Manager. He will talk about what's going on at ARRL, their view of the future of ham radio, how the DFMA can help newly upgraded hams integrate, ARRL courses, and field questions. Should be a 2IE meeting - Interesting, Informative, and exciting

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.

DFMA Meeting Minutes

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2007

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Rene (KE4UCR, President) Mac (W8QU, Vice President), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Paul (KE4OXN). Charlie (NC4CD, Repeater Manager).

Treasurer: Same as last time: --- in savings and --- in checking.

Rene upgraded to extra over the weekend, in Wake Forest.

People interested in classes, but they are hard to schedule. Previous classes have had poor enrollment, only two or three students. Perhaps we could ask on the website if people have asked members about classes

Repeater Manager: Provided Mac with records. Need for permanent record holder.

Charlie has been going to repeater sites and taking a bunch of pictures. Mac is going to ask Tanner if he would put up pictures of all the sites. Been to five out of seven sites.

Need to add hamfest info to website and how to join.

Hamfest: Joseph contacted health department to see which vendors are licensed. If anyone else has an idea of a good food vendor, let us know. Paul: Robotic group from Orange County wants to be our food vendor as a fundraiser for themselves. They are High school students sponsored by teachers, a very technical group supported by parents and responsible for bringing their own supplies. JR: coffee, biscuits, donuts, then lunch. Dee: Some contribution to our expenses would not be a bad idea. Dee proposed that everyone in the robotics group who attends must buy a hamfest ticket. We lost all extension cords at Hoover Rd. Dee can bring some. Very few people expect real power. Still need to negotiate table rentals.

Discussed parking ticket collection logistics. Tailgaters don't always buy tickets to the hamfest and Rene did not think that should happen. Discussed layout - need tailgater tickets to display on

vehicles. Should put up signs along the sides of the road in advance.

Need a number of volunteers on Friday evening. Wondered if Sid is getting door prizes. Dual band Alinco mobile is \$330.

Old business - any MCU development? Mac: trying to schedule work party and contact Don. Pneumatic antenna raiser from retiring WTVD truck. Need to get someone to bring the MCU to the hamfest. We can use it for talk-in. There were various suggestions for where and in what it could live. Randy McCrae was pursuing an ARRL grant.

New Business. Yahoo survey confusion. Field Day. Making purchases need to be requested of the board before they are made. Good to have a budget in advance. If people can't make it to a meeting, request via e-mail. No one is opposed to providing support. Renee will contact Dave and discuss expectations. Field day location: TV Hill is hiding from the rest of the world. Renee will ask Dave if he has ideas.

Renee requested authorization to purchase new lid. Approved. Confusion about type of lid.

Possible display at hamfest of old lids.

Award for calling net? Anyone who is net control for five years straight will get an award.

Speaker for next meeting is Carlo Tomasi. Mac talked to ARRL section manager about doing a meeting talk. We could have a show and tell for mobile rigs...

Paul suggested sending a postcard to all Durham amateur radio operators, excluding DFMA members, advertising the club and hamfest. Paul will look into it and bring an estimate the next meeting. Renee saw business card sized flyers.

JR: Starting on-line seller trader net that will be on the DFMA website.

Paul: hats or t-shirts for the club? Nothing is cheap anymore.

Why do we have Alinco doorprizes? The one radio dealer that comes to our hamfest only has Alincos. We reward a dealer for coming by buying the prize from him.

P: PA system? What we've got is fine if set up properly.

Charlie suggested stick on nametags and a conversation starter: other hobbies. Charlie will bring some next time. Meeting adjourned.



DFMA Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2007

Minutes taken by Lenore Ramm.

Attendees: Dee (KU4GC, Treasurer), Lenore (KF4PAB, Secretary), Rhett (KE4HIH), Joanna (KE4QOZ), Joseph (KF4QYY), Charlie (NC4CD, Repeater Manager), JR (KG4NNT, Board Member), Skip (WA4BNT), Derek (K04T), Harry (WA4VTV), Marilyn, Bill (KI4RAN), Pres, David (W4DAP), Kelly, Bill (KI4JWA, Board Member), Ed (WA4MXA), Bob (W4RWC), Jim (WD4KSZ), Nate (KK4FK), Tanner (KB4TYE), Michael (KE4PWZ), Marti, Rob (KI4BKE), Wilson (W4BOH)

Dee presided. Introductions.

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

Secretary's report: Dee, Rhett and Bill volunteered to be net controls. That left one slot open with no one willing to volunteer.

Repeater Manager's report: Taking photos of each receiver site.

Hamfest report: Flyers were handed out. Volunteers are needed and the various opportunities for volunteering were covered. The tickets have been ordered.

Rhett, Joanna, Al, Tanner and Rhett participated in the communications for the Odyssey of the Mind event. Rhett pointed out that participating in or being net control for the Thursday Night net (9pm on 147.225) is a good opportunity to practice for such an event.

Tanner gave a very informative talk on APRS and kits that can be built, which combine a GPS with a TNC in order to use APRS with our radios. Many expressed interest in building such kits during a work session.

Renewal Time

Dues for 2007

Did you forget to send your dues in this year? Look at the mailing label. If there is a "06" 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 "07" for current.

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM