

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



August 2007 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday August 14

DFMA Meeting Tuesday August 14, 2007

PROGRAM

The DFMA Board of Directors under our President's leadership has been developing a list of activities to stimulate renewed interest and member activity in the DFMA and to attract new members.

The list of activities, presented below, will be discussed at the August 14th meeting. Please come prepared to comment on these activities, express your interest in leading or participating in them. Additional ideas will be welcome.

Publish a calendar of activities and events – on the website and in the newsletter.

-Events include **operating events**, e.g. Armed Forces Day, Museum Ships, Kids Day, Simulated Emergency Test, Boy Scouts JOTA

-UHF/VHF nets

-Satellite windows and opportunities to work the space station

-Contests with possible club scoring

MCU based activities

Parades

Community events, e.g. Hog Day, Festival On The Eno, picnics/festivals

Visit schools to support teacher's science units

Boy Scout Jamborees

Open-house for club and guest operators

Participating in contests, e.g. NC QSO contest, County Hunters

Supporting races – foot, bicycle

Scout meetings to spark interest and support merit badge training

RTP events, RARS events

Supporting fundraisers for other groups – be an attraction

Practice exercises with Homeland Security, Civil Air Patrol, DurhamEOC

Fox Hunts

DFMA Family Day

Visits to local radio museums

Bus/Car Pool to Shelby and other nearby hamfests

Teach licensing classes

Other ideas?????

August Meeting Location

August 14, 2007 Club Meeting – Mayflower Restaurant

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.

Durham FMA Meeting 10 July 07 7:00pm

Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Treasures report was given. The secretary's minutes were approved. Mac introduced Lisa Armour, KB9MGU, as the Durham ARES Emergency Coordinator. Lisa talked about the ARES organization from the National level down to the Local level. She talked about what organizations we have Memorandum of Understandings, (MOUs) with, how ham radio operators are contacted in emergency situations and how to become members of ARES. She also talked about classes that members can take on line through ARES. It was asked if the classes can be taught locally. Lisa stated that according to ARRL, they are working towards that goal. ARRL is trying to set up something similar to the testing for ham licenses. People that have completed the courses can apply to become instructors and/or test givers. Lisa stated that this is something that she would like to accomplish something like this within the next year.

After Lisa's presentation, meeting was adjourned.

DFMA Meeting Minutes

Durham FMA Board Meeting 31 July 07 7:30pm

Hamfest 2008 – It sounds pretty positive that we will be holding next year's hamfest at the Little River Complex again next year. We received very positive feedback from the Little River Organization. An application is going to be picked up, filled out and returned with a deposit of \$100 to reserve the facility for next year on May 24 with set up for the evening of May 23.

One of the things we would like to do is start advertising the hamfest now. Prepare flyers to be handed out at other hamfests. It was asked if we would want to open it up to hobbyist? Do we want to do this? It was suggested to invite to Robotics group along with some others to set up a display and maybe even do some demonstrations of what they do. Mac mentioned that at the Dayton hamfest, the organizers made a conscious effort to omit computers. Another ham radio club invited an airplane club to their hamfest. The airplane club put on a dogfight demonstration.

One of the things mentioned was that ham radio operators are becoming hams through other activities and clubs that they are involved in. It was suggested that another theme might be to gear it towards new hams or those who want to upgrade.

It was also suggested that we might want to do an emergency services theme and invite Civil Air Patrol out and allow them to set up a display. They could even do some demonstrations on DFing or drilling with their Cadets. Other possibilities with this theme would be Emergency Management, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Police and Fire.

Everyone liked the different ideas. It was suggested that we could try different themes each year and see which themes are liked better than others. The decision was made to invite the Robotics group to set up a display and ask if they

would be interested in doing a demonstration. It was also suggested that we invited vendors that would provide items that the Robotics group would be interested in.

Since Paul handles publicity, he is going to get the date confirmed and everything planned out. Once that is complete, flyers will be made up and start getting them out.

Secretary's Report - It was asked if there are any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections required. The meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

Vice President - Mac talked about the next DFMA meeting to be held on August 14. There will be no presenter this time. Instead, the group will discuss different opportunities and activities that the club can become involved with. We will discuss what ideas the board has come up with and request suggestions and ideas from the rest of the membership. President - Dave has put ARRL & CQ contests and events for the next year on a calendar. Listed below are some dates that Dave mentioned.

Armed Services Day is tentatively set for May 10. He stated that he would like to talk to the National Guard about doing something with them. It was suggested that we could bring our come van out to the National Guard Armory on Stadium Drive and set up there or across the street in the County Stadium parking lot.

June 14 & 15 was Kid's Day.

June 28 & 29 is Field Day.

July 26 was communications with the Lighthouses

October 6 is the SET; however, it can be held on any weekend between the months of September and December.

October 20 is Scout Jamboree - It was suggested that we get with a scout troupe and invite them out for this event. It was also suggested that some of our members may want to consider assisting the scouts in earning their ham radio communications badge.

Dave also mentioned that there is a Mobile Communications Group on Yahoo. He put a feeler out to see if anyone from those groups would be interested in doing a communications event on a weekend. If we can get a group together, we can write something up and submit it with pictures to QST and see if we can get it published.

It was asked what would be the best way for the board members to communicate with each other. It was suggested that we start using the website more. Put different events and activities on the calendar. Include meetings on the calendar. This way, members could see what kind of events are coming up and can volunteer to head up the planning of an event or offer to help run it.

Treasure's Report - There is --- in savings and --- in checking. We currently have about 95 dues paid members. It was mentioned that compared to other clubs, we are doing very well. It was asked how big RARS in Wake county is.

Estimation is about 325 - 350 dues paying members. It was asked why others are so big. It was stated that we need to start doing different events that are of interest to the membership. It was also suggested that we reach out to the ham operators that are not members and invite them to meetings and events.

Shelby hamfest is scheduled for 31 August.

On the 225 repeater, the deviation is low and the courtesy tone is loud. It isn't an easy fix because you can't just plug and play a new unit. The plan is to work on it and get it fixed by September.

The MCU needs some house cleaning details to be done on a Saturday. Dave is going to get with some members to work on it one weekend. There were no other reports from any other board members.

Old Business - Fundraising. It was asked if we really should be doing this. We do donate to the Rescue Mission and we don't have any kind of a budget process. We have been very successful so far though. It was asked what it would take to get the MCU ready for emergencies. How do we do this? We could do this by getting more dues paying members and better hamfests.

ARES - Lisa mentioned that Durham ARES does not have any financial funds. They are trying to set up a new website and would like to try and get some or all of the costs donated. She is wondering if DFMA would mind if ARES used DFMA's tax exempt number for this purpose. It was asked how that would affect DFMA. Would they lose their tax exempt number or status? The answer is no, DFMA would not lose their number. Lisa is still very interested in pursuing making ARES a branch of the DFMA.

It was stated that ARES could operate as a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the DFMA. It was also suggested that ARES could have a link on the DFMA website with a page just for ARES. Need to check with the DFMA webmaster to see what the DFMA hosting agreement is with RTPnet.

It was also suggested that Lisa write up and proposal/motion to make ARES a branch of the DFMA and present it at the next board meeting. After the presentation of the proposal/motion, the board can decide to vote on it or not.

New Business - Hammick (potluck picnic) is September 16. Starts at 3 pm. Bring a dish to pass, bug repellent and chairs.

It was asked if we should stop mailing out the newsletter and email it out instead. It was stated that there are a lot of people who do not have computers and that we should continue to mail them out. It was suggested that we give members a choice as to whether they want to receive the newsletter by email or postal mail.

Net is Thursday night. Need some people to assist with net control.

Kiwanis Fund Raiser

I want to let you know about this event in our area that our Kiwanis club is doing again this year. Our Annual fundraiser is on August 26. We will be serving a spaghetti dinner with salad and drink. The proceeds from this event will go a long ways toward fulfilling the charitable objectives of our 86-year-old service club. We support Terrific Kids, (1000 awards at four inner city schools) the Soup Kitchen, the Salvation Army, Camp Kaleidoscope, the Museum of Life and Science and a Scholarship at Durham Tech. Kiwanis Club of Durham depends on the proceeds from this fundraiser to fund our community service projects. FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2005 IS THE DAY. Lunch is from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and supper is from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It includes all you can eat too or you can take it home with you if you like. Tickets are \$6.00 with children 6 and under free. Our location is once again the Forest Hills Community Center at 1639 University Drive. I will be glad to get you tickets for this event. Hope you can help support us with this project.

73's Sidney

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Meets 2nd Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM