

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



May 2008 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday May 6 DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM

The next club meeting will be on Tuesday May 6th at the Mayflower Restaurant. Dinner will start at 6 PM followed by a brief business meeting and the program starting at 7 PM.

Dinner: 6:00 PM Guests welcome.

Program: The DurHamfest is right around the corner in May and so Paul VanDoren will review the status of preparations and help those interested find their place in making this one of the best DurHamfests ever. A special treat this year will be a robotics demonstration.

The other major part of the meeting will be Show and Tell.

SHOW & TELL

Bring in what you bought at the RARSFEST or what you have built recently – or even what you just found again and brought back to life. New rigs are always interesting to hear about – let's see your latest gem. You can talk about it for 5 minutes or just set it up for us to see after the meeting.

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.

BOD ADOPTS AGREEMENT WITH DURHAM CO ARES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MCU

At the April BOD meeting a formal agreement was signed with the Durham Co ARES for emergency access to the MCU and other resources. Also adopted were Operating Procedures for non-emergency use of the MCU and repeaters. Please see the DFMA web site for more details. www.dfma.org

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

A club is as good as its members and its elected leadership. DFMA has a long history of being a good club.

We have an opportunity now to continue that by nominating and electing Officers and Directors who can make a difference. If you have some good ideas, see how to improve the club, know to draw in more members, and want to make DFMA more fun, then please run for an office. We will have a better club if more members are involved in its leadership – you can be one of those leaders! The DFMA Board of Directors consists of nine members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Repeater manger/Trustee/ and four At-large-members. The At-large-members serve 2 year terms, 2 members being elected each year; all others serve 1 year terms.

DFMA Meeting Minutes

1 April 08 7:30pm

John (Mac) Macaulay opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

Upcoming Events

April 5 – VA Hospital Comm Outage Exercise (Tentative)

April 12 – RARSfest, Raleigh hamfest at State Fairgrounds

May 6 – DFMA meeting, Show & Tell, last meeting before Durham hamfest

May 17/18 – Dayton Hamfest

May 24 – Durham Hamfest, Little River Complex

June 27-29 – Field Day

Net Control

April 3 – Rhett George April 10 – Wilson Lamb April 17 – Rene Couch April 24 – David Pegram

May 1 – Bill Creery

Brief Notes

- John (Mac) Macaulay will have some items for sale at the Raleigh hamfest
- Dee Ramm had not received bank statement for March, so bank balances for checking and savings are the same as February
- Wilson Lamb needs radio operators to start signing up for Field Day
- Dee Ramm donated battery for a repeater, has not been installed yet

- Dee Ramm encourages everyone to check out the DFMA website
- Rene Couch awarded the LID to Joanna George
- Joseph Fields has enough people signed up for set up and take down for the Durham hamfest, needs others to sign up to work during the event. There will be a robotics demonstration.

Door Prizes

5 for 1 Connectors – Paul Van Doren

Heater – Sid Edwards

DFMA Board Meeting 15 April 08 7:30pm

The meeting was held at Charles Durst office. John (Mac) Macaulay opened the meeting. The meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

Updates

- Durham Hamfest – May 24
 - Little River hasn't cashed our deposit yet, we are on calendar
 - Discussed companies/organizations that will be there
 - Talked about doing different activities during the hamfest
 - Discussed different door prizes
 - Received an update on the advertising
 - We are looking for an original copy of the DFMA patch design
 - Final planning will be discussed at May DFMA club meeting on May 6
- Field Day – June 27-29
 - Looking for some assistance with the food
 - Discussed ways to earn bonus points
 - Need to reserve port-o-potties
- Will follow up with Griffin to make sure it is mowed
- Memorandum Agreement
 - Discussed the removal of names and just list positions
 - David Pegram and Wilson Lamb are working on the MCU Operations Document
 - Dee Ramm requested acceptance of memorandum agreement as written with the names being removed. Wilson Lamb seconded the motion. The motion passed and John Macaulay and Lisa Armour signed the agreement.
- VA Hospital Comm Exercise went very well
- Need to nominate new club officers in May
 - Need a nominating committee
 - Paul Van Dorn and Lenore Ramm have agreed to be Co-Chairs
 - Possible nominees will be contacted
- **Durham ARES Assists the Durham VA Hospital During Communications Outage**
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- The Durham County ARES assisted the Durham Veteran's Administrative Hospital during a recent communications outage. The Durham VA hospital was updating their telephone system. During this time, the VA hospital had no telephone service during the outage. Durham ARES provided radio operators in several of the hospital's key areas to assist with communications.
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- Mike Boucher, Emergency Manager for Durham VA Hospital, requested the Durham ARES assistance. Mike was very pleased with how well everything went. He was very impressed with the number of personnel that showed up, the professionalism that was shown and how well equipped the members were. Lisa Armour, Durham County ARES Emergency Coordinator, was also very pleased. We were able to test our abilities in the hospital. At the same time, we were able to show a local organization what Durham ARES is capable of doing for them. We even had a real life emergency occur during the exercise. It was good to be able to use the MCU as net control and mission base.
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- During the exercise, Mike and Lisa walked through the different areas of the hospital. Other ARES members walked with them. As a location that required a radio operator was reached, an ARES member would stay at the location. Before the group moved on, the radio operator that was staying behind conducted a radio check with net control to confirm radio reception on both the repeater and simplex frequencies. The group would then move on to the next location. After everyone was at their assigned location Mike, Lisa and Don Watt walked to other locations where a radio operator may be needed to check reception. At every location, we were able to talk with net control on both the repeater and on simplex. Even when the transmission was from the basement and the radiology department where there are all kinds of lead to protect people from radiation.
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- Lisa Armour would like to thank everyone who assisted with this exercise and for making it such a success. It just goes to show what a wonderful group of people we have. These are Radio Operators who are dedicated to helping out others in times of emergencies, willing to respond when they are needed.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM