

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



August 5 2008 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday August 5 DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM

The next club meeting will be on Tuesday August 5th 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: Dan Eddleman

Upcoming Events:

CERT training in Durham Co. Beginning Sept 6, contact Betty Moore at Durham EOC.

ICS 200 training postponed until early August, see www.durhamares.org for upcoming details

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 Club Meeting

Attendees:

WA4BNT, W4DAP, W4KSP, AD6Q, KO4T, W4RWC, W4MKR, KU4GC, NC4CD, KD4AGQ, KE4QOZ, KE4HIH, KE4UVJ, Pres Creery, KI4RAN, KI4QXJ, KF4QYY, KF4QYX, KG4FTT, KI4JWA, W4BOH, Tom Rose (Smart Home Speaker).

Dee Ramm (KU4GC, President) opened the meeting. Introductions. Dee, on behalf of the club and the attendees, thanked J.D. "Mac" MacAulay (WQ8U) in absentia for his past two years of outstanding service as acting President /elected Vice President for the DFMA. Thank you, Mac!

M.K. Ramm (W4MKR) Treasurer's Report:

06/24/08 Checking balance: \$12228; 06/30/08 Savings balance: \$6982.

Initial Field Day Results:

Don Watt (KE4UVJ) reported ~283 voice contacts on 20M using the MCU and David Love's 20M antenna. Rhett (KE4HIH) reported over 200 contacts on 40M CW, and some voice contacts on 40M. Final numbers forthcoming. Many thanks to all the operators who participated, especially those who worked late into the night. Thanks to the members that helped with set-up and take down, and those who supplied the food and shared the cooking. Thanks also to field day coordinator, Wilson Lamb, W4BOH.

Door Prizes: ARRL 2008 Handbook won by Joseph (KF4QYY). Speed Square won by Derek (KO4T).

Lid of the Month: For Field day planning and his other services to the club: Wilson Lamb (W4BOH), awarded by Derek (KO4T).

Dee Ramm introduced speaker Tom Rose. Tom Rose is the director of the Duke University/Home Depot Smart Home project. The Smart Home is a ~6000 sq ft live-in lab/residence hall for engineering students. It provides a test platform for innovation and integration of "green" building projects and experiential learning. Some features include: smart walls (open in center for pipes, electrical, etc), a living roof, cisterns, and carefully planned placement of windows, ventilation, and solar panel awnings. See <http://www.smarthome.duke.edu/>

Meeting adjourned.

DFMA BOD Meeting Minutes July 15, 2008

Attendees: KU4GC, W4QWM, W4RWC, NC4CD, W4BOH, W4DAP, W4MKR, KE4UVJ, W4KSP.

Dee (KU4GC, Pres.) opened the meeting.

Officers' reports:

David (W4DAP, V.P.): Actively working on the August Program. Details TBA, please see website for upcoming information.

<http://www.dfma.org>

M.K. (W4MKR, Treasurer): Due to low interest rate on savings account (0.3%), the \$6972 balance plus some additional from checking was transferred into a \$10,000 no-risk, 9 month CD at 2.6% interest. There are no penalties or fees for early withdrawal, and money is still available easily if needed. Savings account was closed. Checking balance (7/15): \$8998.

Kelly (WKSP, Secretary) nothing to report. Wilson (W4BOH) mentioned he had forwarded an email from ARRL asking the club to update information with ARRL to remain active in their list. (Secretary's note: Updated club information sent to ARRL 7/18/08.)

Charlie (NC4CD, Repeater Manager) The duplexer for the 147.825-147.225 Hillsborough repeater was removed from active service when the voting receivers went into operation. In order to do some repairs and rebuilding of the voting system, the duplexer will be reinstalled and the Hillsborough repeater will operate in a single-site configuration. If you have pointed a beam antenna toward a site other than the Hillsborough transmit site, point it back toward Hillsborough when the change is made. Danny Hampton (K4ITL) returned the duplexer and NC4CD and KK4PH will make the changes at the hill. NC4CD took notes on Danny's expert duplexer tuning procedures and will make similar adjustments to the 144.85-145.45 duplexer at the VA Hospital site.

The duplexer for the 222.66-224.26 Hillsborough repeater was also tuned by Danny. We will probably single-site the 220 repeater at the same time.

MCU Managers' Report: Wilson (W4BOH, Board Member, MCU Co-Manager) reported that he had taken the MCU home to troubleshoot generator and some other issues discovered at Field day. The Yaesu HF radio output is sensitive to voltage drop, and the wiring providing power needs to be upgraded. Jim Langley (WB4YYY) has some larger gauge wiring to donate. Wilson also suggested the purchase of a battery booster to be installed in series to maintain a constant 13.8V. Discussion of battery booster sizes and appropriate installation. A motion to purchase a 40A booster for ~\$190 passed.

Also, the generator needs to be pulled to repair the governor. Don Watt (KE4UVJ), and David Pegram (W4DAP) offered to help. Don also indicated that a first-aid kit needed to be purchased for the MCU, and asked to consider a future purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Brief discussion of antenna plans for MCU.

Field Day Report: Wilson (W4BOH) indicated that the numbers for 40M CW were 260 contacts, and he was sending info to ARRL. He thanked Mac (WQ8U) and Rhett (KE4HIH) for CW operations. Several other folks worked some CW as well. He also thanked Paul VanDoren (KE4OXN) for 40M voice contacts which were 35 contacts, and supplying the 45W solar panel and batteries for the

40M station. Don Watt (KE4UVJ) indicated that he thought there were about 280 20M voice contacts, many worked by Dave Love (NU4BH) using his homebrew 20M dipole. Some discussion regarding 2009 Field day.

Old Business:

Hamfest Report: Any remaining receipts need to be submitted. A fair amount of profit was cleared despite lower turnout. Info available for review from Treasurer.

New Business:

Past years financial reports compiled and available for review. Discussion of financial data and trends.

Discussion of revising directory renewal form to account for availability/use of cell or other numbers not currently requested of published.

Discussion of establishing a Swap-page on website for equipment sale by members.

Silent Key: Timothy Van Heflin (K4AGZ) former DFMA member, June 29, 2008.

DFMA Field Day

A good time was had by a dozen or so DFMA members at the 2008 occurrence of the annual ARRL Field Day. DFMA member Doug Griffin once again allowed us to use his nice open field in Fox Hill Farms as our site.

Doug's land provides several acres for parking vehicles and camping, bordered on one side with tall trees ideal for anchoring one end of wire antennae. The other ends being supported by various contrivances erected by members, like army surplus poles and extension ladders. One year we even had a 40 meter delta loop antenna, supported at its apex by a tall pine and at its lower corners by our Porta Potty and 40 meter transmitter tent.

This year, Dave Love, with the help of a dozen or so assistants (some of whom actually assisted), erected his army pole to support one end of a 20 meter dipole connected to an HF rig in our trusty MCU. That station was quite effective on SSB, working most of the stations called. Joanna and Rhett George brought their great slingshot rig for shooting lines over the tree limbs. We have to get them a roll of monofilament before next year, since we no longer have enough line to go over the very tops of the trees.

Wilson Lamb's loyal ladder held one end of Rhett's venerable G5RV multiband antenna, veteran of many Field Day deployments. It was connected to a Kenwood TS-450 transceiver installed in the nice tent graciously provided (again) by Paul VanDoren. The old 450 and G5RV once again proved able to work almost every station called on 40 CW. Our ex-VP, Mac, WQ8U, finally proved that he knows the code (and how to handle a bug) by making many 40 CW contacts and giving Wilson time to help in the kitchen!

Paul also provided our batteries, and even a set of solar panels! Using the solar charged batteries and the panels, we made it through the whole 40m FD operation on one big battery, earning both battery and solar QSO points. There was a low spell Sunday morning, but the sun came up and got the battery voltage back up by the time we finished breakfast!

Speaking of breakfast, we had some nice bacon, eggs, toast, and coffee. Plenty of coffee, made with the help of the big generator in the MCU! Other meals, an important part of any Field Day, were hot dogs from the grill Friday night, some STEAK from the grill Saturday night, accompanied by a great salad brought out by Kelly Pegram, with CROUTONS, even! Kelly also organized some really epic hamburgers for Sunday Lunch! The only hungry hams were the vegetarians. Of course no mention of food can leave out Joanna George's great slaw, which we had with the hot dogs, the steak, and the hamburgers. I don't remember anyone having slaw for breakfast, but they may have. How about it Don? As usual, our food attracted a few people who appeared for short periods around meal times. We all enjoyed their company and the good eyeball QSOs that took place between bites.

Supporting this fun was all the DFMA camping equipment, like tables, coolers, kitchen tent, trash cans, and chairs all hauled out by our ever ready to help Don Watt. Fortunately, Kelly brought along her (young and strong) husband Dave, who was a stalwart helper in whatever needed doing, especially the arduous disassembly of everything Sunday afternoon. And he did some 20m SSB contesting too.

As usual, the participants owe a big thanks to the club for covering most of our expenses and providing our great MCU and support equipment. We are a rare club to be able to support members like this!

If all this sounds like fun, PLEASE come out to Field Day next year. You can help plan the operation, cook, eat, set up and operate radios, and gain some understanding of what it would take to actually do some communicating independent of normal facilities. We need people to operate through the night as well as during the day, on both SSB and CW. We can support digital, VHF, or satellite stations if people want to bring out equipment and make it part of NC4FD, our special Field Day call. Uncle Sam may need YOU, but DFMA needs you more! And it's not a bit too early to start preparing for next year. Mark the days on your calendar, get your equipment ready (and practice its use), and let the Field Day planners know what you want to do. You too can eat some home made slaw!!

Wilson Lamb, W4BOH

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM