

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



October 2008 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday October 7 DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM

The next club meeting will be on Tuesday October 7th 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: Randy McCray (KE4UCM) will present on Emergency Medical communications, past present and future.

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 Sept. 2, 2008

Attendees: KI4QXJ, W4BOH, KF4QYY, KK4PH, WA4AHR, N1YXU, N1LN, KU4GC, KR4UB, WD4KSZ, KE4OXN, W4KSP, WA4BNT, W4DAP, KE4QOZ, K04T, W4RWC, KE4HIH, KI4JWA, KM4UO, KF4TMS, KI4KNR, AI4WJ, Pres, KI4RAN, NC4CD, KJ4EWZ, KE4UVJ
Dee (KU4GC, Pres.) opened the meeting. Introductions.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer's statement (W4MKR via KU4GC): \$9298 checking, \$10,021.83 CD.

David (W4DAP, VP): Oct. program: Randy McCray (KE4UCM) will present on Emergency Medical communications, past present and future. November program (tentatively) D-Star with Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. Brief ARES reminder: check your go-kits and supplies as we are in hurricane season.

Secretary: nothing to report

Charles Durst (NC4CD, Repeater Manager): Duplexers will be installed at Hillsborough site tomorrow (Sept. 3). Joseph (KF4QYY) requested more information as to what that would accomplish. Charlie explained that once the tuned duplexers were installed, the 147.225 Hillsborough repeater could be single-sited and the voter system could be taken down and repaired or replaced. The repeater should function as it did before the voter system was installed.

Announcements:

Joanna and Rhett George are hosting the HamNic, Sunday Oct 12th. Requested arrival time is 3:30pm. Soft drinks and tea provided. Please bring a potluck dish or dessert to share and your favorite tall tales. VE Session at Sunrise Church in Hillsborough, Sat. Oct 11th.

Old/Other Business:

Dee asked Wilson and David if Lisa had spoken to them again regarding the MCU for the Durham Emergency Responders showcase. No further information at the time.

Wilson (W4BOH, Repeater Manager, BOD) indicated that MCU could be made available. Wilson also remarked on the new location of the Shelby HamFest, and the number of folks that seemed to be in attendance. Many dealers from out of state, and business appeared to be brisk for most vendors. He asked for Paul's input as a seller.

Paul (KE4OXN, BOD) indicated his sales had been reasonable, and other vendors had mixed reviews of the new location. Some had great business likely due to the higher turnout generated by new location, but others had not liked the format.

Lid of the Month: Wilson (W4BOH) presented the lid to Don Watt (KE4UVJ) for his efforts at the HamFest, Field Day, and MCU. Don transported items to and from Hoover Road, allowed his truck to be used as a ladder, and assisted in late evening MCU work so it would be ready for an event.

Rene' (AI4WJ) wanted to add to repeater comments. He has been hearing complaints and comments regarding the 147.225 on other repeaters. People on the 146.880 have mentioned not being able to check into the Possum Trot net. Rene' asked Charlie about the VA repeater as a back up or alternate to the 147.225 if the Hillsborough site went down. Charlie replied that there is a fully redundant 147.225 backup at TV Hill site, complete with generator power.

Door Prizes:

Paul (KE4OXN) won the multi-outlet power stake. Bruce (N1LN) won the handy tool set.

Program: Bruce and Laurie Meier (N1LN, N1YXU) gave a presentation on the planning and execution of their extensive tower set up for the Meier NC4KW super station. After several years of planning, and 16-18 months of hard work, the station is nearly complete. Consisting of 4 towers, numerous carefully planned antennas, and two operator positions, the NC4KW station is a serious contesting station or casual contact point. Best of all, the Meiers invite hams from the area to join them during contest events. If you are interested in participating, contact Bruce or Laurie Meier for more information.

DFMA BOD Meeting Minutes: Sept. 16, 08

Attendees: NC4CD, KE4OXN, KU4GC, W4MKR, W4DAP, KE4UVJ, KB9MGU, KI4JWA, W4KSP
Dee (KU4GC, Pres.) opened the meeting. No changes to previous minutes.

David (W4DAP, VP): Randy McCray (KE4UCM) has a presentation on current and future emergency communication systems in Durham's various agencies and hospitals.

David spoke with Charlie about the tentative D-Star presentation with Gary Pearce in November. Charlie suggested that a later presentation date once the gateway was active would be more appropriate. Possible alternative programs were discussed. Catering of December holiday meeting by Shrimp Boat was also discussed, in addition to the need to confirm whether the church would be available as a location.

M.K. (W4MKR, Treasurer): 9/15/08 checking: \$9748; in the CD: \$10,043.70

Kelly (W4KSP, Sec.) nothing to report.

Charlie (NC4CD, Repeater Manager): After two trips to Hillsborough site and some assistance from other club members including W4DAP, KK4PH, and W4QWM, some changes have been made to the repeater equipment. The 147.225 and 220 duplexers are reinstalled, the tones have been adjusted and the DVR message is back up. However, the changes have made Romeo and Juliet and the DVR sound scratchy. Sid has been working on the software for the remote base at the 147.225 site, and for the VA site. IRLP is still a question at the VA, but once a decision is made, the new hardware can be installed. Charlie needs to get that hardware out of the way before he can take the voter system home to try to repair or replace it. Dee relayed a message for Rhett (KE4HIH) that more people could get in for the PT net, and many appreciated Charlie's work. Joseph (KF4QYY) had also relayed his appreciation through David and to Charlie directly for the improvements to the repeaters. Charlie indicated he was looking for a new duplexer for the TV Hill 147.225 back-up site. He provided update coordinates for the towers to Dee.

New Business:

Paul (KE4OXN) asked the BOD if the Little River School was still the preferred HamFest location for 2009. If available, it is currently the planned venue. Suggestions for attractions for 2009 included Robotics demo again, Boy Scouts soap-box derby, a tethered hot-air balloon, or computer expo/flea market in the adjacent sports field. Alternative locations mentioned included the ATC parking garage.

Lisa (KB9MGU) presented a request to use the MCU at the Durham Emergency Responders Showcase. Motion for MCU use was approved.

Discussion of MCU use at the Sep. 18th Light the Night walk. If a driver is available, the MCU use is approved.

Discussion about use of MCU in the Bahama Christmas parade and DFMA/ARES participation. Lisa indicated she would look into registration.

W4BOH via NC4CD and W4DAP MCU report:

Wilson and David have been discussing replacement of the incandescent overhead lights with LEDs to reduce load on battery. The back lighting is out on the dual band radio. Wilson has ordered the 12V power booster, and requested Paul help locate a replacement battery as one battery appears to have a bad cell.

Brief discussion of MCU shelter.

News:

OCRA VE sessions now available during monthly meeting.

HamNic at the George's Oct 12th, 3:30p. Potluck.

SilentKey: K4GZF Jack Carter Jr. lost his fight with cancer.

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM