

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



January 2009 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday December 6

DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM will be held at Mayflower Restaurant. Bill KI4RAN is presenting on Camp courage. That group in MN that does radio camp for challenged individuals. He and his mom or dad will present a DVD.

DFMA Meeting Minutes

DFMA Holiday Meeting: December 2, 08

Attendees: KF4LJZ, WB4YYY, KA4AVM, WA4AHR, KR4UB, KA4YNQ, K04T, W4DAP, W4KSP, KE4QOZ, KE4HIH, W4BOH, KE4OXN, Patty Van Doren, KE4QYY, KG4NNT, Connita Reid, KD4AGQ, Marisa Sears, WA4MXA, KJ4HZK, KI4RAN, Pres Creery, RW4RWC, KU4GC, W4MKR, KF4PAB, WA4BNT, Lee Jones, KE4PWL, KK4PH, KB4WFW, KI4KNR, KI4JWA, Betty Foard, KE4UVJ

Dee (KU4GC, Pres.) opened the meeting, and welcomed everyone to the holiday meal. Introductions. Officers' reports:

David (W4DAP, V.P.): Nothing to report

M.K. (W4MKR, Treasurer): Checking: \$9,573 CD: \$10,086 before tower rent and other expenses.

Kelly (W4KSP, Sec.): Nothing to report.

Wilson (W4BOH, MCU Co-Manager): Some interest in winter field day, Jan 24th. Dee indicated he would put information on the website.

ARES: Nothing to report.

Dee reminded everyone that Bill (KI4RAN) would be presenting the January program on Camp Courage. Please attend.

Dee (KU4GC, Pres.) indicated that Rene' (AI4WJ) had resigned from the board, and according to the by-laws we would elect a replacement to fill the remaining term. Rhett (KE4HIH) has agreed to stand for election. Dee called for other nominations. None made. Rhett (KE4HIH) was elected to the BOD.

Dee reminded everyone that the Bahama Christmas parade was Dec. 13, and those volunteering and the MCU would need to be in line by 9am.

Door Prizes: Ed Robertson (WA4MXA) won the Leatherman micro tool, and Paul Van Doren (KE4OXN) won the multi-outlet outdoor powerstrip. Rhett (KE4HIH, BOD) announced that the Tuesday night SkyWarn net had Greg Fishel as a special guest, and Jeff Orrock (KI4KKX) on for the program, and it would begin at 9:15pm.

Dee again thanked everyone for coming, and invited the members to enjoy the meal.

Renewal Time

It is time to renew your membership in DFMA. See our web site for necessary forms or use the enclosed form.

<http://www.dfma.org/index.php/content/view/40/31/>

President's Corner

The DFMA participated in the Annual Bahama Christmas Parade with the MCU on Saturday, December 13. We staged at the Pegram QTH and did some minor decorating of the MCU. Kelly, W4KSP, provided a wreath for the front of the MCU, Don, KE4UVJ provided some battery powered Christmas lights, and MK, W4MKR, provided some big red bows. Wilson, W4BOH, brought the MCU and drove during the parade. He successfully avoided running over any children. (A few reindeer were not quite to lucky -- just kidding -- they'll recover :-). The weather was great!

The parade formed up on Ball Road near Bahama at 9:00am. We were entry number 108 and there were lots of entries behind us. The parade included an assortment of mostly motorized units, but we also noted at least one band and a number of riders on horseback. Of course, many fire and rescue companies were represented as well as clubs and other organizations. Someone even used a garden tractor to pull a wagon with kids, but it had trouble getting up the hills.

Sometime after 10:00am, the parade was started by Wool E. Bull, mascot for the Durham Bulls baseball team. After a while, we actually started moving and we headed for "down-town" Bahama. There were lots of families with children along the parade route. As is the tradition, we showered the kids and many a parent with candy. We were a bit too enthusiastic,

because in spite of bringing six large bags of candy, we ran out of treats before we came to the end of the parade route. All we could issue for the last stretch was hearty "Merry Christmas"s. Other participants were David, W4DAP, and Dee, KU4GC. A good time was had by all. (See pictures in the gallery on <http://www.dfma.org>)
Dietolf (Dee) Ramm (ramm@cs.duke.edu or dr@cs.duke.edu)

Silent Key: Robert Glenn Misenheimer W4YKI On March 16, 1906, in Laddonia, Mo. Robert Glenn Misenheimer was born of humble beginnings. He was second oldest in a family of six siblings. At an early age, his mother moved the family to Albemarle. Bob, along with one older and one younger sister, were placed in the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage due to the difficult economic times of that day. In those early years, he worked in everything from a newspaper print shop to laborer in a battery shop. Growing up, he was placed into different foster homes throughout Central NC. He never spoke of these early times in his life. At the age of 16, he developed Tuberculosis and as was the custom then, he was placed in the State Sanatorium. He received the treatment and amazingly survived. During this time, he developed a burning desire to read. This desire lasted until his eye sight began failing in recent years. He received his high school diploma in 1927 at the age of 21. By this time, the theory of electricity and early radio became his passion. He rode the train from Albemarle, to New York City armed with 17 dollars, cardboard suitcase, and the desire to educate himself. He attended Columbia School of Broadcasting, the RCA Institute, and the Marconi School of Morse Code. He became a shipboard radio operator and for a time sailed the high seas with both the Luxembourg Line and the Dollar Steamship Line. His interest in radio by now had become so broad that he obtained his amateur radio license. His original 'Ham' license was signed by Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, who later became the 31st President of the United States. Bob's radio call sign was W4YKI. Bob returned to New York and worked for the pre-television era stations of WABC, WNBC, and WCBS. Eventually leaving New York around 1932-33, he returned to NC, and in 1934 helped move WRAM radio station from Wilmington, to the rooftop of the Washington-Duke Hotel in downtown Durham, complete with new call letters, WDNC. He settled in Durham and opened a Radio Repair Shop, which he maintained until the outbreak of World War II. During this period, he met and married Evelyn Pittman and served in the Navy as a radio operator and electrical theory instructor, again in New York City. The wanderlust and adventure never left him. He went to Delray Beach, Fla., in the late 40s to build and start radio station WDRB, but ties to family brought him back to Durham for a time. A few years later, in 1952, he built another radio station, WCRE, in Cheraw, S.C., but again, family ties brought him home to Durham. This time, as he held a First Class Radio Repair Certificate, he joined a team of personnel to build and operate the new television station WTVD. At one point in his life, he 'moon-lighted' for radio stations WDNC, WPTF, WCHL, WTIK, and WSSB. He remained there until the late 60s and then began a new career teaching electricity and electrical theory at Durham Technical Institute. During this period, he joined and operated a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Bob passed messages to soldiers and loved ones for more than 30 years, all for free. He also thrilled many by teaching morse code to aspiring amateur radio operators. At the age of 97, he entered another new era of his already full life. He resided at Eno Pointe Assisted Living Facility the remaining five years of his life. He continued to operate an active ham radio Station in his room and taught morse code to anyone that asked and some that didn't. He was known for is openness and ability to sing a song one had never heard, or recite poetry to cheer people. Even in his last days, he could make you smile. The family would like to acknowledge the staff of Eno Point Assisted Living Facility for the comfort and care they gave to Bob. They watched over him as if he were their own. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Luther Calvin and Arabell Furr Misenheimer, his wife, Evelyn Pittman Misenheimer, four sisters, and one brother.

DFMA Meeting Minutes
Durham FM Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 2411
Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM