

# DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



## August 2010 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

**NOTE:** If you did not receive this by email, but would like to please email [mk.ramm@gmail.com](mailto:mk.ramm@gmail.com).

### Tuesday August 3

**MEETING LOCATION:** Our Meeting will be held at **Bullocks Barbeque 6:00PM.**

For more information, see <http://www.dfma.org> Durham FM Association

**Wayne, KJ4GDW**, will cover a number of topics including:

- Basics of RF Safety & FCC Compliance regarding RF Safety for Amateur Radio stations
- How to tell if you are being exposed to excessive amounts of RF radiation
- Test equipment for measuring RF exposure levels (more gadgets! :-)
- Climbing on towers or rooftops where there may be a danger of RF exposure
- Other situations, handheld transmitters, cell phones etc.

### President's Corner

Well, we have come through another Field Day, with flying colors! By combining with OCRA, those in both clubs get to participate with more friends and anyone who wants to operate has many stations and modes from which to choose. As for me, I had good fun on 20 meter CW, operating with Bruce, N1LN, from the MCU. Two other stations were in the MCU, 80 CW and 10 SSB. Mac, WQ8U soldiered through most of the evening on 80 and Wayne, KJ4GDW, lead the charge on 10 and brought in several other operators.

We also had 40 CW, some other SSB stations, and several stations operating PSK 31. Dee and MK provided their usual excellent commissary service Saturday night and Sunday morning, keeping hunger away for many participants. Saturday lunch was various leftovers and things from coolers, generously supplemented by Steve, W3AHL, with sandwiches from the kitchen of his motor home, the Field Day Hilton. Steve also ran his genny all weekend, providing computer and fan power to several tent based stations. Joe, K4SAR, provided an air conditioned trailer to house one station. We had beams, verticals, and dipoles, but the most unusual antenna, or antenna support, was the balloon flown by Bill, W1REP and Wayne, KJ4GDW, to lift a 135' vertical for 80 and 160 meters. It made about 100 contacts.

The most rewarding part of the Field Day exercise was the teamwork shown by everyone. Anyone needing help with a rig, tent, or antenna had only to ask, or sometimes just look overloaded, and one or more other hams would appear to help solve whatever problem they were having. Considering the heat and humidity, it took real effort to pull off setting up ten stations and their entire infrastructure! Field Day is, after all, meant to be a test of our ability to establish communication facilities under trying conditions, which I'd say we proved we can do!

So what would make Field Day better? MORE PARTICIPANTS Where were YOU that fine HOT weekend? We could have used more operators on phone, CW, and digital. There were plenty of old hands to help you get started, even if you had little or no experience, and there were stations unmanned at times, especially late at night. How about coming out next time and helping us wave the ham radio flag. You'll be the better for it and you'll likely gain some knowledge that will come in handy when you have the opportunity to help out in a real emergency situation. You'll also likely pick up some hints that will help make your operating from home more fun or more effective. If you help set up a station, you'll be able to see what equipment you'll need and how to set it up if you are the one called upon to help out in a time of need.

OUR MCU came through fine, except for a governor problem with the generator. We'll likely be having a work party to pull the genny and try to adjust the governor. If you can find any documentation on a kohler 7.5R61 generator, we can use it! And speaking of the MCU, you should see some discussion of its setup and operation elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please consider these points carefully, especially with regard to helping the overloaded people trying to keep OUR MCU operable and available to our community. She is in good shape, as far as we know, but can always use additional equipment and routine maintenance. PLEASE come out and help us keep OUR MCU ready to go! Who knows, you may get some tips on how to set up your own home or portable equipment.

73,  
Wilson  
w4BOH

### Durham FM Association (DFMA) Club Meeting Minutes – 7/6/2010

#### At Bennett Point Restaurant, Recorded by Lowell Tieszen – KK4PH Secretary

Attending: Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Bob(W4RWC), Lowell(KK4PH), Randy(K4XRM), Wanda, Ken(KI4QXJ), Jim(KB4OT), Wilson(W4BOH), Jim(WA4OPI), Derek(KO4T), Aimee(KA4YNQ), Dave(K4SAR), Karen(KD4YJZ), Jim(WD4KSZ), Steve(W3AHL), Bill(KI4RAN), Pres, Lad(W4ORD), Sam(KJ4VW), TD(N4TMD).

Total of 21 hams and 2 non-hams attended for a total of 23.

#### Called to order:

Wilson called the meeting to order.

#### Reports

#### Vice-President:

- Our next meeting August 3, will be a presentation by Wayne(KJ4GDW) on radiation Safety.
- There will be a VE Testing session at the next Orange County Radio Amateur's meeting on Monday, July 12 at 7:30. Bring \$15 cash or check, a photo ID, and any active license that you have.

## Treasurer's Report:

CD: \$10,298.75  
Checking: 8,626.15  
Total \$18,924.90

### Secretary:

The secretary reported items from the board meeting.

- o Doors were installed on the MCU.
- o Hamfest was discussed. Whether it was worth the \$200 spent on mailing the special copy of The Link to all hams in the area. The blog
- o A Ham-nic is proposed for this fall. Date and details to follow.

### ARES:

- o 8/21 9AM will be members meeting at Durham County EOC. Photo ID badges will be made and AREA 10 EC will be visiting.  
8/28 Red Cross will offer a class on Shelter management from 9 to noon or 1pm. This is special offering for hams. Class is open to all hams, see Randy(K4XRM) for details.

### Door Prize:

The door prizes were won by Aimee (KA4YNQ) and Bill(KI4RAN)

### New Business:

There was no new business

### Program: HF Digital Radio

- o Dave (W4SAR) distributed hardcopy report and spoke to the statistics and showed pictures from Field day. Had 9 stations last year and 10 this year with 334 more QSOs. A very successful contest. Official results should be available and published in November.
- o The second KN4AQ video from Gary (KN4AQ) on HF Digital was shown, which covers the AOR proprietary and "Soundcard" WinDRM and FDMDV products.

### Meeting was adjourned

Durham FM Association (DFMA)Board Meeting Minutes – 07/20/2010

Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Dee(KU4GC), Lowell(KK4PH), MK(W4MKR), Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Wilson(W4BOH), Randy(K4XRM), Ken(KI4QXJ)

### Reports

**President – Wilson(W4BOH):** Called the meeting to order..

**Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):**

Minutes from the 6/15/2010 Board meeting were distributed, reviewed.

**Action 2010-07-20-01:** Minutes from the 6/15/2010 Board Meeting were approved.

**Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):**

Next meeting will be on RF Safety.

**Treasurer-MK(W4MKR):**

Checking	\$ 8,464.27
CD	<u>\$10,300.44</u>
Total	\$18,764.71

There are 70 paid members.

**Repeater Manager-Charlie (NC4CD):**

Software loaded in new VA machine and in debug stage. Additional code has been written and needed to test.

Still need to interface remote base.

220 Repeater is back on the air.

### Old Business

#### Field Day review

2010-07-20: awaiting update from Paul (KE4OXN) on the \$160 due from SERA for advertisement.

- o Question asked how we might engage people earlier.
- o Durham emergency Management brought truck.
- o CW operations experienced significant interference from digital Transmissions. There is a study underway to understand in improve the situation for next year.

#### DFMA Web Site:

**Action: 2010-03-16-02:** The board has some concerns with capacity and ease of use as well as links and interface, with related web sites. Dee will investigate, and report, ways to improve and better connect the clubs web sites.

2010-04-20: Working to contact who have worked on the web

2010-05-18: Dee has spent time on this so progress is being made.

2010-06-15: Routine updates done, but now redesign.

2010-07-20: Meeting being scheduled with interested parties

#### MCU:

- o Shorepower cable spool will be mounted on hitch
- o Still need to order an HF antenna.
- o Needs NC Inspection

2010-07-20: Updates

- o Shorepower cable spool for hitch is complete and in the MCU
- o Batteries performed find during Field Day.
- o MCU is located at Wilsons
- o Governor became unstable when Air conditioner comes on and needs to be resolved.

**Action 2010-06-15-03:** Wilson will get vehicle inspected and have MCU at his house prior to field day.

2010-07-20: Inspection station not yet done.

**Action 2010-01-19-03:** The DFMA Board has asked Charlie to work with Dave(W4DAP) and Wilson to put a plan together to make the MCU more usable. Specific areas of concern are mobile HF, and digital text. Long range plan should include digital voice capability.

2010-03-16: Workday planned 3/20/2010.

2010-04-20: Several improvements made during the work day.

2010-05-18: Progress has been made with equipment being installed. Would like a plan for modes intended for the MCU and the equipment in-place, or required, to support these modes.

2010-07-20: Lowell (KK4PH) presented hardcopy breakdown of the areas of function for the MCU and what would be needed to complete. The major areas and status are listed below. Please contact Wilson or a board member if you have comments or would like to help with unfinished items:

- o **146/440 Mhz while mobile**
  - o Complete.
- o **GPS while mobile**
  - o Complete
- o **CB Radio while stationary**

- Need short (around 18") NMO mount antenna
- 2010-07-20: Lowell will get NMO antenna
- **Marine Radio**
  - New suggestion. Need radio and antenna
- **220 Mhz Radio**
  - New suggestion. Need radio and antenna
- **HF while stationary on 20, 40, & 80 Meters**
  - Need antenna. Antenna has been authorized, but not purchased.
- **146/440 Mhz while stationary**
  - Two dual-band radios are operational
- **146 Mhz digital while stationary**
  - Hardware and radio needed. We can use personal laptops when deployed. Need someone to identify and configure software, then teach others how to set up.
- **HF digital while stationary**
  - Need someone to understand hardware and software needs.
  - Need dedicated radio
  
- **440 Repeater with 146 Mhz Remote Base**
  - Need Repeater, Duplexer, control and 146 Mhz radio
- **800 Mhz Trunking**
  - Need radio & Programming Training
  - 2010-07-20: City radio shop has had radio for a year. Dispute now over who has programming responsibility.
- **WiFi connection / MESH network**
  - Need someone to define requirements
- **Provide 120Volt AC from MCU generator to outside**
  - Complete
- **Provide ability to connect MCU to external 120 Volt AC**
  - 300 feet available but significant voltage drop. Can not run A/C.
- **Documentation**
  - Need documentation of Registered Drivers, Generator startup sequence, Antenna patch , other operations

**Action 2010-04-20-04:** It was suggested that we investigate the cost of a garage to permanently store the MCU.

Wilson will get an estimate.

2010-05-18: No Activity

2010-06-15: Contacts identified but inquiries not yet set out.

2010-07-20: Estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000. Cost high because ceiling needs to be so high.

#### **ARES:**

August 21 three will be a General ARES meeting. ID Badges will be issued. New District 10 EC will be present.

August 28 Mass care and Shelter operations training at Red Cross. Classes will be from 9 until noon or 1pm.

#### **Ham-nic:**

**Action 2010-06-15-04:** Rhett and Joanna will propose a day at a future meeting.

2010-07-20: No details yet.

#### **New Business**

#### **ARES New Activities:**

There was discussion of working public service events and supporting the Scout JOTA (Jamboree on the air) weekend.

The date of the JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year.

It was noted that there have been some changes in the ARES Leadership structure and that the local web site is out of date.

**2010-07-20-02:** Randy will update ARES Leadership org chard on the web site.

Randy asked about several technical items

1. Possibility of linking 145.45 and 445.45 to increase coverage for ARES net
2. Possibility of changing courtesy tones during ARES activities.
3. Updating the documentation for functions on the Hillsborough repeaters. Current documentation is out of date.

Meeting adjourned

**Note : The Club and Board minutes for June 2010 are available on the web site. WWW.DFMA.ORG**

## **Durham FM Association, Inc.**

Post Office Box 2411

Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM