

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



December 2010 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday December 7

MEETING LOCATION: Our Meeting will be held at **Bullocks Barbeque 6:00PM**. For more information, see <http://www.dfma.org> Durham FM Association

Continuing a tradition of having the DFMA pick up the tab for our December Holiday Dinner Meeting, we will meet at Bullock's Barbecue Restaurant in Durham starting at 6:00pm. You will be able to order from the menu. This holiday dinner is the program. Bring your spouse or friend! This is our Holiday Meeting! In that tradition you may (optionally):

■ Bring a Christmas gift for a child to be distributed to Durham's needy. If wrapped, mark gender and age range on the outside. If not wrapped, that's fine too. If you have one -- a gift bag would work too

■ The Club will make its annual gift to the Durham Rescue Mission. We will be passing the "hat" for additional personal contributions to that cause.

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Club Meeting Minutes – 11/2/2010 At Bullocks Restaurant, Recorded by Lowell Tieszen – KK4PH Secretary

Lowell(KK4PH), Dan(KR4UB), Jim(WB4YYY), Sue(KA4AVM), Mark(KI4AIW), Beth, Noah, Ken(KI4QXJ), Derek(KO4T), Rhett(KE4HIH), Vic(K0OUX), Mac(WQ8U), MK(W4MKR), Dee(KU4GC), Randy(K4XRM), Steve(W3AHL), Charlie(NC4CD), Wilson(W4BOH), Mark(KJ4NPF), Bob(W4RWC), Matthew(KG4DPS), Wayne(KJ4GDW), Terry(WA4BVY), Jim(WA4OPI), Sam(KJ4VWG), Jim(KB4OT)

Total of 24 hams and 2 non-hams attended for a total of 26.

Called to order:

Wilson called the meeting to order.

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

CD: -----
Checking: -----
Total: -----

Secretary:

The secretary reported items from the board meeting.

- Problems with sensitivity on the 147.225 repeater. A work party was organized for following Friday. Noise is reduced and sensitivity improved.
- The club has a Service Monitor and Wilson wondered where it was. Lowell – KK4PH has the Service Monitor and will get it to Wilson for his evaluation.
- The Ham-nic was attended by 16 or 17 people.
- A summary of the Habitat ride the previous weekend was given.
-

ARES:

- State SET planned for 11/13
- Local SET planned for 12/11
-

Repeater:

1. Switched antenna for 147.225 Repeater and there is much less noise but problem not completely resolved.
- 2.

Old Business:

No Old Business

Program: Winmor

DFMA Club member Ken(KI4QXJ) has been successful in setting up WINMOR and sending emails over HF. Ken presented information that will enable us to give this mode a try. This mode only requires a newer HF Transceiver, and a computer with a good soundcard and appropriate interface cables. It works better if a second, external, soundcard is used. This program works into an overall plan to incorporate digital "email" capability in the MCU and Emergency operating locations.

Meeting was adjourned

Durham FM Association (DFMA)
Board Meeting Minutes – 11/16/2010
Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Paul(WA4OXN), Wilson(W4BOH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Bob(W4RWC), Charlie (NC4CD)

Reports:

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

Secretary:

Action 2010-11-16-01: Minutes from the October 19, 2010 were distributed and approved.

Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):

Next meeting is Christmas meeting and therefore will be no “program”.

Action 2010-11-16-02: Cost of the meals for the December program will be covered by the club.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Repeater Manager-Charlie(NC4CD):

A tower climber was available and went up to check the feed and line and antenna for the 147.225 repeater. The antenna and feedline look good on the high-quality test equipment that was used. There was no apparent water in the line. Antenna is currently split with duplexer still in-line. There was noise on the feedline joining the feedline to the two cavities and Charlie has taken the cable home to solder connections.

Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):

Minutes from the board meeting were distributed, reviewed and approved.

Action 2010-10-19-01: Minutes from the 9/21/2010 Board Meeting were approved.

Old Business

DFMA Web Site:

2010-11-16: New section with tech notes was created. Also section for user articles was created. Each board member should be able to contribute. See Dee if you would like to update.

MCU:

2010-11-16:

- Need HF Tarheel antenna – NC4CD
- Need permanent CB antenna mounted – KK4PH
- Waiting on Marine Radio
-

ARES:

State-wide SET. State ARES people were on Tarheel 80 Meter net. It was 1 ¼ hours into the 2 hour exercise before Durham County was given instructions. That was to deploy to the area of the Durham 911 dispatch center.

One problem was that brief messages became huge when written in a MS Word document.

There is a SET planned in the near future for Durham and Orange involving the Red Cross and Shelter management December 11. No farther details are available.

Public Service:

Habitat Ride: Scheduled for October 30. Wilson will be meeting on Thursday with organizers of the event. The ride is North to the VA boarder. The 443.275 (PL100) was suggested as a good repeater. Lowell (KK4PH) and Steve (WA3AHL) will be working to set up APRS to track assets.

New Business

Public Service:

There has been some discussion about taking the MCU in area Christmas parades. We will only participate if there is no charge.

Action: 2010-11-16-03: We approve the use of the MCU in the Parkwood parade. It was decided to not pay for entry into any events this year and will need a team of at least four, with at least two people walking with the MCU for safety. Meeting adjourned

President's Corner

Well, can you believe another year has flown by and it's time for the annual feed again!

I'm sure the other oldtimers will join me in encouraging the younger set to make the best of their time, since it seems to go by much faster the older one gets.

I hope lots and lots of you will join our happy group at Bullocks Tuesday evening!

Please remember that we collect money for the Durham Rescue Mission and toys for local kids as part of our seasonal activity. I think both are worthy causes and I plan to take a couple of toys. Furthermore, all donations up to \$20 will be matched this year (not by the club), just like during the NPR fund drive, so give all you like and get up to \$20 added on.

Since it's still near Thanksgiving, I'll say I think we should all be thankful for the pioneers of our club who set us up with an income that provides the means to operate all our great gear and support our activities with no need for money from the membership. Few clubs are in this happy situation! Perhaps we can all think a bit about how we can pay back a bit with our time and energy applied to Club business. We have maintenance to do, public service events to man, and emergency preparedness training and activities to conduct, not to mention that we always need officers and Board members. We also need programs, especially tutorials on new techniques and modes, like the introduction to WINMOR our own Ken Dufner gave us last time. If you have a knack for organization and publishing, Sid would certainly appreciate help with the newsletter. He has put it out by himself for several years!

Apparently the Dufner, Ahlbom, and Kauffman efforts to get us to think digital have borne a little fruit, since a few of us are now discussing the potential revival of some two meter packet activity using the TNCs still lounging in several attics and basements in the area. Yes, packet is outdated and unlikely to serve our ARES customers as they would like, but it may well help get some momentum going that will push us on into WINLINK and its better performance. Old as it is, packet has the potential to provide pretty good point to point links among locations likely to need modest amounts of digital messaging. SO, if you have an old TNC around the house, please let me or Lowell know. We'd like to have you put it on the air, or perhaps you'd be willing to pass it on to someone interested in trying to put it on.

There is some interest in taking the MCU to a local Christmas parade or two, especially Bahama, and the Board has already authorized participation if a driver and three crew members come forward. Let me know if you want to organize a parade outing. I did it once in Bahama and it was fun.

73 for now,
Wilson
W4BOH

FOR SALE: Box full of old ham equipment, including Kenwood TS520-S base station transceiver, Kenwood TH-22HT, Kenwood TW-4000A mobile, Alinco DJ-S11 HT, and a bunch of coax. Selling entire box, not individual items. Sold as is, but equipment appears to be in working condition. Moving soon and will take any reasonable offer. Chapel Hill location. Rick, KQ4RP, thecrumes@gmail.com, 368-0327 (before 9pm).

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM