

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



March 2011 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday March 1

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

PROGRAM: "Contesting, QSOs, Confirmation"

Bruce Meier, N1LN, will pass on some of the wisdom he has earned from years of contesting. He will offer practical advice and useful tips that will be very useful even for the more casual DXer. Bruce and his wife Laurie, N1YXU, have done two previous programs for the DFMA. The first was on message passing, drawing on their experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina while they still lived in Texas. In a later program, Bruce spoke about the building of his present contesting station which includes multiple towers and almost countless antennas. Both presentations were very well received. So this program is bound to be both entertaining and extremely informative.

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Club Meeting Minutes – 02/01/2011

At Bullocks Restaurant, Recorded by Lowell Tieszen – KK4PH Secretary

Hams: Lowell(KK4PH), Matthew(KG4DPS), Paul(KE4OXN), Jim(KB4OT), Jim(W4KSZ), Sue(KA4AVM), Jim(WB4YYY), Charlie(NC4CD), Herman(N4CH), Donna(N4RXL), Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Robbie(KI4TTZ), Bob(W4RWC), MK(W4MKR), Dee(KU4GC), Steve(W3AHL), Larry(W3LW), Wayne(KJ4GDW), Woody(K3VSA), Derek(KO4T), Vic(K0OUX), Randy(K4XRM), Lad(W4ORD), Terry(WA4BVY), Bill(KI4RAN), Dan(KR4UB), Wilson(W4BOH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Don(KE4UVJ), Sam(KJ4GDW)

2 non-hams: Wanda, M.G. A total of 33 persons were present.

Called to order:

Wilson called the meeting to order.

Woody(K3VS) invited DFMA to participate in Maker Faire. This is an event where crafts and artisan skills are exhibited. The date for the event is June 18, 2011 at the Kerr Scott building on the North Carolina State Fair grounds.

Reports

Treasurer's Report (MK):

Financial balances.

Vice President:

- For the March meeting Bruce(N1LN) "Contesting, QSOs, Confirmation"

Business:

Herman Cone pointed out that this February marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of DFMA.

Program

The program was Show and Tell. Follows are descriptions of items that were brought to the meeting

- Herman(N4CH): A small portable 40 meter rig
- Vic(K0OUX) brought a story and notebook of his experiences as an operator in Germany when he was a young adult.
- Wilson(W4BOH): An HF amplifier chassis is being build and is nearing completion.
- Ladd(W4ORD): An antenna base that he intends to build a 10-meter ground plane and a nice piece of metal work that will permit lines to be brought in through a window.
- Steve(W3AHL) An amplifier module from the TV Channel 4 analog transmitter. Channel 4 is 66-74 Mhz and with some modifications these should operate at 50-54 Mhz in the amateur six-meter band. A problem is the requirement of 50 volt power at about 50 amps. Steve brought a switching power-supply that was purchased on ebay for this application.
- Wayne(KJ4GDW) The loudest item: a pneumatic gun, powered by compressed air, that could shoot a potato about 100 feet in the air. This is useful to the amateur community in it's ability to get wires over high tree branches.
- Dee spoke briefly about his Christmas present, which is a full-featured Chinese dual-band ht. He contested the general belief that you could only program it with a computer. He has programmed mine it hand and reports that it's harder than the Japanese HT's but quite doable (and about 1/2 the price)
- Rhett (KE4HIH) A 1956 Zenith Transoceanic, Model L-600. short wave listening receiver.

Meeting was adjourned

Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Paul(WA4OXN), Wilson(W4BOH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Bob(W4RWC), Charlie (NC4CD), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Joanna(KE4QOZ)

Reports:

President – Dee(KU4GC): In the absence of our President, our Vice President Dee called the meeting to order.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Financial balances.

There are 45 paid members

Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):

Next club meeting will be Bruce(N1LN) talking about contesting and software

Repeater Manager-Charlie(NC4CD):

Working to evaluate tower project to get 147.225 and 224.26 antennas higher on the tower with new feedline. Also plan to swap repeater because there was a recall on the repeater.

If we replace the antenna for 147.225, then CommProd is recommended and cost would be about \$1,115.

ARES Had a meeting with EM Director Jeff Batton on February 8. Durham County May have a warehouse to store the MCU inside. Red Cross shelter drill is scheduled for March 19 and we will need operators.:

Old Business

Creekside Elementary: We need at least six volunteers to help Wednesday March 2, arrive around 6pm. We will put out QST's then plan to have QSO's between MCU & Classroom. If you have HT's or Badges, bring them. Let Rhett(KE4HIH) know if you are available to help.

MCU:

- 2011-02-15: Tarheel antenna delivered and demonstrated.
- Waiting on Marine Radio

Web Site: Demo of the Web site at the DFMA meeting was delayed because of the number of interesting Show and Tell items.

Maker Faire:

OCRA will be coordinating with DFMA and RARS.

New Business

Field Day

Dave (W4SAR) has accepted the appointment of Field Day Coordinator for DFMA. Dave has been an excellent coordinator of the combined OCRA/DFMA Field Day operations and DFMA would like to make this an official appointment.

Packet:

Dan(KR4UB) has loaded a Kantronics KPC-3 to be combined with an Alinco Dataradio to provide an APRS Digipeater in Roxboro. This will provide coverage in Northern Durham County and North to the Virginia state line. The equipment was given to Steve(W3AHL) to configure. Charlie(NC4CD) has cabinet and power supply.

Creekside Elementary School Science Fair

DFMA has been invited to support the Science Fair at Creekside Elementary School on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. The invitation comes by way of Rich Baldwin, KD6VK. He writes that the Science Fair is held every year and gets bigger with each event. The students all do exhibits. Many local groups including Duke University Department of Chemistry display their specialties such as astronomy, history of natural resources, and wild animals. The gymnasium is usually packed, additionally several classrooms are filled with interesting science displays.

The organizers are looking for a good spot to park the MCU so visitors have easy access. DFMA can have a room or part of a room where QSOs may be initiated. aspects of radio demonstrated, area club and ARRL information may be distributed, etc. It will be helpful to have four to six volunteers on hand to explain ham radio and perhaps discuss how it works well with the Internet. The building will be available for display set up at 1800, the Fair opens at 1830 and runs to 2100.

Hopefully Rich will join us at the February dinner meeting to share his thoughts and discuss issues that arise. He feels that this is a great opportunity to expose several hundred students and their parents to ham radio. He thinks the contribution made by ham radio to communications in public emergency situations may be a pleasant surprise to lots of Fair visitors. Let us support this activity in the fine style of DFMA.

Rhett - KE4HIH

President's Corner

Well, your president has not done a good job of telling you about the good things going on lately. Fortunately, our other officers have been keeping our records and providing programs for us to enjoy. Our programs are especially enjoyable after a nice Bullocks meal, so please come out and join us for our next meeting, where Bruce, N1LN, will be telling us about making DX contacts and getting them officially logged, so you can get credit for your QSOs to make them count toward your DXCC (100 countries) or some of the many other awards available to DXers! If it's not convenient to eat with the gang, come on out at 7PM for the meeting.

Last meeting, we had a nice show and tell session, with a big amplifier, a tiny QRP rig, an airgun antenna installer, and a KW amplifier for six meters to talk about. The members present made many complimentary remarks about the show and tell items and the ensuing discussions. In fact, I think we'll likely have more show and tell sessions in coming months. I know many members have interesting projects or historical artifacts that would make good show and tell material.

Are these programs not just what you want? How about putting one on yourself? There's nothing like organizing and presenting a program to make one appreciate the work done by other presenters!

Field Day organization has started! Dave, W4SAR, has agreed to handle DFMA field day organizing along with his work on the OCRA side of the operation. Of course we don't really have "sides" out there. Both recent joint efforts have been successful, with people pitching in as one group to get things done! It would be nice if DFMA could send out some more operators, KP helpers, antenna erectors, and campers to help make this year's operation even more successful. Based on previous scores and my observations of our operations, it's obvious we can substantially increase our score and easily capture victory in our class. Many of our stations have several hours of inactivity, due to lack of operators. A few people have been getting their CW skills back up, so they can contribute valuable CW points to the score. Our fine MCU, which has had several radio additions lately, will be serving as home to at least three stations again!

The score isn't everything, of course. Field Day shows us how well we can operate in the field and exposes the shortcomings in our plans and equipment. So please use the opportunity to get your radio and camping gear in shape for emergency deployment. Also, of course, the opportunities for eyeball QSOs around the kitchen are nearly unlimited, so you can satisfy your need to BS with other hams, sometimes even at the nice meals prepared by Dee and MK!!

OK, please come out for our next meeting, March 1, and bring a friend if possible. If you run into an unfamiliar ham on the repeaters, invite them out too!

73,
Wilson
W4BOH

Durham FM Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 2411
Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM

Haven't paid your dues yet?

You can find the form on-line at **dfma.org**

Then on the menu on the left side click on "Join the DFMA (or renew)"

Next click on "Front of Membership Form" next to the red symbol

Then use your normal print procedure for your computer

(For family memberships, also print out "Back of Membership Form")