

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



June 2011 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday June 7

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

Program:

1. Dave, W4SAR, will lead in our Final Planning for Field Day. As for the last two years, we will be operating joint with OCRA. Dave has the title of "Field Day Coordinator" for both clubs.

2. There should be time for some Show and Tell. This is always popular, so bring your latest project, or whatever you'd like to talk about.

(Finally we will also fit in a report on DurHamFest!)

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Board Meeting Minutes – 05/17/2011

Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Bob(W4RWC)

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

Reports:

Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):

Minutes from our 4/19/2011 board meeting were distributed.

Action 2011-05-17-01: The minutes from the April 19, 2011 meeting were approved.

Vice-President – Dee(KU4GC):

For our next club meeting, Dave(W4SAR) will talk about “Watt Meter Basics” and Paul (KE4OXN) will talk about the upcoming Durhamfest.

Action 2011-04-19-02: Dee will work on pulling together information for new members.

2011-05-17 New information will be on web. Check out and if OK then we'll close.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Financial numbers were sent after the meeting:

Checking ----- CD -----

There are 66 paid members

Repeater Manager:

The repeater manager was not present for the meeting.

ARES:

1. Upcoming meeting at the Red Cross but don't have the date – check the web page.
2. Need additional radio at the Red Cross.

MCU:

- Tarheel antenna is mounted but wiring needs to be completed.
- Marine radio is available to be installed
- Ken – Looking into WinMore on HF.

Old Business

Durhamfest:

- We will have two first prizes. Each a Wouxun with a programming cable .
- Dee will send to the mailing list that a group price of \$105 will be offered for Wouxun radios.
- Dee and MK will buy food.
- Need someone for talk in.
- Youth policy. Age 12 or below free if accompanied by paid adult.
- Dee has “Staff” badges available.
- Alamance county is having a problem finding Examiners.

Action 2011-05-17-02: We will offer free admission to any test candidates from Alamance.

Maker Faire:

OCRA will be coordinating with DFMA and RARS. Date is June 18 at the NC State Fairgrounds.

Field Day:

Action 2011-04-19-03: DFMA will supply the porta-potty for Field Day.

New Business

Elections meetings are the July meeting. We need to start thinking of any new officers.

Meeting Adjourned.

MCU and You (from Lowell, KK4PH)

It was seven years ago that DFMA made the decision to purchase the MCU (Mobile Communications Unit). It was a big decision and it was not unanimous. There were valid concerns with the expense, with the quality of vehicle we were getting, with insurance, who would do maintenance, as well as other concerns. I was on the fence, and I honestly don't remember how I voted. But the vote was affirmative, DFMA purchased MCU. That is history. We have the MCU and we have been making improvements ever since. The latest addition is a Tarheel HF antenna that can be raised from inside the MCU and tuned to the HF bands. It is very cool to be able to set up an HF Station so easily at a remote site!

DFMA is unique in having the MCU because there aren't any other clubs near us that have a vehicle where ham radio can be taken to an event to show, and demonstrate, our hobby to the general public. But the MCU only as value if it can be brought out and Amateur Radio demonstrated.

We would like for more of the DFMA members to become familiar with the MCU and participate in events involving the MCU. It is very good visibility for DFMA and Amateur Radio in general to have the MCU at community events in the areas, but we are short on persons to drive, and staff, the MCU.

If you have experience with driving mid-sized trucks please see Wilson about getting checked out. If you are available to work in the MCU let one of the board members know and we can give you a one-on-one session, or invite you to participate when the MCU is at an event.

If you are a DFMA member, the MCU belongs to you. It is functional and available for your use - and it's fun!

President's Corner

Well, it's happened again. You're about to waste a few perfectly good minutes hearing from your president, as Click and Clack would say...

There are several things worthy of note this month and first among them is ELECTIONS!

Do you think DFMA is running perfectly; not likely! Have you complained about the club to any of your friends? Well, I think we all hear occasional chatter about how we "could" do better and the things the "club" "should" do. So RISE UP, chatterers, and share your insight with ALL the members. Raise your hand and volunteer to take on some responsibility for DFMA and its future. SHOW us all what you can do and how much energy you have!

Its time for nomination of officers and very few new names have floated up, as usual, but there's still time. As in many clubs, our "nomination" process, which is supposed to consist of members honoring those they respect by proposing they serve as officers, ACTUALLY consists of the people who have carried most of the load for years trying to cajole each other to continue working and to browbeat a member or two to step up to the plate and help. We will keep cajoling and browbeating, but it would really be nice if a few members came forward and offered to help, without being browbeaten!

What do we need? Nearly everything! Yes, some officers are willing to stay on, but it's likely most would enjoy a rest, or the chance to try just contributing as a member and worker bee for a change. So let's start at the top and discuss the leadership structure of DFMA and what the various officers do. As you read, please think about how you and your talents might fit in and make the club better.

President-The President of DFMA stands up and "runs" the meetings, but has few real responsibilities, but has the opportunity to show leadership by getting others to come out and help with club operation and work. I have been fortunate that we have a core group of people dedicated to the success of DFMA who do not have to be "lead" in order to do their "jobs". I claim no credit for any of our success and would love to see someone more organized (younger) come forward with new ideas and more energy than I have given. I would really like to put more time into the MCU and club activities.

Vice President-This is the hardest job in the club! The VP looks for people to talk to the club members at meetings. This is a tradition in DFMA. Of course the VP hopes members will also find speakers, or put on programs themselves, but this doesn't happen nearly enough, so the VP puts a lot of effort to beating the bushes for programs. Dee Ramm has carried the VP burden for quite a while and wants a break. If you are in the working world, it's likely you have contacts with interesting people who could give us stimulating programs. Maybe you know family members with technical contacts? It's usually not too hard to get people to speak, once you know what they are good at. Most are pleased to share their hard won knowledge and experience and some even appreciate being treated to dinner! Have you ever noticed how much better a meal tastes when someone else is buying? Besides program work, the VP helps with club admin work and stands in when the President loses track of the date and misses a meeting, is sick or out of town or, as sometimes happens, is still eating when the start bell rings. Dee's service has been exemplary, not just as VP, but in many other areas. Let's honor him by having someone come forward to be VP. You will certainly be supported by all of us with experience.

Secretary-The Secretary keeps minutes of all meetings and handles most correspondence with the outside world, sometimes working with the Treasurer to process necessary documents. It's the Secretary who produces the corporate memory that keeps us afloat and assures we deal with issues that appear in minutes of previous meetings. Lowell Tieszen has done a first rate job as Secretary this past year, but needs a break to devote more time to the home front for a while. Hopefully he will find time to continue his good work with the MCU! We thank him for his service!

Treasurer-The Treasurer keeps the books of DFMA, writes checks to cover our expenses, and reports our financial situation to the members and leadership regularly. It's obviously the place for a detail oriented person with a feel for numbers. Our finance are not complex, but we do deal with the government a little and we do take in money from members and a couple of other sources. Of course Durhamfest and Field Day require some accounting and check writing, as well as some income. We maintain savings and checking accounts to deal with this massive cash flow. MK Ramm has been a dedicated Treasurer for some time and has agreed to continue, but if someone is willing to take on the job they should raise their hand! Thanks to MK for steadfast service and a close watch on our considerable financial resources.

Directors-We have a Board of Directors who deal with the many issues that come up, make our minor financial decisions, and sometimes propose actions to the members. The Directors work with the Repeater Manager and MCU Committee to husband our physical resources. They work with the Hamfest and Field Day leadership groups to see that those important activities are scheduled and supported as needed. The Board consists of all the club officers, plus several at large members who serve staggered terms and represent the interests and opinions of the membership at Board meetings. We always need interested members to provide additional input to our governance processes. If you would like to be "in on" the most basic workings of the club and are willing to help with leadership, here's your chance! Nominate yourself, or get a friend to nominate you.

Repeater Manager- And last but certainly not least is the person who makes it possible for us to chatter and gossip on our several repeaters. Charlie Durst was instrumental in DFMA becoming a self supporting club and continues to be the brains and backbone of our on-air operations. It's obvious that no one could fill his shoes, but he could use some help, especially if someone would be willing to take some serious training and devote some real work to maintenance and installation activities. It's really easy to complain about repeater shortcomings but harder to give a Saturday morning to troubleshooting. Please, if you have some RF background, give some thought to helping Charlie. We all owe him big time!

We will discuss these matters and get a slate of officers together at our next meeting, so throw your hat in the ring if you possibly can. We cannot keep things running smoothly without some new blood at the top!

WOW, that got long, but it's smooth. And now a few words about DURHAMFEST and FIELD DAY. DURHAMFEST went off well. We probably didn't make as much money as last year, but the weather cleared for us after a wet Friday setup and we had reasonable numbers of dealers and visitors. No one became ill from the hamfest food, as far as we know, and no one was hurt carrying tables. The MCU performed well and was admired by many visitors throughout the day. The fritters were a hit and several vendors told me they were happy with their sales. Thanks to Paul van Doren and all the many supporters who spent a wet few hours Friday and/or an early wakeup and good day's work on Saturday. We especially appreciate the several people who helped for the first time. Cooperation was great and there was never a cross word! All jobs were tackled with energy and enthusiasm. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Field Day is almost upon us. I've already talked a lot about how well things have been going with the merged effort with OCRA and the great cooperation from all hands. Please join us this year for setup Friday afternoon, 6/24, 2PM, for setup and anytime Saturday for the big event. Competition starts at 2PM Saturday and runs 24 hours. We need phone and CW ops, help around the kitchen and

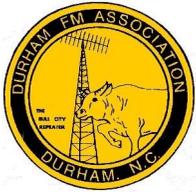
grounds, and general encouragement. We especially need CW skills, because CW contacts count for two points AND it's far easier to run up contact numbers on CW. There are many experienced technical and operating people onsite, so you can be coached in whatever skill you wish to develop. I guarantee you will get more out of Field Day than you put in, if you come out with an open mind. Well, maybe a strong back will help too, but it's not required.

I hope Sid can get all this in. It's all important. Please remember to reach out to your fellow hams AND to invite nonhams to join our great hobby.

73 for now,
Wilson Lamb
W4BOH

Durham FM Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 2411
Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM