

DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



August 2011 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

Tuesday August 2

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

PROGRAM: The Program (back at Bullock's BBQ) will be "Radio Controlled Model Airplanes" by Dick Pettit, WA2ROC.

Dick writes: Several years ago, I was asked if I'd like to prepare a presentation for DFMA on one of my other hobbies, building and flying radio controlled model airplanes. Since I have been told that I could say more and more about less and less, I agreed and made that presentation.

At the June meeting, there was some concern that there would be limited presentations at upcoming meetings. so I again volunteered to do a similar presentation, this time with some video and maybe other "visual effects". So, be sure to join us at Bullocks on the Tuesday, August 2nd at 6 PM for dinner and stay for my presentation at 7 PM.

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Board Meeting Minutes – 07/19/2011

Recorded by Lowell (KK4PH)

Attending: Lowell(KK4PH), Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Ken(KI4QXJ), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Bob(W4RWC), Charlie (NC4CD), Vic(K0OUX), Randy(K4XRM)

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

Reports:

Secretary – Lowell(KK4PH):

Minutes from our 6/21/2011 board meeting were distributed.

Action 2011-06-21-01: The minutes from the May 17, 2011 meeting were approved.

Treasurer - MK(W4MKR):

Checking -----

CD -----

There are 81 members

Repeater Manager – Charlie (NC4CD):

There was discussion on the problems with the repeater.

1. Worked on noise on 147.225. Probably noise from the tower structure.
2. Found problem with 224.26 to be a commercial transmitter on the 217 Mhz.
3. Plan to move 224.26 repeater antenna to top.

Action 2011-06-21-02: Lowell will coordinate the effort to repair the roof of the building at the Hoover Road site. Costs will be covered by the club.

Action 2011-06-21-03: Wilson will coordinate the effort to repair the siding of the Hillsborough site. DFMA will pay for costs for the repair.

Vice-President – Dee (KU4GC):

Next program Dick Pettit (WA2ROC) on remote controlled aircraft

Proposed officers for next year:

President:	Bob(W4RWC)
Vice Pres:	Wilson(W4BOH)
Secretary:	Dee(KU4GC)
Treasurer	MK(W4MKR)
Board:	Jim(KI4HQO)
Board:	Vic(K0OUX)
Repeater Manager	Charlie(NC4CD)
Continuing:	
Continuing Board:	Ken(KI4QXJ) Rhett(KE4HIH)

Appointed Positions

Hamfest Chair Paul (KE4OXN)

Field Day Coord. Dave(W4SAR)

ARES – Randy: (K4XRM)

- Combined meeting with CERT this Thursday and is basic storm spotter training.
- Radio shelf is raised in EOC
- NC4RC proposal is going forward to get funding for radio room.

MCU – Lowell (KK4PH):

- Waiting on VHF antenna for marine radio
- Need laptop for Winlink

- Ken (KI4QXJ) Will get the Yaesu from MCU at Field Day and work to get WinMore on HF working.

New Business:

Hamnic Scheduled for October 8, at Georges

Web hosting dues are being paid

Question about a digipeater at Gibbs road tower. Steve(W3AHL) has the equipment so Dee can contact and work together to get it configured.

Charlie voiced concern that there have been non-profits who had non-profits status removed because they were taking income that was not tax-exempt.

Action 2011-07-19-02: Randy will provide the name of Parkview Fire Department's accountant to our treasurer and vice-president. We authorized the treasurer to confer and hire a tax accountant to review operations to ensure we are in compliance as a 501-c .

Meeting adjourned

Durham FM Association (DFMA) Club Meeting Minutes – 07/05/2011

At Bennet Point Grill, Recorded by Lowell Tieszen – KK4PH Secretary

Attending: MK(W4MKR), David(KJ4NPF), Vic(K0OUX), Bob(W4RWC), Gary(AK4IH), Jerry(KE5UIH), Robert(KR4JB), Chris(KJ4CQQ), Heath(KD4DNX), Ladd(W4ORD), Donna, Joanna(KE4QOZ), Rhett(KE4HIH), Wayne(KJ4GDW), Janet, Dave(W4SAR), Karen(KD4YJZ), Dan(KR4UB), Wilson(W4BOH), Lowell(KK4PH), Dee(KU4GC), Lenore(KF4PAB), Randy(K4XRM), Jeremy, Ben(KB4NQH), Ken(KI4QXJ), Ed(N4ZQE), Rodney(AK4CT), Jim(KB4OT), Tanner(KB4TYE), Dave(W4DJK)

28 Hams and 3 non-hams for a total of 31

Called to order:

Wilson called the meeting to order.

The Bennet Point Grill provided a nice change, for the July meeting. Our meeting August 2nd, will be back at Bullocks BBQ, 3330 Quebec Drive in Durham.

Program

The program was given by Christopher (KJ4CQQ) and Alan (KR4JB) are part of the NC Near Space Research group (www.ncnearspace.org) that has launched several balloons past 60,000 feet.

While they have successfully used APRS for tracking balloons, GPS units must be used that report altitudes over 60,000ft. Many interesting high-altitude pictures were shown, many of which can be found on a link at their website given above.

Meeting was adjourned

Presidents Corner

Like so many others, I'm more busy than expected this summer. I don't have to drive the carpools, but there is more kid time, gardening, etc. I deserve no sympathy though, since so many are out there working to help fund my life of retirement leisure. I have to say here that if you youngsters (under 65) hope to have any "leisure", you'd better be saving aggressively.

I know I'm drifting out of radio, but the statistics regarding savings in our country are appalling! With our "safety net" programs under constant pressure, we can only expect to see them slowly reduced in scope, making our private savings and company retirement plans all the more crucial. You ARE putting all you can in your IRAs and 401 Ks, aren't you? Trust me; when you are 65 and your skills are obsolete you will no longer care about what new cars you bought or the size of the houses you owned. You will care about how much you have in the bank to pay for medical stuff, food, and housing.

Social Security, wonderful though it is, won't be enough. OK, off that soapbox. I'd be happy to discuss further, if anyone is interested.

RADIO--It's a great time to be inside, so hopefully you have some usable antennae in the air and some functional radios. The bands are opening more and more and there are more and more DXpeditions, islands, special event stations, and new countries coming on the air. And the ragchew crowd is always there, so tune up and see what you can do. Check out <http://www.darcdxhf.de> for some news about DX happenings. There are even some openings on VHF/UHF, so put up a little beam and see how far you can work with your handheld or mobile rig inside. Even 30' of elevation on a chimney mount will produce some range improvement up there on the real short waves.

CLUBWISE, the MCU has been cleaned up after another smashing Field Day success. It was host to three stations and kept the elderops cool and happy.

A persistent problem with our 220MHz repeater was found to be a faulty commercial transmitter, now shut down.

A team of troubleshooters has determined "conclusively" that our 147.225 repeater noise is caused by RF rectification in structural and guywire joints on the tower. Hours of banging around have not located the offending joint(s), so Charlie is aggressively moving forward with installation of our new voter and remote receiver link system. **HELP WILL BE NEEDED WITH THIS PROJECT**, so raise your hand and get involved. There's a lot to learn that will help you in your own hamming. We have had two very successful public service event communications operations on .225 recently, great publicity for DFMA and ham radio!

The long awaited replacement of our 145.45 repeater on the VA is also picking up steam. Lowell, KK4PH, and Gary, AK4IH, have been programming and testing the new controller and preparing it to support "remote base" operation, meaning the 145.45 system can be connected to other radios to increase its range.

Please ask Lowell, Gary, or Charlie for more details on this, if you are interested. **HELP WILL BE NEEDED TO INSTALL THE NEW RACK FULL OF GEAR.**

Ken, KI4QXJ, is working on setting up a Winlink station in the MCU, to give it significant email messaging capability. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR A LAPTOP OR SMALL DESKTOP PC** to support this capability. Please let Ken or me know if you have something to donate.

Lastly, there is increasing interest in APRS and some new fixed stations are already operational. There are plans for adding APRS capability using towers to which the club is fortunate to have access. Please ask Lowell, Steve (W3AHL), or Charlie about this system, if you are interested.

ADMINISTRATION--Along with the excitement of elections next week, we need to find a new editor for this newsletter, **THE LINK**. After many years of yeoman service, for which we are very grateful, Sid, W4QWM, is moving on to some new projects and retiring from The Link. **THE CLUB NEEDS HELP WITH THIS.**

Can YOU give a few hours a month to collecting the minutes of our meetings and browbeating the officers to give you some articles? You can even put in some of your own verbiage, if you like! There's no reason there can't be some technical material, tutorials, or philosophical discussion in The Link.

Did I mention ELECTIONS? It's not too late to come forward, if you want to take a shot at helping support your club. Even if you aren't elected, we need help with organizational matters and PROGRAMS. PLEASE let me know if you can give a 30-45 minute talk on something interesting. It does not have to be technical. Think also about colleagues at work or other acquaintances who may have expertise or experience that would make a good program. WE NEED HELP WITH THIS.

OK, I thought this was going to be short, but there is a lot going on. I look forward to seeing you back at our usual Bullocks location next week.

Bring a laugh and a smile and brighten up our meeting. And bring along a friend, neighbor, or fellow ham too. Maybe we can generate some new activity! 73, Wilson, W4BOH

Newsletter Editor

This is my last newsletter. I have enjoyed doing it. It is time for someone to step up and continue the newsletter. Let me know if you need any info to help produce it.

Durham FM Association, Inc.

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM