



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 4

Bullock's BBQ 6:00pm

Program: Terry Rogers, WA4BVY, will speak on "Optimizing Performance"

Everyone's radio success depends upon radiating energy from an antenna. Optimum radiation AND optimum transmitter performance require matching the impedances of the transmitter and antenna to achieve effective energy transfer. Terry will be explaining what "impedance" is and how matching-networks (tuners) work, what makes a good tuner and what makes a bad one. There will be examples of real tuners for observation and members are encouraged (urged) to bring in tuners to show, especially homemade ones.

President's Corner

Dear Fellow DFMA members:

We hope to see many of you at the George's on Oct 8th for the Hamnic. There will be good food, fun and lots of exchange of great friendship and conversation. Don't forget to bring a favorite dish to share. See you there.
73, Bob W4RWC

DFMA HamNic - Saturday, October 8

3:30-7:30 at the Rhett and Joanna George QTH.

(3719 US 70E, Hillsborough, ph: 732-8492)

Pot Luck -- bring a dish to be shared. There will be some hamburgers, salmon burgers, and Boca-burgers. A grill is available. This is a lot of fun! If you haven't seen Rhett's train layout, you'll be amazed.

Directions:

From Durham, take US 70 west toward Hillsborough; pass under I85; pass by Bull City Radiator on your right; keep going. Driveway is on the left, just past Red Hill Farms, on your left. If you get to Wayside Church, you've gone too far.
Talk-in on 147.225.

Parkwood VFD BBQ Sale

PVFD Pork BBQ Sat Oct 8th. 12n-7pm at Parkwood Fire Station #1, 1409 Seaton Rd, Durham NC 27713. Pork BBQ, Plate w/ Slaw, Hushpuppies, Brunswick Stew and Tea in Adult (\$7) and Child (12 and younger \$4) sizes. Eat-In, Take-Out or Drive-Thru

Note: The Parkwood Volunteer Fire Department provides us with a space to park the MCU. Please help support its fundraising activities.

Don't wait too long: they've might run out early!

Hint: Need something to take to the Hamnic? Everyone loves BBQ.

Habitat Halloween Bike Ride

Hello... We as local amateurs have an opportunity to shine once again this year and help a local group Habitat for Humanity with one of their annual fundraisers. On **Sat Oct 29th**, Habitat for Humanity is having their Halloween Bike Ride Event with routes of 31, 62 and 100 miles through Durham, Person and Orange Counties. The event begins registering cyclists at 7am, the ride begins at 9am and ride support ends at 4pm. We have been asked to help staff the rest stops and the command center at Durham Bulls Athletic Ballpark with operators to assist the Durham Co Sheriffs Dept with overall Safety Support for this event.

I'll be getting further details in, but I need to get this info out to everyone and get some feedback from those who may be able to help with this event. I would like to, at least, get a minimum of 2 people per assignment to sign-up because of the number of hours, but will take more as there may be additional needs for this event. Below is some pre-planning based upon last year's events of 3 routes, 5-rest stops, 3 SAG vehicles, 1-Sheriff's Command Unit, 1-MCU, and 1-Shadow operator for the Event Coordinator. Would ideally like a minimum of 10 operators for the event either for the full day or if you can only help part of the day. Those of us who participated last year had a full day of fun and put our operating skills to use, even tried some new things we don't use very often. Participation is open to any operators in the area who want to help out, just let me know.

Operators interested in helping with this event email me at aec@durhamares.org

Thanks, Randy McCray K4XRM EC/Durham Co ARES

For more info, go to:

<http://durhamhabitat.org/volunteer/halloween-bike-ride.html>

APRS Rebounding -- WR4AGC-3

When my daughter, KF4PAB, and I drove to Cambridge (Mass) in 2002, we left the main highway somewhere in Connecticut to get gas. Within minutes, we received a cell phone call from my wife, W4MKR, asking if we had made a wrong turn. We explained. You see, my daughter's van had a Kenwood D700 and was sending out packets every two minutes reporting our position through APRS. My wife was able to follow our progress in fair detail. On a later trip to visit a cousin in Arkansas in 2004, the APRS coverage was very spotty and trying to keep track of us that way was an exercise in futility.

Either APRS was a lot less popular west of here or the enthusiasm for APRS had waned in general.

Certainly, at home in Hillsborough, setting the radio to the APRS frequency used to produce an almost continuous stream of packets. A few months ago, there were long, long intervals with no activity. Locally, at least, support for and use of APRS had almost stopped. I know there were at least 3 digipeaters in Orange County around 2000. This spring there were none.

Last fall, when ARES was providing support for the Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride, there was a real effort to use and demonstrate APRS to the Durham County Sheriff's office. Through heroic efforts by Steve, W3AHL; Lowell, KK4PH; Matthew, KG4DPS; and several others, we were able to get some trackers in the race and were able to show some results. There was a feeling that it would be nice if we could do more.

The picture has changed. For the last few months, Sam, KJ4VWG, working to support Meg's, KI4LLL, classroom at the Central Park School in Durham, has set up an APRS digipeater and I-gate at the school. After fighting hardware problems (donated older equipment), human problems (please don't turn this off at night!!!!), and software problems he has crafted a very nice system. This station, W4CPS, now provides great coverage in the City of Durham and parts of the county. Its range is limited, however, and is of little use in Orange County and Northern Durham County.

Well, this was just the beginning. As of mid September, we now have the WR4AGC-3 digipeater on Gibbs Lane in Orange County (off of Palmers Grove Church Rd off of US 70 near Wayside Church). (The DFMA used to have a packet repeater at that site in the 80's and early 90's). Putting this digipeater on the air also showed our ham community at its best -- a real team effort.



Dan, KR4UB, lent the KPC-3+ TNC to the effort. Lowell, KK4PH provided the radio which he'd been maintaining for the DFMA. Steve, W3AHL, built the brackets to rack mount the TNC, made cables to connect it to the radio and programmed the TNC. Charlie, NC4CD, supplied the power supply, tower site and put it on the air. And, since this is only a digipeater (there is no Internet connection) Sam's W4CPS provides a great path for packets to get to the Internet. (Several other digipeater/I-gates are also available further south, including Steve's W3AHL-4) Early results indicate excellent coverage over a very wide area.



So, the Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride is coming up again (October 29th). I hope we can put on a good show for everyone and increase the information level available for the Sheriff's staff and the other race support staff.

It looks like APRS is making a come-back in this area.

-Dee, KU4GC

(See the website, APRS.fi, for a good display of what is going on. Specify a time, like 3 hours at the right. When the map comes back, pan the map to show your area and see who's been going by.)

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting - 9/6/11 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending: Charlie, NC4CD; Wilson, W4BOH; MK, W4MKR; Dee, KU4GC; Rhett, KE4HIH; Bob, W4RWC; Lowell, KK4PH; Ken, KI4QXJ; Mike, KK4BPH; Vic, K0OUX; Derek, KO4T; Dan, KR4UB; Steve, W3AHL; Dick, WA2ROC; Robbie, KI4TTZ; Dan, KK4DMS; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Pete, K4PHS; Jim, KB4OT; Dewey, WA4AHR; Lad, W4ORD; Meg, KI4LLL; Jim, KI4HQO; Bill, KI4RAN; Pres; Ken, KI4QXJ; Ben, KB4NQH; Edwin, KK4DDM; Kaiting; Sam, KJ4VWG

A total of 29 including 27 hams.

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REPORTS

Vice President - Wilson, W4BOH

Nothing to report.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Financial balances.

Members: 84 (by the end of the meeting)

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

The highlights of the Board Meeting were presented. The minutes of the last Board and Club meetings as printed in the Link were approved by the members attending.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

He has gotten the equipment for an APRS digipeater from Steve, W3AHL, and will install it at the Gibbs Lane tower when he gets some free time.

Board Members

- + Ken, KI4QXJ, reported that his Winlink efforts are "very close". He has been having antenna problems.
- + Rhett, KE4HIH, reported that the repeater (225) has been doing well and is "usually" OK.

ARES

- + Lowell: Met with Mark Shell of the Durham EOC regarding efforts to improve communications.
- + Dee: Randy, K4XRM, is working on our repeat participation in support of the Habitat for Humanity Halloween Bike Ride, on October 29th. Last year that included three bike courses including a 100 mile course through Durham and Orange County.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no formal business that needed attention at this meeting. Other activities included:

Announcements

Meg, KI4LLL, passed the Lid to Audrey, KK4CRZ, for getting her license and getting it at a younger age than any DFMA member. Audrey was 9 when she was licensed this summer! (The lid was received by her father, Sam, in her absence.)

Ben, KB4NQH, announced that he had accepted a job in Caldwell County and that this would be his last meeting. He will be missed.

Door Prizes

MK, W4MKR, won a "spark plug" key-chain flashlight, and Derek, KO4T, won a multimeter.

PROGRAM: Show and Tell

Dan, KR4UB, brought a Ford spark coil designed for a Model T. Dan and several others related anecdotes of their using such a coil for communications and various pranks.

Dick, WA2ROC, brought several microphones and related some experiences.

Dee, KU4GC, brought a small 12V battery charger/minder built from a parts kit provided by Steve, KZ1X (through OCRA). This one was mounted in a vitamin E cream jar and included a power cord and a Powerpole connector.

Rhett, KE4HIH, brought a boat anchor which included all metal tubes and a special drawer to hold a note pad.

Steve, W43AHL, brought a lightning detector system which he had through his SMAT work. He showed software that allowed this equipment to map out a thunderstorm. The detector is made by VoltTek.

Wilson, W4BOH, brought a WiFi antenna made with a heavy-duty section of pipe.

Lad, W4ORD, brought two telegraph keys (that still work).

Dee, with the help of Lowell's laptop with an Internet link, demonstrated the use of the DFMA's web page, dfma.org. His demos focused on posting news and posting an event on the calendar. He urged members to use the club's web site and to post things. All members can have an account (most already do). The login ID is the member's call sign (lower case). If they have forgotten/lost the password sent to them, they can click on the lost password link and follow instructions. As long as they enter the same email account as was used to set up the account, they can then reset their account. Otherwise they should contact, Dee at ku4gc@amsat.org for a new password.

Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Board Meeting - 9/20/11 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: 2019 Front Street, Durham

Attending: Charlie, NC4CD; MK, W4MKR; Dee, KU4GC; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Bob, W4RWC; Ken, KI4QXJ

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

REPORTS

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Financial balances.

Current members: 84

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Minutes of the Club meeting of 9/06 were approved with minor technical corrections.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

The APRS digipeater WR4AGC-3 has been put on the air at the Gibbs Lane site. It seems to be working very well and providing excellent coverage. Thanks to Steve,

W3AHL; Lowell, KK4PH, Dan, KR4UB, and others who provided assistance in this effort.

Members at large:

+ Rhett, KE4HIH:

The 225 repeater has been doing well for the Possum Trot Net.

+ Ken, KI4QXJ:

No progress has been made on Winlink. Ken is having antenna problems and needs to fix these before he can proceed on the Winlink project.

ARES:

There was no official representation, but Wilson, W4BOH, who was not able to attend, sent a note that the upcoming Halloween Habitat Bike Ride, which we will be supporting on Oct 29th should be discussed. There was some informal discussion. This included asking OCRA for use of the 442.150 repeater. It has excellent coverage for the race area. It was also felt that full involvement of Orange County ARES was very desirable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ Charlie, NC4CD:

Bill Fleeman, WD4HBU, former DFMA member, SK + Bob, W4RWC:

Bob reported that Jim, KI4HQO, misunderstood our Board meeting times and has a professional meeting conflict on the third Tuesday evenings. Therefore he will not be able to serve as a board member.

Suggestions for replacement are solicited.

+ Rhett, KE4HIH:

The Hamnic is getting closer -- Oct 8th, 3:30pm at the George qth..

NEW BUSINESS

Dee, KU4GC ("shadow treasurer" - keeper of the electronic accounting records) distributed the 2010 financial reports. On the whole, the five year report showed that things were going on a even keel and that there was no reason for concern.

Dee proposed a minor change in the accounting categories so as to include the costs for the annual DFMA Directory and the Web Page in the same category as the newsletter (The Link). In the past, these we just lumped together with General Administrative costs. This seems reasonable since the Link has been moving more and more to electronic form. There was general agreement that this made sense and would be applied starting in the accounting for this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Bill Fleeman, WD4HBU, SK

DURHAM (from the News & Observer):

George William (Bill) Fleeman, 68, passed away Sunday, June 19, 2011, at home. Bill was born in Pearisburg, VA, the son of the late George Everett Fleeman and Dessie Lucille Goble Fleeman. A graduate of Milligan College with a master's from East Tennessee State University, Bill started his psychology career at what is now the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, Morganton, NC. He retired as a staff psychologist at the Murdoch Center having served over 40 years in his profession. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Durham County Wildlife Club having previously served as president. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Skeet Shooting Association. He served many years as Chief Referee for the NC Skeet Shooting Association and was selected numerous times to All-State and All-Zone teams. An NSSA Level 2 Instructor, he enjoyed bringing new shooters into the sport. Bill was an Endowment Member of NRA. Hobbies included wood working, cooking, and being an Amateur Radio operator [and member of the DFMA].

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

10/4 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ
10/8 10am VE Testing, Orange County EOC
10/8 12n Parkwood VFD BBQ sale, Parkwood #1
10/8 3:30pm DFMA Hamnic, George qth
10/29 7am Habitat Bike Ride, Durham
11/1 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ

Buy - Sell - Trade

WANTED: AM Transmitter

Looking for a 100 watt class "Hollow State" (vacuum tube) AM transmitter in working condition.

Viking II, Apache, DX-100, etc.

Mods OK but documentation would be appreciated.

Thanks - Dick WA2ROC

Group Coax Buy

We can still get the LMR-400 equivalent for **50 cents/ft**, delivered, in 1000' quantities. *The price shown is retail, so don't faint.*

http://moonblinkwifi.com/pd_lmr400_type.cfm

I don't need any more, but if we can get an order for 1000' or more, I'm willing to handle it. Contact:

Wilson - W4BOH infomet@embarqmail.com

73 - Dee, KU4GC, editor

Send copy to ku4gc@amsat.org

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

Web Page: **dfma.org**