



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 7

Bullock's BBQ 6:00pm

Program: NC VIPER System

Joe Allison, K4JRA will be talking about the NC Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) trunking system. He will introduce us to this statewide system with an overview of the scope and the basic technology. He will then add some technical details that should be of particular interest to hams. He has promised to leave plenty of time for our questions

Chance to Help the Boy Scouts

I am having an amateur radio themed Boy Scout meeting February 21 from 7 to 8 pm. Most importantly I am looking for someone who can bring in a mobile psk31 station and demonstrate it to the scouts. If so, please contact me either by email kk4cxa@yahoo.com or by phone at (919)-403-1666. Also on 2 meters we will be using the 147.225 machine so if anyone would be willing to talk at the above time and frequency I would greatly appreciate it. This is a great opportunity to get more people my age (I'm 14) into the hobby.

Ian Moore -- KK4CXA, BSA troop 461
Venture Crew 469, Eluwak Chapter OA lodge 104

[Regulars of the DFMA Thursday Night Net will recognize Ian: a frequent participant.]

Creekside Elementary School Science Fair

DFMA has been invited to support the Science Fair at Creekside Elementary School again, this year on Wednesday, March 14, 2012. The invitation comes by way of Rich Baldwin, KD6VK. This annual event gets bigger with each passing year. 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 school has the gymnasium packed with interesting science displays. Some classrooms as well as hallways hold the overflow displays.

The organizers have a good spot to park the MCU so visitors have easy access. DFMA had a room last year. A smart move to the hall outside the room was made early in the evening which increased the number of visitors several fold. QSOs were initiated. Aspects of radio were demonstrated, area club and ARRL

information were distributed, etc. We hope for a location in a hallway again this year.



Vic, K0OUX, promoting Morse code at Creekside Elementary last year. (Photo courtesy of Melanie Duhon)

It will be helpful to have six to eight volunteers on hand to explain ham radio and perhaps discuss how it works well with the Internet. It will be even better this year if the hams in the building have one or two HT's and an HF transceiver to

demonstrate. A Morse code keyer was popular last year and will be available again. The building will be available for display set up at 1800, the Fair opens at 1830 and runs to 2000.

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

What can YOU do for FIELD DAY??

No, it's not too early to think about Field Day!

Some DFMA/OCRA FD participants have expressed interest in improving our magnificent showing of sixth in the nation. To do that, we need more CW ops and better coverage of 15m, which will likely be open a good bit this year.

To that end, we need a 15m beam and rotor. We likely have a beam in hand, maybe a rotor, and can likely get 30' of tower, which we can manhandle into position (30' is a good elevation for 15 meters.). Of course if someone has stuff they want to use that's OK too. That leaves one important element, a LEADER. Wayne will likely have his mast for 10m and I'll have the 40' BOH-tower for 20, but WHO will come forward to be responsible for assembling and supervising erection of the 15m tower? Helpers are no problem, because we always have great teamwork, but this third tower needs a

champion who will make sure we have all the parts, assemble the mast/rotor and test it, and crack the whip on the gang of hooligans recruited to do the raising! (We'll need something like four roughnecks lifting, three wide awake, thoughtful, people on the guy lines, one or two managing the base, and one or two leaders sighting tower position and shouting directions.)

So will someone commit to lead this effort, come here to my house to do the prep work, collect and inventory the parts, help build a base, and load the trailer? If so, the 15m tower can ride to the site with the 20m tower, on my faithful flatbed. This work can be spread over as much time as we like, if we start early.

And don't forget those CW ops! It will take 3-4 to do a good job. They don't need to be lightning fast, just able to slog along and copy calls and sections. Most FD ops are under 20WPM and many are in the low teens.

Consistency and accuracy are more important than speed, especially for the sending on our end. If a station is too fast, it's likely that some kibitzer will be standing around to help get his info. We will take ops from anywhere, so if you know one in Mebane, Cary, Hurdle Mills, or any other city or town, GRAB THEM.

Poaching is a time honored activity and you can offer a great site, great FD team, and FOOD cooked by our own team of culinary artists. Who could resist that?

As everyone knows, I'm too lazy to be a serious contender, but the camping, eating, and fellowship make me want to compete a little more seriously. Besides, it's nice to beat the big city boys at RARS! SO PLEASE pitch in on this if you can. You can be leader, or just get on the list to help with the prep work (There's always BEER here!). Just let me know...
73, Wilson -- W4BOH

Classic Exchange

The newsletter for the September 2011 Classic Exchange is available on the CX website
<http://classicexchange.org>

The details of the January / February 2012 Classic Exchange are also there. Boat Anchor DX is scheduled for this CX. See the website for more information.
Mac, WQ8U

DFMA Dues: Due

Your DFMA *dues* were *due* in January. A PDF of the dues form(s) can always be found on our web page: dfma.org (click on Membership at the top to get to the right page). Mail them to the address on the form or, better yet, bring them to a meeting. Thirty years ago dues were \$12 a year! They are still \$12 a year – now there's a real bargain.

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)
DFMA Meeting - 1/3/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending:

Steve, W3AHL; Wilson, W4BOH; Mike, KK4BPH; Terry, WA4BVY; Dick, KK4CCX; Terry, WD4CEE; Charlie, NC4CD; Justin, KD4CPM; Ernie, KK4ETX; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Jim, W4KSZ; Edwin, N2HAK; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Jim, WA4OPI; Gail; Lad, W4ORD; Vic, K0OUX; Lowell, KK4PH; Heather, KI4PYR; Pete, K4PHS; Ken, KI4QXJ; Bill, KI4RAN; Pres; Kitty; Bob, W4RWC; Derek, KO4T; Dick, WA2ROC; Sam, KJ4VWG; Jim, WB4YYY; Sue, KA4AVM
A total of 33 attending, including 30 hams.

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm and started with a round of self-introductions.

REPORTS

Vice President - Wilson, W4BOH

Today's meeting will be show and tell, in the absence of a more formal program. In February, we will have a technical presentation.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Financial balances.

Members: 39 (2012 dues paid by the end of the meeting)

Awarding of the Lid

Steve, W3AHL, awarded the Lid to Charlie, NC4CD, for his major contributions to setting up digipeaters at Gibbs Lane (WR4AGC-3) and at Red Mountain (W4UNC-3).

Door Prizes

Rhett, KE4HIH, won a set of vernier calipers; Jim, W4KSZ, won a tape measure; and Bill, KI4RAN, won a multimeter which had been donated by Wayne, KJ4GDW (thanks Wayne!).



The BOH-tower at Field Day

PROGRAM - Show & Tell**Vic, K0OUX**

Vic passed around some mystery boxes that he had built whose function was at least partially identified by club members. He also showed off an old 1" oscilloscope which he had designed and built.

Wayne, KJ4GDW

Wayne passed around a balun he was constructing. This one still had some problems, but he was learning.

Bob, W4RWC

Bob noted that he had asked Santa Claus for an HF rig but instead, he got something he really needed, a new gps. This is particularly useful for his current, part-time, job in which he distributes magazines to stores. Lad, W4ORD, mentioned that he could get an ARRL ap for this which showed all repeaters.

Wilson, W4BOH

Wilson showed off an old Freed Eisemann receiver that he had rescued from the attic. It is a tuned RF receiver where each stage is tuned separately. In place of a volume control it has two output jacks at different stages of the amplification chain. The cabinet was in nice shape.

Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting Minutes**Durham FM Association (DFMA)****Board Meeting - 1/17/12 - KU4GC Secretary**

Location: 2019 Front Street, Durham

Attending:

Charlie, NC4CD; MK, W4MKR; Dee, KU4GC; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Bob, W4RWC; Ken, KI4QXJ; Wilson, W4BOH; Michael, KK4EIB

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Minutes of the 1/4/12 Club Meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcement:

Rhett, KE4HIH, reported on a note from Rich, KD6VK, asking that we again support the Creekside Elementary School Science Fair. The exact time and date has not yet been set. It was moved and unanimously supported that the DFMA will participate including making the MCU available.

REPORTS

Vice President - Wilson, W4BOH

There is a program for February (details to be available soon). Charlie suggested that we have a program on the NC VIPER trunking system.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Financial balances.

Current members: 43 are paid up so far for this year (compared to 89 ending last year).

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

(Minutes of the past Club meeting were approved earlier). Deer reported that he had received email from the Durham Splat*Space offering possible meeting space. This might be useful if we need a Board meeting place when Charlie is out of town. (Splat*Space is a "maker space" which has leased a very large room and access to other facilities, including a conference room. They are located in the Snow Building near Five Points in down town Durham.)

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

Charlie reported he has been working hard on rebuilding the voter system which allows the 225 repeater to have multiple remote receivers. Some of the local noise problems which seem to be almost impossible to track down are a real incentive.

Hamfest - (Paul, KE4OXN was not able to attend)

Dee asked if anyone knew who bought the tickets the last time (about 3 years ago). It would be nice to get matching tickets so that we can continue to use the remaining one -- but we probably don't have quite enough without additional tickets. Wilson said we need to talk up the hamfest. A half page add was authorized for the SERA Journal and Wilson will see that this happens. Michael noted that DurHamFest 2012 had not yet made it into QST. Charlie promised a repeater generated announcement when we get close to the event.

MCU

Wilson reported that Lowell, KK4PH, had gotten the new lift motor for the Tarheel Antenna and that time would be found to install it.

ARES

There was no official representation, but Dee reported that in Orange County, Steve, W3AHL, had been appointed as the new EC to replace Laurie, N1YXU. Also, Dwayne, N4MIO, District EC has started a newsletter for AREA 10.

[This can be found at

http://www.qsl.net/nc_area_10/2012-1.pdf

The first issue includes stories on an award for Laurie for her services and on Steve's appointment.]

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business that had not been addressed in the context of the reports and announcements.

Meeting adjourned.

In the News

Motorola Solutions Takes Full Ownership of Vertex Standard LMR (12/28/11)

Motorola Solutions is taking full ownership of the Vertex Standard LMR (land mobile radio) business. The effective date for the reorganization will be Jan. 1, 2012. Motorola Solutions previously owned 80 percent of the company.

"There is no change for Motorola Solutions customers and partners," said Tama McWhinney, corporate communications, Motorola Solutions. "Vertex Standard LMR products will continue to be available through the normal Vertex Standard channels."

Jun Hasegawa, president and CEO of Vertex Standard, announced the corporate reorganization. "After four years of joint venture with Motorola, we have decided to transfer the Vertex Standard LMR business to Motorola and focus on Amateur, Marine and Air-band business," he said in a letter to customers.

Vertex Standard will once again be Yaesu Musen; a name business partners have been familiar with for over 50 years, Hasegawa said.

Charlie - NC4CD

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 2/04 8am Richmond Frost Fest
- 2/07 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ
- 2/11 10am VE Testing, Orange County EOC
- 2/12 9am-12/13 3am Classic Exchange
- 2/13 7:30pm OCRA Meeting, Orange County EOC
- 3/03 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ

Buy – Sell – Trade

FOR SALE: Alpha 87A and 4510 Alpha Power/SWR

The 87A is just back from Alpha; it had work done on rs-232 input. It was completely gone thru, tubes tested full output. I have the invoice from RF Concepts and will forward it to anyone interested.

The Alpha 4510 meter was hooked up in and works FB. The serial number of the amp is 8703041421. Built in 4th week of 2003, 1500 87A were produced and this one is 1421. I want \$4500 for amp and meter or \$4100 for amp and \$600 for the meter. I'll travel 150 miles to deliver or meet. Prices are firm.

Larry – K1ZW lclarks@nc.rr.com

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

Wanted: Dead Microwave Ovens

I can use dead/dying/unwanted microwave ovens. The power transformers can be used for power supply construction. Thanks.

Wilson – **W4BOH**

73 - Dee, KU4GC, editor

Send copy to ku4gc@amsat.org

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

(Photos KU4GC or as credited)

Web Page: dfma.org