



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 1

Bullock's BBQ 6:00pm

Program: DurHamFest Planning +

The important part of Tuesday's program is final planning for DurHamFest 2012. Find out how you can help make our hamfest a success. There are many ways you can help, starting with late Friday afternoon/evening setup. Other opportunities to pitch in include helping with the parking, providing Talk-In from the MCU, helping at the DFMA Club Table, helping prepare and sell food, helping at the VE session, and finally, helping to break down and clean up. Also part of early morning setup and afternoon breakdown can include helping some of the vendors unload and load. Without the vendors, it wouldn't be much of a hamfest. **We need your help!**

Hamfest planning should use up just a part of our meeting time, so there should be some time for **Show & Tell**. If you've got something new or different to share, there should be some time for you.

DurHamFest 2012 – Almost Here

The essentials are:

38th Annual DurHamFest

Saturday, May 26, 2012

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

VE Testing -- Cash & Radio Prizes -- Food

Admission: \$5.00

Tailgating: \$5.00

Indoor Tables: \$12.00

Indoor Space (no table): \$8.00

Talk-In: 147.225+ (backup 145.450-)

Little River Community Complex

8307 N. Roxboro Rd. (Hwy US 501 N.),

Bahama, NC

For a flyer see the Club web site: dfma.org (click on DurHamFest and then the PDF at the top right.)

CPS Strawberry Festival + MCU

Both the DFMA and OCRA have agreed to support the **Strawberry Festival** at the **Central Park School for Children**. The clubs have been supporting Meg, KI4LLL, who teaches an elementary school class which has a very nice HF station – W4CPS and also an APRS digipeater and I-gate. (Meg is a member of both clubs.) Her kids were excited when told that the MCU and the

hams will be there. The event will be on Saturday, May 5th, from 11am-4pm. We hope to see many of you there.

Report from Touch A Truck

On Sunday, April 15 the annual Touch A Truck event was held at University Mall. This is a nationwide event that provides children of all ages the opportunity to



KK4PH looks on as W4DTB & W4BOH operate as special event station N4T
Picture courtesy of N1LN

explore all types of vehicles – emergency, construction, landscaping, military, transportation, delivery and many others – all in one place! Touch A Truck provides a unique opportunity for children to touch, climb on and ask questions about their favorite

trucks in a safe, supervised environment. The DFMA contribution to this event was the Mobile Command Unit. The MCU was well suited to this event due to the double door access. The kids and their parents came in one door, had the opportunity to talk to one of several



The DFMA MCU at work
Picture courtesy of KK4PH

Hams about Ham Radio, ARES the local clubs and other interesting facets of the hobby. We also had two stations on the air using the call sign N4T. By the end of the day we had almost 90

QSOs in the log from our two stations, one on 20 meter SSB and the other on 40 meter SSB.

This fundraising event was sponsored by local Boy Scout Troop 39, chartered by University United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill. Troop 39's mission is to assist young men as they become knowledgeable, thinking, and responsible citizens of their community,

nation, and world. By the end of the day almost \$15,000.00 was raised which will support children and the community through the North Carolina Children's Hospital's Promise Grant program and Troop 39's



Oh Boy! Morse Code

programs, service projects and activities.

I would like to thank the DFMA for providing the MCU. I would also like to thank Wilson (W4BOH), Derek (W4DTB),

Lowell (KK4PH), Vic (K0OUX), Lad (W4ORD), Michael (KK4EIB), Dee (KU4GC), MK (W4MKR), Laurie (N1YXU) and Woody (K3VSA) for being part of the event. I would also like to offer a special thanks to Terry (WA4BVY) for allowing us to use his Buddipole antenna. With it we worked all over the US, Canada and into Europe.

73, Bruce (N1LN)

DFMA Technician License Class

The fourth of eight scheduled classes has been completed, which marks the half-way point. One student took his test at RARSfest passing his Technician's test after only one class! Please congratulate Frank if you hear KK4IPX on the air!

There are seven students who are continuing to meet each Saturday from 3pm to 6pm at the Durham Mennonite Church, 603 Lynn Road in Durham with the goal of passing the Technician class exam that will be given at Durhamfest May 26.

The coordinator for the class is Lowell – KK4PH. Other teachers have included Dee – KU4GC, and Sam – KJ4VWG. Others attending to support the class are Rhett – KE4HIH and Audrey – KK4CRZ. The father of one of the students is also a ham, Kevin – KB4WFV.

Any DFMA members would be welcome to sit-in on the class for support and to meet the future hams. Anyone with an interest in ham radio would be welcome to sit-in on any class without obligation.

- Lowell, KK4PH

Wilson's BOH Corner

ARRL

Have you joined "The League", the American Radio Relay League? Perhaps you have heard some of the chatter on the air and Internet about how: "QST has gone to hell. The technical articles are too simple. The technical articles are over my head. There are too many ads", etc. Or "Nobody up there listens to me. I wrote about XXX and they kept doing it." Or maybe you haven't been invited, urged, or cajoled enough. Well, here goes!

The League was founded near the beginning of Radio, when most of the equipment in use would be unrecognizable to almost all of us! There was very serious experimentation going on, as well as a lot of "traffic handling". Phone calls were onerously expensive and nowhere near everyone had phones anyway. Mail was slow and there were no airplanes to speak of, remember, so a letter took several days to cross the country. Hams collected messages from all sorts of people and launched them into the air via the National Traffic System, the NTS, which is STILL very much alive. No, it doesn't attract the hundreds of messages it used to, but it's still effective.

But I digress. NTS operation and development were important ARRL activities in the early days. Procedures were not standardized, some operators were careless, and some sort of organization was needed. Of course radio was in its infancy and very few people had any understanding of it, so dependable technical information was needed by nearly all hams. The League was started to provide a focal point for NTS and technical interest, which it has done ever since! Yes, the NTS has few customers now, but you can bet that in times of serious disruption they will appear. And we still need technical information. More than ever, really, because there is so much technology available. In this area, the League provides an amazing technical advice/reference service. One can call or email League HQ and receive immediate assistance with technical questions and references to printed material in QST or the Radio Amateur's Handbook (League published), a great reference found on the bookshelves of many radio professionals, as well as hams.

As good as all those services are, the real, vital, function of The League is to represent hams on the political front. All manner of people, from cell phone companies, TV and radio stations, and public service agencies covet our frequencies and constantly try to break off bits of our spectrum for their own use, whether they "need" them or not! Without active, real-time, League work on our

behalf, I'm confident our wonderful bands would be severely reduced, if not eliminated, in short order!

So PLEASE send in your application and dues, if you aren't a member. We'll all benefit from getting League membership up AND you'll receive your own nice magazine to gripe about!

73 for now, Wilson, W4BOH, Ex President

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting - 4/3/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending: Ted, W4ADU; Carolyn, N5MUU; Dewey, WA4AHR; Wilson, W4BOH; Mike, KK4BPH; Terry, WA4BVY; Dick, KK4CCX; Terry, WD4CEE; Charlie, NC4CD; Charles, WD4CLT; Adriano, KV7D; Dan, KK4DMS; Michael, KK4EIB; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Linda, KF4LJZ; Meg, KI4LLL; Lad, W4ORD; Jim, KB4OT; Vic, K0OUX; Paul, KE4OXN; Lowell, KK4PH; Pete, K4PHS; Ken, KI4QXJ; Jim, WA4OPI; Gail; Bill, KI4RAN; Pres; Bob, W4RWC; Dick, WA2ROC; Derek, KO4T; Skip, N4SKP; Thomas, N4TMD; Mac, WQ8U; Dan, KR4UB; Dave, NA4VY; Don, KE4UVJ; Sam, KJ4VWG; Ed, AK4W; Jim, WB4YYY; Sue, KA4AVM; Nick; Kate
A total of 46 attending, including 42 hams.

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the business meeting to order at 7:00 pm and started with a round of self-introductions.

REPORTS

Vice President - Wilson, W4BOH

Program next month will focus on DurHamFest, but may have something extra. In Lowell's absence, will also report on the

MCU: Many things have been fixed and/or improved, but the most important breakthrough is Ken's, KI4QXJ, getting Winlink to work. We now have email from the MCU.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Members: 63 members in good standing (2012 dues paid by the end of the meeting)

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Several announcements:

- RARSFest, this Saturday 4/7 8am - 3pm, Jim Graham Building, NC Fairgrounds

- OCRA Meeting, Monday 4/9, 7:30pm OC EOC.
- Touch A Truck. Boy Scout fundraiser, Sunday 4/15, 12n-4pm, University Mall, Chapel Hill; the MCU will be there.
- Strawberry Festival: Meg, KI4LL, teacher at the Central Park School for Children (and site of W4CPS), announced that the festival will be on Saturday, May 5. The MCU will be there. Her class was very happy to hear that hams and the MCU will be participating.
- Tech classes (organized by Lowell, KK4PH) are continuing, Saturdays from 3pm-6pm at the Durham Mennonite Church. Students can still add but may have to do a little catch up. (There will be no class Saturday, 4/7 -- RARSFest and Easter Weekend).

Hamfest Chair - Paul, KE4OXN

Paul reported that everything was on track for another great DurHamFest on May 26th. The May meeting will be used for final organization and planning. Paul distributed flyers for the event.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

The repeater controllers have been updated to handle the new dialing plan that requires 919 or 984 for local calls. If you have speed dials stored in the controllers, there might still be some glitches. Let Charlie know if there are problems.

Door Prizes

Wayne, KJ4GDW, won a pair of Vice Grip pliers, and Ed, AK4W, won an electric, two-outlet timer.

PROGRAM - The Cuban Numbers Stations

Nick Gessler first presented a historical review of cryptography. He started with simple substitution ciphers and then moved to poly-alphabetic ciphers which were state-of-the-art for hundreds of years. He then went on to one-time pads which are unbreakable if used correctly (only once!). He then presented recordings of some code transmissions on the air, finishing with the Cuban numbers stations. He also brought several cipher machines (and replicas) which were state-of-the-art during the 2nd world war and were famously cracked at Bletchley Park in England.

Meeting adjourned

Board Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

Board Meeting - 4/17/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: 2019 Front Street, Durham

Attending: Charlie, NC4CD; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Bob, W4RWC; Ken, KI4QXJ; Paul, KE4OXN; Michael, KK4EIB; Don, KE4UVJ; Vic, K0OUX

President - Bob, W4RWC, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

REPORTS

Vice President - Wilson, W4BOH
Was not able to attend the meeting.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Current members: 66 are paid up so far for this year.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

The repeater controllers have been updated to handle to 919 & 984 required area codes. Auto dials are being updated on request. He plans to write some new documentation that could be included with the DFMA Directories and will be added to the web page.

MCU: (by Dee, KU4GC)

The MCU was at the Touch A Truck event in Chapel Hill. The special event station N4T operated there with two transceivers covering 20 and 40 meters. Approximately 50 contacts were logged including a bit of DX. The kids tended to be on the young side. The Morse demo keys set up by Bruce, N1LN, were popular.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Minutes of the 3/20/12 Board Meeting and the 4/3/12 Club Meeting were accepted as distributed.

Dee distributed a first draft of the 2012 DFMA Directory for corrections. These will be distributed to paid-up members at DurHamFest..

There were also these reminders/announcements:

- John Snellen, AI4RT, requested the 147.225 repeater as a backup for the 442.150 for a public service event in Chapel Hill on Saturday, 4/21. The Board unanimously approved.
- The Hoover Road shed roof still needs work. Lowell, KK4PH, had taken the lead on that. Dee will contact him.
- We have committed to take the MCU to the Central Park School for Children Strawberry Festival. That's from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, May 5. We'll be needing volunteers.

Hamfest Chair - Paul, KE4OXN

Things are on track. We don't have enough information yet to see how many tables we need and how many can be provided by the Little River Community Complex (for free).

Wilson has agreed to cook again, with Dee and MK purchasing the food. Bob will, again, take care of making and distributing the free coffee. He also agreed to bring his Apple Fritter and Funnel Cake Trailer. Rhett agreed to use his truck to bring Bob's trailer to DurHamFest.

Randy, K4XRM, has ordered additional tickets.

It was agreed that the DFMA prizes would be handled in the same manner as last year with a purchase of radios from dBj Electronics. We will again have an early drawing Friday night for advanced sales and people helping to set up on Friday night for a \$50 cash prize.

Dee has agreed to order a free copy of the logging software N3JFP for a hamfest door prize. Michael, KK4EIB, suggested this last time.

Michael also volunteered to go to a RARS meeting to do some advanced ticket sales. Dee will send him some tickets to sell.

OLD BUSINESS

Technician License Classes

Technician classes are continuing and going well. More assistants are solicited.

NEW BUSINESS

Temporary Board Meeting Location:

Charlie, NC4CD, noted that he would be out of town for the next 2 board meeting dates. It was agreed that we would both eat at 6:00 and meet at 7:00 at the Bennett Pointe Grill for May and June. RSVPs to MK will be important, so that she can make appropriate reservations. One or two people not eating there can slip in late.

July Club Meeting Location:

Dee noted that our normal solution to Bullock's two week July closing may be in trouble. For the last few years we have met at Bennett Pointe Grill for our July meeting in their private room and that has worked very well. However, the room has a maximum capacity of 40 and we have been exceeding that at Bullocks. We may not fit into Bennett Pointe Grill for the July meeting. Attendance may be down in July, so it may work anyway. (Maybe we should schedule a bad program :-)

Suggestions are welcome.

Meeting adjourned.

73, "Tower", that is...

If you listen to a scanner to keep track of what is happening in your community like we do, you probably include fire and ems calls. If you've listened to Chapel Hill fire dispatch you may have noticed "Tower 73" reporting in.



"Tower 73" at Touch A Truck

Well, at Touch-A-Truck we finally got a chance to meet

Tower 73. *She* (as the firemen say) is Chapel Hill's large ladder truck with a 100foot tower and *she* was welcoming visitors.

73 - MK, W4MKR & Dee, KU4GC

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 4/28 3pm Tech License Class, Mennonite Church
- 5/1 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ
- 5/5 11am CPS Strawberry Festival + MCU
- 5/5 3pm Tech License Class, Mennonite Church
- 5/12 3pm Tech License Class, Mennonite Church
- 5/14 7:30pm OCRA Meeting, Orange County EOC
- 5/14 7:30pm VE Testing, Orange County EOC
- 5/15 6pm DFM Board Meeting, Bennett Pointe Grill
- 5/19 3pm Tech License Class, Mennonite Church
- 5/26 8am DurHamFest, Little River Community Cmplx.
- 5/26 10am-noon VE Testing, DurHamFest
- 6/5 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ

Buy – Sell – Trade

Items for sale:

MFJ-461 MORSE CODE READER, POCKET SIZE
This is a little beauty. It comes in the original package.

I would like \$50

Radio Shack LCD RF FREQUENCY COUNTER.

Features a detachable Telescoping antenna. Comes with original packaging, and is in like new condition.

I would like \$75

I have pictures of them and can e-mail them.

Larry – K1ZW lclarks@nc.rr.com

Group Coax Buy - prices up ;-(

We can get the LMR-400 equivalent for **80 cents/ft**, delivered, in 1000' quantities.

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**