



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 3

Bennett Pointe Grill (Note Location!!) 6:00pm
Program: To Be Announced

This month's meeting will be at the Bennett Pointe Grill in their private dining room. Bullock's closes two weeks in July and, as in the last two years, Bennett Pointe Grill is our alternate.

As of "press time", the program has not been set. One possibility is a pictorial review of Field Day 2012. If you have any nice pictures and can bring them on a "thumb drive", please do so. It will provide a nice backup in case the other plans don't pan out.

President's Corner

Fellow Hams: Field Day was a marvelous experience; the camaraderie was extraordinary. Thanks to all who made this an event to remember.

-73, Bob W4RWC

Field Day: The Tower Farm

I would guess this was my 14th Field Day and never have I seen such an explosion of towers and new antennas as this year. Last year we had an impressive site. This year it was spectacular.

The largest addition was a very large trailer with a new 55' (commercial) crank-up tubular tower with custom mounting and support built by Steve, W3AHL. With a rotor at the top it supported a Cushcraft A3 Yagi used for 20meter CW.

Another newcomer was a scratch built tubular crank-up tower built by Adriano, KV7D, and Dewey, WA4AHR. This tower also sported a rotor with a cubical quad antenna tuned for 15meter phone operation. But Adriano did not quit there. He also put up an innovative 15meter 3 element wire Yagi antenna. While its orientation had to be fixed (pointing West), it certainly provided the most gain for the buck.



Adriano, KV7D, and Dewey, WA4AHR, putting the finishing touches on their DIY crank-up tower.

Wilson, W4BOH, again brought his trusty trailer mounted tower and Cushcraft A3Yagi which was used by the 15 meter CW operators in the MCU. He also brought another Rohn type tower which was manually raised to support a 10meter Yagi (and was the shortest of the towers).

This just covers the most visible antennas. There were several smaller verticals and a large 80 meter sky loop put up by Dave, W4SAR. Of course there were the usual wire dipoles for the lower bands. These used to be the bread and butter of Field Day, but since we've had a joint OCRA and DFMA Field Day, the towers have come into their own. (Note some of the related pictures at the end of this Link.)

- Dee, KU4GC

License Class Update

In the June Link we had a picture of Joe Shamblin and his sons after they had passed their tech exams at DurHamFest after attending Lowell's class. Well, their calls are in and you may hear them on the local repeaters. Joe's is KK4JSD (Joe Shamblin Dad?). From youngest to oldest, Will is KK4JSA; Ben is KK4JSB; Adam is KK4JSC; with a little bit of Joe Shamblin in all of them. That is as easy as A B C. Say hi to them when you hear their calls.

The MCU is Cool at Field Day

The MCU performed well for Field Day 2012. For Field Day operations the existing HF radios are removed and replaced with radios familiar to the operators and the radios are connected to external antennas. The four storage batteries (at least 80Ampere Hour, 12 Volt) in the MCU provided adequate current to operate both HF stations for the 24 hour contest. (There are separate batteries for starting the motor and for starting the generator.)

There are no recent additions to the MCU, in fact the CB antenna was recently "lowered" by some bridge or overpass. The 7.5KW Kohler generator on the MCU was probably manufactured in the 1970's and is driven by a four-cylinder water-cooled engine. It had become unreliable with the problem

attributed to a faulty mechanical fuel pump. The mechanical pump is no longer available as a replacement and the recommended substitution is to replace it with an electric fuel pump. On Tuesday evening before Field Day, Wilson (W4BOH) and I (KK4PH) connected an electric fuel pump in the place of the existing mechanical pump and replaced the old fuel line. The greatest effort of the project was to unbolt the generator from the frame and slide it over about a foot toward the outside of the vehicle. We could then slide in from the radiator vent in the back of the MCU. We did it all in one evening with only a few scrapes but many grease smudges.

The generator provided reliable current for Air Conditioning and good lighting in the MCU for Field Day. But cool isn't free, the generator and MCU used 19.1 gallons of fuel for Field Day which cost \$65. [Note: This includes the MCU travel to Field Day and back, about two gallons. That puts generator fuel at about 0.6 gallons/hr, or about \$2/hr: not too bad. – WL, W4BOH] In the scope of things, the cost is not great. The MCU continues to provide a unique opportunity to take Amateur Radio into the community and we are ready for more events.

I appreciate seeing more club members being involved with MCU events. It is your MCU. The more operators who feel comfortable in the MCU, the more events we can staff.

At DurHamFest our ARES EC Randy (K4XRM) left some information with me about an organization called Central North Carolina Search and Rescue (<http://cncsar.org/>). This is a volunteer organization which trains and is available to assist agencies with search and rescue operations. This group has interest in seeing the MCU. It got me to wondering, if the MCU were dispatched to assist in the search of a lost person, how many hams might be available? I understand that the answer for any of us would depend on many things. But what a good use of our skills and our equipment! It could be one of us that brought a father back to his family or found the missing child. After we meet with



Roy, WA2JLW, and Wilson, W4BOH, operating CW in the MCU & lots of AC

CNCSAR, we will share their needs and explore together with you, how we might participate.
-Lowell, KK4PH

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting - 6/5/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending: Steve, W3AHL; Wilson, W4BOH; Mike, KK4BPH; Terry, WA4BVY; Charlie, NC4CD; Charlie, WD4CLT; Dick, KK4CLX; Adriano, KV7D; Michael, KK4EIB; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Linda, KF4LJZ; Frank, KK4JRZ; Mark, KJ4NPF; Jim, WA4OPI; Gail; Jim, KB4OT; Lowell, KK4PH; Pete, K4PHS; Bruce, N1LN; Bill, KI4RAN; Pres; Bob, W4RWC; Dave, W4SAR; Karen, KD4YJZ; Skip, N4SKP; Dan, KR4UB; Jim, WB4YYY; Sue, KA4AVM.

A total of 30 attending, including 28 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

There will be a program for the July meeting, but it has not been set yet. We will be meeting at Bennett Pointe Grill. Meanwhile, help out at Field Day!

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Members: 87 members in good standing (2012 dues paid by the end of the meeting)

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Several announcements:

- VE Session, Saturday 6/9, 10:00pm Orange County EOC

- OCRA Meeting, Monday 6/11, 7:30pm Orange County EOC

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

The roof of the DFMA storage shed at the Hoover Rd site has been re-shingled.

Door Prizes

Pete, K4PHS, won a gift certificate for ARRL publications. MK, W4MKR, won a power strip.

PROGRAM - Field Day Planning

Field Day Coordinator, Dave, W4SAR

Dave went over the Field Day plans. He showed a preliminary map of the site with the planned location of stations and their antenna(s). We will be operating nine

HF stations using batteries and QRP. Thus we will be in the 9 Alpha category. Dave also discussed the N3FJP logging software we will be using. The most important thing is to get the band and mode entered correctly when changing bands.

A discussion ensued over what call-sign to use. It had already been decided not to use NC4FD because of the potential confusion of the call with "CQ FD" calls and also of the call with reporting our exchange which will be "9 Alpha NC". This is particularly a problem for the CW operators. The question remained whether to use W4UNC as we did last year or to use W4EZ which had been used by OCRA for all but the last two years. Again, the CW operators much prefer W4EZ. A show of hands at the meeting showed a slight preference for W4EZ. The final decision will be made at a poll in the next OCRA meeting.

Dee, KU4GC, explained the food arrangements for Field Day. There will be a "bottomless" supply of bottled water and soft drinks. It is important for all to stay well hydrated in what is likely to be hot weather. There will be Saturday dinner about 5pm with all-you-can-eat hot dogs, hamburgers, cheese burgers, vegi-burgers, salmon burgers, chicken sausage, condiments, chips, cookies. For Sunday breakfast/brunch (~9:30) all-you-can-eat fresh coffee, pancakes, maple syrup, sausage, vegi sausage, juice. Each meal will cost \$5 (no charge for the soft drinks).

Bruce, N1LN, went over operating strategies for operation. It will be mostly "search and pounce" when using QRP. The important thing there is not to spend too much time on any one station. Try a few times and move on. There are no multipliers or points for "rare" stations. We need the numbers, not any one station. But sometimes "running" (calling CQ and staying on a fixed frequency) works. In that case, remember that you are in control and can take the time you need to sort out the stations calling you.

Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

Board Meeting - 6/19/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bennett Pointe Grill, Durham

Attending: Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Rhett, KE4HIH; Joanna, KE4QOZ; Bob, W4RWC; Dave, W4SAR; Karen, KD4YJZ; Michael, KK4EIB; Vic, K0OUX

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

REPORTS

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Current members: 89 are paid up so far for this year.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Minutes of the 5/15/12 Board Meeting and the 6/5/12 Club Meeting were accepted as distributed.

Dee also distributed reports on DurHamFest and the Food Sales for DurHamFest. He noted that there might still be more claims and that some of the breakdown was based on guesses and estimates. For example for food sales, we know how much was left over. There are no detailed records on food "spoiled", i.e., burning, dropping, etc. It is clear, however, that much of the income to the Club Table came from sales of equipment donated by Rhett, KE4HIH, with all proceeds going to the club.

Vice President (& MCU) - Wilson, W4BOH

Wilson was not able to attend. He was with Lowell, KK4PH, working on repairing [successfully] the MCU generator in time for Field Day.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

was not able to attend.

Field Day Coordinator- Dave, W4SAR

Dave reviewed the state of plans for Field Day. He went over some of the rules. He noted that we would benefit from youth operators. Piedmont Electric is, again, providing a large bucket truck for anchoring antennas. The DFMA is, again, paying for the porta john. We are looking for a new Field Day site for future years.

Bob offered the use of his 8kw generator in case the MCU repair were to fail.

OLD BUSINESS

July Club Meeting Location:

We have made reservations to use the private room at Bennett Pointe Grill for the July meeting, since Bullock's will be closed for vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was discussion about making sure that all host rules and regulations are followed in sites where we are using space owned by others such as DurHamFest and Field Day.

- Bob reported that we had a request from Tanner Lovelace, KB4TYE, to provide Boy Scout Jamboree support in October.

This triggered a discussion led by Dee asking that we consider new procedures for handling this kind of request. With present practice, the Club often approves such requests but in the end only the same few people end up doing a lot of the work to keep the DFMA from looking bad.

He felt that instead, the person making the request should recruit and sign up an appropriate number of actual volunteers wanting to participate in the support for the event. Only then would the requester make a final proposal to the DFMA for whatever additional resources were needed such as use of the MCU, some financial help, or priority use of needed repeaters. This is just an off-the-cuff proposal and needs more thought. There seemed to be general support of the concept and Dee promised to draft a policy for further discussion.

Since there seems to be enough time, a decision on Tanner’s request was left for a future meeting..

- Elections are overdue. It was decided that, as in the past year, they would be held at the August meeting. Meanwhile, the board would be acting as a nominating committee, ascertaining who would be willing to run again and what other members might be good candidates for office or board membership.

Meeting adjourned.

More Field Day 2012 Pictures

Below are a few pictures from Field Day.



Jim, W4KSZ, and Steve, KZ1X, operating CW in the “Field Day Hilton” (W3AHL’s motor home)

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 7/3 6pm DFMA Meeting, **Bennett Pointe Grill**
- 7/9 7:30pm VE Testing, Orange County EOC
- 7/9 7:30pm OCRA Meeting, Orange County EOC
- 7/17 7pm DFMA Board Meeting, NC4CD Offices
- 7/21 8am Cary Swapfest, Ritter Park, Cary
- 8/7 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullocks BBQ

Buy – Sell – Trade

Items for sale: 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.

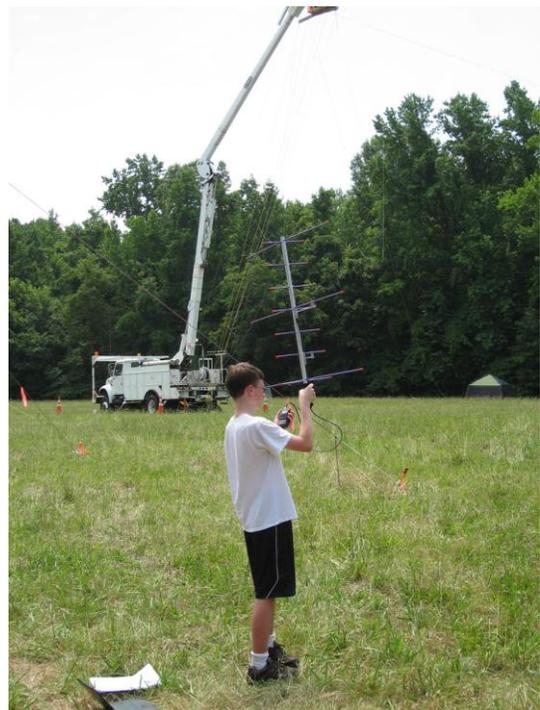
Wilson – W4BOH

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



Derek, W4DTB, trying for a satellite contact (Piedmont bucket truck, supporting dipoles, is in the rear.)



Towers set up just before sunset Friday: Front – W4BOH's tower for the 10m yagi; Rear left: W3AHL's 55' crank-up tower for 20m; Center bottom: KV7D's crank-up tower with the 15m cubical quad; Not yet up, W4BOH's trailer based tower for a 15m beam.
You might also be able to see KV7D's wire yagi above it all.



Dave, W4SAR, operating PSK31 from his shelter



Dave, NA4VY, trying for a 10m contact from the SMAT vehicle.