



Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, December 4, Bullock's BBQ 6:00pm
Celebration of the Holidays**

Continuing a tradition of having the DFMA pick up the tab for our December Holiday Dinner Meeting, we will meet at Bullock's Barbecue Restaurant in Durham starting at 6:00pm. You will be able to order from the menu. Bring your spouse or friend!

This is our Christmas Meeting -- In that tradition you may (optionally):

- +++ Bring a child's Christmas gift to be distributed to Durham's needy. If wrapped, mark gender and age range on the outside. If not wrapped, that's fine too. If you have one - a gift bag would work too.
- +++ The Club will make its annual gift to the Durham Rescue Mission. We will be passing the "hat" for personal contributions.

(Note: in past years some people have dropped a check in the hat. You can make it out to any charity you like. We can forward it and the cancelled check can be handy at tax time. Also, if you are not in a position to donate anything this year, please come anyway. Or if you



are making a special effort through your church or at the office, don't feel pressured to do more than you really should. Your presence at this meeting is a gift to all of us.)

Program: A Ham New Year's Resolution

There will be no program as such. However, we're going to try something new this year. Be ready to share a Ham New Year's Resolution. Are you planning to get a new antenna, put up a tower, pass that Extra Exam, or get to Dayton for the first time? Let us know your hopes for the coming year.

President's Corner

Fellow DFMA members:

I hope all of you enjoyed a great Thanksgiving; and I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Party meeting on the 4th of December at Bullock's. -73, Bob

OCRA/DFMA Joint Field Day

Still Outstanding: #8

Despite Challenging Propagation



It's beginning to look like Christmas

Our goal with this year's Field Day operation was to attempt bettering our ranking of #6 nationally in 2011 and breaking into the top five. We did not quite achieve that, placing 8th out of 2,617 total participants which is still awesome! Despite challenging propagation, we still managed to top our previous year's score by a small margin. Look in the December edition of QST where the top 10 contestants are prominently displayed on the opening page of the article on the 2012 Field Day results.

We again placed 1st in the North Carolina Section out of 79, and dropped to 2nd place in the Roanoke Division out of 204. Of

those stations running QRP, we placed #3 nationally out of 263. We made 1796 QSO's, with our 5x multiplier for QRP and our bonus points, our grand total was 17,385 points.

All the participants did a great job of continuing to improve the efficiency of their stations, and worked hard to maintain clean signals. Again, the challenge was to keep the stations manned with enough operators (especially in CW) so that relief could be rotated in to prevent exhaustion.

The cooperation between the two clubs was exemplary; it was truly a unified operation. The participants, though finding it physically grueling at times, stated it was again one of the best FD operations in which they have ever participated.

Although it was stated that the field we had been using in Blackwood Farm would be going away after this year, there is a chance of a reprieve and we might be able to return in 2013 after all- I'll let you know as soon as I can confirm. There is now another field in the Blackwood Farm Park that is also accessible from the farm driveway, and we have several other possible sites in Hillsborough, Cedar Grove, and Durham that I plan to lay eyes on shortly. I hope by the January meetings to present my findings on these so the clubs can make a choice.

Again, my gratitude to all of you for your support, I look forward to again working towards Field day in 2013!

73, Dave W4SAR,
OCRA/DFMA Field Day Coordinator

Wilson's BOH Corner

Benson Hamfest

Well, we took the old BOHmobile (my "new" vehicle, a '99 Voyager) to Benson (JARSFEST) last weekend. For various reasons, we had only four hams aboard this time, KR4UB, NA4VY, KK4EIB, and W4BOH. It was a lively crowd, except for the youngest passenger, who fell asleep in the wayback seat a couple of times. We were able to awaken him to get out at the hamfest and to eat. The snoring was not really a problem. Once there, we met and chatted with several OCRA/DFMA hams, but missed several others. How one can miss anyone in such a small space is a mystery to me, but we did. Perhaps they were looking at a better class of junque than were we?

The hamfest was off quite a bit, perhaps because of the relatively cold weather. Considering the season, I thought it was fine, but some people may have been scared off. Then again, some of the junque they've been carrying back and forth for years may have simply worn out and vaporized.



Field Day 2012
WA4AHR, W4ORD, and WD4CEE setting up Dewey's home built crank-up tower
Picture courtesy of KK4BPH

Several of us bought bits of this and that, none of it of real significance, import, or value. KJ4GDW bought an expensive antenna tuner that he's already thinking of trading off to someone interested in old circuitry, name withheld. The amount of gear for sale was not sufficient to hold our interest past about 10:30, so we agreed to head for greener pastures, and barbeque.

We went up hwy 50 to Stevenson's, where everyone should go sometime, but it was closed! Some quick manipulation of smartphones (maybe smarter than the operators) led us to Carolina BBQ, in Garner, which was decent, even if we were a little early.

Then it was on to pick up a tribander from a ham in Garner. Yes, BOH now has four beams on the ground and none in the air, along with at least 100' of Rohn tower. What's wrong with this picture? We had a nice visit with the previous owner of the beam, a tour of the house he's remodeling, and at least a half hour of ragchewing about this and that. No problems were solved. It was great that one of us knew the guy from before and that no one was in a big rush to get home. I appreciated not having to drive back down there for the beam!



JARSfest - Benson

Although serious discussions are a rarity, hamfests are a great opportunity to put names and faces together and make real human connections to people with whom we have talked and to make some new acquaintances. Remember, it's the people you'll remember, not the junque you'll buy or the QSL cards you'll collect!

We are all sworn to secrecy regarding the discussions that occurred in the BOHmobile, so that's about it for this story. If you want to know more about what goes on when several of us are closed up in the Voyager, you'll just have to join up for the next jaunt. We can carry seven and trips are announced well ahead of time, so keep your eyes peeled for notices. If you need to pick up a beam, that can likely be worked out. Oh yes, the ventilation system works just fine when needed.

73, WL

On the Internet

Easy Online Circuit Analysis

If you have need for circuit diagrams and simulation check out:

<http://circuitlab.com>

I stumbled across this today online. Oh, Did I mention it is FREE!

-Ed Best-AK4W

2012's Must Have QSL Card

For the QSL card collectors among us:

Save the date everyone because it could very well be your last -- December 21st, 2012.

There's a special event station to commemorate our impending demise and they have a QSL card to go with it.

<http://www.nowzerodays.com>

-Michael, KK4EIB

Club Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting - 11/6/12 - KU4GC Secretary

Location: Bullock's BBQ, Durham

Attending: Steve, W3AHL; Dewey, WA4AHR; Wilson, W4BOH; Terry, WA4BVY; Charlie, NC4CD; Terry, WD4CEE; Charlie, WD4CLT; Adriano, KV7D; Dan, KK4DMS; Heath, KD4DNX; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Michael, KK4EIB; Ernie, KK4ETX; Denise; Wayne, KJ4GDW; Rhett, KE4HIH; Jim, W4KSZ; Linda, KF4LJZ; Mark, WJ4NPF; Lad, W4ORD; Jim, KB4OT; Vic, K0OUX; Ken, KI4QXJ; Bill, KI4RAN; Prez; Kitty; Dick, WA2ROC; Bob, W4RWC; Dave, W4SAR; Skip, N4SKP; Derek, KO4T; Dan, KR4UB; Don, KE4UVJ; Rene', AI4WJ; Patty, PT3209; Marie, PT2485; Jim, WB4YYY; Sue, KA4AVM; Vlad

A total of 40 attending, 34 of them 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 - Michael, KK4EIB

Michael announced that the January program will be given by John Poulton, K4OZY, who will likely speak about military radios. Michael also reported that he has programs lined up through March.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Dee noted that the January meeting falls on Jan 1 this year and Bullock's will be closed. It was decided by unanimous consent to move the January meeting to Jan 8, 2013.

He also reported that the Board had again approved the Club's picking up the tab for the meals at the December meeting (12/4). You are invited to bring your spouse to this, our annual Holiday Dinner. (There will be no technical program.) As in past years we will engage in the following traditional (but optional!) activities.

1. We will "pass the hat" where you can make cash contributions to the Durham Rescue Mission. (You may choose to put a check into the hat made out to the Durham Rescue mission or any other charity of your choosing. This will make it easier to take any tax breaks you may want to claim. The Treasurer will forward the check to the charities involved.) The DFMA will also make its annual contribution to the Durham Rescue Mission from the treasury.

2. We will collect toys for kids. These gifts should be new and either wrapped or unwrapped. If wrapped, there should be some kind of marking indicating the gender and age range of the intended recipient. This will not be needed for unwrapped toys. (A gift bag is another nice way to handle this.) The Club will take these toys to Durham Social Services where they use them to supplement other gift programs. This DFMA tradition is 20 or more years old, started by the wife of Harry Partin, WA4VTV sk.

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Members: 92 members in good standing (2012 dues paid by the end of the meeting)

Repeater Manager- Charlie, NC4CD

Charlie noted that the repairs at the Hill were now complete, including the replacement of the minimal residential lock by a steel bar and hasp spanning the whole door. He showed a picture of the final product.

Charlie also raised the possibility of moving the VA repeaters to TV Hill. There is new equipment ready

to install and that site may have several advantages over the VA including easier access. It also seems likely that we could get free internet access there. That would be good for the IRLP project. It also has a higher elevation which could increase the coverage (but possibly raises coordination issues).

ARES - Steve, W3AHL

Steve thanked the many volunteers for helping out with the Habitat for Humanity Halloween Bike Ride. There were over 400 riders and a good time was had by all.

Field Day Coordinator - Dave, W4SAR

Dave reported that the joint OCRA/DFMA Field Day operation was again in the top ten nationally. This year we came in at the #8 slot out of more than 2000 competitors. We were again 1st in North Carolina, but only #2 in the Roanoke Division.

He has received three serious proposals for next year's Field Day location. He plans to look at each of them personally.

Announcement - Lad, W4ORD

Since there are many joint members, he reminded people that the OCRA Christmas Party will again be at the Exchange Club in Hillsborough with catering by Kelsey's. It will be during the regular December meeting slot (12/10). Cost will be approximately \$19 per person. Please let him know if you plan to attend.

Door Prizes

Heath, KD4DNX, won a package of Velcro tie wraps. Wayne, KJ4GDW, won a miniature screwdriver set.

PROGRAM - Solid State Power Factor Devices
By Vlad Oleynik

Vlad gave a very interesting talk on power. He started with the history of the power grid. He noted the problems of bad power factor (deviation from pure resistive) and harmonic distortion. Both cause high losses in power distribution and use. For example, harmonic distortion will cause an electric motor to run much hotter. He then talked about devices his company has designed and built that clean up these problems so that when installed at a company's service entrance, it's load would appear to be an ideal load to the power company. This would reduce the company's power costs. (His company is currently seeking venture capital to move the product to the mass production stage.) [Note: on 11/12 Vlad passed his Tech exam and his General exam on 11/18. His call sign is KK4MRE. He was a ham in the former Soviet Union.]

Meeting adjourned**Board Meeting Minutes****Durham FM Association (DFMA)****Board Meeting - 12/20/12 - KU4GC, Secretary**

Location: 2019 Front Street, Durham

Attending: Charlie, NC4CD; Dee, KU4GC; MK, W4MKR; Bob, W4RWC; Vic, K0OUX; Skip, N4SKP; Michael, KK4EIB; Karen, KD4YJZ; Dave, W4SAR; Sam, KJ4VWG; Dan, KR4UB; Ken, KI4QXJ

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

REPORTS**Vice President** - Michael, KK4EIB

Michael noted that he had been quite pleased with the last program given by Vlad, KK4MRE. He reported that the January program would be given by John Poulton, K4OZY. His talk will likely focus on military gear including the Collins line. (John had been scheduled for November but had to cancel at the last minute due to work-related travel.) The February program will be about the new 300KHz band and the March program will be about 1940's and 1950's Collins radios. In case of last minute dropouts he can do a program on Software Defined Radios (SDRs).

Treasurer - MK, W4MKR

Current members: 92 are paid up so far for this year.

Secretary - Dee, KU4GC

Minutes for the Board meeting of 10/16/12 and the Club meeting of 11/6/12 were approved as distributed.

In connection with our Christmas Meeting, Dee felt that while we do not have a formal program, it would be good to have something going on to make it a real Holiday Party. Last year we celebrated our 40th anniversary and had some talk and presentations about that. He felt we should have something going on to keep the event from being too cut and dried. As a possible activity, Dee suggested people be encouraged to share Ham New Year's Resolutions. Members would be asked to state what they hoped to accomplish in the next year. He asked if anyone had any other ideas. At that point, no-one suggested anything else so we'll try Dee's suggestion.

MCU - (Vic, K0OUX)

Vic had the donated laptop for the MCU with him. (It looked nice!) It's batteries are far from new but do function. We're still trying to locate a 12V adaptor. It

has 1 G of memory which should be adequate, but that could be upgraded. It has a lot of good software included.

DurHamFest

Paul was not present so it was suggested that Dee contact him to make sure everything is on track. One thing Dee wondered about was how we should advertise tables since the ones we get free with the facility are 6' long rather than 8'. Michael observed that advertising for the Hamfest should get out early.

Field Day Coordinator - Dave, W4SAR

Dave reported that the search for a new Field Day site is continuing. Unfortunately, the Camp New Hope site is not available that weekend because someone else has scheduled that space before us. He still has two other serious suggestions that he plans to look at.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

Charlie confirmed that free internet would be available to us at TV Hill. So if we decide to move the VA repeaters to that site, that is one big plus allowing for IRLP and an APRS Igate. The next step would be coordination through SERA. TV Hill is about 300' higher than the VA.

The move would require some expenditures, mainly a 2 meter antenna which would be about \$1200 for a high quality antenna. An existing 450MHz antenna can be used and hard line is in place for it and the 2 meter antenna.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to go ahead with this and to purchase the antenna if there are no coordination roadblocks. This will be brought up at the December Club meeting for membership approval.

Charlie also reported progress on the remote receivers for the Hill.

Meeting adjourned.

Buy – Sell – Trade**For Sale: 6m Duplexer**

WACOM Products WP-705-1/WP-609 Full size 6 meter Duplexer in pristine condition, currently tuned to 53.45/52.45. \$500.00.

Offered by Orange County Radio Amateur Club, contact Dan Eddleman, KR4UB email: treasurer@ncocra.org or 919-929-7220. (For an informal picture check out dfma.org → News → Marketplace → 6 Meter Duplexer For Sale)

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

Calendar Quirk

The calendar for next year put our January meeting on the first of the month. Bullock's is closed on New Year's Day and many people have other plans. We voted last meeting to have the January meeting on the 8th (2nd Tuesday).

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 12/4 6pm DFMA Holiday Meeting, Bullock's BBQ
- 12/8 10am VE Testing, Orange County EOC
- 12/10 6pm OCRA Holiday Meeting, Exchange Club, Hillsborough
- 12/18 Note: **No Board Meeting** (unless called)
- 1/8/13 6pm DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ

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