



The Link

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 3rd, 6:00 P.M.
 Bullock's BBQ
 3330 Quebec Dr.
 Durham, NC 27705

PROGRAM

Model Trains & DurHamFest Planning

Rhett George, KE4HIH, will talk about his model train hobby. We will also take some time to discuss final plans for this year's DurHamFest. Please plan on joining us at Bullock's for some good food and great conversation.

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President's Corner

Dee Ramm, KU4GC

DurHamFest 2016: New Venue — New Tasks

DurHamFest is almost upon us! And this should be an amazing change from the past. It seems like a great facility. Magic phrases like very accessible Durham location, air conditioning, clean bathrooms, not ancient facilities and fixtures, a nice clean appearance and a great classroom for VE testing are floating around.

We hope this will be a turning point in the long history of DFMA hamfests. These facilities come at a cost but provide an opportunity to attract more attendees and future vendors. It also means new tasks and modifying how we do things. We need more people to take care of specific tasks. The autopilot approach we have been using in recent years will not be enough.

Since we can't get into the facility until 7:00 a.m., we will open at 8:30 a.m. Since the cost per hour is high, we will close at 12:30 p.m. Most people have left by then anyway. We have also limited the Friday evening setup time to two hours, 6-8 p.m. However, there should be less to do than on previous Fridays, but since it is the first time, there may be surprises.

Our goal is to make this a most attractive hamfest for all: We want to attract more attendees, vendors, and tailgaters. So what can you do to help?

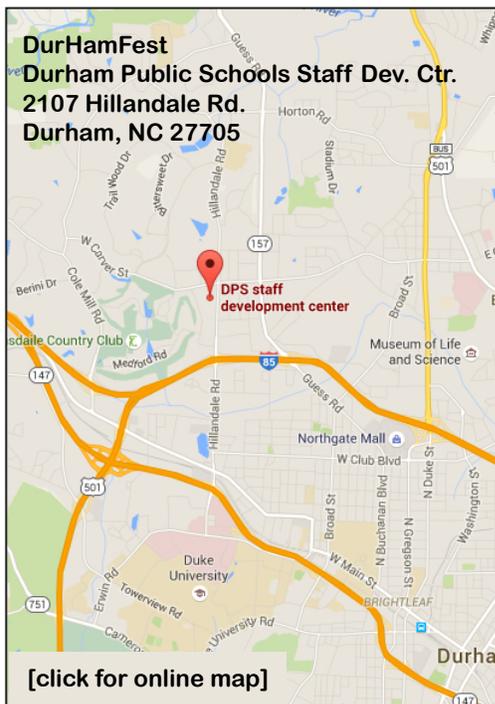
We need three people to handle parking and traffic control, getting everyone into their designated area. We need people to work with Wilson, W4BOH, at the grill. The club table can always use some more people to

assist. Talk-in from the MCU could use at least two people. The other form of help we need is just people there to help out. Having several extra people there at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday will be a great help. One thing you can do is help vendors set up. They have a relatively short window for this and might appreciate some extra hands. Similarly at break down time at 12:30 p.m., we can use extra people to help vendors and assist in the general cleanup. And of course, we will be able to use some help on Friday evening from 6-8 p.m. for setup including arranging tables, putting up and placing signs, etc.

We have a chance to make DurHamFest a much better version of its former self. Please help us achieve that goal!



73, *Dee*
DFMA President



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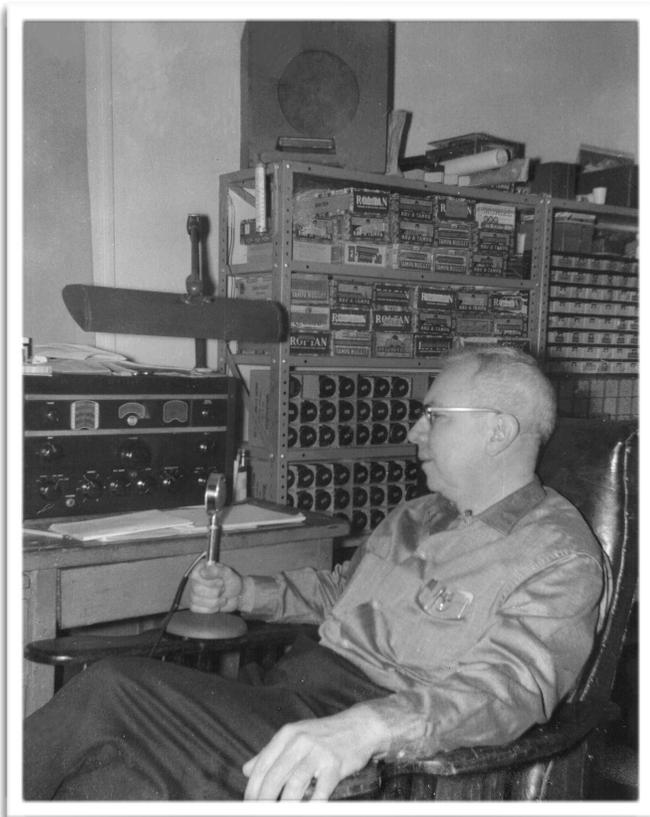
From the Land of Magic – My Radio Chair

By Wilson Lamb, W4BOH

From my momentous birth right after the attack on Pearl Harbor until I was 16, we lived in the house my dad’s dad built, WITH HAND TOOLS, in 1911, when he was first married. It was small-ish, considering there were the parents, Dad’s mother, and three boys. Even so, Dad managed to have a “Radio Room”, as it was officially known. It was, of course, not only for radio, but also for my small bench, two desks, the main bench, two racks, and a big wall unit for storage of parts. One of the desks held Dad’s receiver, speaker, odds and ends, and the control panel for his rig. Sometimes there were two or three rigs. The main one was an 807 running 50W on 80 meter AM and 40m CW. Others were an 829-B on 10m and a small 2m rig with a 6J6 final. Anyhow, beside the desk was an OLD, early reclining chair. Dad sat there every evening and some of the weekend. It was his resting place for the newspaper, the NC Net (still operating), ragchewing with whomever showed up and, of course, instructing me in electronics, aeronautics, chemistry, or whatever my current passion. Now, I cannot remember the chair not being in my life. I remember pretty clearly back to when I was four and five years old, still sitting on Dad’s lap for stories or to talk to family friends on 80 meters.

There are no pictures of that shack, but when we moved in 1957, the chair naturally went to the shack in the house Dad bought from a great grandfather’s estate. The shack was set up immediately. In fact, I camped in the house and got on the air before we actually moved. The house is now gone, replaced by a Jiffy Lube, but that’s another story. While I don’t have any pictures of the

original shack, I do have one of our second shack. So here's Dad, in The Chair, about 1959.



The original BOH, Wilson Lamb, Sr. – in his chair and on the air.

Looks comfortable, doesn't it? This was his most common position, even when he probably should have been doing something else. Notice those big flat arms. Do they give you any ideas? I'll give you a hint...think CW. One could set a key on one of those arms and send comfortably all night long, which I did every now and then. Those were the days when working Montana, Rhode Island, or North Dakota was actually exciting for a teenager.

Well, as it often does, time marched on and the chair became less important. The parents leased the land for the Jiffy Lube and moved to a new, modern, house that wasn't nearly as much fun. Dad had a nice shack in the basement rec room, but never built much more, except for a Heathkit SB-401/SB-303 pair, so he could get on SSB. The

AR-88 receiver and all the parts (notice the cigar boxes in the picture) moved too, but not many were used. I was traveling the US, Europe, and Korea to work on Nike RADAR systems, going to school, etc. I mostly stayed away, doing over a decade in New England and then off to Houston for my Exxon fun. As Dad got older, he didn't get on the low bands much and mostly stayed up-stairs, maintaining a strong presence on the then quite busy 2-meter repeater. The chair languished in the basement shack and Dad died in 1987. Mother stayed in the house for quite a while, until it was too much trouble and we got her out and into a condo. I'm embarrassed to say when that was because she is now 92 and still owns the empty house, with quite a bit of radio stuff still in the basement! The AR-88 is at my bro's house and I have most of the cigar boxes here in the LOM. That's another story too.

So why am I telling you about the chair, you ask. At least I hope you have asked by now. Last summer, I was chatting with one of my sons and reminisced about the chair and how great it was for CW. Then I went on to say I was thinking about bringing it here to the LOM for refurbishment and use. Like several other potential projects, it slid to the back burner; not forgotten, but definitely back in the line a ways.

Then Christmas came and Chris, #1 son, handed me an old rusty Cotter pin and said the rest of the present would be along "later." Both boys are busy and presents often lag the associated occasions, so I assumed the present would be something for my tractor and forgot about it. Some time later Peter, #2 son, and family came down from Marion and we all gathered up at Chris's house for some occasion; birthday party or such. After we had been standing around visiting for a while, Chris announced that he had some interesting video for us to see. I was in the kitchen, natu-

rally, near the food, so when I got to the media room all seats seemed to be full and I stood in the door looking a little lost (What's new?). Then Chris piped up with "Come on in and sit down." Now, can you guess the rest? Yep, there right beside me, to the left, sat...The Chair! What a shock, all cleaned up and waxed but with all its historical nicks and scars, and with newly upholstered cushions! I was speechless (rare, I know).



The Chair with new upholstery – and wonderful old memories.

The Christmas Cotter pin was for the recline mechanism, but they had put in a new one, temporarily, of course. What a great surprise!

So now The Chair is proudly ensconced in the LOM. It's too low for my radio table, even with the blocking and castors I put on, so I don't use it for intense contesting, yet. I DO use it for casual operating, local nets, etc. It's as great for CW as

ever and late night cruising the airwaves from it is as pleasant as ever! It's also great for napping, if leaned back a bit. Did you ever fall asleep while sending? It's a really odd feeling to wake up sending but have no idea what you have said! And did you notice the little fluorescent desk lamp in the picture of Dad in The Chair? Chris rescued that too and Peter completely refurbished it, even converting it to 12VDC LED tubes. Connected to the power supply for my radio, it makes a perfect, pleasant pool of light all around my operating position. You may not have wondered, but yes, I still have the D-104 mic in the picture. I've never hooked it to one of my modern radios, but I have used it with Banks Anderson's old rig (yet another story), on 40m AM.



The current BOH, Wilson Lamb, Jr. – in his Dad's chair and on the air.

Using the chair reminds me of the years spent growing up and living all sorts of radio adventures with Dad and our many friends in the Winston-Salem club, W4NC. Founded 1932 or so, it's one of the oldest clubs in the country. A great present from some good sons, don't you think?

73

Station Upgrade – Act 6 – Odds & Ends

By Dee Ramm, KU4GC

Where were we?

In Act 1 I related how I had gotten interested in getting a small push up tower for my station. Dewey, WA4AHR, had agreed to help me get one like his. I described the site prep, clearing an area of plants and shrubs and putting a 10' 6x6 pressure treated post into the ground as the mounting point. Next time (Act 2), I described the electronics upgrade to the station, consisting of a 600W solid-state amp and a 1.5Kw auto-tuner. In Act 3 I finally have a working push-up tower that also leans over for attaching the antenna and other maintenance. In Act 4 I talked about how we made the system maintainable by adding a powered tilt plate. In Act 5 I went back to talk about the selection of the Hexagonal Beam antenna and its assembly and installation.

Below are a few topics that I've glossed over or omitted in the past. Most of them are not difficult or expensive, but it all adds up.

Balun: I used a prefabricated RG8X coax cable that I had picked up at Dayton a few years back as the main feed line. I added a choke balun at the antenna using a clamp-on ferrite which Steve, W3AHL, had made available for use with the fan dipoles we built at his antenna parties. (These ferrites are now locally available from Howie Hoyt, WA4PSC, through OCRA). It is essentially a choke made by winding the coax through the "hole" in the ferrite as many times as possible. I was able to pass the RG8X coax through the ferrite seven times

(see Picture 1). The fact that the ferrite "opens up" means you don't actually have to thread the coax through the hole many times. Also, instead of close layering the windings, they are fanned out as much as possible. That decreases capacitive coupling through the choke.



Picture 1 — Multiple turns of RG8X feedline passes through a ferrite core to form a choke balun.

Grounding: Another ground rod was put in and wired to the bottom of the tower. I used the standard eight-foot ground rod available from Lowe's



Picture 2 — Improvised "slide hammer", ground rod, and sledge hammer.

and Home Depot. I used a homemade slide hammer made from 1½ inch galvanized pipe with one end cap to drive in the first 6 ½ feet or so. The last distance was accomplished with a sledge hammer (see Picture 2). That has a jumper to the nearby station ground rod which is, in turn, connected to

the house electrical ground rod at the electric service entrance.

Tree Branches: There was quite a time lapse from the time we first sited the tower and cleared out the area and when it was finally installed. Meanwhile, branches on a nearby pine tree had grown. They would have brushed the antenna on the way up, probably without causing any damage. However, the branches were in reach of a long pole saw and, on tiptoes, I was able to cut them down.

Power outlet: For convenience, I mounted a weatherproof power outlet on a stake. It is just wired to a heavy duty extension cord plugged into an outdoor outlet with ground fault protection. I use it to plug in the heavy duty (½ inch) drill that I use to raise the tower. It’s also handy if corded power tools are needed there.

Guying: Adriano, KV7D, had welded three large washers to the rotor attachment fixture at the top of the tower to hold guy lines. These guy lines were not designed to withstand a hurricane or tornado. I bring the tower down in heavy wind or if lightning is expected. These guys are the black, 3/16” cords used with wire antenna work and rated to break at many hundreds of pounds. I found three anchor points (a small tree, the house, and a steel fence post I drove in).

Rotational stabilization: If you remember how the tower was put together, you may have noted that each pipe is suspended within the next larger pipe by a single steel cable. This provides perfect vertical stability. The cable is heavy enough so that any stretching is not noticeable. However, there is very little to keep one section from rotating within the other. This would not be a problem if I had a vertical antenna, but with an antenna that is not perfectly symmetrical, even a light wind can cause it to turn. Using

the rotor turns the top tower pipe in the opposite direction that the antenna is supposed to turn. Basically, the tower is not useable as is.

If this seems somewhat familiar, I addressed the problem before, but only in the case that the tower was fully lowered. There we just put a rod through all the pipes near the bottom. That keeps them from twisting, but it also keeps you from raising the tower.

A working solution was not difficult. To each of the large washers that had been welded to the top for guying, I bolted a short section of ¾ inch aluminum L stock. This meant I had three short outriggers (about one foot long) that were the new anchor points for the guy lines (see Picture 3). Tension on these aluminum extensions tends to align them with the guy lines. Together the three guys are enough to keep the antenna pointing in a fixed direction. A wind gust can move it a few degrees from the desired direction, but it comes right back. Similarly, using the rotor still causes the tower to twist some in the opposite direction, but it quickly swings back to being in line. As far as I am concerned — Problem Solved.



Picture 3 — Three aluminum extensions provide attachments for the guy lines and provide rotational stability.

Usage Patterns — Limitations —

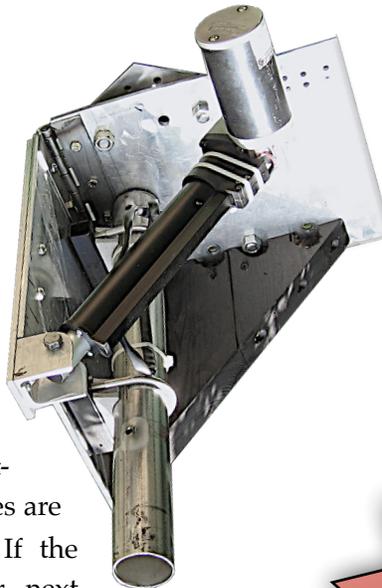
Safety: This tower and antenna, like all things, have their limitations. While guyed, there are no heavy duty anchors. This means that when high winds are expected, I lower the tower. I have no firm numbers but gusts above 35 miles per hour make me nervous and I take precautions. The guying could probably be strengthened but for now, I plan to stick with what I've got. The other reason for bringing the tower down is when thunderstorms are forecast. If I'm up and active I go by weather radar and the site lightningmaps.com and see whether strikes are close. For me, five miles is close. If the storm forecast is for overnight or next morning, I bring it down. There are trees much higher nearby, but with a conducting tower and grounding, I do not want to push my luck.

Maintainability: And a final postscript on the maintainability of the system.

After publishing the article on maintainability, I thought I had a rotor problem. The meter displaying the rotor bearings suddenly stayed at the leftmost position. I went through to diagnostics that came with the rotor and convinced myself that the problem was up in the rotor.

I singlehandedly retracted the tower, tilted it over keeping the antenna upright with the tilt plate. I removed the antenna and set it on a trash can holding a cement block for stability. I removed the tilt-plate assembly, and then the rotor. This probably took much less than an hour. Then, I opened up the rotor and finally convinced myself that I'd screwed up in applying the diagnostic procedure and that the rotor was fine. It turned out to be a fuse in the control unit. So, I reversed the proce-

Tilt plate assembly with linear actuator—fabricated by Dewey, WA4AHR, and Dee, KU4GC—see February *The Link* for fabrication description.



sure. I remounted the rotor. I did get some help from MK when re-aligning the rotor with the meter and also when moving the antenna back. The antenna is quite unwieldy and it was good to have had her stabilize the antenna as I was moving it. Anyway, everything went back together and up again without a hitch.

73



upcoming

EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ✦ 5/3 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6:00 PM
- ✦ 5/9 VE Test Session, Orange County EOC, 7:00 PM
- ✦ 5/9 OCRA Meeting, Orange County EOC, 7:00 PM
- ✦ 5/17 DFMA Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- ✦ 5/28 VE Test Session, DurHamFest
- ✦ 5/28 DurHamFest, DPS Dev. Ctr., 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- ✦ 6/7 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6:00 PM

For a full calendar including nets, visit dfma.org



Several of our own DFMA members supported the Tar Heel 10 Miler run that was held April 23rd. This is a yearly event that features a 10 mile and 4 mile run that averages around 7,000 runners. Seven DFMA members — including four board members — volunteered to staff positions throughout the course to monitor the event and provide communications using HT's. The course included downtown Chapel Hill, the UNC campus, and the surrounding historic neighborhoods. Volunteers provided status updates to Steve, W3AHL — the event net control and Orange County EC. Participation in the event not only provides a public service but also gives volunteers an opportunity to practice ARES communication protocol.

The Tar Heel 10 Miler benefits the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA's We Build People Campaign.

The volunteers included Steve, W3AHL, Dee, KU4GC, M.K., W4MKR, Dan, KR4UB, Mark, KR3AM, John, KM4MDR, Skip, WB4P, and Gerald, KI4MXP.

I Can't Remember

By Skip Proctor, WB4P

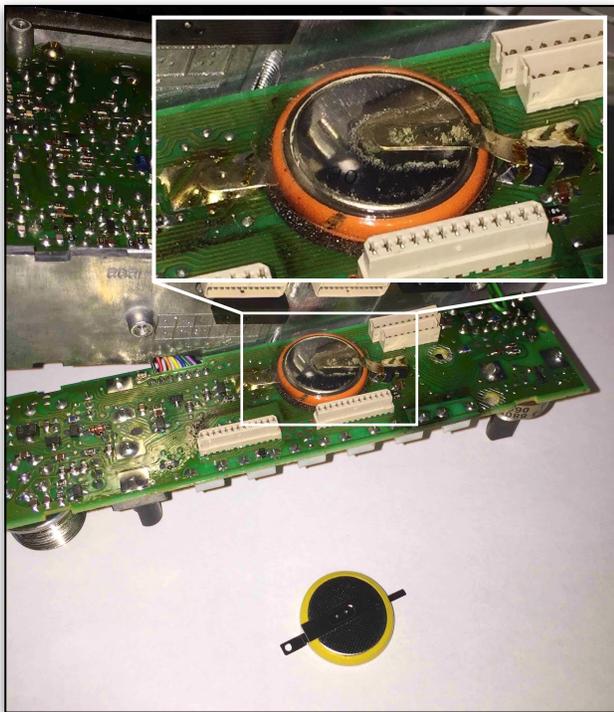
Well, that does apply to me much of the time, but I am referring to a Kenwood TM-231A 2-meter radio that was donated to the club. It was sold by the club but returned when the radio failed to retain the repeater frequencies programmed into memory after powering off. Turns out this is a common issue with this radio since it has a CR2032 lithium battery soldered to the front panel board. The manual says the battery should be good for at least 5 years, then needs to be replaced

by an authorized Kenwood service facility when it decides it has had enough.

I volunteered to replace the battery so the club could sell the radio. Since this is a common issue, there are several websites with steps to follow to get to the battery. Many have modded the radio to add a battery holder for easy replacement in the future. Since I found a battery with solder tabs on Amazon Prime for \$7, and since the battery

should last for at least 5 years, I just replaced it with another soldered battery.

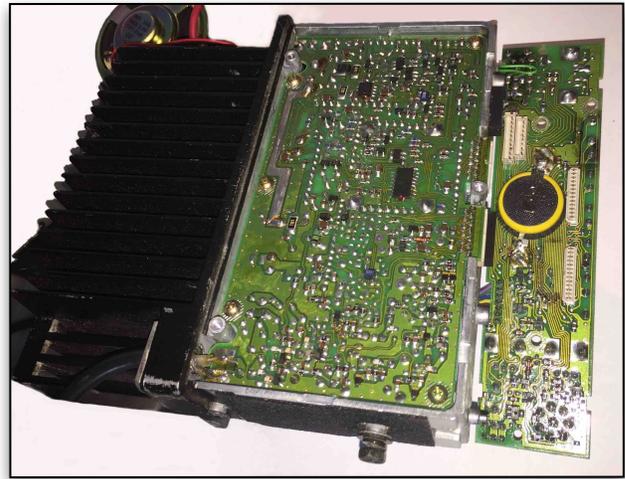
It took more than 30 minutes to slowly and carefully take apart, and about 5 minutes to put back together! To get to the battery I removed the top and bottom covers (4 screws), pulled off the three front knobs, remove the nuts behind the tuning knob and mic knob (the mic nut is one of those 4-slot nuts, so I used some snap ring pliers to get that one). After that, I removed 4 screws around the front panel assembly and pulled it away from the board behind it, where the battery lives. Finally, I removed 3 screws and pulled off the board with the battery, because of course the battery is on the rear of the board (see Picture 1).



Picture 1 — Dead battery soldered on rear of front panel board, and new replacement battery ready to install (front panel assembly not in picture).

After that, it was just a matter of removing the old battery and soldering on the new battery (see Picture 2). Only tricky thing was making sure I didn't touch one of the little plastic connectors

with the hot iron and melt it, thus ensuring it wouldn't go back together! Got lucky and didn't do that.



Picture 2 — New battery soldered to board, radio ready to be put back together (electrical tape added to top of battery before reattaching board).

So it really did only take about 5 minutes to put it back together, and — *voilà!* — the memory held after disconnecting and reconnecting to power. So hopefully, it will be good for at least another 5 years. The radio itself tested great as well. 73

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Board Minutes – 04/19/2016 – Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

Location: 1920 Front Street, Durham

Attending: (y) Dee, KU4GC, president; (y) Karen, KD4YJZ, vice president; (y) MK, W4MKR, treasurer; (y) Dan, KR4UB, secretary; (y) Charlie, NC4CD, repeater manager; (y) Dave, W4SAR, Field Day coordinator; Board Members: (y) Michael, KK4EIB; (n) Mark, KR3AM; (n) Bob, W4RWC; John Boone, KM4MDR, visitor

REPORTS

President – Dee, KU4GC called the meeting to order at 7 pm and handed out drafts of the DFMA directory that will be given to members at DurHamFest. Dee asked for suggestions of additional material to be included in the directory. Charlie will provide an update on the PL frequencies to be added to DFMA’s repeater frequency listing. Lowell, KK4PH will be asked to provide a “How to Use” section for EchoLink and IRLP. Dan, KR4UB will provide the additional frequency listings from the ARES frequency card developed sometime back by the respective ECs for Orange, Durham, Granville and Wake Counties. Michael, KK4EIB recommended the GPS coordinates for the respective repeaters be included.

(After the meeting, Dee made an email recommendation to the board, that John, KM4MDR be appointed to fill the remainder of Dan Whitehead’s term. In a poll of the board by email, the vote was unanimous to appoint John the fill the remainder of Dan’s term.)

Treasurer – MK, W4MKR

Members: 102 (whose dues are current).

Secretary – Dan, KR4UB called for a review of the minutes for the 3/15/16 Board meeting and the 04/05/16 Club Meetings. The minutes were approved unanimously without comment. Dan reported that John, KM4MDR has offered, and is working on the MCU. He has replaced a section of rubber fuel line that was contributing to the fuel starvation problem. Later testing indicates there are still problems in the fuel feed so more diagnosis and repair is needed to get the MCU road worthy. Work is ongoing to complete the re-

sealing the roof leak. A permanent storage location for the MCU needs to be found.

Vice President – Karen, KD4YJZ reported that the speaker for the next meeting will be Rhett George on electric trains.

Repeater Manager – Charlie, NC4CD reported progress by Adriano, KV7D and Lowell, KK4PH on IRLP at the Hillsborough site. IRLP will be used to link the Hillsborough and TV Hill repeater sites. The DMR repeater duplexer has been tuned and the DMR repeater is on the air in test mode at Charlie’s QTH. Charlie is in process of procuring 3 runs of hardline to replace the existing 147.225 & 224.600Mhz repeater antenna feed lines and for the new DMR repeater.

ARES/AUXComm – position vacant.

DurhamFest – Dee called for a meeting of the DurHamFest planning committee to be held on 4/21 to define the volunteer positions that need to be solicited at the next club meeting. He also reviewed a revision to the parking plan that will put tailgaters out in the front parking lot, with the side/rear parking to be used for vendor, volunteer and visitor overflow parking.

Field Day Coordinator – Dave reported discussions are continuing with Field Day band captains and a site walk through will be held in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Dee reported that a fire had occurred at Bullock’s Barbeque. He will be in contact with the owner to determine if Bullocks will re-open in time for the next DFMA meeting. An alternative meeting site has been identified.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Reminder: The regularly scheduled 1st Tuesday club meeting for July will be held on July 19th (3rd Tuesday) at Bullock's Barbeque. The meeting date is changed due to Bullock's annual 2 week vacation closure.

**CLUB MEETING
MINUTES**

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Meeting – 04/05/2016 – Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

Location: Bullock's Bar-B-Que, Durham

Attending: KD4WNZ, Bill; KE4JYJ, Sue; N2XZF, Paul; WA2ROC, Dick; WB4P, Skip; W4MKR, M.K.; KU4GC, Dee; KR4UB, Dan; KM4MDR, John; K0OUX, Vic; W4BOH, Wilson; NC4CD, Charlie; KE4IHX, Al; W4SAR, Dave; KD4YJZ, Karen; W4KSZ, Jim; WA4OPI, Jim; KD4DNX, Heath; NA4VY, Dave; KW4KZ, Chuck & Mary; KF4PAB, Lenore; KM4MBG, Jack; N4TSV, Mario; KE4HIH, Rhett; KE4QOZ, Joanna; N4UOQ, Noble; KX4P, John; KA1HPM, Nick; N3GO, Gary; KI4RAN, Bill & Pres; KV4ZR, Loren, KI4QXJ, Ken; W4ORD, Lad; KE4UVJ, Don

A total of 35 attending, 33 of them hams.

President – Dee opened the meeting at 7pm with attendee introductions.

Dee announced that the RARSfest club tables netted \$71.00 for DFMA and \$526.00 for OCRA. Thanks to KZ1X Steve, W3AHL Steve, (*editor's comment..... and off course*) KU4GC, Dee, and W4MKR, M.K. for managing the club tables.

REPORTS

– continued on next page

BUY♦SELL♦TRADE

For Sale

From time to time the DFMA has items to sell that it has acquired. Often these are from gifts to the club from estates or downsizing efforts. The proceeds from these sales will go to the club treasury to fund future DFMA projects and maintain current systems. These items will also be placed on the club table at hamfests. The club is selling the following items:

Kenwood TM231A 50W 2 meter mobile rig tested, works, new memory backup lithium battery installed, Asking \$70

Yaesu FP-1030A 30 A Linear Power Supply like new, current list \$345, Reduced to \$175

Fostex T10 Headphones sold for more than \$100 on eBay. Looks nice, Reduced to \$50

Realistic TRC-430 CB rig, works, flaky mic, checked out with different Radio Shack mic - should be easy to find, Asking \$30

Contact Dee, KU4GC to purchase or for more information. Free delivery to a DFMA club meeting.
ku4gc@amsat.org

For Sale

High Quality Coax
Wilson is usually putting together a bulk order for high quality, LMR-400 equivalent coax. By ordering full spools he can usually get it for about one half the typical retail price. Contact him before buying larger lengths.

Wanted

Dead or Alive – Microwave Ovens
I can use dead/dying/unwanted microwave ovens. The power transformers can be used for power supply construction. Thanks.
Contact Wilson, W4BOH

Vice President – Karen, KD4YJZ reported tonight’s speaker will be Lad, W4ORD. Next month’s program will be on the new DurHamFest location, people assignments and, Rhett’s model trains.

Treasurer – MK, W4MKR

Members: 100 (whose dues are current).

Secretary – Dan, KR4UB - Nothing to report.

Repeater Manager – Charlie reported the DMR repeater has been received, programmed and is in test mode at his QTH. The Comprod antenna has been received.

ARES – No report

DurhamFest – Dee asked for club members to be ready to volunteer for DurHamFest duty assignments at the next meeting.

Field Day Coordinator – Dave, W4SAR reported the next VE session will be on Saturday, April 9th. Field Day band captain discussions will continue at the next club meeting. John, KM4MDR has volunteered to coordinate the field day potluck dinner.

Presentation of the DMFA “Lid” Award – The DMFA “Lid” Award was last presented to Dewey, WA4AHR for the long term support he has provided to the DFMA and OCRA Clubs by the donation of good, used batteries. Dewey has also made his shop and expertise available to hams for various projects.

Door Prizes – Door prize winners were KW4KZ, Chuck - drill bits; KX4P, John - drill chuck;

KD4DNX, Heath - VOM and KD4WNZ, Bill - screwdrivers.

Dan, KR4UB gave away some RG-8X coax, accepted by Paul, N2XZF, and Joanna, KE4QOZ donated a picnic kit that was auctioned with the winning bid by Heath, KD4DNX.

Program Presentation

The speaker for the meeting was Lad, W4ORD who gave a presentation on emergency service preparedness. The focus of the presentation was on packing the appropriate gear whether the emergency call out is for a day, a week or more. Central to this discussion was a number of witty quotes from Edsel Murphy (Murphy’s Law) a great philosopher on the subject of inanimate objects. Many of his sayings seem especially applicable to emergency preparedness for example, “What you brought will be proportionally unnecessary, what’s left behind will be critical” and “Interchangeable parts, won’t”. Lad went on to demonstrate several pack kits, learned from motorcycle trips where learning to pack lightly and effectively is a must. Several pack kits making up an 8 day supply which addressed thermal requirements with layered clothing, medicines, clothing changes, hats were demonstrated. For radios, 2 radios, 2 batteries, and a DC supply were suggested. He ended the presentation with the recommendation to be always on the lookout for what you need; much of it can be found at very economical prices.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Credits:

All article photos courtesy of the author.

DurHamFest Map courtesy of Google Maps.

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