

The Link

Newsletter of the Durham FM Association

February 2019



Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 4th, 6pm, at Bullock's BBQ.

President's Corner

New Ham? - No Problem

Our club membership includes many new hams. That's great! If you are new, you may feel there is little you can do as a newcomer. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I hope you were inspired by January's program where Heather, WH6FTQ, reported on her fast and furious involvement in ham activities in Hawaii. Heather was first licensed in May of last year and moved rapidly to the Extra Class. (OK, she had a technical background so that made some things easier.) But her participation in nets, being net control, being net control at the National Weather Service are all things that can be open to anyone interested in digging in and learning what needs to be learned. (Since the program she has also qualified as a Volunteer Examiner.) Conditions may be different here, but she still illustrates how someone with enthusiasm and a willingness to try things can become involved and, more importantly, productive, in a very short time.

Another opportunity for new ham involvement has opened up this year right here. Last week we had a reorganization meeting of the Durham County ARES group, meeting at the Durham County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). We had a good crowd and will be meeting there again the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Since things are just getting (re)started, this is a good time for new people to get involved. If you are interested in public service and emergency service, this is a good time to get in on the ground floor.

Of course, as always, newcomers have a large pool of resources showing up at each meeting. To benefit from them, you do need to talk to them and let them know what you are interested in and where you might need help. You can't get any help by finding an empty table as far as possible from everyone else. You might expect them to sit next to you but (newsflash) many are just as bashful as you are. So, make the effort to sit with someone and maybe there is something to be learned. (Or you might be helping someone else.)

OCRA, our "sister club", is making a special effort to compile a database of member interests and determining who needs help and who might be able to give it. If that works out, we may be able to build a similar system to aid new hams.

73, Dee, KU4GC

Welcome to our New Members

Be sure to welcome

KD4ZPU Chuck Brant
W4CDR John Kerr

Program Message from the Vice President

This month we explore the depth of knowledge and experience of our very own club members with a series of short approximately five minute “lightning talks”. If you would like to participate by giving a talk, please email Jack, KM4MBG at km4mbg@km4mbg.org .

ARES Meeting #1: In Brief

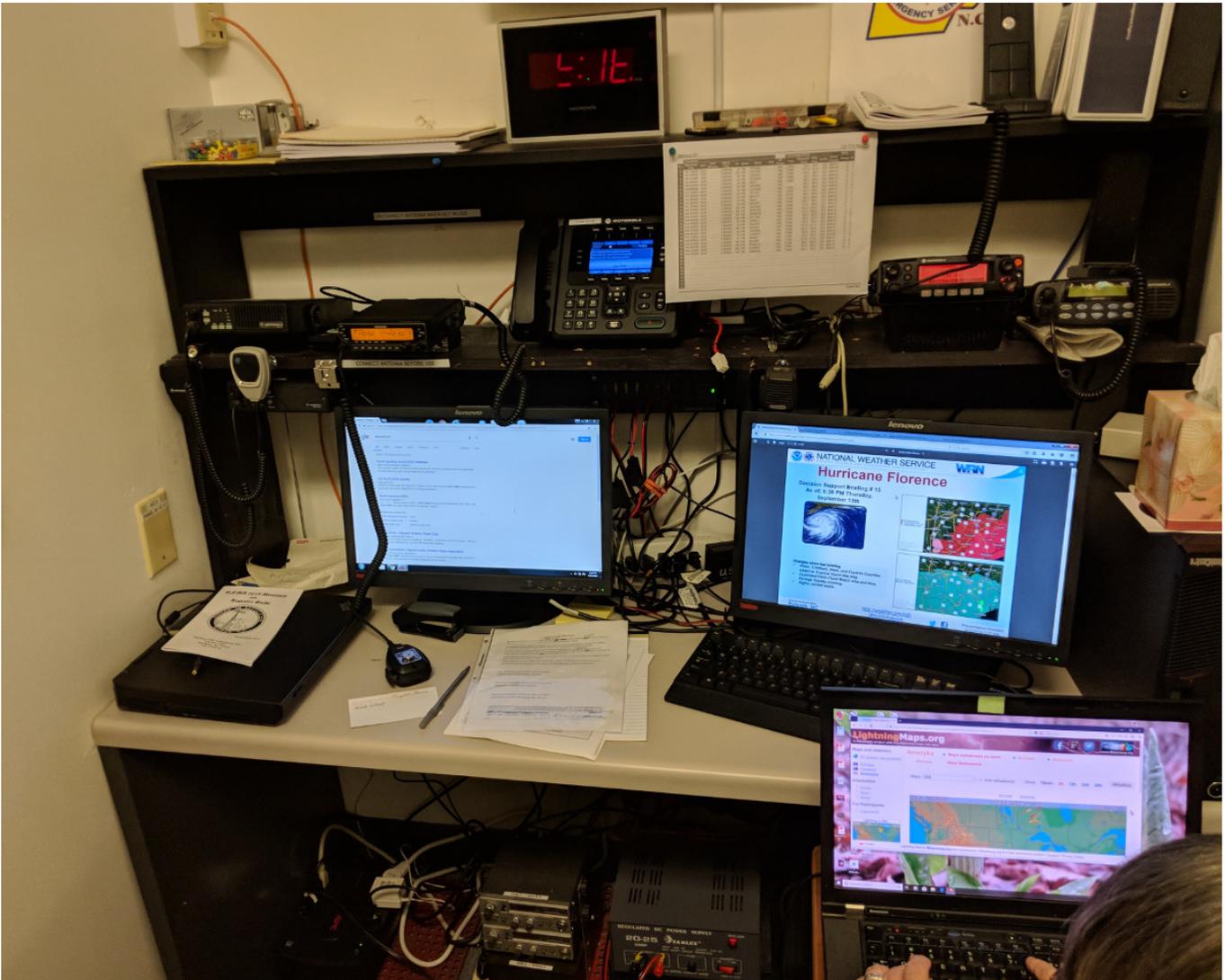
We had great participation at our January ARES meeting at the Durham County EOC. Twenty-one people attended with Charles McComas, KN4PTU, presiding. This was a reorganization meeting for the Durham ARES group. Attendees also got to see the ham shack (a closet with a window to the main EOC room. Check out the photo on page 3)

The main presentation was by Taylor Davis, ES coordinator, who outlined what the EOC needed from the ham community. There were many questions relating to this and training expectations and opportunities.

It was decided that the fourth Tuesday of the Month at the DC EOC would be standard meeting time and place. Thanks to Taylor for hosting our meetings. Charles indicated that he would not be able to lead this ARES group and that his leadership for this meeting represented a truly temporary role.

Both Shawn Conner, K4CTD, and Jimmy Dixon, KF4KHU, indicated they would be willing to take on leadership roles and at a future meeting, this and other organizational issues will be addressed. Since ARES is technically not part of the DFMA, (but the DFMA supports the local ARES group as a “special interest group”), the actual appointment to the ARES/AUXCOMM EC role will be made by Tom Brown, N4TAB, at the state level. However, he is likely to take our recommendations seriously.

73, Dee, KU4GC



Equipment in the ham shack/closet at the Durham County EOC.(Hurricane Florence Activation)

Interesting articles that your editor thinks you might enjoy?

NØSSC's Ham Radio Blog

The ham radio blog of Sterling Coffey, NØSSC. Sterling is dedicated to improving ham radio by promoting it to younger generations.

<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>

Often overlooked, but vitally important, Amateur radio operators are much more than hobbyists; they provide extremely important communications, especially during and after emergencies.

<https://urgentcomm.com/2011/08/01/often-overlooked-but-vitally-important/>

Minutes of Last Club Meeting

DFMA Meeting – 01/08/2019 – Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

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

Attending: KR4UB, Dan; W4MKR, M.K.; KU4GC, Dee; N2XZF, Paul; W4BOH, Wilson; KR3AM, Mark; N8BR, Bill; KA1HPM, Nick; NC4CD, Charlie; K0OUX, Vic; KW4XL, David and David Jr.; WA4UJM, Wally; WB4ROI, Henry; KK4BPH, Michael; NA4VY, Dave; KV4ZR, Loren; KD4ZPU, Chuck; KM4MBG, Jack; KF4PAB, Lenore; KW4KZ, Chuck & Mary; KF4NTC, Bob; KE4UVJ, Don; Visitor: Tom deGuehery

A total of 25 attending, 22 currently licensed hams.

President: Dee opened the membership meeting at 7 pm with introductions, announcements and brief officer's reports.

First time attendees:

- Tom deGuehery is interested in ham radio but is just beginning to study for the exam.
- Chuck Brant, KD4ZPU joined the DFMA and knew Lenore from IBM/Tivoli days.

Announcements:

Dee announced the ARES reorganization meeting is to be held January 22nd, 7pm at the Durham EOC, 2422 Broad Street, Durham.

REPORTS

Vice President – Jack, KM4MBG had no announcements to make.

Treasurer – Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer's report. There are 76 members with dues current.

Secretary – Dan, KR4UB had no announcements to make.

Repeater Manager – Charlie, NC4CD reported the DFMA repeaters are operational with the exception of the Red Mountain remote base to 147.225; that unit being repaired.

ARES – No report.

DurHamFest – Jack, KM4MBG had no announcements to make.

Field Day & VE Coordinator - Dave, W4SAR was unable to attend; Dee reported the next VE session will be held at the OCRA Club meeting on January 14, 7pm at the Efland Baha'i Center.

Presentation of the DMFA "Lid" Award - The DFMA LID was last presented to Jack, KM4MBG for his DurhamFest leadership by Dave, W4SAR.

Door Prizes - Door prize winners were as follows: Screwdriver Set - Mark, KR3AM; Headlamp - Lenore, KF4PAB; Wilson, W4BOH - Volt Ohm Meter; David, KW4XL - Flashlight.

Program Presentation: The program was a remote video presentation via teleconference by Heather Flewelling, WH6FTQ from Oahu, Hawaii about her first year's experience in ham radio. Heather, a PhD physicist discovered the amateur radio bands and nightly traffic nets after acquiring an inexpensive SDR receiver in March, 2018. She and a friend attended the wedding of Jack, KM4MBG and Lenore, KF4PAB in April and met many other amateur radio operators. In May, she passed the exam for technician class and by Field Day in June passed the exam for amateur extra class.

With VHF coverage from her 26th floor condo home in Oahu easily reaching all the repeaters in the area and offering excellent simplex coverage, she soon found herself involved in EMCOMM and net control duties. On her first net operating as net control, there were 33 check-ins. After having net control duty for only 3 times, she was asked to serve as Skywarn net control at the National Weather Center. Soon afterwards, [Hurricane Lane and Olivia](#) approached the islands beginning in August and was among the most destructive seasons in years. With other volunteers being impacted and serving in other emergency support operations, Heather found herself encamped at the National Weather Center manning five 6 hour shifts as Skywarn net control and being the sole operator for a considerable time.

Heather, an [Atlas Planetary Defense Researcher](#) stated that she has found the amateur radio community to be a very welcoming and friendly group. Ham activities such as VHF/UHF contests to work as many islands as possible and hiking “grid madness” contests fits well with her job duties that take her from Oahu to other islands in the Hawaiian chain. [ATLAS](#) is an asteroid impact early warning system being developed by the University of Hawaii and funded by NASA. It consists of two telescopes 100 miles apart that provide researcher remote access, one at Haleakala, Maui and the other on Mauna Kea which automatically scans the whole sky several times every night looking for moving objects.

The presentation ended with a question and answer session with club meeting attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Board Meeting Minutes

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Board Minutes – 01/15/2019 - Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

Location: 1920 Front Street, Durham, NC

Attending: (y) Dee, KU4GC - president; (y) Jack, KM4MBG - vice president & DurHamFest chair; (y) Lenore, KF4PAB - treasurer; (y) Dan, KR4UB - secretary; (y) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (y) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day coordinator; (y) Martin, KA5JUU Link Editor; At-Large Board Members: (y) David, KW4XL; (y) Paul, N2XZF; (y) Chuck, KW4KZ; (y) Karen, KD4YJZ; Club Members: M.K., W4MKR

REPORTS

President - Dee, KU4GC called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm with the call for officer reports. Minutes of the last Board and Regular meetings were passed out.

Vice President - Jack, KM4MBG reported he is working on lining up the next presentation and sent a thank you note to Heather, WH6FTQ for the excellent January club meeting presentation from Oahu. Heather is now a Volunteer Examiner.

Treasurer – Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer’s report and membership status with 76 members with dues current to the board.

Secretary – Dan, KR4UB - The minutes for the 11/20/18 board and 12/04/19 & 01/08/19 club meetings were approved with correction regarding the last DFMA Lid recipient award.

Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD reported CenturyLink has finally buried the new phone line into the TV Hill repeater site. The 220 repeater has been tripping off line due to the intermittent SWR/PA over-temp alarms. Power monitoring installation is still in progress. Charlie has found a vintage equipment collector interested in buying some of the old DFMA repeater equipment. The batteries recently taken out of service at the Hillsborough site but still useable, have been donated to the Carolina 440 repeater group.

DurHamFest: Jack, KM4MBG - No new news; the use of the Durham Public School facilities for 2019 DurHamFest application is approved.

Field Day Coordinator – Dave, W4SAR, reported the Efland Baha'i Center is reserved for all upcoming Saturday VE sessions until the Orange EOC facility remediation work is complete. Dave plans to pass on the 2018 OCRA/DFMA Field Day results to the Orange County News for a possible follow up article to last years OC News Field Day article. The two candidates at the 1/15 VE session passed their exams yielding 1 new tech and 1 upgrade to General class.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul, N2XZF reported on a potential source regarding purchasing dedicated laptops for Field Day logging. Before proceeding further, contact will be made with the W3AO Potomac club to better understand the solution they found to solve their N1MM logging/wireless network failure that OCRA/DFMA has also experienced.

The upcoming ARES organization meeting to be held with Durham EOC on January 22nd at 7pm was discussed. The board passed a motion expressing DFMA desire to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with the Durham EOC that will serve both organizations. DFMA's intention is to provide Durham EOC accessibility to licensed, trained radio operators to assist EOC in exercises and actual emergencies. DFMA seeks logistic support for accessible, secure, inside storage of the MCU vehicle and ham radio communications facilities to be located at the EOC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.