

# The Link

## Newsletter of the Durham FM Association



July 2020



### President's Corner

So far, 2020 has been a wildly different year from any I have experienced. However, I have been fortunate enough to be able to maintain many of my usual routines. So too, has the club. We've even been able to give out a couple of our prized flash light door prizes during our on-the-air meetings. This month, we're moving the monthly membership meeting online, so we can return to having a guest speaker. Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC, North Carolina Section Manager for the ARRL, will be our guest.

Another July tradition for the club is a call for nominations for the August election. We will be electing President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Repeater Manager, and two at-large members. Vice President is the most critical because so far we don't have any nominations for that position. Please consider your willingness to serve. The coming year will be a critical one for our community as we begin recovering from the pandemic and centuries of institutionalized racism. While I'm not sure how this will unfold, I believe that the DFMA, which values service, communication, fellowship and curiosity, will have a role to play. Join the board and help us chart our future.

73, Jack — KM4MBG

**The July meeting will take place at 7pm on July 7th via video conference. We will be joined by North Carolina ARRL Section Manager Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC. He will be giving an introduction of his goals for the NC Section as well as highlighting the major issues facing the ARRL Board.**

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**The link to join the conference is: <https://conference.km4mbg.org/b/jac-uld-ow6>**

Good news on the 6 meter repeater !!! I tested the duplexer today and it is going to work fine. Output power is 55 watts out of the duplexer. The squelch opens at .26 microvolts. Now all that remains to be done is transportation to TV Hill and installation of the antenna on the tower. One of my tower tenants is ending their lease and they will install our antenna when they remove their antenna. Their 7/8" heliax will be left and used for our antenna. With our antenna gain and line loss the effective radiated power will be 85 watts. The antenna will be at 160 feet above ground and 852 feet above sea level. I asked them about their schedule for a tower crew and they said the COVID19 had slowed their progress and the schedule had not been determined yet. I hope to have the repeater and duplexer on site and ready for the antenna.

Thanks to Herman Cone N4CH for giving us a replacement receiver and to Paul N2XZF for getting the repeater ready to go to TV Hill. Looking forward to getting it on the air. --- **Charlie, NC4CD**

Sad News- Karl Ramm, N1XPB Silent Key

From: David Snyder

Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2020 14:39:20 EDT

Hello All-

I am saddened to hear of Karl's passing earlier today, after an extended illness. I am sure all of you will join me in sympathy for the Ramm family, who have endured a most tragic year.

Dave, W4SAR

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2/15/1973 - 6/28/2020

Karl died Sunday as a result of complications due to metastatic colon cancer.

Karl Christopher Ramm was born on February 15, 1973, to Mary Kathlyn Brigmon Ramm and Dietolf Ramm, in Durham, NC. The family moved to Hillsborough, NC in 1989. Karl attended Charles E. Jordan High School and earned a B.S. in Computer Science from Duke University in 1995. Following graduation, he moved to Cambridge MA, where he worked for MIT, a series of start-ups, and eventually Google, as a systems programmer/administrator. He bought a house and moved to Wilmington, MA in 2017.

Karl grew up in a home in which he had easy access to computers and immersed himself in all aspects of them at an extremely young age. Not long after most children were first learning to read, he was reading Berkeley Standard Distribution UNIX manuals cover to cover. There was never any doubt of what he would study in college or what he would choose as a career. Throughout his life, he became very interested in "retro computing" and preserving many of the computer systems that were prevalent during his childhood.

Perhaps inspired by both of his grandfathers, one of Karl's primary hobbies was music. He excelled at playing the piano. He was told he had "perfect pitch" and could play music after having heard it just a few times. He was equally proficient at sight reading. Before his voice changed, he sang with the North Carolina Boys Choir for several years. His true passion was composing electronic music and he collected numerous synthesizers.

Working for and, later, in proximity to MIT, Karl took advantage of many activities there. Almost immediately after he started, he joined the MIT Radio Society and earned an FCC License in Amateur Radio (N1XPB) and quickly inflicted the hobby on his entire immediate family in North Carolina. He trained in Jiu-Jitsu many hours during the week. He was a Keyholder at MITSFS, MIT's Science Fiction Library and was active in MIT's Student Information Processing Board (SIPB), MIT's Lecture Series Committee (LSC), and MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players.

Karl was a voracious, lightning-fast reader and, in his younger years, would frequently finish at least one newly purchased book before arriving home from the bookstore. He particularly loved science-fiction novels and was always the best source of recommendations on what to read next.

Karl was loved by an amazing network of loyal friends who were supportive, long before and after his diagnosis in 2017. He is survived by his father, Dietolf Ramm, and sister, Lenore Ramm Hill with her husband, Jack Hill, all of Hillsborough, NC

# Field Day 2020 is Over!

## Submitting Final Scores

Hi All-

Finally, at 2:00pm on the Sunday of Field day, it is over. If you have worked it hard, you're tired but first, back up everything before you do anything else. Every logging program has a back-up file command on their menu, use it to back up to a USB drive, often during Field Day, and again at the very end. This gives you a copy of the log other than on your laptop hard drive, avoiding the heartache if your computer decides to crash and you lose all of your info. Unlikely, but play it safe. Also copy onto that drive any documentation you have for bonus points, such as the text of the ARRL FD bulletin. Then shut everything down and have good night's rest at least, before working on log submission. You have one month after Field Day, that is until July 28, 2020 to submit your scores.

For Field Day, the ARRL requires a Summary of the operation, and a DUPE sheet. The summary will have all of your personal and station information, your numbers of QSO's by band and mode, and the multiplier you are claiming for your QSO points. Also, you will list the bonus points you are claiming. The DUPE sheet is an alphanumeric listing of the call signs you worked, broken down by band and mode. The ARRL will also accept, but does not require, a Cabrillo file of your log. This is a contesting standard which essentially gives all of your logging information, much more than just a Dupe sheet.

Bruce N1LN, has already posted a thread that shows how to get the Cabrillo File generated for your log in that program.

For N3FJP, The menu also lets you generate a Cabrillo file, but for Field Day, it will do more for you. A window will come up that will allow you the option to fill in your Summary information, your bonus points (with the ability to upload your documentation) and the option to generate a Dupe sheet. You then have the option to click on a link to the ARRL Field Day score submission page. I am not certain if it will automatically populate that onto the webpage, so I suggest printing and the Summary and DUP files first.

Now for the actual submission. The link for the ARRL's Field Day score submission is <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>

Click on the "Data Entry" button, and start filling in your information. Note that there is a "Club or Group Name" entry window. This year, due to the pandemic forcing most of us to work Field Day out of our homes, a special rule was put in place. Besides submitting our individual scores, we can also write in a club affiliation. All entries showing a club affiliation will have their individual scores added to an aggregate score for that club. So when you see in the December QST magazine how you yourself ranked on Field Day, in parentheses will be the aggregate score for your declared club.

When I filled out the online form as a test, I was delighted to find that when I filled out "North Carolina" as my ARRL Section, a drop down window of known clubs in that section became available. We are in there! Just run down the list to where it says "Orange County Radio Amateurs/Durham FM Assn" and select that as your club affiliation.

After filling out your station information, then fill your total QSO's by Band, Mode, and the Power Level Multiplier.

Following that, is your claimed bonus points, with a browsing window by each so you may upload documentation files.

Note that your web submission bonus of 50 points is given automatically, AFTER you submit.

Finally, fill in the attestation that you've followed the rules and submit, you will receive an email confirmation that your info has been received.

In the files section of this IO group, I have added a couple of screen captures of the online data entry page, showing how I would fill it out for my entry (I left the QSO breakdown empty as I did not want to accidentally make an official submission).

For those of you who are Luddites and have no plans whatsoever to make an on-line submission (if you are a true Luddite, you would not be using a radio anyway), you would need to write up Summary and Dupe sheets, as well as make copies of your bonus point documentation, and snail mail it all to the ARRL.

The December QST is the issue in which all of the Field Day rankings are listed. If you get the electronic version, that comes out around mid-November.

Though I will miss the hubbub and the total awesomeness of our usual 9A Battery Field Operation, I look forward to working many of you on this Field Day, do use the IO group to let us know what you are doing, take pics of your operation and share them. Hope to exchange with most of you this weekend! Have fun with it!

73,

Dave Snyder, W4SAR

## Field Day Challenge

Hi All-

Let's get a challenge up for this Field Day, how about a nice certificate for whomever operating Field Day works the most other club members in the OCRA/DFMA combined club affiliation operation?

Maybe certificates for 1st, second and third? I'll try out my mad skillz in Photoshop to make a nice looking one.

Below is the list of known call signs of participating stations, if you are not on this list, but ran a station for Field Day, let me know and we will add you on.

KN4VXB  
N1LN  
NA4VY  
W4BOH  
WA2LJW  
W4SAR  
WA4PSC  
N8BR  
WB4OSU  
KR4UB  
KN4PTU  
W4KIL  
KX4P  
KA5ETS  
W1KES  
W4ORD  
KO4CSW  
KI4RAN  
KD4YJZ  
N1YXU  
N4GF  
KW4KZ  
W4AEN  
N4KW  
KJ4VWG

Here's an amendment to the challenge:

I will still give out special mention certificates to the top three stations working other club members of OCRA and the DFMA. But I will print out a commemorative participation certificate for all who participated in this very special Field Day.

I will need you to let me know how many of our other club stations you have worked. Also, let me know who participated at your station besides yourself, (even guest ops with no call sign yet are eligible).

So, N1YXU and KD4YJZ have already been added to the list. Final list will be forthcoming.

73,

Dave, W4SAR



From: KR4UB, Dan

Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2020 15:32:13 EDT

I decided to stay on commercial power, running higher power 1D for a bit easier and productive operation since the OM (aka old man, I resemble that!) was weakest link here with for one station op :- ) and how long his batteries would last :-)

Made 287 FT-8 contacts... 58 on 40m, 192 on 20m, 10 on 15M and 27 on 10M..

Really enjoyed having the Zoom conference open, nice company and great motivation especially as it got into the late hours. If Bruce & Laurie were still at it, I figured I could stay up a little longer before needing a snooze..

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From: [Aurora Toennisson](#)

Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2020 16:29:17 EDT

For those who may be interested, here's a photo of me listening to satellites. I'm so focused that I didn't realize my cables are a bit of a mess. Oh, well, I could hear things fine. Big thanks to Keith and Wilson for the equipment loan! I think I'm hooked on this satellite thing!



I would imagine that if you could understand Morse code, a tap dancer would drive you crazy!

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### The Link Classified

If you have items to buy or sell, send your ad to: **Martin, KA5JUJ**

**[martin@brody1.com](mailto:martin@brody1.com) 919-260-0632**

**Only one club member has ever submitted an ad and it was successful! I find it hard to believe that none of our members have anything they would like to sell, give away or purchase**

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There are no conventions or hamfests in our area, in the near future

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### Minutes of Last Club Meeting

#### Durham FM Association (DFMA)

**DFMA Over-the-Air Meeting – 06/02/2020** – Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** 147.225MHz & 145.450MHz PL 82.15 DFMA Repeaters

**Attending:** KM4MBG, Jack; KU4GC, Dee; NC4CD, Charlie; KF4NTC, Bob; KF4PAB, Lenore; KN4DRN, Mike; N4JQR, J.R.; W4OFZ, Banks; KE4IHX, Al; N8VNR, Kevin; W4SAR, Dave; KJ4VWG, Sam; KR4UB, Dan; K4VO, Bob; N2XZF, Paul; K0OUX, Vic; KD4YJZ, Karen; WA4UJM, Wally; WB4YYY, Jim; W4BOH, Wilson; KW4KZ, Chuck

A total of 21 attending, with 21 of them currently licensed hams.

**President** - Jack, KM4MBG opened the DFMA Club over-the-air membership meeting at 7 pm with check-ins, followed by announcements, officer reports, and then a rag chew round table discussion.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack KM4MBG reported that Martin KA5JUJ, the DFMA Link editor is looking to retire from that role, but will stay on until replaced.

#### REPORTS

**Vice President** – Jimmy, KF4KHU was not present.

**Treasurer** – Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer’s report. 98 members’ dues are current.

**Secretary** – Dan, KR4UB requested feedback & comments from the membership on the last board and club meeting minutes included in the recently published DFMA Link Newsletter. Nothing heard.

**Repeater Manager** – Charlie, NC4CD reported a replacement modem has been installed at the Hillsborough repeater site restoring the 147.225 to 145.450 repeater linking capability.

**AuxComm EC** – Shawn, K4CTD not present; No new report.

**DurHamFest** – Dee, KU4GC, nothing to report.

**Field Day Coordinator** – Dave, W4SAR reported the ARRL has announced rule changes that now will permit Class D home stations to work all class stations for 2020 Field Day. The other change is that home station scores can be reported with a designated club affiliation which will produce an OCRA/DFMA aggregate score. Dave reported that in some areas, efforts are being made at remote testing. An Orange County emergency order prohibiting group assembly larger than 10 people will continue to the end of June. A projected July session at Efland Baha'i Center is the current target for continuing VE testing.

**Door Prize** - Dan used his random number generator to “draw” for the door prize winner which was Dee KU4GC, winning a flashlight.

### **Rag Chew:**

Dee, KU4GC reported getting ready for a trip to the Boston area and is not sure at present time what he may do for 2020 Field Day participation.

Charlie, NC4CD reported for those interested in DMR, the [Amateur Radio Guide to Digital Mobile Radio](http://guide.k4usd.org) 2nd edition guide published by W2XAB is now available at <http://guide.k4usd.org> for a free download.

Lenore, KF4PAB reported that Heather Flewelling, the remote speaker who talked about her first year as a new ham in Hawaii at the January 2019 DFMA meeting, is featured in the June issue QST Member Profile on page 13. She discovered a comet which has been named after her. Lenore is also enjoying baking, in particular cobblers.

Mike, KN4DRN reported not much going on but enjoying fresh strawberries this year.

J.R. N4JQR encouraged folks to stop by the DFMA Thursday night net at 8pm. He has been working on his radio setup to get his solid state amplifier on the air. He recently made contact with a station in Los Angeles, California on 20m and the station is working better on 40m.

Banks, W4OFZ has been cleaning tree branches off his stealth long wire antenna for better performance, especially on the Monday night 10m net.

Al, KE4IHX with good signal into the Rougemont repeater recalled earlier conversations with Lenore and others about signal quality and is impressed with the better signal quality into the over the air club meetings.

Kevin, N8VNR reported watching the SpaceX launch on Saturday carrying one ham operator to the ISS to join yet another ham radio operator, the space station commander.

Dave, W4SAR reported cleaning up and rearranging his radio shack, getting his dual band radio back on the air and is using a mast antenna for better signal. If in town for Field Day, he plans to participate.

Sam, KJ4VWG reported doing some APRS work on a recent road trip to Ohio.

Dan, KR4UB has been participating in the Monday night 10m and other local nets. He has developed a radio audio bridge, much like the ham radio telephone patch of years past, except this patch connects folks in a Zoom video conference to a radio net. Mark, KR3AM a regular net and conference participant suggested that a remote PTT control was needed. Thinking that Mark was joking, he was very impressed when Mark delivered a Raspberry Pi for connection to the ham radio station. Several licensed club members without stations at their QTH have been participating in local radio nets with Dan present at the station as Control Operator. Some tree work has been done as a number of suspect trees did come down along the road during the wet weather. The excess wood has been shared with Wilson, W4BOH.

Bob, K4VO was glad to hear that Jack, KM4MBG may be getting a 6m station on the air. He recently crossed paths with a fellow ham who he worked with in Endicott, NY who moved down into the area and stopped by for a nice visit. He is looking forward to the DFMA 53.630 6m machine going on the air.

Paul, N2XZF reported not much ham radio activity, but is learning the C++ program language.

Vic, K0OUX checked in from the Laurel Fork cabin just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, a very nice place for social distancing, and is enjoying the nice weather and doing some 40m HF work

Wally, WA4UJM reported not much ham activity with working from home and glad to be on the net.

Wilson W4BOH, having a take-out dinner tonight missed part of the net as Chris & Robin dropped by. Hooper, who is a student at the NCSU School of Agriculture, is interning in Indiana supporting a wolf pack. Wilson made a few DX contacts and is working on Dad's AR-88 World War II receiver.

Jack thanked all who joined the net for taking time to participate and share a little about their activities.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.**

## **Minutes of Last Board Meeting**

### **Durham FM Association (DFMA)**

**DFMA Board Minutes** – 06/20/2020 – Dan KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** Video Conference set up by Jack, KM4MBG

**Attending:** (y) Jack, KM4MBG - president; (n) Jimmy, KF4KHU - vice president; (y) Lenore, KF4PAB - treasurer; (y) Dan, KR4UB - secretary; (y) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (n) Shawn, K4CTD - AuxComm; (y) Dee, KU4GC - DurHamFest chair ; (y) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day; (n) Martin, KA5JUJ Link Editor; At-Large Board Members: (y) David, KW4XL; (y) Paul, N2XZF; (y) Chuck, KW4KZ; (n) Karen, KD4YJZ. Club Members: Bob, K4VO

**President** – Jack, KM4MBG called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm with the call for officer reports.

Jack proposed that the July meeting be held July 7th, the 1st Tuesday of the month, as another repeater over-the-air meeting, due to continuing Covid-19 gathering restrictions. In past years the July club meeting has been moved to the 3rd week due to Bullock's Restaurant regularly scheduled vacation closure.

## **REPORTS:**

**Vice President** – Jimmy, KF4KHU unable to attend.

**Treasurer** – Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer's report. 97 members' dues are current.

Dan, KR4UB inquired about the DFMA payment reimbursement for band pass filters purchased for Field Day. Lenore will be mailing out the reimbursement check.

**Secretary** – Dan, KR4UB requested feedback & comments needed for approval of the 06/02/20 Over-the-Air Club Meeting minutes. A motion was made and the minutes unanimously approved as written.

**Repeater Manager** – Charlie, NC4CD gave a progress report on the 6M repeater. The duplexer measurements after being re-tuned look very good and the duplexer is ready to go to TV Hill. The 220 PA has come in and will be installed soon. Paul, N2XZF and Charlie investigated the noise that has been on the 147.225 repeater. A number of RF connectors and adapters were found to not be in great shape and were replaced. No further noise has been experienced. He further reported that Adriano, KV7D has purchased 3 spare DSL modems for the club. Charlie will scan and email the invoices for the 220 PA and for the purchased DSL modems to Lenore for reimbursement.

Charlie will contact the new ARRL section manager to see if he will be available for a video conference presentation at the July club meeting.

**Auxcomm** – Shawn, K4CTD was absent.

**Field Day Coordinator** - Dave, W4SAR unable to attend.

## **NEW Business:**

The first topic of new business was introduced by Jack, KM4MBG was the board elections normally held at the August meeting. He suggested the board brainstorm about possible candidates that should be contacted about serving in a DFMA officer position. Dee asked for a poll of current officers intentions to continue serving. The responses were as follows: Charlie NC4CD, repeater manager; Jack, KM4MBG president; Lenore, KF4PAB, treasurer; Dan, KR4UB secretary; Chuck, KW4KZ have volunteered to continue serving if elected. David, KW4XL and Karen, KD4YJZ have another year in their current term as at-large board members. Jack will contact Jimmy, KF4KHU to determine his status and if able to continue serving as vice president. Dan recommended the following additional members: John KN4SVO, Loren KV4ZR and Wally WA4UJM be contacted regarding their interest in serving on the DFMA board. In the March meeting they stepped up to help maintain the MCU. Martin, KA5JUJ, current DFMA newsletter editor, has announced his intention to retire from those duties and would like to be relieved by year end. Board members commented on the excellent job Martin has done as the DFMA Link editor. Given Martin's announcement, Jack raised for discussion purposes the question whether the DFMA Link current format should be continued as is, or should alternatives such as web site

publishing or other means be considered. Jack will contact club members and write an article in the "President's Corner" section of the next DFMA Link to appeal to members willing to serve as a DFMA officer or appointee.

Chuck, KW4KZ raised the second topic regarding adding additional items to the OCRA/DFMA groups.io calendar. He specifically was asking that an announcement be added for the NCPacket voice net that has been occurring on the 442.150 repeater. Chuck had posed the question to Dan prior to the meeting and felt that being only a moderator on groups.io, the question should be deferred to the DFMA board meeting where the OCRA/DFMA groups.io registered owner/administrator & OCRA president Dave W4SAR, and DFMA president Jack KM4MBG are present to address the question. In the discussion a concern voiced by Dan and Jack was how much can be added to the calendar before email notifications to members become excessive. The issue was not resolved at the board meeting as Dave W4SAR was unable to attend due to being out of town. Follow up discussion by email on the topic yielded the following recommendation:

- OCRA and DFMA events/nets are the only items to be placed on the OCRA/DFMA groups.io calendar with the option to generate the day in advance email notifications.
- Other events and nets can be placed on the calendar without automatic email reminders, upon receipt of a written request from the sponsoring organization describing the nature of the event, date, time and place.
- To add recurring nets to be held on a DFMA or OCRA repeater, the sponsoring organization in addition to the above information should also identify the licensed representative who will appoint, or be the net control operator to ensure adherence to repeater operating guidelines and FCC regulations. The applicable OCRA or DFMA repeater license trustee must be included on such requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.