



## Next Meeting – On the Air

Tuesday, June 1, 7:00pm, 145.450- PL 82.6

As we did in past months, instead of our usual monthly meeting at Bullock's, we'll have a special net. The net will be at 7pm on June 1st, our usual meeting time, on the 145.45- repeater (PL tone of 82.5). You can also check-in over the Internet via Echolink/SVXLink to the WR4AGC-R node. The format of the net will be check-ins (in place of our usual introductions), officer reports, and a rag chew round table discussion.

## President's Corner

The weather has been getting warmer and I hope you all have been enjoying being outside before it gets too hot.

Now that I'm vaccinated and it's safer to be around other people, I was even able to participate in one of my other hobbies this week, Ultimate Frisbee! In fact, the majority of us should be vaccinated now and it's finally time for the club to be thinking about meeting in person. Be sure to check out the article in this issue for more of our thoughts and questions about that.

Another thing that happens as the weather gets warmer is that we start wondering who will want to contribute more to the club and run for office in our elections! It's an exciting time, because there's always a real opportunity for the club to change for the better. There's also an article in this issue of the Link on this year's election so you can find out more.

In other words, stay cool and read the Link!

Have fun!

73, Jack, KM4MBG



## NASA Presentation - ARISS

### Save the Date!

A joint OCRA/DFMA sponsored program by NASA is being offered on Monday, June 14th, at 7:30pm. The NASA presentation will be on the Zoom video platform with details to be published later.

There will actually be two presentations.

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One of the speakers is Al Feinberg, the Strategic Content and Media Advisor for NASA Space Communications & NASA Television Headquarters in Washington, D.C. His presentation will be on "Space Communications in Support of NASA."

The other speaker is Rosalie White, K1STO, ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) US Delegate. Her

presentation will be "Celebrating 20 Years of Continuous Amateur Radio Operations on the ISS."

Some of you may remember the space station communication from the Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill. That happened almost 20 years ago and was quite a media event. The teacher of the class involved, Barbara Pederson, KE4JZM, had an HF station in her classroom. (Barbara was also active in the Civil Air Patrol.)

Put the date and time on your calendar and watch the OCRA-DFMA@groups.io mailing list for additional information. The latest information will also be placed on the DFMA website and there will probably be a direct mailing to DFMA members just before the event.

Many thanks to the presenters. Also, special thanks goes to Wilson, W4BOH, for arranging this program and to Dan, KR4UB, who is doing much of the logistical support and making sure that Zoom help is available to anyone who needs it.

73, Dee, KU4GC

## OCRA-DFMA Field Day 2021

– June 26-27

Field Day is just around the corner and we hope that your preparations are going well. As reported in the last Link, it was decided by both the DFMA and OCRA not to sponsor a centralized meeting but rather to encourage home operation with each operation reporting its scores to the ARRL with credit to the OCRA-DFMA partnership. But, we didn't want you to think you were in there all on your own. You can get

support from the clubs and, more practically, from individuals who are willing to help and/or consult.

portions of the 10m band open to Tech licensees, but counting on 10m being open is a bit risky.) In the last two columns you can see who has asked for assistance.

Call	Operator(s)	Will host	Class	Mode	Bands	Needs Equip	Other Assistance
N1LN	N1YXU - Laurie, N1LN - Bruce		1D	SSB/CW	All HF op	None	None
KR4UB	KR4UB - Dan		1D	Digital	All HF op	None	None
KN4PTU	KN4PTU - Charles		1D	SSB/Dig	All HF op	None	SW for Digital
KR3AM	KR3AM - Mark		1D	SSB/Dig	80/40	None	Perhaps some SW help
W4BOH	W4BOH - Wilson, KN4VXB - Aurora	*	2D	CW/SSB	All HF op	BP filters - N1LN	None
KA5ETS	KA5ETS - Doug		1D	CW/Dig	40 - 20	None	None
N4JQR	N4JQR - JR		1D	SSB	80 - 20	None	Logging SW help
NC4CX	NC4CX - Butch						
NA4VY	NA4VY - Dave, Aurora - KN4VXB, W4ORD - Ladd	*	1D	SSB	All HF op	None	Logging SW help
KW4KZ	KW4KZ - Chuck		1D	SSB	80 - 40	None	None
WB4OSU	WB4OSU - Sherri		1D	Digital		Mast, etc	None
WA2JLW	WA2JLW - Roy		1E	CW	All HF op	None	None
KJ4VWG	KJ4VWG - Sam		1D	SSB	All HF op	None	None
W4KIL	W4KIL - Andy		1D	Digital	40 - 6	None	None
K4SAR	K4SAR - Joe, KI4RAN - Bill		1D	SSB	All HF open	None	None
AJ2X	AJ2X - Mark		1D	SSB/Dig	40 - 6	None	Logging SW help
W1KES	W1KES - Keith		1D	Digital	40 - 20	None	None
W4SAR	W4SAR - Dave, KD4YJZ - Karen	*	1E	SSB/Dig	All HF op	None	None
KZ1X	KZ1X - Steve		1D	CW/SSB	All HF op	None	None
N4GF	N4GF - Roger		2B	CW/SSB	All HF op	None	None
WA4PSC	WA4PSC - Howie		1D	CW	All HF op	None	None
N2XZF	N2XZF - Paul		1D	SSB	40 - 10	TBD	TBD
KO4TXN	KO4TXN - Steve		1D	SSB	All HF op	None	Perhaps some N3FJP help
K1ZW	K1ZW - Larry		1D	SSB	All HF op	None	None
N4KW	N4KW - Pete		1D	CW/SSB	All HF op	None	None
N8BR	N8BR - Bill		1D	CW	All HF op	None	N1MM+ or N3FJP
KX4P	KX4P - John		1D	CW/Dig/SSB	All HF op	None	None
KO4DHJ	KO4DHJ - Ken		1D	SSB	160 - 20	None	N3FJP

**Field Day Participation - courtesy of N1LN (edited to fit)**

Bruce, N1LN, has worked very hard to document the participants and to try to find out where help was needed. Bruce has participated in various meeting nets and rag-chew nets to collect the information and to make it clear that help is available, especially for new folks. From time to time he has published his list on the OCRA-DFMA@groups.io list. The table included here is a slightly modified version of his 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Note that there are three operations that are willing to host visitors (3rd column). If interested in working with them, you need to contact them to see what time slots are available. This should be especially useful for new hams with no previous HF experience and who may need to work with someone holding a General, Advanced, or Extra license if they only have their Technician license. (There are

Even if you are not on this list, you can still join the group effort combing all scores. You can also get assistance by posting on OCRA-DFMA@groups.io Any question is fair game. There will also be a live Zoom conference during Field Day where you can ask questions and get general advice. (e.g. where the fish are biting :-)

Thanks again to Bruce, N1LN, for putting in all or this work!

**Keep Public Service in Mind**

Some of our members have expressed an interest in ARES. While the club continues working on finding someone to be a leader in this field, there is nothing keeping you from assisting in public service events. Now that a fair percentage of the population has been vaccinated, races and the like are being scheduled again. Hams have traditionally done supporting work in these and providing communications services. This is good practice for some of the services provided through ARES/Auxcomm in emergencies. Both the OCRA

442.150 and the DFMA's 145.450 repeaters were recently enlisted as primary and backup repeaters for a race. Dan Sears, KD4AGQ, recently coordinated one such event. Here is his note of thanks:

“May 23, 2021, 3:11 PM  
Hello Dan and Dee,  
thank you for the use of your repeaters for the Cup and Cone event yesterday. As always, they worked great and gave wonderful coverage over the entire course.

it was a beautiful day yesterday and a nice, well organized event, the perfect kick-off after a long absence. we had between 300 and 350 participants, not too bad. On a personal note it was nice to get my trailer back in operation and shake the cobwebs out.

We very much appreciate the use of your machines and we hope to see you and some of your members out with us enjoying their radios. with grateful regards and a big THANKS.

**Dan, KD4AGQ"**

## DFMA Annual Elections

The DFMA Board of Directors election will take place around our August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Please nominate yourself or someone else for the following positions:

### One year terms:

**President:** Preside over board and general membership meetings. Set the agenda and priorities of the club. Lead club communication including "President's Corner" Link feature.

**Vice-President:** Fill in the for president when needed, and share the load of the presidential duties.

**Treasurer:** Execute club financial transactions, and maintain records of the same. Maintain club membership data.

**Secretary:** Produce and maintain minutes of club meetings.

**Repeater Manager:** Act as Trustee for WR4AGC. Oversee repeater maintenance and operation.

### Two year terms:

**At-Large member** (two positions): Contribute to board discussions and board-wide tasks such as code of conduct enforcement.

Chuck, KW4KZ, and Karen, KD4YJZ, will continue for the second year of their two year appointment.

Nominations can be emailed to [dfma-board@km4mbg.org](mailto:dfma-board@km4mbg.org)

Voting details are still being arranged, but we intend to have remote voting options for those who may not attend our August meeting (or in case we don't have one, please see information about our reopening plans).

While you can run for or nominate a member for any of the positions, we already have nominations for President, Treasurer, Repeater Manager and the two open At-Large Board positions. So it's especially important to get nominations for Vice President and Secretary.

**73, Jack, KM4MBG**

## Meeting in Person !!!

At the DFMA (virtual) Board meeting last week, we all agreed that what we missed most was "Having Another Meal" at Bullock's BBQ. It has been over a year since we all gathered together to visit and talk about all things related to ham radio. Remember the old saying: "Time flies when you're having fun!". Time has not been flying and the pandemic has definitely not been fun.

Now many of us have been vaccinated and the numbers are going in the right direction. There is an advantage to being an "Old Man". I think it is time to start thinking of ways to get together again. I am in another club that has not met since March of 2020. That club sent out a survey to see what the members thought about having meetings again. So, we need to get get some feedback from our membership as well.

The June meeting is obviously set for Tuesday and will be on the repeater again. The next candidate is the July meeting. Bullock's is continuing its tradition of closing two weeks in July. They will be closed from Sunday, July 4th through Monday, July 19th. In past years we have often met on the third Tuesday in July, and that would be possible. Some people have expressed the feeling that this is too close to our August meeting. That would then be on Tuesday, August 2nd.

The suggestion has been made that in July we have an outdoor meeting - a "picnic in the park". While catering has been suggested, that is really not that practical since there is an uncertainty as to how many would attend (and for financial and "non-profit organization" reasons we would not have the club pay for our Christmas dinner. So it might be a pot-luck event and could be a lot of fun. Reserving a park location in Durham is not very expensive.

August seems far enough in the future that we could probably count on going back to regular meetings at Bullock's starting then.

But, having outlined some of the options, above, we need to hear from the membership. We will make an effort to do some kind of poll/survey. However, feel free to send us your opinions by email or post them on [OCRA-DFMA@groups.io](mailto:OCRA-DFMA@groups.io).

**73, Charlie, NC4CD and Dee, KU4GC**

## Welcome to our New Members

No new hams have joined the DFMA since last month. Since things are "opening up", maybe you should invite some people to join us.

The good news is that **Dave Love, N4UBH, Durham** and **Cynthia Love, KI4OKO, Durham** have rejoined the club. Welcome Back!

## Durham FM Association (DFMA)

### DFMA Board Meeting Minutes

#### for General Release to the Membership -

04/20/2021- Dan KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** Big Blue Button Video Conference

**Attending:** (y) Jack, KM4MBG - president; vacant - vice president; (y) Lenore, KF4PAB - treasurer; (y) Dan, KR4UB - secretary; (y) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (y) Dee, KU4GC - DurHamFest chair; (y) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day; (n) Martin, KA5JUL Link Editor; At-Large Board Members: (y) David, KW4XL; (y) Paul, N2XZF; (y) Chuck, KW4KZ; (y) Karen, KD4YJZ.

**President** - Jack called the meeting to order at 7pm and called for a motion to approve the 03/16/21 Board and 04/06/21 Club Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### Officer Reports

**President** - Jack would like to see some virtual presentations at the club meetings. The Vice President position who normally schedules meeting presentations remains vacant. Volunteers are needed to help come up with, or do presentations. Dan commented that Wilson knew someone who had worked at NASA and could make a presentation. Jack received a request from Nathan Sanders from the Durham EOC regarding training records and directed him to the North Carolina AUXCOMM contact Virginia Enzor or Tom Brown who maintain amateur training records at the state level.

In regard to the need for volunteers, Dee brought up that additional net controls are needed for the Possum Trot net control.

**Club Secretary** - Dan, KR4UB requested that the video conference either start 15 minutes before the meeting or, change the setting that allows members to join prior meeting start time to work out any audio/video conference problems.

**Treasurer's Report** - Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer's report that 92 member's dues are current.

Club Treasury Balances:

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD reported visiting the TV Hill and Hillsborough sites and all is well with the new internet service. Charlie noticed that he had not received a bill for the new Spectrum internet service and after calling Spectrum found the mailing address was wrong and provided them with

the correct mailing address. Regarding the 6m repeater coordination discussion, he has been in discussion with Mike Farress the SERA frequency coordinator and the agreement is in place for the 6m machine to move to 53.610MHz. It will take some time to make the frequency change as manufacturers with the ability to make temperature compensated crystals have disappeared from the marketplace. Paul will be building an external circuit to do the temperature compensation needed for the required repeater frequency stability. The Yagi antennas are ready to go up on the tower for the new radio link between TV Hill and the Hillsborough sites.

### Agenda Items:

The topic introduced by Jack was the Club Code of Conduct. No comments have been received on the final draft made available for review and comment by the membership at last month's meeting. Jack made the call for a motion to adopt the Code of Conduct and was approved by a unanimous vote by the board.

Dee, KU4GC will update the club membership form to include a code of conduct membership agreement.

Next, Lenore, KF4PAB presented the **treasurer's financial report** to the board. The presentation was the standard financial report detail made to the board on an annual basis. Income and Expenses were presented by category and show a slight additional amount of expenses than income for this year due to replacing failing hardware on the club repeaters. DFMA's overall income has remained stable, even considering cancellation of income producing events due to COVID-19. An appropriate reserve balance continues to be maintained in the club accounts.

Jack introduced the next topic, **Field Day**. Covid-19 still remains a significant concern that is likely to persist through the June Field Day event. The 2020 ARRL Field Day rule changes regarding home operations have been extended again for this year.

Dave W4SAR, OCRA/DFMA Field Day coordinator reported that Bruce, N1LN has requested via the club's email list that members report on their plans for Field Day participation at home and any small group operations along with any equipment and training assistance they may need.

Dan, KR4UB commented that all members should check their excess equipment inventory for items that could be made available especially for new club members or newly licensed members. Also, volunteering for outdoor work parties to assist anyone needing help erecting a Field Day antenna would be helpful. Past training articles covering

N1MM scoring software, ARRL Field Day rules explained more succinctly, the Field Day contact exchange protocol and the group score submission can be made available.

Dee, KU4GC brought up that newly licensed technician class members will require higher license class control operators on site if they are to have the opportunity to operate outside technician frequencies. Dave, W4SAR commented that if COVID conditions permit, VE testing before Field Day for license upgrades could be another option.

Paul N2XZF pointed out that the technician class operators are permitted in the 10m band and also that 10m antennas are much smaller and easier to install. He offered to make a 10m J-pole antenna for anyone's needs. They are very easy to pull up into a nearby tree.

Chuck, KW4KZ noted that several farmers who formerly sold their goods Hillsborough farmer's market (closed due to COVID) have set up sales locations at their farms. They have made an offer for hams to set up at their farms, provided health safety protocols are followed and would advertise the event in their farm newsletter. An opportunity might be to deploy the DFMA MCU to one of those locations.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.**

## Club Meeting Minutes

**Durham FM Association (DFMA)**

**DFMA Over-the-Air Meeting** - 05/04/2021 - Dan, KR4UB, Secretary

**Location:** 145.450MHz PL 82.15 DFMA Repeater (145.225 Repeater Audio Link Inoperative)

**Attending:** KM4MBG, Jack; KU4GC, Dee; N4JQR, J.R.; KO4PYW, Matt; W4OFZ, Banks; KF4PAB, Lenore; KR4UB, Dan; N8VNR, Kevin; AJ2X, Mark; K4VO, Bob; KM4GBM, Nelson; KW4KZ, Chuck; KJ4VWG, Sam; WA4UJM, Wally; N4DSF, Dave

A total of 15 attending, with 15 of them currently licensed hams.

### REPORTS

**President** - Jack, KM4MBG opened the DFMA club over-the-air meeting net at 7 pm with check-ins and

called for brief officer reports, announcements, followed by a rag chew session.

**Treasurer** - Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer's report. 93 member's dues are current.

**Secretary** - Dan, KR4UB called for any comments on the minutes published in the DFMA Link newsletter. He also thanked Martin, KA5JUJ and now Dee, KU4GC for their excellent work on the club newsletter.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD unable to attend. Jack, KM4MBG reported progress is continuing on the new radio link between TV Hill and the Hillsborough repeater sites. Crystals have been ordered for the new 53.610 MHz frequency and Paul, N2XZF is building the required frequency/temperature compensation circuit.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack, KM4MBG reported work is in progress for a combined OCRA/DFMA meeting with a presentation by two NASA representatives. Jack summarized the planned 2021 FD plans with members largely operating class 1D or 1E stations at their homes. Members planning to participate are requested to describe their planned activity, any assistance needed, assistance that could be provided to others. Any special activities (e.g. food!) you may be including in your plans in the spirit of the normal Field gathering would also be of interest.

Dee, KU4GC announced the preliminary details for the combined OCRA/DFMA meeting with the NASA presentation. More information will be distributed as soon as the plans are in place.

### RAG CHEW SESSION

KU4GC, Dee offered to provide help to anyone needing Field Day assistance and has been checking out his station for Field Day.

KO4PYW, Matt reported he just received his license & radio the past weekend and his participation in the net is his first radio contact.

W4OFZ, Banks reported that with his planned move, he is in the process of taking down his ham station and deploying to a new location with slightly higher elevation, but with a more difficult antenna installation challenge.

KF4PAB, Lenore, welcomed Matt to the net and hopefully to a face to face meeting sometime in the not too distant future. Things she will miss from the normal Field Day gathering focuses largely on food!

KR4UB, Dan is still awaiting some details from the presenters to firm up the combined meeting NASA presentation. He gave a preliminary overview of the proposed meeting format which would include a brief radio net check in and transition to Zoom for the NASA presentation. A practice Zoom conference will be opened the preceding weekend to provide assistance to anyone who has not participated in a video conference.

N8VNR, Kevin made a follow up comment about difficulties in getting crystals in that he has his grandfather's crystal controlled Lafayette HA-146, a 2m FM rig. He is looking forward to the NASA presentation, especially the ISS space station portion.

Mark, AJ2X commented that enjoyable food is a thought on his mind about Field Day. He is interested in battery operation for Field Day and inquired about points scoring for that mode. Jack and Dee provided some feedback on the battery and QRP scoring bonuses.

K4VO, Bob reported not much to report on radio but lots of activity displaying and running his train collection at the Raleigh train show at the state fairgrounds.

KW4KZ, Chuck commented his TARPEN packet node is down for upgrade and he is also in the process of building an end fed dipole for 80m. He will miss the camaraderie and food encountered at the normal Field Day operations. He also reminded all that Bruce, N1LN is collecting information from those planning to participate in Field Day.

KJ4VWG, Sam reported the new internet connection is up at Gibbs Lane and the I-Gate is working very well. For Field Day he plans to run a battery operated station.

WA4UJM, Wally reported not much activity on the radio due to work demands.

N4DSF, Dave reported he is new to the area and interested in YAESU Wires-X operations.

N4JQR, J.R. commented that Bomar Crystals bomarcystal.com is back in operation and a source for needed crystals.

Hearing no further comments the net meeting was **adjourned at 8:00pm**

## Buy – Sell – Trade

Do you have something that you need or something you want to get rid of? There's this spot in The Link

set aside just for you. Just email the appropriate info to [ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org) and it will be included with the next issue. Make sure to include contact info.

### Upcoming Events ([dfma.org](http://dfma.org) for details)

6/01 DFMA Meeting on the Air, 7pm 145.450

6/06 OCRA Meeting on the Air, 7pm 442.150

6/14 OCRA/DFMA "NASA" Program - Zoom

6/15 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm

6/26 2pm – 6/27 2pm Field Day 2021

7/?? DFMA Meeting TBA

Web Site: **[dfma.org](http://dfma.org)**

**73 - Dee, KU4GC, Editor**

**- Lenore, KF4PAB, Proofreader**

Send copy to [ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org)

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

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