



## Next Meeting – Streaming Tuesday, August 3, 7:00pm

Unfortunately, we won't be getting together in person for our August meeting as planned. Instead, we'll use this as an opportunity to do a test of the streaming configuration we hope to use when we are able to return to in-person meetings. This time though, the in-person part will be limited to just me, and everyone else will be able to participate by watching a live video stream and adding your comments to the web chat.

We'll be saving our planned August presentation for a future date, but we will be holding the DFMA Board election! Voting will take place via the chat. I also plan to do a little bit of show and tell about what I've been up to during the pandemic. If you'd like to participate in the show and tell by recording a short, less than 5 minute video, I can include it in the stream if you send it (or a link to it) to me in advance of the meeting.

Please join us Tuesday, August 3rd at 7pm at <https://dfma-meeting.km4mbg.org>. I'm still getting everything set up, so don't be alarmed if the site isn't up before Tuesday. I'm looking forward to talking to you soon.

73, Jack

## President's Corner

If you have paid attention to our slate of nominations for the board election, you know that this is my last president's corner. Thank you all for allowing me to be president for the past two years. They certainly have been interesting years, but I'm proud that we have been able to maintain many of our traditions, ham new years resolutions, monthly board meetings, field day, etc., during the pandemic. I'm also proud that we adopted our Code of Conduct which will be a great tool to communicate our collegial atmosphere to new members.



Looking forward, I hope that the slow process of reopening will continue, and that we will welcome even more new folks as we do so. I see the postponement of our August reunion not as a

setback, but as a necessary step to protect our community so that when we do reopen, we can feel good about doing so. Let's all work to increase the vaccination rate so that our reopening will come sooner rather than later.

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We should also thank two of our other board members who are stepping down: Dave Vielbaum, KW4XL, and Dan Eddleman, KR4UB. Thank you both for your service to the club and your patience with me.

I think that we have many exciting paths before us as a club, and, fortunately, it's not too late to join the effort by nominating yourself for one of the open board positions.

73, Jack, KM4MBG

## DFMA Annual Elections

The DFMA Board of Directors election will take place at our August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Below are the positions and the nominations to date. Note that we still need nominations for Vice President and Secretary. Of course, we can have additional nominations for all of the positions.

### One year terms:

#### President

Lenore, KF4PAB

#### Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_ (still need at least one nomination)

#### Treasurer

Jack, KM4MBG

#### Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ (still need at least one nomination)

#### Repeater Manager

Charlie, NC4CD

### Two year terms:

#### At-Large members (two positions open)

Paul, N2FZF

Bob, K4VO

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

Please nominate someone or, even better, nominate yourself! That is one way for you to ensure an acceptable candidate!

Nominations can be emailed to

[dfma-board@km4mbg.org](mailto:dfma-board@km4mbg.org)

Nominations "from the floor" will also be accepted at the meeting.

## OCRA-DFMA: NASA Presentation (third time is a charm)

A joint OCRA/DFMA sponsored program by NASA is being offered on Monday, August 12th at 7:30pm. This, *twice postponed*, NASA presentation will be on the Zoom video platform with details to be published later.

There will actually be two presentations. One of the speakers will be 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, ARRISS (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.)

Watch the OCRA-DFMA@groups.io mailing list for additional details. The latest information will also be placed on the DFMA website.

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 that needs it.

## 2021 DFMA Directory – Soon!

The last edition of the DFMA Directory was distributed at the 2019 DurHamFest. Last month I

solicited updates in the information. Thank you to the few that responded. I'm close to finished with updating the rest of the directory and the final version should be ready fairly soon. There is still time for last minute updates, but if you don't act quickly you may see your misinformation in print.

At this late stage, please email any corrections to:

[ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org).

Thanks!

73, Dee, KU4GC

## Return of the VE Test Sessions

Dave Snyder, W4SAR, our local VE coordinator, has scheduled our first local VE Testing Session for Saturday, August 28th at 10am. As before the pandemic, this will be held at the Efland Bahai Center. You may notice that is not quite consistent with our former schedule. With time, all of this is expected to return to "normal." (Due to the uncertainty caused by the proliferation of the Delta strain of the Covid 19

virus, watch the email reflector – [OCRA-DFMA@groups.io](mailto:OCRA-DFMA@groups.io) for any last-minute schedule changes)

## Durham FM Association (DFMA)

**DFMA Board Meeting Minutes for General Release to the Membership** – 06/15/2021– 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; (n) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (y) Dee, KU4GC - DurHamFest chair & Link Editor; (n) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day; At-Large Board Members: (y) David, KW4XL; (y) Paul, N2XZF; (n) Chuck, KW4KZ; (n) Karen, KD4YJZ, Guest: Bob, K4VO.

**President** - Jack called the meeting to order at 7pm with the call for officer reports.

### Officer Reports

**President** - Jack reported work is underway for the newly adopted DFMA Code of Conduct to be posted on the website.

## Welcome to our New Members

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

The ball is in your court!

**Club Secretary** - Dan, KR4UB Nothing to report other than calling for a vote of approval for the 6/1/21 club meeting and 5/18/21 Board minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** - Lenore, KF4PAB provided the treasurer's report that 95 member's dues are current.

Club Treasury Balances: were reported.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD unable to attend. Paul reported the crystals to change the frequency will not arrive until some time in July as the special request made for high temperature stability performance requires a long term burn-in and stability checking over a considerable length of time.

### Discussion Items:

Jack and Lenore asked Dan a number of questions about the postponed NASA Meeting.

- Dan responded that with Field Day planned activities and ongoing discussions with the overall feeling that July is too soon to meet, and that August would be the most probable target to reschedule the presentation.
- Where would the combined meeting for the presentation be? Dan responded that with late cancellation and Field Day upon us there are no plans at this point. Lenore asked about the seating capacity at the Efland Baha'i center. It is a large capacity meeting room that could hold both club's members and has a large screen HDTV available for presentations.
- Dan summarized the responses to a set of poll questions asked at the last OCRA meeting as follows:

How many will attend the rescheduled NASA presentation as a future meeting?

- Of the 26 ultimately present at the meeting (2 late arrivals missed the poll) Close to 100% (23) stated they will attend the rescheduled NASA presentation.

- Given the late breaking (day of the event cancellation) two methods were used to notify attendees.

- + direct mailing of members or
- + posting on groups.io. What is the preferred, best way?

- 14 preferred exclusive direct mailing notification (in this case from the OCRA mass emailer the NASA cancellation).

- 9 stated they received the direct mailing and some number of those also received a groups.io email notification of the posted cancellation notice.

- In the discussion it came apparent that notification effectiveness for late breaking events via groups.io could be problematic given the various options settable by groups.io members. Notifications can be set by members ranging from individual immediate notification, once a day digest (of the previous day postings sent the morning of the next day), or no email notification (thus reliance on checking the groups.io web posts for any late breaking messages).

Regarding DurHamFest, Dee reported that conversation with the Durham Public Schools liaison contact is that a target to re-open the facility has not been set. There is considerable in-house demand that may preclude the possibility of the facility being available for outside group use.

DFMA Annual August Elections - Jack gave the following synopsis of the upcoming elections.

- President - Lenore, KF4PAB is running for president; no other candidates have come forward.
- Vice President - No candidates have come forward for vice president.
- Treasurer - Jack is running for treasurer; no other candidates have come forward.
- Secretary - No one is running for secretary.
- Repeater Manager - Charlie is willing to continue as DFMA repeater manager.
- There are two At-Large 2 year positions open with 3 candidates Dan, KR4UB, Paul, N2XZF and Bob, K4VO.

Bob, K4VO asked about the Board At-Large open positions.

- Dee replied there are 4 board at-large positions with 2 year terms that 2 positions come open bi annually.
- Dan replied that he would really like to see Bob become a member of the at-large board and that he would be willing to step down from the at-large position.
- Dee expressed concern about losing the expertise of past board members and an option would be to have more appointed positions to keep past officers and board members involved in roles such as assistant treasurers, assistant secretaries or repeater support committee.

- In that light, Dan offered that given the past extensive assistance Charlie NC4CD and Paul, N2ZXF have given with OCRA repeaters, he is more than willing to join the DFMA repeater committee and return the favor to DFMA. He would also be willing to assist the new secretary in the same manner Dee has done from the beginning of Dan's term in 2014 and continuing to this day. He has provided great assistance in proof reading and making suggestions to draft minutes.

Bob also suggested that the board meetings by video conference would have to continue for him to be a board member. Lenore and Dan responded strongly suggesting continuation of board video conference meetings format and could make it more attractive for new members to join the board.

All board members were given the challenge to think of who to aggressively recruit for the open positions. A number of suggestions were made pointing out members with regular attendance at the DFMA club meetings.

Next Jack called for a motion of approval of the May 18th board and June 1st club net minutes, which were approved by unanimous vote.

Next topic was the time frame to re-open regular club meetings at Bullock's BBQ. Jack summarized the membership survey results on re-opening. 27 members responded with 21 indicating they would attend an August meeting. Only 3 indicated they could not attend an August meeting. Other options regarding vaccination status were discussed. An interim July picnic meeting was discussed, but with Field Day upon us and lead time required pretty much rules out that opportunity. The July club meeting will continue as an on-the-air meeting as done for the past year. Elections will be held at the August club meeting at Bullock's and there may be some provision for internet voting for those who can't attend. [Late breaking news regarding Covid-19 variants from area health directors suggests that members not vaccinated possibly due to health issues and those electing to not be vaccinated should not attend the meeting, since wearing masks and eating at the same time are not possible.](#)

Bob suggested and Jack led a discussion on the possibility of a video conference connection for those who can't attend. Internet connectivity at Bullock's, alternatives, how to do a quality job, would there be sufficient remote participation and interest to justify came up. The conversation ended with the

perspective that this could be a possibility but more work to determine sufficient interest exists to justify the effort.

In the end Dee summarized that showing intent, some experiments to learn, whether long term interest justifies considering proceeding, would be the best path to address the question.

A motion was made and passed to **adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm**

## Club Meeting Minutes

### Durham FM Association (DFMA)

**DFMA Over-the-Air Meeting** - 07/06/21 - 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.; W4OFZ, Banks; KF4PAB, Lenore; KR4UB, Dan; K4VO, Bob; AJ2X, Mark; NC4CD, Charlie A total of 9 attending, with 9 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. 94 member's dues are current. Club Treasury Balances: were reported

**Secretary** - Dan, KR4UB nothing to report as secretary.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD Nothing new to report.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack, KM4MBG began the announcements portion of the meeting that DFMA will be resuming in-person events on Tuesday, August 3rd with the general membership meeting beginning at 7pm at Bullock's BBQ restaurant in Durham. Many people arrive around 6pm to eat and socialize before the meeting begins.

Jack is investigating the equipment needed to be able to live stream the membership meeting portion of Bullock's events for those who can not attend.

The annual DFMA elections will be held at this meeting. Jack continued by reporting the current slate of nominees as follows:

## Club Officers

- President - Lenore, KF4PAB
- Vice President - Position open, no candidates
- Treasurer - Jack, KM4MBG
- Secretary - Position open, no candidates
- Repeater Manager - Charlie, NC4CD

## At Large Board

## Current Year Member Expirations (2)

- Paul, N2XZF - current member, running for another term.
- David, KW4XL - leaving the board due to moving out of the area
- Bob, K4VO has volunteered to run for the position vacated by David, KW4XL.

## Alternate Year Members (2)

- Karen, KD4YJZ - Term continues until 2022
- Chuck, KW4KZ - Term continues until 2022

Normally Dan, KR4UB's expiring secretary term, would allow him run for the board position, as had planned but he has offered to step back to leave an uncontested position for Bob, K4VO to join the board. Dan, recounting the repeater assistance that Charlie NC4CD and Paul, N2XZF have provided to OCRA over the years, wants to volunteer to join the DFMA Repeater Committee to assist where needed in maintaining the DFMA's repeaters.

Dee reiterated the point that now is the time for all club members to give serious consideration to supporting the club, most notably in volunteering for the vacant positions noted above or consider helping as an assistant to one of the positions. The assistant concept would be for additional club members, past officers & board members to help with roles for example, the vice president in securing club presentations for club meetings. Knowing that there would be a larger team contributing to fulfilling a specific officer role, might help in getting more members to volunteer to take on the officer position.

Dee's next topic was the 2021 DFMA Directory. The last DFMA directory was distributed at the 2019 DurHamFest. All club members whose directory information has changed since the last directory should complete the membership form available on the club website (and also attached with the last email distribution of the DFMA Newsletter) to provide their current information.

KU4GC, Dee - Appreciated Field Day, especially as a way for family members to work closely together for both planning and setup and then actual operation.

N4JQR, J.R. - Enjoyed Field Day, but has some antenna problems to sort out.

W4OFZ, Banks - checked in and out

KR4UB, Dan commented that the up front work to get the N1MM logging software setup really helped out during his FT4 and FT8 Field Day operations, helping him make more contacts and easy export of the Cabrillo log for submission to the ARRL.

AJ2X, Mark - First time with computer logging, N3FJP software, and it went very well indeed - much easier than paper! Also a new antenna, 40m off-center-fed dipole, which worked quite well. FT8 software working on Thursday wouldn't work at all on Saturday, though. Still, had a great time!

## Buy – Sell – Trade

### Rohn 25 tower sections

I'm posting this for a friend.

"For sale are sixteen 10 foot tower sections that are used and recently removed professionally, without damage, by crane. The Rohn 25 tower was installed around 1988 but is in good shape with only some surface rust on a few sections; most are clean with no rust. One section is an antenna mount.

I can send pictures or arrange for an appointment for inspection. Local delivery is possible for no extra charge. Price is currently: make an offer. If needed, I am willing to sell sections individually."

Please contact me by email: [ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org)  
73, Dee, KU4GC

### Do you have something to sell?

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.

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

**Upcoming Events** (dfma.org for details)

8/03 DFMA Meeting, Live Streamed, 7pm  
8/09 OCRA Meeting on the Air, 7pm 442.150  
8/09 OCRA-DFMA NASA program , Zoom, 7:30pm  
8/17 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm  
8/28 VE Test Session, Bahai Center, 10am  
9/03-9/05 Shelby Hamfest, Fairgrounds Shelby  
9/06 Labor Day  
9/07 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

**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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