



## Next Meeting – Streaming Tuesday, September 7, 7:00pm

### Program:

**New FCC Rules on RF Safety in Amateur Radio**

**By: Chuck Till, KF4RGN**

Most of you have likely read about the new rules requiring hams to evaluate their home station for RF safety. Chuck's presentation should give you a nice assist to meeting those requirements.

Chuck, K4RGN was first licensed in 1970. He has a Bachelor's and a Master's in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Prior to retirement, he worked in international marketing for telecom companies. His main interests in ham radio are digital modes. He's also a volunteer announcer at WCPE The Classical Station 89.7.

Unfortunately, we won't be getting together in person for our September meeting as we had hoped. Like we did for our August meeting, we'll use the live streaming configuration. This one-way video system means that the in-person live video will be limited to the president and treasurer, and everyone else will be able to participate by watching and using the interactive web chat. Our speaker has pre-recorded the main presentation but will be available through chat to answer your questions.

We may have some time for some show and tell. You can participate in the show and tell by recording a short, less than 5 minute video. We 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, September 7th at 7pm at <https://dfma-meeting.km4mbg.org>.

We will likely send further connection info just before the meeting both on the emvail reflector (OCRA-DFMA@groups.io) and by direct email

73, Jack, KM4MBG

## President's Corner

Thank you all for your support in my almost non-existent campaign running for DFMA president. I will consider my tenure a success if more



people want to actively participate in the leadership of the club. Perhaps this will be by instilling motivation in all of you and perhaps it will be through recruitment of new members. Let's try for both.

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If you are just now learning that the Vice-presidential role has been unfilled for over a year and now the office of secretary is vacant, please let me know immediately. That would mean that there is a major gap in our communications efforts. I suspect that it's more likely you imagine that being an officer in the DFMA is more work than it really is or you won't get the support that you need. In this issue of the Link, our Repeater Manager, Charlie, NC4CD, has written about changes to the duties of the Vice-

president and how it will be supported by the entire board. In addition, anyone volunteering to be Secretary will not have to do nearly the fabulous job that Dan, KR4UB, did. Just please record what we vote on and how we voted. Minimal context is fine. Most importantly, did you know that all of our meetings are on-line? We meet once a month and you don't even have to leave the house. Alternatively, you can join us from an exotic location using your phone.

Perhaps you still don't feel as if you have the time to fill these roles within the DFMA. Perhaps you feel as if you've already served your time in the leadership. I understand that. Then, please, help us find others who may need encouragement and convince them to participate.

Let's put this another way, if these offices aren't filled by the January meeting, I hope each of you will take the time to tell me why I should continue spending \*my\* time representing you as president.

Thank you for your support,

73, Lenore, KF4PAB

## DFMA Annual Elections Results

The DFMA Board of Directors election took place at the August DFMA meeting. There were no nominations from "the floor", so, the not so surprising outcome (there was only one candidate per position) was:

- President: Lenore, KF4PAB

- Treasurer: Jack, KM4MBG  
- Repeater Manager: Charlie, NC4CD  
- At-Large members: Paul, N2FZF, and Bob, K4VO  
Chuck, KW4KZ, and Karen, KD4YJZ, will continue for the second year of their two-year terms.

Unfortunately, two positions had no nominations and are thus still unfilled: Vice-President and Secretary. That problem is addressed in two articles in this issue of The Link.

**DFMA Needs Volunteers**

DFMA has just had its annual election of officers. We were not successful in getting candidates for two of our officer positions. I know it has been difficult to fill these offices, mainly because we have not been able to meet in person for over a year. Some of our members have continued to meet monthly by a virtual session or a repeater net. It has kept some of us in touch but not like “having another meal” at Bullock’s.

We were unable to get volunteers to run for the offices of Vice President and Secretary. Most of the reasons for not wanting to be Vice President were that getting 12 programs was too difficult. The Vice President does not have to secure 12 programs !! Here is how that works. We don’t have a speaker for the December Christmas party. We all participate in the New Year’s Resolutions, past, present, and future. In May, we don’t have a speaker because we are planning the Durhamfest. In June, we don’t have a speaker because we are planning Field Day. We are now down to nine programs.

The Vice President can then delegate the remaining nine programs to the club officers. Let’s count how many that would be: (1) President, (2) Secretary, (3) Treasurer, (4) Repeater Manager, and (5-6-7-8) Four Directors. That only leaves one program for the Vice President. Other members that know of someone to give a program that would be of interest to the members can volunteer or pass the suggestion along to one of the officers. Securing 12 programs is not difficult. I know this works because I was in a civic club that met weekly. Each member was only responsible for two to a maximum of four programs a year.

The office of Secretary primarily involves writing minutes for club meetings and board meetings. Dan did an excellent job as Secretary and I am sure he would be happy to provide some OJT.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in person soon. Many of our members come to the meetings for the food, the fellowship, and the programs. Let’s have some volunteers for these two offices. If you would be willing to be one of these officers, call or email Lenore, our new President.

73 de NC4CD

**DFMA Directory – Please Update**

Just the other day, one of our Board members needed to contact one of his fellow DFMA members. He didn’t have the phone number so he pulled out his DFMA Directory and called the home number given. Well, it turned out that that line had been disconnected. Fortunately, there was also a cell number which worked.

This report from a user of our Directory makes two good points.

1. It needs to be updated. If you, like many people, have dropped your home phone line, please let us know.
2. The fact that there was still or working number illustrates how useful this Directory can be.

**Welcome to our New Members**

Clint Stone, Durham NC

Clint is working on getting his license.

Good Luck Clint!

So, please send updates to:

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

Help make sure that the DFMA directory continues to be a useful tool. And thanks!

73, Dee, KU4GC

**Local VE Testing Session**

On Saturday, August 28th, the first local VE testing session in about one and a half years was held at the Efland Bahai Center. While the health reports have been anything but good, this does represent a real step forward. Thanks to Dave, W4SAR, and crew for leading the way. There is no word yet as to plans to resume the regular VE testing schedule.

**Farewell Prorated Dues**

Over a year ago, the DFMA Board decided to abandon the requirement that memberships start on January 1st and end on December 31st. In the past, new members could prorate their dues paying only for the months remaining in the current calendar year. The change to just paying a full year’s dues (or more) was triggered by the success that OCRA had with this scheme. In addition to avoiding dealing with prorated initial dues payments, it was also helpful

when members wanted to pay by cash. Often people have a \$20 bill handy for dues. The Treasurer then has to come up with change. It's much simpler to suggest that the renewal be for 20 months instead of 12 months. And new members always pay at least \$12 for their initial membership. This makes it easier for the Treasurer when handling money, but does require more careful bookkeeping since both the month and the year need to be recorded. Also, eventually the Treasurer will no longer be kept from eating dinner due to everybody wanting to renew at the same time. To avoid excess paperwork, everyone is asked to submit a minimum of \$10 when paying dues.

A slightly revised membership form has been designed and should be readily available soon.

73, Dee, KU4GC

## Durham FM Association (DFMA)

### DFMA Board Meeting Minutes

for General Release to the Membership -

07/20/2021- 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; (n) Charlie, NC4CD - repeater mgr; (y) Dee, KU4GC - DurHamFest chair & Link Editor; (n) Dave, W4SAR - Field Day; At-Large Board Members: (n) David, KW4XL; (n) 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 on the status of developing a streaming capability to remote attendees of the DFMA club meetings. A club member has provided the camera, cabling and items needed to be able to broadcast the meeting video and audio. A chat room will be available for any questions or comments during the meeting. Arrangements will need to be made for a hot-spot to provide internet access at the meeting location. Initial queries indicate a purchased hot-spot hardware capability would cost approximately \$70 for initial hardware purchase with a \$15 per month subscription cost. Audio setup plans are still under investigation including queries for a volunteer to provide the hotspot for the August meeting, and to Mike, KK4BPH if he can provide his audio setup with the means to connect that audio to the streaming service.

**Club Secretary** - See discussion below.

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

**Lenore** reported she has lined up a speaker for the August meeting Michael Neece from the Morehead Planetarium and author of a book about astronaut training at the Planetarium.

**Dee, KU4GC** will be working on the directory when he returns to the area. He will contact Charlie for updates to the repeater section.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD unable to attend.

### Discussion Items:

The discussion continued regarding internet connection capability via hotspot at Bullocks. Jack will contact Mark, KR3AM regarding possible hotspot options for the August Club meeting. The long term plan will be for the club to acquire the necessary services for streaming and remote member feedback at the meetings.

The next topic introduced by Jack was what COVID 19 circumstances might preclude the planned August club meeting at Bullocks. Dee commented that current news reporting doesn't include any substantive data to provide any direction at present time. Jack commented that his prior statement in the DFMA Newsletter partial quote: "It is our expectation that those in attendance will be fully vaccinated...." will be reiterated more strongly that if unvaccinated, please don't come.

The next topic discussed was club elections. Jack brought up two concerns for the elections, the first being volunteers to fill the current nominee vacancies, vice-president and secretary. The second concern is that the voting process should include members who stay at home for the August meeting. Dan asked if Dee could use the same DFMA Newsletter email distribution procedure to send out a ballot for the elections. Dee replied that it is possible to send out ballots to paid up members. Lenore commented that the means to include nominees on the ballot from the floor should be included. Several options were discussed including a ballot distribution at the end of the meeting including new nominees with a deadline for response and, a cell phone number that remote attendees could call, and use of the chat room for voting during the meeting.

The next topic was approval of the last club meeting minutes. Lenore pointed out a sufficient quorum is not present at tonight's meeting for approval. Dan, KR4UB suggested that since the draft minutes for the 6/7 club meeting is incomplete due to a recording failure, that we leave the minutes open for the next 3 days for board attendees to add any additional comments and, by the following Tuesday, approve the minutes by board email vote.

The last agenda item was information sought by a ham in the area interested in getting involved in AuxComm. Jack discussed this with Dave, W4SAR for Orange and Nick, KA1HPM for Chatham county. He also contacted Virginia NC4VA who is the statewide Deputy AUXCOMM Coordinator. Virginia will attend an upcoming DFMA board meeting for further discussion and liaison on the process.

A motion was made and passed to **adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm**

## Club Meeting Minutes

### Durham FM Association (DFMA)

**DFMA Over-the-Air Meeting** - 08/03/21 -- notes by KU4GC

**Location:** Live Streaming from KM4MBG and chat

**Attending:** Jack, KM4MBG; Charlie, NC4CD; Dee, KU4GC; Roger, N4GF; JR, N4JQR; Bob, K4VO; Mark, AJ2X; Wally, WA4UJM; Lenore, KF4PAB; Mark, KR3AM; Wilson, W4BOH; Dan, KR4UB; Kevin, N8VNR.

A total of 13 attending, 13 of them hams.

**President** (on camera): Jack, KM4MBG called the meeting to order at 7pm. Others checked in via the chat window.

**Announcements:** Thanks to Davd, KW4XL for as an at-large member of the Board and Dan, KR4UB for serving as the DFMA secretary for 7 years.

Next Jack gave a brief explanation of the live streaming system being used. This had originally been intended to bring the DFMA meeting to the few who could not attend the meeting at Bullock's in person. Due to the worsening of the pandemic, we are now using the system for everyone. In many ways this is a test run with room for improvements. Please provide feedback after the meeting, especially suggestions for changes.

### DFMA Elections

Jack reported that the following nominations had been received:

### Officers

President	Lenore, KF4PAB
Vice President	(none)
Treasurer	Jack, KM4MBG
Secretary	(none)
Repeater Manager	Charlie, NC4CD

### At-large Board Members

(full two year term)	Bob, K4VO
(full two year term)	Paul, N2XZF

Jack asked if there were any additional nominations for any of the positions. No additional nominations were made. Since all positions were unopposed, Jack requested a vote on the entire slate. The voting took place on the chat window with "#vote yes" or "#vote no" messages from the membership. (The voting actually took place during the reports listed below.) The members voted unanimously to approve the slate as presented. It is hoped that people will come forward to serve as vice president and secretary at a future time. Jack noted that at a recent Board meeting, it was decided for the Board to continue to meet virtually. This means that officers need not spend time getting to another meeting but can attend and participate from home. (Karen, KD4YZ and Chuck, KW4KZ are also on the new Board, serving the 2nd years of their terms.)

### REPORTS

**Vice President** - (office vacant)

**Treasurer** - Lenore, KF4PAB (filed by email): Current balances were reported.

Members: 95 (whose dues are current).

**Secretary** - Dan, KR4UB (via email)

The for the next OCRA meeting shown in The Link is incorrect. The OCRA meeting is on Monday, August 9.

**Repeater Manager** - Charlie, NC4CD (via chat)

The crystals for the 6 meter repeater have finally come in. The changeover will occur soon. The new frequency is 53.xxx MHz and the PL is 88.5.

### SHOW AND TELL

**Mark, AJ2X** (video submitted in advance)

Mark gave a tour of his shack. It included his current rigs and a collection of some vintage items. The neat layout, with (previously owned, low-cost) laptop and large monitor was assembled during the pandemic.

**Mark, KR3AM** (video submitted in advance)

Mark demonstrated a word clock he had designed and built. In addition to the time to the nearest 5 minutes, it could display select birthdays. Edge

lighting indicated the position of the sun from sunrise to sunset.

**Jack, KM4MBG**

Jack showed and spoke about his recently acquired MNT-Reform lap-top which he assembled from a kit. It is all open-source hardware and software. It includes complete schematics and PCB layouts. It employs the NXP Arm processor which is now in very short supply. It is powered by eight, easily replaceable, LiFePO4 rechargeable 18650 cells.

7:35 pm - Meeting adjourned.

**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

The DFMA has been given some **equipment from an estate**. We don't yet have all the details and prices have not been set. Included are: An **Astron RS 35A** power supply, a **Kenwood G707A**, a **Kenwood TS 570S**, and more. If you are interested in any of these, make an offer. All proceeds go to the DFMA. 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](http://dfma.org) for details)  
09/06 Labor Day  
09/07 DFMA Meeting, Streaming video 6pm  
09/13 OCRA Meeting on the Air 7pm 442.150  
09/21 DFMA Board Meeting, video 7pm  
10/05 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ 6pm

**73 - Dee, KU4GC, Editor**  
*Send copy to [ku4gc@amsat.org](mailto:ku4gc@amsat.org)*  
*Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting*  
*(Images and copy: KU4GC or as credited)*  
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