



Next Meeting – On the Air

Tuesday, October 5, 7:00pm 145.450- PL 82.5

Program:

A formal program, using the video system, was planned but things didn't work out as was hoped.

As we did in some past months, we'll have a meeting net. This will be at 7pm on October 5th, our usual meeting slot, 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, a door prize(!), and a rag chew round table discussion.

President's Corner

My family has been busy receiving a shipment from movers, who brought down a large load of things from my late brother's house, in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Karl (N1XPB) had eclectic tastes, even in his furniture, but almost everything he had was useful to someone. You may have heard some of this on the DFMA Thursday Night nets. (You do listen to the net every week, don't you?) A lot of people have been involved in this process. His friends have been extremely generous with their time, my Dad, KU4GC, has made many trips up there to organize and pack. Jack, KM4MBG, and I drove up about a month ago to assist where we could. Of course, the movers picked up what we'd sorted out to bring to NC, made an unknown number of truck changes (at least one moving van broke down), and a different set of people from the company delivered it all to our garage. Now we need to figure out what to do with it all so I can park my van in there again!

All this involved so many people working together and communicating with one another. There were several times during the last month that made me think about the similarities of this move to the DFMA. It involved lots of old equipment, people who selflessly donated their time, family (large portions of my immediate family have been involved in the club, but others participate as a family as well),

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communicating to coordinate schedules, and lots of heavy lifting. Putting on our Hamfest is perhaps more explicitly analogous to all this and I do hope we'll enjoy that activity soon rather than later!

The important thing with the club is that we can't have someone dropping the box of china. Someone has to drive the truck and they better have a GPS handy. We need YOU to participate to make this all work. Participate in the online meetings and the chat. Check-in to the Thursday night 2m net or the Wednesday night 6m net. Volunteer to be our Vice-President. I am very pleased to announce that Bob Shelton, KO4SZE, a new member, has

volunteered to be our Secretary, starting with the November board meeting. The Board will be voting on his appointment at the October board meeting. Welcome to the club, Bob!

73, Lenore

Door Prizes are Back!

It is a long tradition of the DFMA to have one or more door prizes at the monthly meetings. (This goes back at least more than 20 years when I first joined the DFMA, and probably much longer.) Once we quit having face to face meetings at Bullock's BBQ, this tradition quickly evaporated. However, we did have a fair number of door prizes at last December's Christmas Meeting, on the air.

Starting with Tuesday's meeting, it was decided to have at least one door prize until we are back at Bullock's when we plan to revert to the old pattern of several (less expensive) door prizes, without the burden of having to mail them. The prize will be a \$25 gift certificate for Bullock's BBQ if the winner is a DFMA member with dues current. Otherwise the prize will be a year's DFMA membership. So, if you're behind in your dues, renew (-- PayPal via dfma.org is quick and easy) so that you could win the \$25 value rather than the \$12 membership.

Technical details: When you check into the meeting you will be assigned a number serially. The winning number will be drawn by a random number generator.

2021 Directory – Want One?

If you look through the minutes of Board and Club meetings, you'll notice that there has been discussion of getting the 2021 Directories out. Mailing them to all members is a lot of work and not cheap. (In the past, directories have been distributed at meetings and at DurHamFest.) Paul, N2XZF, has looked into having them mailed and produced commercially, and found out that we're talking about hundreds of dollars for the whole job.

As editor and manufacturer of the Directory, I have decided I would mail them to all DFMA Members (dues paid), who participate in a DFMA event. This means, if you check into the meeting Tuesday, I'll mail you your personal directory. If you check into the Wednesday 6 Meter Net or the DFMA Thursday Night net, I'll mail you your directory. (I'll even pick up the postage, so no DFMA funds are harmed in this process.)

Otherwise, here's hoping we'll be meeting in person at Bullock's soon. I'll bring plenty of copies to that.

73, Dee, KU4GC

A Life in Ham Radio

Just a month after I quit my IT job, in 2018, I enrolled in an online course from the only art education company, Sketchbook Skool, on how to draw using one's imagination. It consisted of a handful of week-long workshops by various artists covering various themes and interpreting the course goals in various ways. One of the artists who was also one of the owners of Sketchbook Skool was Danny Gregory. He encouraged us to depict a day in our lives as a sort of comic book spread.

In the three years since, I've grown to truly appreciate his writings about creativity, particularly his motivational essays on creating art that he posts weekly to his mailing list. He has also published numerous books on the subject and they are well regarded, particularly by the urban sketching community. Danny got into art after his wife suffered from a tragic accident and he turned to sketching as a way to deal with his grief.

A couple of weeks ago, I decided that, after all this time, I would order one of his books and check it out for myself. While perusing the titles of Danny's books available on Amazon, I saw that one of them was

titled, *Hello World - A Life in Ham Radio*. What? Surely I read that wrong. It must be some other Danny Gregory.

Welcome to our New Members

Bob Cook, **W4FK**, Hove Sound, FL
Bob Shelton, **KO4SZE**, Hillsborough

Make sure to say Hi if you encounter them one the air (or anywhere)!

DFMA **Bob** Count
= 5 =

It was, indeed, the same one! Prior to (the equivalent of) making it big in the art book world, in 2004 Danny (then KC2KGT) co-wrote a book with Paul Sarhre (KC2KHN) about ham radio. At a flea market he found a collection of QSL cards collected by amateur radio operator, Jerry Powell (W2OJW) over a 70 year period, lasting until 1995. The book shows each

of the cards and notes the significance of each one. Intermixed with the cards is an overview of ham radio and its history, which would likely be helpful and an interesting way for friends and family who have little understanding of the hobby to gain some appreciation for what we do. Those of you who have been at DX for quite some time may also want to look for your QSL cards in the book!

Sadly, it looks as if Danny let his license expire, but he used to be an active ham when he was involved with writing this book. The book itself is now out of print, but decent used copies are available. He encourages people to reply to his mailing list messages, so I may have to do just that and let him know that there's one ham out there that's paying attention to his essays who thinks he should renew!

73, Lenore, KF4PAB

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

DFMA Board Meeting Minutes

for General Release to the Membership –

08/17/2021– Notes by Jack, KM4MBG

Location: Big Blue Button Video Conference

Attendance

-Present

- * Lenore, KF4PAB (President)
- * Jack, KM4MBG (Treasurer)
- * Paul, N2XZF (At-Large)
- * Bob, K4VO (At-Large)
- * Dee, KU4GC (DurHamFest Chair)
- * Dan, KR4UB (Guest, Past Secretary)
- * Charlie, NC4CD (Repeater Manager)

-Absent

- * Chuck, KW4KZ (At-Large)
- * Karen, KD4YJZ (At-Large)
- * Dave, W4SAR (Field Day Chair)
- * Lad, W4ORD (Liaison from OCRA)

Meeting started at 7:10**Minutes approval**

- Motion to approve minutes

Charlie moves, and Paul Seconds. Meeting minutes from July board meeting and August club meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS**Repeater Manager**

6m repeater has been removed from TV Hill and brought to Paul's house for new crystals (heater circuits put together and working at 140°F) and frequency change. Radio for link to VA brought to site. New voice announcement in progress.

AllStar link for 220 is in progress. Hardware is being made, and credentials/configuration has been acquired for joining the network. IRLP to VA is down, so AllStar will be needed to restore connection.

Treasurer

Jack still learning the ropes. Charlie is still getting the Spectrum bill for Hillsborough.

A request was made for machine readable reimbursement forms.

Membership Chair

97 Members

In recent years we have only distributed the directory in-person, but do we want to mail it this year? Since the last time we mailed it, the postage cost has gone up. Estimated cost to be ~\$100. Plus there will be labor.

Decision about mailing postponed until we know about more the future of in-person meetings.

Discussion on whether we could send people an electronic copy. Many, many years ago, it was agreed [secretarial note: it would be great if we could find a reference to this agreement] that machine readable directories would not be produced.

No objections were raised to the new membership form.

Next in-person meeting

Are the COVID numbers looking better? Are we willing to try it? Can we find a different venue? Feelings seem to be split.

Why aren't people coming to the meetings? Should we have programs for the virtual meetings? We postponed our August presenter? Should we get feedback from the members?

One alternative meeting location would be local churches if we had contacts there and they rent out their space.

It doesn't sound like we're going to do in-person in September. Therefore we probably want to mail directories and ask the membership about digital directories.

What do we want to do the virtual meeting? Do we want a presentation? Maybe we can poach a RARS presenter? Yes. Bob will ask K4RGN to give September presentation on RF safety as well as a few other folks.

Officer Recruitment - Vice President

The Vice President shouldn't be solely responsible for meetings. Can instead act as coordinator/organizer for the ideas and people doing recruiting. Should put something in the Link about this. Charlie volunteered to write something along these lines for the Link.

Do we have ideas of who can be Vice President? Did we ask anyone in the past? We did ask one person, but they didn't respond. Lenore will ask Sam, KJ4VWG.

Plans for the next year**- Revise Bylaws (Lenore)**

We don't think we have a copy of the latest version with the quorum reduction. The newest version that we have doesn't match our current practices. January proposed for a deadline to vote on the revision.

Interested parties, Jack, Dee, Lenore.

- Retire MCU (Bob)

Retire MCU and transfer equipment into something simpler/cheaper/easier to maintain and transport.

- Replacement for Hoover Road shed (Charlie)

Got put on hold with the pandemic. We need to go through the old building and see how much we want to keep. Decision on what to do will also take into account future MCU storage.

Meeting adjourned.**Club Meeting Minutes****Durham FM Association (DFMA)**

DFMA Over-the-Air Meeting - 09/07/21 -- notes by KU4GC

Location: Live Streaming from KF4PAB and chat

Attending (checking in): Jack, KM4MBG; Dee, KU4GC; JR, N4JQR; Bob, K4VO; Mark, AJ2X; Lenore, KF4PAB; Chuck, K4RGN; Nick, KA1HPM; Sam, KJ4VWG; John,

KX4P; Mike, KN4DFN; 4 anonymous (Users 78, 85, 63, 71)
A total of 15 attending, at least 11 of them hams.

President (on camera): Lenore, KF4PAB called the meeting to order at 7pm. Others, but not everyone, checked in via the chat window.

Announcements:

Lenore reported that George Sackett, KA4MRN had passed away last Saturday. This has left Derwin, KN4KUO, as the last Possum Trot net controller. Since he will be out of town for a week, he will be shutting down the PT Net on September 24th unless some people step up to take on some of the net control duties.

REPORTS

Vice President – (office vacant)

Treasurer – Jack, KM4MBG (filed by email):
Checking account and CD balances were reported to the Board.
Members: 97 (whose dues are current)

Secretary – (office vacant)

Repeater Manager – Charlie, NC4CD (via email)
The new crystals have been installed by Paul, N2XZF, and the repeater is going to TV Hill on September 7th. We will see if the duplexer will need to be retuned. The new frequency is 53.61- and the PL is 88.5. Paul also installed new voice ID messages.

Lenore noted again that we are down two officers and some people need to step up.

PROGRAM

Chuck Till, K4RGN, presented a program entitled “New FCC Rules on RF Safety in Amateur Radio”. Chuck earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in engineering from Georgia Tech. He is now retired from the telecom industry. He is especially interested in the digital modes in ham radio. He is also a volunteer announcer for WCPE 89.7 (TheClassicalStation.org) where he is on very early in the morning.

After answering some questions on chat, the **Meeting was 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
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
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 and it will be included with the next issue. Make sure to include contact info.

Web Site: dfma.org

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

- 10/05 DFMA Meeting on the Air 7pm 145.450
- 10/11 OCRA Meeting on the Air 7pm 442.150
- 10/19 DFMA Board Meeting, video 7pm
- 11/02 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ ?? 6pm

73 - Dee, KU4GC, Editor
Lenore, KF4PAB, Proofreader

Send copy to ku4gc@amsat.org
Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting
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