



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 1, 6:00pm.
At Bullock's BBQ

Program:

Going Downrange, Communications & Miscommunications in Afghanistan

By: Charles McComas (KY4HU)

Charles will be talking about his experiences and observations as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant / Assistant Operations Sergeant with Operational Detachment Bravo 1960, Company C 2nd Battalion West Virginia National Guard in Operation Enduring Freedom, 2001 - 2002. with the communications of information.

President's Corner

A lot of us will either celebrate or at least be reminded of Halloween this weekend. As little kids, most of us dressed up in order to collect an assortment of candies and other goodies. Raisins were popular at one house on the street where we lived in Durham. I liked the cute little boxes and they were about as sweet as the rest of the confections. I loved dressing up, particularly if I got to put on face paint of some kind. I'm not sure what was so appealing about that. When I was quite young, my mother sewed a bunny costume for me and a Snoopy costume for my brother. I liked it so much that I wanted to wear it at other times during the year. Mom was smart to make them on the large side so we could both wear them for multiple years in a row.

Now that we are adults, people usually only wear costumes for parties or cosplay. I've known some talented people who put enormous amounts of time and creativity into becoming superheroes or anime characters. I've never officially attended a ComicCon or other such convention, but once I went to the Ohio Linux Fest, in Columbus, Ohio, and the neighboring organization at the convention center was ComicCon. I got to see and photograph so many wonderful costumes, which may have been even more exciting than the conference I had planned to attend.

Of course, at a different level, we are always wearing costumes. People wear makeup, style their hair (if any) in a certain way, and wear (un)fashionable clothing. Even if one just tries to wear what's comfortable or warm enough, it sends a message to

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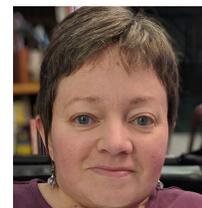
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others about who we are. How people express their individuality and uniqueness can be fascinating to others, particularly when they aren't trying.

One of the things that I find beautiful about ham radio is that when we hear people for the first time on ham radio, we get to throw that all away. Particularly during the pandemic, there might have been months between hearing someone check in to

the net and seeing them for the first time. In that length of time, you get to learn a bit about who they are as a person, before your preconceived notions about their appearance or dress get in the way. All you have is a voice, an accent, and the content of their conversation to guide your imagination into conjuring an image of what they might look like. Sometimes it can be quite startling if when you finally meet someone they actually match what you had in mind. Either way, it can be pretty exciting.

Hopefully you will join us for our next meeting! As long as everything is suitably covered by your clothing, no costumes are required.



73, Lenore, KF4PAB
DFMA President

The DFMA Christmas Party

While it's still a bit over a month away, I thought I should say a little about the DFMA's annual Christmas. There'll probably be more in the December Link, but since we have many new members, this is a preview. We meet at Bullock's at 6pm (or later is OK too). The difference is that the Club will pick up the tab. This is for paid up members only, but you can bring one guest. We won't have a formal program, nor door prizes (don't get too greedy). But one of the traditions is to have "Ham New Year's Resolutions". We'll go around and ask you what your plans are for the coming year (and how last year's efforts went). It will be a lot of fun. So, plan to attend!

73, Dee, KU4GC

JARSfest Benson

I seldom cover regional hamfests in The Link, but they are getting sparse this time of year and this one is quite popular in our ham community. This year JARSfest is on Sunday, 11/20, from 8am to 1:30pm. JARSfest is a medium sized hamfest with both ample tailgating and plenty of indoor table space. JARS members also prepare good food for sale, so you won't go hungry. VE testing is also available.

It is a bit further away -- about a one hour drive from this area, much of it on Interstate highways (obviously depending on where you start). As a bonus, this time of year you will likely find a long stretch of driving with nice fall colors. If you are interested, there may be carpooling available which can add to the enjoyment. Or you can decide to drive there and invite some fellow hams to join you. Often, on the way back, you can find a nice place to stop and eat.

For more information, see the website <https://www.jars.net/jarsfest-2022>

See you there, maybe,
73, Dee, KU4GC

Contribute Please

OK, here I go again whining about the lack of contributions for The Link. I could carry out my threat of doing more Hawaii picture shows. How about "Blooms in Hawaii"? There are lots and it would be colorful. How about "Black Lava-covered Landscapes on the Big Island"? There are actually road signs that indicate when the various flows were deposited, but they all look alike to me and depressingly barren.

In the last issue, I mentioned reviving "Ham Bios". There are enough new members to make it interesting. I do plan to twist some arms to get some. (In May 2018 we had published 17 bios - I haven't counted since then) Feel free to volunteer.

Articles on almost any topic are welcome. Strong ham radio connections are a bonus. Also, technical content on almost any topic can be good. Ideal are things you're planning to do or have done. Even failures can be educational. So please step forward.

TIA, Dee, KU4GC

Antennas for Everyone

- Max, K04TV (From the May 1998 DFMA Link)

(Below is a copy of Max's article on an antenna too good to be true. More reprints of Max's articles are

planned for a future edition of the Link. - Dee, KU4GC, editor)

A Failure

Well, after a hiatus of two months, the weather finally cleared up enough to install the latest "TEST" antenna. As most of you know, I will not write up or recommend an antenna until I have personally installed and tried it. Computer modeling may be O.K., but in my book, nothing takes the place of good old trial and error. In this case, it was a matter of error. All of the antennas presented in the past have been tried and proven. This one was tried, convicted, and sentenced to Ham Purgatory!

This one, called the "Australian Wide-Band Dipole", was supposed to perform from 3.5 to 30 MHz, with no Transmatch, and with an SWR under 2.5:1. However, the author who wrote it up in his antenna handbook admitted that he had not personally tried it, and welcomed any comments from anyone who did. It was a rather complicated antenna to build, as it required 8 aluminum tubing spacers, each about 5 feet long, and two trap coils. It was somewhat reminiscent of the "Cage" antennas used in the early days of radio, or wireless, as it was called then. It was duly built, installed between two tall pine trees, fed with a 300 Ohm ladder line and terminated in a 4:1 Balun.

The first measurements with an MFJ-259 antenna analyzer were promising: under 1.5:1 on 80 meters and also 10 & 12 meters. However, all bands between these had a very high SWR, in some cases off-scale! No amount of tweaking and adjusting would improve the situation without causing problems on the other frequencies. Since my favorite frequencies are those from 40 to 15 meters, this was a total dud for my purposes. In the spirit of presenting the bad as well as the good, I hope that all of you will profit from my mistakes and experience! This one certainly did not qualify as an Antenna for Everyone.

Hope to be back next month with something a little more positive. Until then, Best 73 & Keep Experimenting.

- Max K04TV

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

Board Meeting 9-20-2022 Pam (K04YAR) secretary

President - Lenore (KF4PAB) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Attending Video Call

Lenore (KF4PAB), Dan (KR4UB), Charlie (NC4CD), Jack (KM4MBG), Will (KQ4CDN), Paul (N2XZF), Bob (K4VO), Dee (KU4GC), Pam (KO4YAR)

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President - Bob (W4FK), Per Lenore, Bob is taking a CERT class and will be absent from several board meetings and several club meetings.

Treasurer - Jack (KM4MBG) reported: The first two checks have been sent from the new bank account via the bill pay service. Both Charlie and Dan (on behalf of OCRA for Port-a-Potty for Field Day) have been reimbursed. This saves the club a stamp and a trip to the mailbox and mistakes due to handwriting. On the mailbox front, a US Post Office form had to be notarized.

Latino Credit Union and State Employee Credit Union have a shared banking relationship. If you are a Latino Credit Union customer you can conduct some business at State Employee Credit Unions. Branches are all over the state and are free to members. Jack will send out the new DFMA mailing address after the meeting. The mailing service .com has locations across the country. They scan envelopes. If an item appears to be spam we can check shred on the online portal. If we want to see mail inside the envelope they can scan. We can request that mail be forwarded to a personal mailbox; we pay postage. If it is a check, we can ask that it be forwarded to our banks' deposit address.

We got three new members at the last physical meeting. Jack is continuing to work on improving the membership database and the video recordings. Dee has offered to help with settings. Charlie asked how many members we have now. Jack didn't have it in front of him.

Secretary - Pam (KO4YAR) Nothing to report.

Repeater Manager - Charlie (NC4CD) went to the Red Mountain site yesterday. Last month we had a several day power outage and several things did not come back up as they should have, one being the APRS setup. Charlie brought it back to his shop. It was receiving fine, but transmitting +600 khz from its receive frequency; it was in duplex mode, due to being out of power for some time. When he set it up on 144.39 simplex <http://aprs.fistarted> seeing it. He will take it back to Red Mountain tomorrow. Not a lot of progress has been made on the radio link between Hillsborough and TV Hill other than some of the design and engineering. We'll start working on some

of the hardware soon. Repeaters seem to be OK. He was at Hillsborough yesterday also and things were looking good there.

Dee said the 225 /145 link seemed to be working the last two Thursdays. Jack also said Sam (KJ4VWG) went to the EOC to fix the APRS I-Gate.

APRS Stations get a lot of use. They cover a wide area and receive people flying around in airplanes and hot air balloons. The aprs.fi website is interesting to look at; he hopes we have a program on that soon.

Lenore asked for any other officer reports. No additional reports.

DurHamfest Chair - Dee (KU4GC). Nothing to report.

Lenore (KF4PAB) addressed upcoming meetings She asked Charlie if the person he had in mind was able to give the 5G presentation. They cannot do so at this time. The 2nd topic choice is Electric Vehicles. Some members have Teslas and other brands and he knows someone else in Raleigh so he believes he can find someone to do a presentation. He will have information to go into the newsletter before the deadline (about a week before the meeting).

For the November meeting, Charles McComas (KY4HU) will give a presentation about his deployment in Afghanistan. He also set up a Parks On the Air activation in Canaan Valley in WV and may speak on both topics, but at least one.

December will be covered by the Christmas Dinner.

For 2023, Bob should be back from taking the CERT class and will be able to take care of organizing more things.

Lenore asked if there are any other items to discuss.

Charlie - asked about the status of the MCU. Paul had been to Wilson's a couple of weeks ago and it was still there. There was a fairly lengthy discussion regarding the MCU. Lenore noted that at a previous meeting we had voted to get rid of the MCU and that Bob (K4VO) would get some estimates on what it would cost to replace a lot of its functions with a trailer.

The current state of things is that it is still located at the Wilson (W4BOH) qth. There is some question on how safe it is to drive. The steering is very sloppy. The batteries for operating the radios are shot. There was a serious water leak a few years ago which has been patched but is not attractive. It contains a number of functioning radios that are worth saving.

The insurance costs over \$1000 per year, so if we really want to “junk” it, we should drop the insurance and registration. But then it would have to be moved out on a rollback which would cost several hundred dollars. (If we renewed the insurance and then disposed of it, we would get a partial refund for the remainder of the year.)

The possible uses for the MCU seem rather limited. The major use has been Field Day and there are probably cheaper ways to provide such an operating environment. It is unlikely that the Durham County or Orange County EOCs would have any interest. Chatham county (with a nuclear power plant) has the most active public service people but they probably don't have any funds for that kind of thing either. Dan (KA4AQ), who goes to many public service events, owns a very small trailer that holds about two people. He seems happy with it but it could not house much of the MCU equipment. Dan will be at the Hillsborough bike fest Oct 1 if you want to see the trailer.

Motion to accept all prior meeting minutes approved.

Action items:

Jack will find out when registration fees are due. Lenore will contact Wilson to tell him what we are thinking.

Lenore adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:32 pm.

Durham FM Association (DFMA)

Club Meeting Minutes 10-04-2022 – KO4YAR,
Secretary

President: Lenore, KF4PAB called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Attending:

Lenore (KF4PAB), Dee (KU4GC), Charlie (NC4CD), John Book, Wally (WA4UJM), Paul (N2XZF), Dave (NA4VY), Pat (KO4QLU), Raymond Vagell, Vance (KV4P), Will (KQ4CDN), Jack (KM4MBG), Mark (KJ4NPF), Charles (KY4HU), Pam (KO4YAR), David (KW4XL), Robert (KO8FQM), Melissa Murphy, Jim (WB4YYY), Sue (KA4AVM), Karen (KD4YJZ), Dave (W4SAR), Henry (WB4ROI), Mary Anoa, Chuck (KW4KZ), Bob (KF4NTC), Renu Annechiaricio, Sam (KJ4VWG). **On Chat** - Dan (KR4UB), Bob (K4VO), Wilson (W4BOH)

A total of 31 attendees, at least 26 of them hams.

OFFICER REPORTS

Bob - VP absent due to CERT class.

Treasurer – Jack

Our new mailing address: 9169 W State St., #644, Garden City, ID 83714.

Repeater Manager – Charlie

Charlie will include the repeater update in his presentation.

Secretary - Pam Nothing to report.

President - Lenore

We need a new Hamfest Chair. Editor of the DFMA Newsletter should not also be the DFMA HamFest Chairman. HamFests traditionally have a Flea Market and Tailgating.

Door Prize

Jack used a random number generator, selected numbers 29, 19, 13 & 4, Door Prizes were awarded to Raymond - Digital Caliper, Henry - Magnetic pickup, David – Flashlight.

Announcement:

Christmas dinner. In December, at our regular meeting time, each member and a guest can have dinner paid for by the DFMA. A topic of discussion will be determined before the meeting.

Presentation

Charlie gave a presentation on DMR that will be posted online at a later date.

Lenore adjourned the meeting at 8:02.

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 following equipment was donated to OCRA and Wilson, W4BOH is overseeing its disposition.

Heathkit SB-300-Simple but very effective ham band receiver. Amazing condition, \$150.

Kenwood TS-850-Solid state transceiver, the K3 of the 90s. Recently tested, GREAT receiver, HI-FI

analog audio and excellent filters, with speaker and PS, \$700.

Hallicrafters SX-99-Vintage Receiver, works but needs love. Easy to work on. \$50.

Please contact **Wilson, W4BOH** by email:

infomet@embarqmail.com

if interested or to get more info.

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 and feel free to include a picture (that is yours – please no copyrighted stuff from the web).
73, Dee, KU4GC

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)
11/01 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm
11/14 OCRA Meeting, Efland Bahai Center, 7pm
11/15 DFMA Board Meeting, video 7pm
11/20 JARSFest, Benson, 8am – 1:30pm
12/06 DFMA Christmas Party, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

Web Site: **dfma.org**

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

Send copy to ku4gc@amsat.org
Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting
(Images and copy: KU4GC or as credited)
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New DFMA Mailing Address
The DFMA has a new mailing address. Please address any mail you have for the club to:
Durham FM Association
9169 W State St #644
Garden City ID 83714