

# DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



## February 2008 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

### Tuesday February 5 DFMA Meeting 6:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM Guests welcome.

**PROGRAM:** Skip Fisher, of Radarfind, will talk about their system of hospital asset tracking. There's RFID and VLF carrier current communication over power lines.

### Upcoming Events:

All DFMA members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. You are welcome to come at 6 PM and enjoy dinner; however, **you can just come around 7 PM and attend the presentation** and post meeting eyeball QSOs.

### DFMA Meeting Minutes

8 January 08 7:30pm

Mac opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves. We had a wonderful turnout with 27 people present. Mac announced that the meeting schedule will be changing starting with our next meeting in February. The club meetings will now be held on the first Tuesday of every month with February 5<sup>th</sup> as the first date. At this time, it is unknown what the program will be. The March program, March 4<sup>th</sup>, will be about full size electric cars presented by Rhett George. Lisa Armour will present a brief introduction into the Incident Command Systems (ICS) for the April program on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lisa provided an update on the communications assistance that the VA hospital has requested us to provide. The VA is still trying to reach an agreement for an installation date with Nortel. As soon as they have agreed to a date, then they will let us know so we can assist them. Dee mentioned that it is rare that an organization comes to us requesting assistance and that it is very important that we provide enough operators so we can assist them. We need to make this work. A sign-up sheet went around the room so people can provide Lisa with contact information. As soon as Lisa knows when, she will let those that have signed up. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Lisa Armour.

The following people signed up to be net control for the following Thursday night nets:

January 10 – Wilson Lamb January 17 – Rhett George January 24 – Bill Creery

January 31 – Rene Couch

Dee gave the treasures report. As of November 30, there is --- in savings and --- in checking. The tower rent has been paid and dues are starting to come in. People may either mail their dues to Dee or turn them in at a meeting.

There are two door prizes.

Dee Ramm received the 6 in 1 screw driver.

Terry Rogers received the voltage tester.

The next board meeting will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Charles Durst office.

The MCU has passed inspection. The generator is in good shape but it is not getting any fuel. This is still a mystery. We are going to need some assistance working on it.

We then went into our "Show and Tell" portion of our meeting.

1. Charlie Durst talked about and displayed the go kit he created for UHF/VHF. He explained what he had in it and how he made it. Charlie stated that he is going to build one for HF too.
2. Mac MacAulag showed off the radio he picked up at the Dayton hamfest. It is a 1952 2m, AM radio with a crystal control oscillator. It can be used for a public address system too.
3. Rhett George displayed and talked about the history of his 1941/42 Model 41280 Philco Council Radio. It had a marble top and was from an old hotel in downtown Durham.
4. Lowell Tieszeu displayed and talked about how he made a boom mike for an HT. He also talked about how FindU.com has created a way to track a radio in a car so you know where it is. It is an all APRS device.
5. James Fields talked about how he has created an antenna that you can hang from a ceiling in an apartment or other place with restrictions. He had several different versions.
6. Dee Ramm talked about different power pole connectors and displayed the difference between the molex connectors (male/female) and the genderless connectors.

It was mentioned that the ARRL website has a spot with 18,000 QSL cards on it and encouraged everyone to go check it out.

Meeting adjourned.

### Durham FMA Board Meeting

22 January 08 7:30pm

The meeting was held at Charles Durst office. Mac opened the meeting. The meeting minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

Dee, Finance Officer, provided the current balances. There is --- in savings and --- in checking. Dee purchased the quicken program and has been entering the last 5 years of financial information into it. Dee is going to bring the reports to the next board meeting.

Program for the February meeting: Jim Davis is going to bring an equalizer to measure people's equipment for deviation. The March meeting will have a friend of Rhett George come and talk about electric cars.

Repeaters – Jim Weldon, Jr. helped carry the batteries in and out at the Hill (825.225) repeater. During the next trip, they are going to work on fixing the audio. Personnel will be going to the Red Mountain site to check that equipment out soon. Mac stated that he was having problems hitting the Hillsborough repeater from his home and wondered if anyone else had noticed it. No one had, it is going to be looked into.

Old Business – Lisa had worked out dates for both the club and board meetings for the remainder of the year. There are only three months with 5 Tuesdays in it. For those three months, she provided the dates for both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday's of the months. It was decided that all board meetings will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

VA Hospital – No date has been set yet. Lisa is trying to get a walk through scheduled so we can check it out for possible radio problems and set up sites. A major concern is being able to hit the repeater since we will be right under it. This is one reason why it would be nice to have the MCU there. She has asked Dave to go with her when she does it. Charlie is going to talk to his buddy who works there, Buddy Furr (K4UNC) to see if he knows of any radio problems at the VA hospital.

Charlie stopped in at Tarheel Antenna and talked to Robert about putting an HF antenna on the MCU. Charlie handed out pictures of a motorized mount that will fold over so the antenna lays flat. It is the model 100. It would come with the following items; antenna (\$499), controller (\$399) and a turbo tuner. Whole sale is about \$724. Robert is offering us 10% off for about \$625. Robert has offered to help with the installation and fabrication to install the antenna. He stated he will provide all the equipment for \$935. It was agreed that we need to try and work him in as a guest speaker. It was asked if we had batteries in the MCU, the answer was yes we do. We also have an extension chord so it will not be an issue if we can't use the generator. It was suggested that we check into what kind of system or what TV stations use to ensure their drivers do not drive off with their masts still up in the air. It was suggested that we have some kind of a siren and/or warning light to let the driver know that the antenna mast is still up in the air before they drive off. Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Mac motioned and it was second by Dee to buy the HF antenna equipment for the MCU. Motion passed.

New Business – Mac and Lisa have been working on a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). We are not voting on it tonight. It is being shared with the board members so they can read through it and provide comments for any changes. Lisa stated that she has emailed Mac a list of items that she felt should be spelled out in the MOA. Mac went over the additional information that has not been included yet.

- Only DFMA members will be allowed to drive the MCU
- Personnel working in the MCU must be checked out on both the radios and operation of the MCU
- Only two people are allowed in the MCU when it is being driven because there are only two seatbelts in it.

It was asked how many ARES members are also DFMA members. Lisa stated that of the 5 “active” members, most (4) of them are known DFMA members. She wasn't sure about the other person.

The board talked about how the release point for ARES. Who would be allowed to authorize and coordinate with ARES for use of the MCU and who would take charge during emergencies. Lisa stated that she feels ARES should take the lead during Emergencies and Emergency type training. The reason being is that Durham County Emergency Management and other agencies want one point of contact to go to during an emergency. It could get too confusing and cause problems if we have a point of contact for DFMA and ARES.

Lisa stated that she would like to have a DFMA member as the POC with alternates incase the POC can't be reached. Everyone felt that was a good idea. The DFMA would look at ARES to take the lead to help support and coordinate support for the different activities that was listed in section D. These events would be coordinated so it involves both ARES and DFMA members. Board members are to send comments to Mac.

It was suggested that we need one person to spear head and oversee the well being of the MCU. It was discussed if this should be handled by DFMA or ARES. It was suggested that we have two people, one from each, handle it together. It was discussed that we have two types of users for the MCU. Operators/users and maintainers/maintenance. John Armour asked if there were written operating procedures for the MCU and the radios in it. There are no written operating procedures at this time. It was suggested that we get some written. It was decided that Wilson and Dave will work together overseeing the care and maintenance of the MCU.

It was suggested by Kellie that when we ask for DFMA net control operators that we also ask for ARES net control operators. She stated that Lisa is handling the ARES net control by herself and has rarely asked for assistance. Lisa is going to discuss the Incident Command System (ICS) at the April club meeting. She stated the Durham County EM is now implementing this system. A new requirement taking affect this summer will be that anyone that works with Durham County EM during an emergency must be trained in ICS because this is what they will be following. She has also been selected as one of the personnel in the county asked to review the new operating procedures for emergencies in Durham County by the EM office. She will also eventually be signing it for the Durham County ARES. Mac mentioned that there will be an all day “classic exchange” that will take place this Sunday, February 2. It will be occurring all day. Phone will occur 2 weeks from this Sunday. It will be a chance for operators to hear what the old equipment sounded like when on the air.

It was motioned, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

## **Durham FM Association, Inc.**

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Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM