

# DURHAM FM ASSOCIATION



## July 2009 Newsletter Sidney Edwards W4QWM Reporting

### Tuesday July 7

**NOTICE !! NEW MEETING LOCATION:** Our July 7th Meeting will be held at Bennett Pointe Grill on 4625 Hillsborough Rd (US 70) in Durham. We will be in the room on the right when you enter. For more information, see <http://www.dfma.org>

**July 7, 09: Dinner 6pm, Meeting 7pm. Program:** Steve Ahlbom, W3AHL, will present on Digital Messaging for Emergency Communications.

DFMA Meeting Minutes, June 2, 09 Submitted by Kelly W4KSP

Attendees: W4RWC, NC4CD, W4SAR, KD4YJZ, W4MKR, KU4GC, KF4PAB, KE4QOZ, KF4AUF, KE4HIH, W4BOH, KE4OXN, Mark Ferrell, KK4PH, N4TMD, KE4UCM, Wanda McCray, KF4LJZ, KA4AVM, WB4YYY, KI4RAN, Pres, KJ4KGE and son.

KU4GC opened the meeting, Introductions.

Dee, KU4GC(Pres), began by stating the DurHAMFEST had increased attendance for this year, and he had gotten much positive feedback from attendees and vendors. Dee provided a brief summary of accounting, and estimated the club would end up with a reasonable profit thanks to all the volunteers' efforts. Linda, KF4LJZ, give a brief statement regarding vendors: we had 22 vendors vs 14 from 2008, and actually turned away two because we couldn't accommodate a specific need. Dave, W4SAR, indicated that 4 of 6 VE Testing candidates earned their license or upgrade. Next VE session Sat. June 13 at Orange CO. EOC.

#### Officers' Reports:

David, W4DAP (V.Pres): The next meeting, July 7, will be at Bennett Point Grill on US70, and that Steve Ahlbom, W3AHL, would be presenting information on digital modes. David also introduced Randy McCray, KE4UCM, as the interim/new EC for Durham ARES.

M.K., W4MKR(Treasurer): Checking-\$10,468.81, CD-\$10,204.98

Charlie, NC4CD (Repeater Manager): Working with Danny Hampton to repair the 220, and will be working with Sid on installing equipment at VA in future.

Randy, KE4UCM (ARES EC): Need an HF liason to the Tarheel Emergency Net.

MCU report: W4DAP mentioned that the 800mHz radio was at the county facility being reprogrammed and the MCU was at the Pegrams.

#### Door Prizes:

KF4PAB won \$50 ARRL gift certificate, KE4QOZ won \$25 ARRL gift certificate.

Dave Synder, W4SAR, discussed the up-coming joint Field Day event, June 27-28 at Blackwood Farm site. Set up will be begin 14:00 DST Friday June 26. This year we will be 9A. He requested help with an information table and other items. CW operators needed!

Elections for 2009-2010 DFMA officers were conducted. Nominees and elected personnel are as follows:

**OFFICERS:** President: W4BOH, Vice President: KU4GC, Treasurer: W4MKR, Secretary: KK4PH, Repeater Manager: NC4CD. **BOD:** KE4OXN, KE4HIH, W4RWC, and W4KSP

Durham FM Association (DFMA)  
Board Meeting Minutes – 06/16/2009  
Recorded By Lowell (KK4PH)

Unapproved Copy

Attending: Rhett(KE4HIH), Joanna(KE4QOZ), Dee(KU4GC), MK(W4MKR), Dave(W4DAP), Kelly(W4KSP), Don(KE4UVJ), Bob(W4RWC), Charlie(NC4CD), Lowell(KK4PH)

Dee called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

## Reports

**Vice-President – Dave(W4DAP):** The next DFMA program will be by Steve Ahlbom(W3AHL), on digital modes. Steve will need a screen.

**Action 2009-06-16-01:** Dee will be sure there is a screen available on meeting date.

The question was raised, what has happened to the gavel that was once available at the DFMA meetings. There was discussion but nobody present knew the location.

**Treasurer-MK(W4MKR):**

Checking	\$ 9,477.97
CD	<u>\$10,215.73</u>
Total	\$19,693.70

**Secretary-Kelly(W4KSP):**

No report

**Repeater Manager-Charlie(NC4CD):**

The antenna system failed on the 147.225 repeater last week. Charlie was able to move to an alternate antenna, which is a Diamond X500. This seems to be working as a temporary antenna. Because it required two people to separate the cable, Charlie was not able to isolate the problem to antenna, feedline, or Polyphaser (lightning protection). The antenna is suspect because of recent noise in the system. If the failure is in the antenna, a new DB products DB-224 antenna is about \$525, with additional shipping of \$150. We also need to hire a tower crew. The estimated expense would be \$1,500 or less. The price of the tower crew is unknown at this point.

**Action 2009-06-16-02:** The board recommends the expenditure of up to \$1,500 to resolve the problems with the antenna system.

**MCU Report-Dave(W4DAP):**

The MCU is located at the Pegram, NC and is being cleaned up with some modifications to the radio installations. This is planned to be complete and be available for Field Day. After Field Day the plan is to return the MCU to Parkwood Fire Station number 2.

It was mentioned that it would be good to find covered storage space for the MCU.

**Action 2009-06-16-03:** It was decided that Dave (W4DAP) will be the MCU Manager.

**ARES Report:**

- There will be a meeting Saturday at the Cracker Barrel at 10am for AECs.
- ARES leadership would like to get a regular net going again. A “survey” went out asking about a net time but a decision has not been made.

## Old Business

**Tables:**

Dee and Wilson picked up about 12 tables that were donated by Bill Ford(KI4JWA), a former club member.

**Service:**

Not related to ham radio, but Rhett and Joanna were in Mauldin, SC and opened a model train display to be operated by a young boy with cancer.

Discussion related to public service, with specific mention to the “Farm to Fork” event in Hillsborough. The comments were that we, as a club, should be involved in helping with events in Durham and Orange counties. We could be better involved if DFMA had a Public Service “Liaison” person.

**Loss of Mt. Mitchell repeater site:**

Kelly reported information that the owner of the tower structure on Mt. Mitchell (WMIT Radio) was failing to renew the agreement with the amateur radio repeater organizations that have repeater antennas on their tower. This will significantly reduce repeater coverage of Western NC, as well as Northern South Carolina, and other neighboring areas.

Meeting adjourned

## Durham FM Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 2411

Durham, NC 27715-2411



Meets First Tuesday Every Month 6:00 PM