



## Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 6th, 6pm  
At Bullock's BBQ.

### Program:

Show & Tell: Christmas Presents,  
Projects, and Other Fun Stuff

Bring fun things you would like to show off. What did Santa put under your tree? Do you have any new gear you want to show off? If you don't have anything, we'll also be discussing any new years resolutions we have that are ham related!

## President's Korner

Happy New Year DFMA! As one door closes another one opens. I'm optimistic about the coming year and I hope you are too. We want to do more hands on projects as a group. We want to reach out to HAMs who are not in our club and recruit them. There is



interest in teaching a Tech class to those who are HAM curious. We are looking for people who want to contribute time and effort to the club to realize these goals. I hope to see you at the January meeting. Let's have a great year!

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## December 2025 VEC Session

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, a VEC Session was held at 10 AM at the Efland Bahá'í Center. Unfortunately, no candidates showed up for the session, so no updates there. Dave W4SAR, the VE Team Liaison, is currently working on the schedule for this year.

## Interesting Items

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### Want to Learn How to Turn a TV into a Radio?

For actual lessons, you'll want to check out the articles from QST, such as the August 1969 article titled *Building a Novice Rig from an Old TV Set*. Or read the blurb below written by Wilson, he's much smarter and better than me at explaining the *teck-nih-kal-lee-tees*.

If you want to see that in real time and hang out with some fun ham folks, then join us at Wilson W\$BOH's QTH, in the Land of Magic (his basement). Our next meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.

### Terrorizing the TVs

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You may have heard that a gang of miscreants has been gathering in my basement to destroy the evidence of obsolete consumer technology. Well, here's the rest of the story, not from Paul Harvey. Yes, said miscreants have, in fact, been perpetrating such a malfesance, but that's not the end of their perfidy! The real goal of the gatherings is to transform the evidence of one obsolete technology into new evidence of another

obsolete technology, namely, oscillators and amplifiers capable of generating and amplifying RF energy, in the HF spectrum, especially within the 80 and 40 meter amateur radio frequency allocations!

Now, this is a lofty goal, since most of the miscreants have never experienced the joys of working with vacuum tubes or, for that matter, the joys of wire stripping, hole drilling, or trying not to burn their fingers with soldering irons! It is a pleasure to report, therefore, that all miscreants have shown reasonable aptitude for destruction and even for sorting the components recovered during said destruction into appropriate containers. Not only that, they have shown reasonably respectful attention to various tirades and brief lectures regarding the functions of said components. These gatherings are not classes, not lectures, and not guaranteed to result in the passing of any subsequent tests. They ARE, however, a great chance to enjoy some fellowship, among like-minded fellow miscreants, and even experience the joys of acquiring previously inaccessible knowledge and skill! So far, we've introduced ideas about how electron motion, in vacuo, can be influenced, by electric fields, how energy moves around in wires, what voltage and current are, and even how they can get ahead of or behind each other. We have even, gasp, put a few simple equations on the easel board Bruce gave us!

With the new year arriving, it's time for phase two of the rehabilitation of the miscreants, the creation of said oscillators and amplifiers! There's not really a plan (a four letter word I don't like), but there is the vague idea that we will peruse some schematic diagrams, of circuits simple enough for us to understand, and then have a go at bringing them to life, even functionality!

So there's the goal: Put some radio back into the radio club, learn some basic electronics, and HAVE SOME FUN along the way. It's obvious that every miscreant brings something special to

the group and the meetings have been fun, breaking up only under the pangs of hunger! WL

### **FCC Deletes Around 400 Obsolete Rules**

In October 2025, the FCC adopted a Report and Order to delete rules that are now considered obsolete. These 396 rule provisions can be found on the Federal Register website, and the change will go into effect on February 10, 2026. For amateur radio, this change will affect us through deletion of sections of Part 97: Specifically sections 27, 29, 315 (b)(2), 521(b), and Appendix 2.

### **New Technician Question Pool Has Released for 2026-2030**

The question pool for each level of examination lasts for 4 years until the pool is updated. Since the current (2022-2026) Technician Question Pool will be coming to an end, the NCVEC Question Pool Committee has released the new pool of question for the years 2026 to 2030:

<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool>

This pool will go into effect on July 1, 2026. This new pool will have 409 questions, compared to the current pool that has 412 questions. The ARRL plans to have new Technician study guides published May 2026.

### **FCC Allocates New Frequencies on the 60m Band**

New frequencies have been allocated to the 60 Meter Band for ham use: 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. This is on a secondary basis, will the limit to power being 9.15 watts ERP. The current allocations in the band are still limited to 100 watts.

Now, don't go hopping on to those new frequencies yet: this only goes into effect 30 days after it was voted on, so you'll have to wait till

January 8<sup>th</sup> to play on those new frequencies if you're a General or Extra.

Confused? I recommend checking out this video from Ham Radio Crash Course that explains it better: <https://youtu.be/tlbMrBKBNSc?si=zD6-R3SZIc7CafZj>

## SK- Jim Langley WB4YYY



Photo Credit: tributearchive.com

Jim Langley, WB4YYY, passed away on December 16, 2025. He was well known in DFMA, having served as President in both the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s. He was an avid amateur radio operator as well as both driving and working on racing cars.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Langley; his sister, Martha Bailiff; his daughters, Deborah (Allen) Weatherspoon, Cynthia Cannady, and Dawn Stange; his son, Donnie (Cheryl) Huckabee; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, Sydney

His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/46738545/james-webster-langley>

## Bits of Humor

This section is called **Bits of Humor**, so what exactly is the baud rate of laughter?

Joke: The dummy load is between the chair and the microphone...

**Newbie & Elmer** by Matthew KQ4ZYW

**As we celebrate with the drop of the ball,  
The past year we start to recall  
The times we hold so near  
Times of both sadness and cheer  
Of friends we lost, of friends we made  
May their memories never fade**

**So as we celebrate, for auld lang syne,  
I hope these words will your year define:  
May your QSOs always be plentiful  
May your SWR always be acceptable  
May your calls always have a reply  
And your rigs never go awry.**

**While we are given the 73 by 2025,  
I hope we continue to thrive  
As we get our kicks  
By calling CQ to 2026!**



## Coming to You from the Land of Magic!

By Wilson Lamb W4BOH

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Wilson reached out to me saying he was to reprint some of the previous articles he had written in previous Links, since some time has passed and we have new members who might have read these yet. The section was called *Coming to You from the Land of Magic*, and this one was published back in the far year of 2016 in the April Edition. It is an introduction to Wilson's wonderful basement known as "The Land of Magic" and also a little of Wilson's own biography. Enjoy!

Skip has asked me to do a regular column about the wonders found in the LOM (Land of Magic). For those not in the need to know, the LOM is my basement, about 2000 square feet of fun and disarray. I think I'll start with some background on both the LOM and its principal inhabitant, W4BOH. I was born in the not too distant past, October, 1941. When the invasion of Pearl Harbor was announced by FDR, I immediately fell off my parent's bed. Whether or not I landed on my head has never been made public, but this event may well have set the stage for subsequent mental problems, like getting into ham radio!

I admired Dad and enjoyed being around him and his ham friends from an early age, practically growing up in the W4NC clubhouse, in Winston Salem. There was never a time when I wasn't messing with something technical: crystal sets, old radios, model planes, aquarium thermostats and air pumps, etc. You get the idea. I learned the code at about six or seven, not to use it but I could recognize all the letters and give the di dahs when quizzed. Most kids that age can do that in a few days, given some instruction. I never pursued a license because I could talk on Dad's station whenever he was on and I had other things to do, like bikes, kites, regen receivers and, wonder of

wonders, transistors in about the fifth grade. My interest was catalyzed, however, by a couple of high school friends getting their Novice tickets. And they weren't even techie kids! I couldn't have that, so I brushed up on CW to get to five WPM and sent for the test. Dad gave it to me and after a month or so I was certified and ready to go. I used Dad's HB 807 rig for a few days, but soon had a 6AG7/6L6 40 Watter up and running.

Things moved rapidly from then on and I soon had a 300 W amp ready to go, even though limited to 75W and crystal control. I was law abiding and throttled it back to 75W until my General came and I borrowed a VFO exciter from a family friend, W4ROE. The rest is history, with several amps, modulators, a simple receiver, and even a basic phasing SSB generator being built. By then, high school and hormones were in full swing and I didn't build much more before going away to school up north. OOPS, sorry, I shouldn't use that word. I mean up toward Canada, to New England. We referred to that direction as "thataway", in honor of our ancestors. Did you know that NC was last to secede but furnished the most men?



*BOH in the LOM with a PBR [Translation: Wilson relaxing in the Land of MAGIC with his favorite Milwaukee Beverage. Photo Courtesy KJ4GDW*

Anyhow, it was a charmed childhood, in a way. Many family friends were transplanted Yankees who had come down to work at Western Electric during the war. Some fit in well and others didn't, but that's another story. Nearly all were very nice to me and nearly everyone, Dad included, had a pile of components and equipment of all sorts, so I never wanted for raw material for most any project. Only later did I realize that several of

these Elmers were Division Managers, Section Leaders, or senior tech people. I would call them every now and then, often at 2100 or 2200, to ask questions that had me stumped and none ever complained! On top of that, we had an account at the local electronics wholesaler so I could charge anything reasonable that I couldn't scrounge, typically chassis and unusual tube sockets. It didn't hurt that my maternal grandfather owned the biggest radio/TV shop in town either! Very little money was involved in any of this, but the human resources involved were priceless!

In spite of all that background, I never seriously considered getting an EE degree. There was just too much math and not enough fun involved! I gravitated to Oceanography and Geophysics, but really to design and build instrumentation, which seemed to be my main interest. So without any really relevant training I did that for several years during undergrad school. The U of RI was starting an Ocean Engineering program which seemed interesting, so I bluffed my way in and kept doing instrumentation for various research projects. Many involved the thesis work of other students, so I got to do physiology, acoustics, oceanography, metallurgy, and soil mechanics, learning some in each field. Not a bad life for a gadgeteer! I did a little acoustics project and got an MS and stayed on as a staff member for several years until one of our grads, by then at Exxon, came up and said he needed someone to help with a complex instrumentation project. He suggested I "consider" the opportunity, which I did for about ten seconds. How often can one more than double his salary and walk into a great research lab with a very large job to do, without even turning in an application? That began fifteen years of exciting travel, design work, contractor supervision, and even offshore installation activity. I got to see quite a bit of the world, went around a couple times, ate a lot of great food, met a lot of fine people, and GOT PAID! Sounds a lot like a hobby, doesn't it!

By then, we were tired of Houston heat and traffic and decided to come back to NC. Exxon had

generous retirements available and I took one in 1996. We bought the Field Day site even before moving and soon started the house, beginning with a lot of digging and then pouring concrete for the LOM. We both continued some contract work with our companies; Dee Anne's being the famous firm McKinsey and Co., where she was an "Information specialist". I worked a couple years at Ericsson, with my son Chris, but then things tapered off to a little broadcast work and an occasional small contract job. It's stopped coming in now, because I don't keep in touch with people much anymore. That leaves a little time for radio, little jobs on the house, family activity, tractor repair and, of course, Field Day.

Wow, this got long, didn't it? Maybe, if Dee counts it as a biography and Skip counts it as a

LOM column, they will let it go out. It's really just a few high points and I could do lots more, ho ho. Lots of the old stuff from childhood migrated to the LOM and there is still some in Winston-Salem, so next time we'll get on with the real object of the column, exploring the technical wonders hidden here.

73,  
Wilson  
W4BOH

## Just Ahead in Radiosport from ARRL

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January 1 – AGB New Year Snowball Contest

January 1 – SARTG New Year RTTY Contest

January 3 – Marconi Club ARI Loano QSO Party Day

January 3 – ARRL Kids Day

January 3-4 – ARRL RTTY Roundup

January 4-5 – FOC Old School Classic 1960s QSO Party

January 6 – ARS Spartan Sprint

January 7 – VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest

January 8-9 – Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest

January 10 – Old New Year Contest

January 10-11 – North American QSO Party, CW

January 11 – DARC 10-Meter Contest

More contest events listed at WA7BNM:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.php>

**Buy – Sell – Swap**

<p><b>TenTec Century 21</b></p> <p>Another classic. Great little CW transceiver, with antenna tuner, <b>\$150</b>, Proceeds to OCRA. Wilson W4BOH Contact: <a href="mailto:infomet@embarqmail.com">infomet@embarqmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Box of Cat.6 LAN Cable</b></p> <p>I have a near full, I think, box of Cat.6 LAN cable. This stuff is \$125+ at Amazon, so <b>\$50</b> seems reasonable for this one. Estate stuff, money goes to DFMA. Wilson W4BOH</p>
<p><b>Icom Microphones IC-HM9 and IC-HM14</b></p> <p>NEW in boxes HM9 has two pin plug, for handhelds. <b>\$20</b> HM14 has 8 pin plug and 16 key keypad. <b>\$30</b> Pick up in Hillsborough OR I will mail for <b>\$10</b> each. Wilson W4BOH</p>
<p><b>Drake MN-2000 Antenna Tuner</b></p> <p>A classic, built for more power than you can give it. <b>\$250</b>, currently in the LOM Wilson W4BOH</p>
<p><b>ICOM PW-1 Solid State Amplifier</b> Selling for friend, good shape. Price <b>\$2,000.00</b>. Wilson W4BOH</p>
<p><b>Alliance HD-73-1 Rotator Controller SK Stuff</b></p> <p>Untested, no rotator available, so returnable. Two Speed, six wire controller. Picture available. <b>\$50</b>, in Hillsborough. Wilson W4BOH</p>
<p><b>FS: Nice coax jumper for connecting HTs to antennae.</b></p>

Six inches long, SMA male to UHF female (like SO-239). Coax is very small and flexible, RG-174. Available in the LOM or at DFMA/OCRA meetings. **\$4**. Financing available. Beat the rush, send email to my QRZ address. Wilson W4BOH

**Coax, new and used**

Check with Wilson W4BOH first regarding length and cost

**Do you have something that you need or something you are offering to others?**  
There's this spot in The Link set aside just for you. Just email the appropriate info to [KQ4ZYW@arrl.net](mailto:KQ4ZYW@arrl.net) 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, Matthew, KQ4ZYW**

**Website: [dfma.org](http://dfma.org)**

**Upcoming Events** ([dfma.org](http://dfma.org) for details)

**01/06/26 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm**  
**01/12 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm**  
**01/20 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom**  
**02/03 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm**  
**02/09 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm**

**73 – Matthew KQ4ZYW, Vice President & Interim Newsletter Editor**

Send copy to [KQ4ZYW@arrl.net](mailto:KQ4ZYW@arrl.net)  
*Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting*  
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**Great News! DFMA Now Has a New PO Box!**

**The DFMA Mailing Address**

Please address any mail you have for the club to:

**DFMA**  
**P.O. Box 2494**  
**Durham, NC 27715**

**Durham FM Association (DFMA)  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Held on Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Attending Members:

Bob Cook W4FK (Pres), Matthew Stafford KQ4ZYW (VP), Wilson Lamb W4BOH (Treas), Tom Beccket KR4BTP (Sec), Charlie Durst NC4CD (Repeater Mgr.), and Members-at-Large: Paul Robertson N2XZF, Pat Connelly KO4QLU, Dan Eddleman GR4UB, Karen Snyder KD5YJZ, and Dave Snyder W4SAR

Discussed the new Bylaws and when the club will vote on them.

Charlie: Set up the new P.O. Box. Both him and Wilson now have a key to it. Charlie gets emails when mail comes in. Still hunting for the Lid Award, going to try to talk to someone in Benson to see who got and kept the award. Jim Langley, WB4YYY, passed away this morning and details of the funeral and obituary will be going out soon. Wilson will work with Charlie to send a money memorial Jim's wife, or a charity that she wants in his memory.

Bob: Asked if anyone has heard anything from the Durham EOC. While he's the main point of contact, haven't heard anything from them.

Wilson: A lot of renewals, around 60, have been submitted. So far, the club is doing well financially. Dee donated \$100 to the club in memory of Tim. From the Christmas Party, \$270 in cash and \$200 in checks were given. The money will be split between 2 charities: Samaritan's Purse and the Food Bank.

Dan: The new update emails regarding dues have been working well. DFMA Members will be able to go onto the website and see how current their dues are.

The club picnic will be moved from March to April, hopefully it will be warmer and more "picnicky" weather. Location is being scout out.

The club hopes to have more "hands-on" projects, such as Wilson having some show and tells during meetings. The board hopes to recruit more members, and many ways were discussed: mailing newly licensed hams, reaching out to ham related groups like maker spaces, emergency groups, GMRS/auxcomm, etc. Hosting a fox hunt.

Tom brought up a new place for our monthly meetings, as many have brought up issues regarding Bullock's. The new place being looked into is Lakewood Social, near the Scrap Exchange. Tom will look into renting part of the space there and costs.

The meeting concluded at 8:20PM

Minutes taken by:

Vice-President Matthew Stafford KQ4ZYW