



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, July 14th, 6pm
At Bullock's BBQ.

Program:
2026 Field Day Recap!

Want to know how the clubs did at this years Field Day? Then come out and see! Discussion will follow.

President's Korner

Hello club members and future club members!

How I miss the cool days of March. Heat can be a killer especially for older and/or people with health issues. Please stay hydrated and be smart about your outside exposure. Please watch out for anyone you know that may live alone and check on them occasionally to see how they are.



June was a quiet month as far as tropical storm development and Field Day went off without a hitch! I hope you were able to at least visit the site at Wilson's (W4BOH) and hopefully operate as well. A big thank you to everyone that went above and beyond to make it a great event for everyone!

The meeting will be on the 14th this month which is the day after the OCRA meeting. Hope to see everyone there and to hear you on the nets!

Bob Cook, W4FK
President of DFMA

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June 2026 VEC Session

We had 5 candidates, all going for the first license. We're pleased to report that 4 out of the 5 passed, and the 5th one is excited to try again in August. The next VEC session will be held at **Wilson W4BOH's house in the Land of Magic** on **August 15th at 10 AM**. The location has been moved from the Efland Bahá'í Center

because of another program being hosted there. The ARRL has been updated and there will be a note at the center.

Interesting Items

ARRL Field Day 2026

Field Day was a huge success! We had many volunteers for both prep work, Friday potluck (which was delicious as always), running the stations or logging, and clean-up on Sunday. We want to thank everyone who helped or just stopped by to see the festivities.

The SSB stations did quite well, especially the 80/20 station. We had quite a few young people come out (including my nephew who had a blast!).

Total QSOs for each station:

CW: 1,244

Phone: 1,056

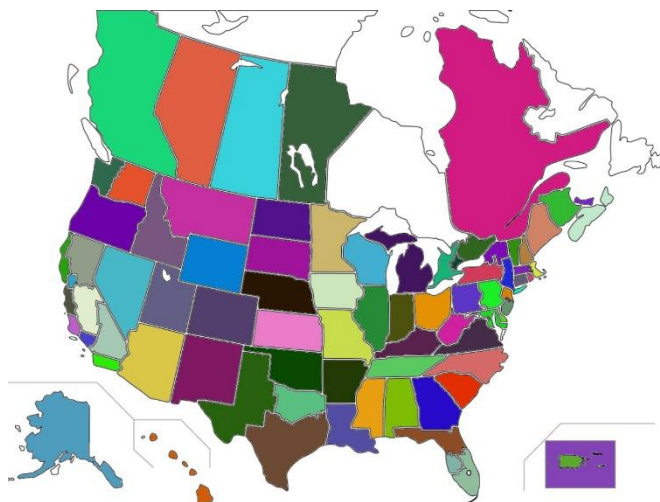
Digital: 268

Which means we got around 4,080 points. When the 2X multiplier for running on batteries is taken into account, plus extra points such as the Field

Day Bulletin, elected officials, youth operators, and more, we got more than 8,000 points.

If you want a more detailed run-down, check the [Orange County Radio Amateurs YouTube channel](#) for when I upload the July meeting in the future.

Pictured below is all the sections we contacted, only missed some Canadian ones!



Special Worked-All-States Award for America's 250th Anniversary

The ARRL is celebrating America's 250th anniversary by hosting a special yearlong event for the Worked-All-States award. Throughout the year, each of the 50 states will have W1AW/portable stations activate for this event. For example, North Carolina will be activating the week of April 1st and September 2nd. All QSOs must be uploaded to Logbook of the World. More info can be found here:

<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

Fun at the June DFMA Meeting!

The fun continues at our monthly meetings. At the June meeting, we had a fishing themed trivia game instead of our usual Porch Pirate game. For this game, Paul N2XZF, Pat KO4QLU, Sarah KR4NGS, Dave W4SAR, and Steve all tried their hands at fishing. If you want to try out for some

prizes, and usually wear a funny hat, join us in person! \



Bits of Humor

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

Q: What do you call an operator that tells dad jokes over CW?

A: A pundit.

Newbie & Elmer #9 by Matthew KQ4ZYW



From the Land of Magic: The Resurrection

By Wilson Lamb W4BOH

Here is another reprint of Wilson's article *From the Land of Magic*, with this one coming from the May 2017 edition of the Link. If you've ever been to the LOM, you know Wilson loves projects and fixing up "old" stuff. This time, it involves the Loudenboomer! I hope you enjoy this next installment in Wilson's The Land of Magic:

No, no tomb, unless you count the LOM. Seasonally appropriate subject...

Some may remember that I took a Loudenboomer amplifier to a DFMA show and tell some years ago. I'm not sure why I bought it, but it showed up on QTH.com for a good price and I decided to get it. I'd heard of them since the 50s but never seen one, so was curious. And, being an AARP member of several years, I'm thinking of getting a smaller station set up, with fewer opportunities for electrocution and more easily removed when I'm through with it. I was amused that it was in Rhode Island, quite near URI, where N8BR and I went to grad school. It came in fine and went into the LOM inventory, with the many other projects awaiting attention.

After I bought the amp, the seller informed me that he had the power supply and would sell it very reasonably. Unfortunately, there's no way that crating and shipping a 75 pound! power supply from RI to Hillsborough can be reasonable and I said I'd pass. But then fate intervened, as it often does. One of the preeminent Boatanchorites, John Poulton, K4OZY, of Chapel Hill, heard that I'd acquired a Loudenboomer and asked if there was a supply with it. Upon hearing that I had eschewed the opportunity to pay big bucks to ship the supply, he asked me where I found the amp. Then the fun began. Upon hearing RI, his eyes lit up and with a big grin he announced that he "had a friend" up there who "might be coming down sometime." Well, not only did he have the friend

up there, but it was someone I had known during grad school days, early 70s! SPOOKY. So naturally, I emailed the now mutual friend and asked if he'd bring the power supply down on his next trip, if I could get it delivered to his house and, in the ham spirit, he said he would! Next, I asked the seller if he would do the delivery. It turned out to be only a few miles drive and he said he'd be glad to. Truth be told, he was under pressure to get ready for a move and the 75 pound wonder was not far from being junked!

Anyhow, I eventually received an email from the mutual friend saying that the supply had shown up in his garage one day when he was away! And he'd taken it inside. We'll compress a few months here, but I eventually heard from John that he had something for me! It's odd, but I don't remember where we made the transfer, but I eventually got the supply and added it to inventory.

Now compressing not months but a few years, I began last fall to think of attacking the Loudenboomer project. My first effort was to find a good 3-400Z tube, little brother to the venerable 3-500Z used in countless ham amps. They were made in small quantities and good ones are actually a little scarce and a little expensive. Being frugal, I watched the ads for a while and eventually contacted someone offering a NIB tube for a fair price. I was a little leery of the deal, since he had no way to test the tube and didn't know for sure that it was unused. I asked if he would do a 50% refund if it was bad and he said OK. Sure enough, it came in fine, lots of padding, and looks new. At that point, it was time to get everything out and start "work." Imagine my surprise, and embarrassment, when I opened the amp and found that it was already replete with a fine looking tube! I've no idea why I forgot about the tube being there, but I did. That was a \$120 surprise, but ho hum, I didn't know my tube was good, so now I had two chances for having a good one! On with the story.

The previous owner was obviously a person of questionable character. Not only had the power supply cover been hacked to change some cable exit points, but he had also cut all the wires going to the terminal strip where the cable from the amp should connect. Imagine disabling a fine KW power supply to get a small terminal strip available in nearly every decent ham's junk box! Of course this ham's junk box, the LOM, has many terminal strips and drilling one small hole made it possible for one of them to be mounted in the original location. So the story is more about the resurrection of the power supply than the amp! I didn't take any "before" pictures, but I'll show you the new terminal strip and all the associated wiring. The mercury vapor rectifiers originally used (long before good solid state power diodes remember) had been replaced by fairly rough, but functional diode strings. Their Teflon mounting brackets had been glued together, not a good idea since almost nothing holds onto Teflon, and they, with their 3500 Volts, were somewhat adrift! A small bracket and screw took care of that issue. At that point, the circuitry had been verified, all the cut wiring repaired, and powering up was required. You'll have to wait a few minutes to find out what happened. Picture 1 shows the new terminal strip and Picture 2 shows the diode strings.

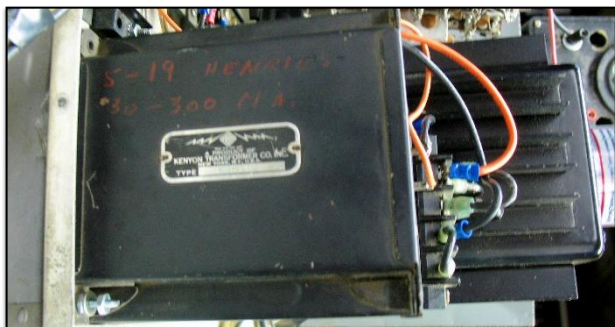


Picture 1 — The new terminal strip. Not a big deal but all the wires, except the white ones, the cable to the amp, were either cut or missing. Fortunately, I got a manual with the amp and a few minutes with the schematic showed how everything should be connected.



Picture 2 — Closeup of the diode strings.

With no excuse to dally longer, I connected a 120 VAC power line, controlled by a variable transformer, threw the switch, advanced the voltage, and prepared for smoke. WOW, the output voltage came up just fine. In fact, it was quite a bit higher than it should have been and I couldn't go to full input voltage without seriously exceeding the rating of the filter cap! Well, says I, that's odd, but it can wait until we check the amp for smoke. None of this stuff works if you let the magic smoke out of the components, you know. Then on to the amp. It's filaments lighted pleasantly and its blower purred quietly. A pleasant change from the screaming muffin fans everyone uses these days and it was ready for trial. Since it's a linear amp and draws substantial power even with no input, I was able to check out the basics without having to supply any RF input. That all went well and I even checked with both tubes. Both were good, so now I have a spare! I got an old Icom 735, a great, near bulletproof rig from inventory, connected it through a small tuner to the amp input, and connected a power meter and dummy load to the output. Now we had dummies on both sides of the amp! It's anticlimactic, I'm sure, but the amp worked perfectly, with NO problems of any kind!



Picture 3 — The new choke. You can see the red grease pencil Dad liked to use to label things. This couldn't have been written later than about 1972, when he pretty much stopped adding to his inventory!



Picture 4 — The entire power supply, with special sauce for safe high voltage work.

So, about that higher than normal high voltage? If you look in the Handbook, you'll see how the impedance of the filter choke in a power supply, along with some load from the bleeder (look it up) resistor, limits the no load output of the circuit. There are VERY few components in this supply. In fact, the only one that could cause the problem was the filter choke. It seemed to be the original, but had a note glued to it saying it had been rewound. But rewound properly? Still working properly? Who knew? So out it came and over to the bench where my trusty Wheatstone (look it up) bridge lives and, what ho, it has only ten percent of the required inductance! Now there's a challenge. The specs were for a swinging (no, nothing to do with partying) choke whose inductance varied from 19 to 5 Henrys, depending upon the current going through it, with a max current of 0.3 Amp. These are NOT common but, since I had been recovering, from the family home in Winston-Salem, components Dad and I had collected for many years, I went to inventory, again, and there was the

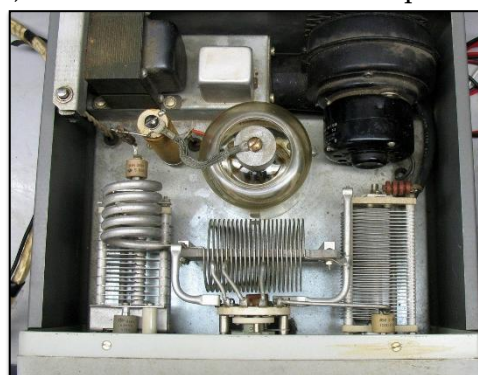
perfect choke! It even fit in the space available and again one new hole had it bolted down securely. See Picture 3 for a closeup of the choke and Picture 4 for a view of the entire power supply.

YES, the voltage was now within a couple hundred of the filter cap's rating, not dangerous, and the regulation was very good. Only thing is, the design input is 115VAC, not the 121 I usually have in my house. That's enough to take the output voltage higher than I'm happy to have on the cap, so it will stay on the variable transformer until something else comes along.



Picture 5 — Front view of the Loudenboomer amplifier.

Well, the amp works fine, on all the bands I've tried, but hasn't yet been on the air. It is not quite as efficient as my home brew one, perhaps because of the smallish coils used to keep its case comfortably desktop size. It is VERY solidly built, with heavy components in the tank (look it up) circuit, all in a very attractive case (see Pictures 5 & 6). Picture 7 shows the test setup on the bench.



Picture 6 — Internal view of the Loudenboomer amplifier.

The Heathkit Antenna dummy load is visible, as are the 735, MFJ tuner, Bird meter, and special sauce. Behind the sauce is my voltmeter, scaled to



Picture 7 — Test setup on the bench. Comfortable operation seems to be a plate input of about 900W, which produces about 600W output, with about 50W drive from the IC-735 exciter. The Bird meter has been calibrated against Lowell's, so I think it's reasonably accurate.

4KV. The variable transformer is on the left, by the Kill O Watt. The Kill O Watt is a cheap and very useful instrument for monitoring voltage, current, and power factor in power circuits. The tuner is just to improve the match between the 735 and amp, not actually needed. I won't explain the function of the key. You may also notice that there are three ways to interrupt the power to the HV supply: The plug from the supply, shown pulled out, the switch on the amp, and the switch on the variable transformer. Any one makes the circuit safe, but I never do anything unless the plug is pulled. There is rarely a second chance at 3KV! I'd love to have a safety guard, but Dee Anne probably wouldn't be interested.

So there you go. Soon I'll put the cover on the power supply and try the amp on the air.

You can find some Loudenboomer references on the web. The little ham company that built them was bought by Hallicrafters. They rebadged the amp to be an HT-45, and sold for several more

years. Here's a video of one rack mounted in a fancy shack:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQOrZ8i--iI>.

Note that he also uses a variable transformer, permanently mounted in the rack.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in such things. And did you see the Loudenboomer at RARSfest? It was clean and in perfect shape, \$500, so you might be able to have one of your own, if you can find the guy...

73,
Wilson
W4BOH

Just Ahead in Radiosport from ARRL

July 18-19 – 2026 CQ World Wide VHF Contest, Digital

July 18-19 – North American QSO Party, RTTY

July 20 – OK1WC Memorial

July 21 – Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

July 24 – QRP Fox Hunt NC4RT

July 25-26 – RSGB IOTA Contest

July 25-26 – Alabama QSO Party

July 26 – ARS Flight of the Bumblebees

More contest events listed at WA7BNM:

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

Buy – Sell – Swap

TenTec Century 21

Another classic. Great little CW transceiver, with antenna tuner, **\$150**, Proceeds to OCRA. Wilson W4BOH

Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

Box of Cat.6 LAN Cable

I have a near full, I think, box of Cat.6 LAN cable. This stuff is \$125+ at Amazon, so **\$50** seems reasonable for this one. Estate stuff, money goes to DFMA.

Wilson W4BOH

Icom Microphones IC-HM9 and IC-HM14

NEW in boxes

HM9 has two pin plug, for handhelds. **\$20**

HM14 has 8 pin plug and 16 key keypad. **\$30**

Pick up in Hillsborough OR I will mail for **\$10** each.

Wilson W4BOH

Drake MN-2000 Antenna Tuner

A classic, built for more power than you can give it. **\$250**, currently in the LOM

Wilson W4BOH

ICOM PW-1 Solid State Amplifier Selling for friend, good shape.

Price **\$2,000.00**. Wilson W4BOH

Alliance HD-73-1 Rotator Controller SK Stuff

Untested, no rotator available, so returnable.

Two Speed, six wire controller.

Picture available.

\$50, in Hillsborough.

Wilson W4BOH

FS: Nice coax jumper for connecting HTs to antennae.

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

FS: Estate equipment.

Ameritron AL-80B amp. Single 3-500Z, \$800.
Icon IC-746, \$500.

Ameritron ATR-20 1200W antenna tuner, \$300.

Contact W4BOH for info.

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 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

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

07/07 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

07/13 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm

07/21 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

08/04 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

08/10 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm

08/15 VEC Session, Wilson W4BOH's QTH, 10am

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

Send copy to 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**