



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, August 4th, 6pm
At Bullock's BBQ.

Program:
AUXCOMM, ARES, and
Mesh!

Come out to here our own Dave K4DJW talk about ARES and AUXCOMM, and Ev give a quick presentation on MeshCore!

President's Korner

Seems like only a couple of weeks ago we had a meeting...oh yeah, we did!

Greetings fellow members and welcome to August. August is named for the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar and known for some of the hottest days of Summer, I hate to think it will be hotter than July but we will see. August also has the Perseid meteor shower. Speaking of showers, it's been great to get some rain. We're still not out of the drought but it's not as bad as it was.

It's still Hurricane season so make sure to check on your preps and equipment. A great weekly test of your 2 meter rig is to check in on the Thursday night net at 8pm on the 145.450 repeater. We are always looking for new net controls to try their hand at running a net. It's a good skill to have!

I hope to see everyone at the meeting and hear you on the air.

Bob Cook, W4FK
President of DFMA



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August 2026 VEC Session

Reminder that there has been a site change to where we hold the VEC session 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

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>

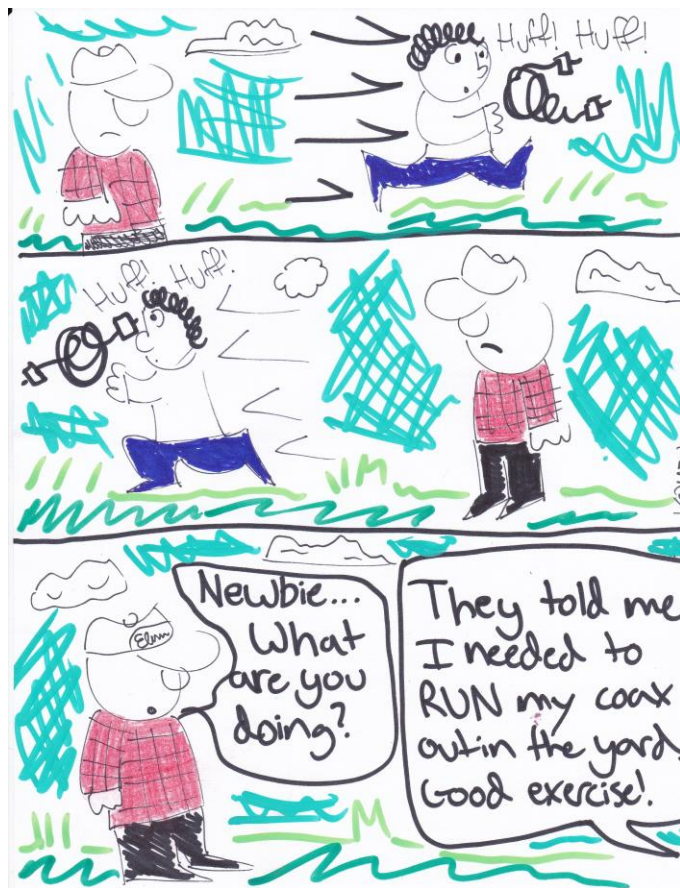
Fun at the July DFMA Meeting!

The fun continues at our monthly meetings. At the July meeting, we returned to our usual Porch Pirate game with trivia! If the "porch pirate" gets the trivia question wrong, the other person keeps the prize. For this game, Ted KQ4AAP went up against Pat KO4QLU, John KN4SVO, and Bill WW1H. Luckily for them (but not luckily for Ted) they got to keep all of their prizes. If you want to

try out for some prizes, and usually wear a funny hat, join us in person!



Newbie & Elmer #10 by Matthew KQ4ZYW



By Wilson Lamb W4BOH

Bits of Humor

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

An old man was complaining to another one about the weight of his new radio. "My rig is too big! Now my back Hertz!"

From the Land of Magic: The Microphone

Here is another reprint of Wilson's article *From the Land of Magic*, with this one coming from the November 2016 edition of the Link. Now, dear reader, you may have the question: "Wasn't the last FTLOM article you posted from May 2017? Why the time travel?" To which I would respond: You're correct, but you get what you paid for! I try my best to publish these in chronological order but I guess I was still recovering from Field Day and skipped over one. To answer Wilson's first question in the article: not sure the actual amount of readers. There's me of course (I have to read through it to make sure it's correct), my wife usually looks over the newsletter after I'm done, and Paul and Pat always say it looks good when I send it to the board for review. So I would say 4 readers is good! Fun fact: the microphone in this article is only 6lbs heavier than my cat. Anyways, I hope you enjoy this next installment in Wilson's *The Land of Magic*:

Faithful readers (Is there more than one?), you may remember a reference or two to my grandfather, Doug Lee, in previous columns. He was born late in the 19th century and was a radio pioneer and talented craftsman, as well as a major influence on me throughout childhood. No one would claim he was “nice”, but he did tolerate my hanging out in his radio, later radio and TV, shop in downtown Winston-Salem. Since Doug came up with radio and was a packrat, there was all manner of semi-antique artifacts I could discover and mess with. One I really liked was a CAST IRON broadcast turntable setup. It’s gone now, or I would do a column on it. Imagine a major design effort and some serious manufacturing to produce a two-piece turntable that weighed at least 100 lb. It was two piece because the motor was in one cast iron stand and the turntable and pickup another. The two stands could be located anywhere from quite near each other to several feet apart, with a cloth belt about an inch wide connecting them and delivering motive power from the substantial synchronous motor to the turntable...AMAZING. There isn’t that much metal in the average small car! The idea behind all this is that the mass of the stands, and their separation, would prevent vibration from the motor and drive system from reaching the turntable and being picked up by phono crystal. I tried to find a picture, but couldn’t, so I’ll finish this part of the story by saying I ran this monster and that it worked fine. It must have cost a fortune!

Now our subject for this month, at last. Do you have a microphone in your shack? I’ll bet everyone, even a dedicated CW op, does. Some are hand mics weighing a few ounces, some are desk mics weighing a pound or two, and some are headset mics coming in well under an ounce. Then there are

the mics in our cell phones. They weigh a few grams, have excellent response, and cost about a quarter each! But does anyone have an 18 POUND mic? Since this is the Land of Magic, I DO! It’s one of the artifacts from Doug’s horde, extracted after his death back in the 80s. With that provenance, it has to be significant right? Look closely at the picture, not at the handsome face but at the mic.



Wilson holding his 18lb WSJS radio station microphone.

Do you see the letters WSJS? What’s WSJS? It’s the oldest radio station in Winston-Salem and yes, my mic was used in the WSJS studio. Now the connection that makes the story: WSJS was started in 1929-

30 by the owner of the Winston-Salem newspapers, with, as is usually the case, some hard-working people behind the scenes. You guessed it, the main one was none other than Doug! Being a radio experimenter almost from the beginning, he convinced the press mogul that the paper should have a radio station, all the rage at the time. They applied for the license and

ordered a transmitter. Rumor has it that the transmitter arrived before the license and that Doug operated the station a good bit before the license showed up! I have no idea when my mic was actually on the air, but I’m betting it was well before WWII.

As for the technical details, I think it’s a ribbon mic, but I haven’t opened it to see and I have never tried it. There was an [article](#) on building a ribbon mic in a fairly recent QST if you want to know more about them.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Unfortunately, the website links below no longer work. I kept them in the story in case anyone wants to check them out. The wsjs.com website is still live, although the copyright is 2023.]

For an updated history of WSJS, you have the:

[Wikipedia Page for WSJS](#), that even mentions Wilson's grandfather Doug Lee!

[A pdf of articles about WSJS](#) in the National Radio Personalities Publishers, found on the World Radio History website.

[A video from WXII 12](#) with a news program about WSJS celebrating 83 years on the air back in 2013.]

Just to show I'm not making this up, here's a link to some WSJS history on the web...so it must be true, right?

http://www.liquisearch.com/wsjs_am/history/1920s%E2%80%931960s

Here's another good one:

<http://www.wsjs.com/article.asp?id=444661>

One of the engineers at WSJS was one of my Elmers growing up and I did relief engineering as a summer job after my freshman year in college. After being staunchly dignified and proper for decades, WSJS was divested by the paper after the FCC ruled that papers should not operate radio stations. Things went "downhill" from there, with changes of ownership and a deterioration of programming, even a spell with chubby Rush L.!

I worked at the transmitter site when it was a substantial block building out in the country, with three magnificent triangular free-standing towers. The 5KW transmitter filled several wide racks, taking close to 20' of wall space! I worked recently on a 10KW transmitter that filled about five feet of a narrow rack and is miserable to maintain. I miss the old one!

Well, that became a ramble, didn't it? It's amazing what memories an old object can revive. And it all happened because a couple of hams visiting for a

cold 807 innocently said: "Hey, what's that big old mic for?"

73,
Wilson
W4BOH

Just Ahead in Radiosport from ARRL

August 7 – QRP Fox Hunt
August 8 – Kentucky State POTA
August 8-9 – Worked All Europe DX Contest
August 8-9 – ARRL EME Contest
August 8-9 – Maryland-DC QSO Party
August 9 – SARL HF Digital Contest
August 11 – DARC FT4 Contest
August 15-16 – North American QSO Party
August 15-17 – ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
August 16 – ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
August 20 – NST QSO Party
August 22-23 – Ohio QSO Party
August 22-24 – Hawaii QSO Party
August 30-31 – Kansas QSO Party

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)

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
08/18 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom
09/01 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm
09/07 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm

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