



Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, September, 6pm
At Bullock's BBQ.**

Program:

All About Durham DMR BrandMeister Repeater

Come on out to a talk given by Harold W4BAD regarding the Durham DMR Repeater: includes cost, function, the use of Talk Groups, DMR network, and other topics and discussions.

Will include a drawing and give-a-way!

President's Korner

Fall is coming! Fall is coming! Fall is a transitional time of year and a favorite of many. Apple cider, pumpkin spice and cooler weather are some of the perks of the season. We are excited to present Harold Finley W4BAD, for the September meeting. He will be telling us about his DMR network and has a giveaway for some lucky attendee.

I would encourage all members to feel like you are ambassadors for the club and for HAM radio in general. You can do this by promoting the service of radio amateurs and the club. A great way to start is by bringing a friend or a neighbor to the meeting.

I will see you at the meeting and catch you on the nets! 73

Bob Cook, W4FK

President of DFMA

In This Issue:

**Next Meeting
President's Korner
October 2026 VEC
Interesting Items
Bits of Humor
AUXCOMM Corner
My First POTA Day
Radiosport from ARRL
Buy – Sell – Swap**

October 2026

VEC Session

The next VEC session will be held at **Efland Bahá'í Center** on **October 17th at 10 AM.**

Know someone who wants to try out for Technician, or do you want to upgrade to a higher license? Then come on out!

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>

Club T-Shirts & Hats

A couple months ago, we polled the club about t-shirts, and many of you expressed interest. While our original route did not pan out, we've been able to work out with Dave K4DJW to go with a local company to print out t-shirts and hats. Shirts are \$28 while hats are \$15. They can come in a variety of sizes and colors, just let Dave know you're interested and bring the money to one of the meetings. While the DFMA shirts haven't come in yet, I do have pics of the ones I got for OCRA:





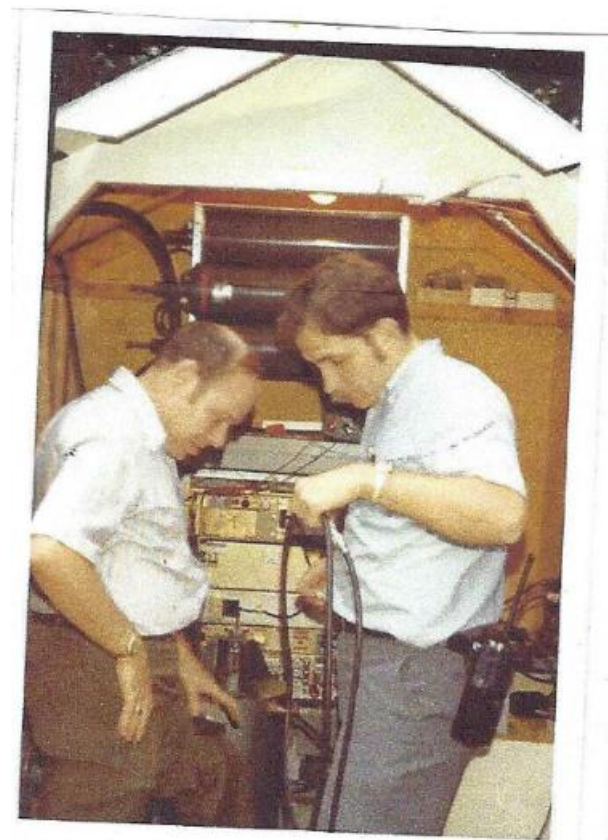
Old School Ham Radio

Charlie recently found some old photos, take a look:

I found a couple of very, very old photos of DFMA activities which I thought may be of interest. The top picture was made at the second Durhamfest in the early 70's. It was held at the Downtown Ramada Inn, which has been torn down and replaced with apartments. In addition to



a flea market, we had guest speakers: Lew McCoy with the ARRL, Gary Hendrickson, W3DTN, with the FCC, and Ed Clegg, owner of the Clegg radio manufacturing company at the Durhamfest. In the first photo I was adjusting the camera and Ken MacNeill, WA4HTZ, was working with the audio equipment. The speakers were great but we had trouble getting folks out of the flea market. That was the last year we had guest speakers. Ken retired from GTE and lives in Seneca, South Carolina now.



The second photo was made at DFMA's Hillsborough repeater site in 1974. Sidney Edwards, W4QWM, and I were working on the repeater. The "shack" was at most 6' x 6'. If it rained, only two people could get inside out of the rain! The duplexer at the top of the rack was on 146.22-146.82 which was our original repeater frequency pair. When we switched to 147.825-147.225, the duplexer was retuned and is still in use today. The repeater was a General Electric MASTR with vacuum tubes in the transmitter and a solid state receiver. The voice ID was a converted answering machine with a loop of magnetic tape for ID's. The tower was a 180 foot Rohn 25G. Sidney was one of the thirteen charter members of DFMA and was 38 when the picture was made. I was a youngster at 26. Before you go for the calculator, that makes us 90 and 78. Check out the sideburns!

73

Charlie NC4CD

Colorado QSO Party

Since Alan KØAV so kindly emailed our club to ask to include info about the Colorado QSO party in our newsletter, I thought to oblige!

2026 Colorado QSO Party: Work Colorado or help activate a county

The 2026 Colorado QSO Party will take place Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:59 p.m. MDT. Radio amateurs of all experience levels are invited to get on the air, make contacts, and help activate all 64 Colorado counties.

The event is a great opportunity for friends to operate together, mentor newer hams, test stations, or combine a county activation with a POTA or SOTA outing. Operators may participate from fixed, mobile, or portable stations, and awards and certificates are available.

Learn how to participate, find operating information, and announce a planned county activation at: <https://coloradoqsoparty.org/getting-started/>

Jamboree on the Air 2026

Once again, Bob Shelton KO4SZE has asked us to help out with the Scouting Jamboree on the Air like we did last year. More details will be shared later, but we do know it will be on October 18th. Please let me or Bob KO4SZE know that you're interested. More info about JOTA in general can be found here: <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

Fun at the August DFMA Meeting!

The fun continues at our monthly meetings. At the August meeting, we once again had our Porch Pirate game, but this time it was Roman emperor themes! Bob asked trivia questions about



Augustus Caesar (the namesake of the month), and if the person wearing the laurel wreath got the question right, they kept the prize. For this game, Russell KR4EBP was our honorary Augustus going up against Paul N2XZF, Dave NA4VY, and Daniel. Luckily for them (but not luckily for Russell) 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!

Bits of Humor

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

What is a ham radio operator's favorite kind of greeting?

A short wave.

Newbie & Elmer #11 by Matthew KQ4ZYW



When I said I
Wanted to do POTA..
I didn't mean
PORKS on the Air!!

The AUXCOMM Corner

By David Warwick K4DJW

On Friday morning, 21 Aug. 2026, members of DFMA participated in a test with the Red Cross to see how well we could pass messages between two Shelters and the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Chip KF4WBK a volunteer with the Red Cross, initiated the testing, by informing the Red Cross that amateur radio operators could communicate from shelters to the EOC if cell phones and internet were down. Bob W4FK, Dan KR4UB and Scott Nadry (Red Cross) were in the EOC, Wilson W4BOH, John KM4MDR and Sharon Schiro (Red Cross) were in Orange Middle School, and Chip KF4WBK, myself and Jerney Huffaker (Red Cross) were at Smith Middle School. Orange Middle School is about 2 miles from the EOC and Smith Middle School is about 8 miles from the EOC.

Repeaters chosen for this test were; 442.150 Primary, 147.225 Secondary, and 145.450 Backup. Radio operators in both shelters could communicate to the EOC on the 442.150 and 147.225 repeaters using a mobile radio with the antenna inside the building and using an HT inside the building. The 145.450 repeater was not reliable for this test. Simplex was tested from Smith Middle School but not successful using the antenna inside the building. But I think if we had an antenna mounted outside, possibly on the roof of the school or on a mast, that simplex operation would have been possible.

Testing lasted about 1.5 hours with 6 messages being successfully passed from the Shelters to the EOC using ICS-213 forms.

We had a De-brief (and lunch) at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center after the testing was complete. Ian Fowler, the Orange County Emergency Manager mentioned that he was glad to see this exercise and that he would help any way he could.

Some issues mentioned by different people to improve operations were:

- 1) Using headsets to block out background noise.
- 2) Issue picture ID cards for faster/easier access to shelters and the EOC.
- 3) Use paper ICS-213 forms (instead of on the computer), so the response can be easily be paired with the request when completed.
- 4) Have "IN" and "OUT" basket to keep messages organized.
- 5) Number the messages to make it easier to match a response to a request.
- 6) Make sure standard message priority is used; Routine-Priority-Emergency.
- 7) Have quarterly training exercises.

All in all, I think the exercise went very well. We all learned what we can do to improve our emergency communication capability and go-kits.

73
Dave K4DJW

My First (And Only) POTA Day

By Wilson Lamb W4BOH

It was great to join a gaggle of HAMS for a joint POTA setup exercise!

The array of clever commercial antennas present was impressive.

With some analyzer work, most functioned as designed, once set up properly and the bad feedline found.

As usual, I was beating my drum for subsistence level hamming so I took 15 minutes or so to spool off 66 feet of junk doorbell wire and attach a little insulator and some mason's twine. With a pair of pliers as a throw weight, I got one end over a limb about 25 feet high. With another insulator and a

couple feet of string, I tied off the other end to the shelter roof, dropping the bitter end down to a tuner on the radio table. A scrap of wire hooked to a nearby ground mounted grill got me a decent ground. SO, for near zero cost (The insulators weren't really needed in dry weather.), I was on 40 meters, talking to much of the eastern USA! The same setup, especially with 120 feet of wire, would have provided solid local coverage, on 75m, out to a few tens of miles. Either wire could be tuned to higher bands, of course.

Why am I telling you this? NOT to disparage the commercial equipment. It's pretty good on 20m, and above, but gets small, wavelength wise, on lower bands and a half wave antenna, even in the trees, is likely to get more RF into the air. More importantly, we hams brag about our ability to get messages out in bad circumstances and one such circumstance is having access to a transceiver, maybe not even yours, and needing to get on the air. Wire is all around us, in fences, extension cords, vacuum cleaner cords, etc. and with forethought, 150 feet of an appropriate size can be stored in a coil no bigger than a beer can.

With a little planning and some experimentation, it's possible to adjust the length of an end fed wire to bring its impedance within matching range of many internal antenna tuners. Possibly getting by without a separate one.

OK, does this sound interesting? If so, bring on some questions, schedule some field tests, or chat up others to find out what they have done. All such activity makes us a little more useful, in case bad things actually happen. If you don't have room in your yard, there are always parks, parking lots, and the W4EZ field day site. I'd be happy to host antenna tests and we'd have my station antennas for comparison. Bring it on! 73, WL

Just Ahead in Radiosport from ARRL

September 5-6 – ARRL EME 2.3 GHz & Up Contest

September 5-6 – All Asian DX Contest, Phone

September 5-6 -7 – Tennessee QSO Party
 September 12-13 – Colorado QSO Party
 September 12-13 – ARRL Sept VHF Contest
 September 12-13 – New Jersey QSO Party
 September 12-13 – Ohio State POTA
 September 17 – BCC QSO Party
 September 17 – NTC QSO Party
 September 19-20 – Texas QSO Party
 September 19-20 – Iowa QSO Party
 September 19-20 – New Hampshire QSO Party
 September 19-21 – ARRL 10 GHz & Up (Leg 2)
 September 26-27 – CQ WW RTTY Contest
 September 26-27 – Maine 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: w4boh10@gmail.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)

09/01 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm
09/07 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm
09/15 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom
10/06 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

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

Send copy to KQ4ZYW@arrl.net
Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting
(Images and copy: KQ4ZYW or as credited)
© Copyright 2026 Durham FM Association, Inc
.....

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**