



Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, October 6th, 6pm
At Bullock's BBQ.**

Program: Radio Tricks & Treats

Come discuss what you've learned that makes ham radio easier, more fun, or just show & tell of things or info you've learned!

President's Korner

Greetings and an early Happy Halloween to all! Fall is here and not soon enough for my changing comfort level. Soon there will be pumpkin spice everything everywhere.

Fall is a special time and a favorite of some, whether it's hayrides, apple picking, watching the leaves change, the cooler weather or something else. So take some time to enjoy some fall activities. As always make sure your winter preps are on your mind or even complete for you over achievers!

We will be voting on the clubs PACE plan at this meeting. I don't believe there is an official program so I thought we could do a radio Tricks & Treats. Things you have learned to make Hamming easier, more fun, or stuff you just found out after so many years that you wish you have known sooner. Also feel free to bring a show-n-tell item or project.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting! Costumes optional but appreciated ;-)
Bob Cook, W4FK
President of DFMA



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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

Voting on the DFMA PACE Plan

Make sure to come out to the October meeting (either in person or on zoom) to vote on the PACE plan for the club. What is a PACE plan? PACE stands for **Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency**. It is a four-tier communication strategy, basically a plan to go through the tiers regarding communication. First is the primary contacts, and as each fails or becomes ineffective, you move to alternate contacts, then to contingency for less reliable but still functional communication, and then if all else fails you go to the last resort with emergency. Basically a way to prioritize who/what to communicate with during an emergency, and to provide structure.

Jamboree on the Air 2026

I have received more info regarding the club helping out with JOTA. It will be **October 17th** at the **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Durham from **9AM to 12PM**. Charlie NC4CD is working with Bob KO4SZE to coordinate the event. More info about JOTA in general can be found here: <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

We hope to get more volunteers this year, and will be recruiting at the October meeting. Last year we had two HF stations and a VHF/UHF/DMR station on the air.

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. As an example, I do have pics of the ones I got for OCRA:



October QSO Parties

There are several QSO parties in the month of October, most happening on the 10th and 11th. View the links below for more info and rules:

Arizona – Oct 10-11th <https://www.azqp.org/>

Pennsylvania – Oct 10-11th <https://paqso.org/>

South Dakota – Oct 10-11th <https://pdarc.org/sd-qso-party>

New York – Oct 17th <https://nyqp.org/wordpress/>

Illinois – Oct 18th <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>

Field Day Throwback – 2007

Wilson wanted me share this picture from all the way back in 2007 from Field Day. Let's just say the cooking has gotten a lot better in the almost 20 years time:



Bits of Humor

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

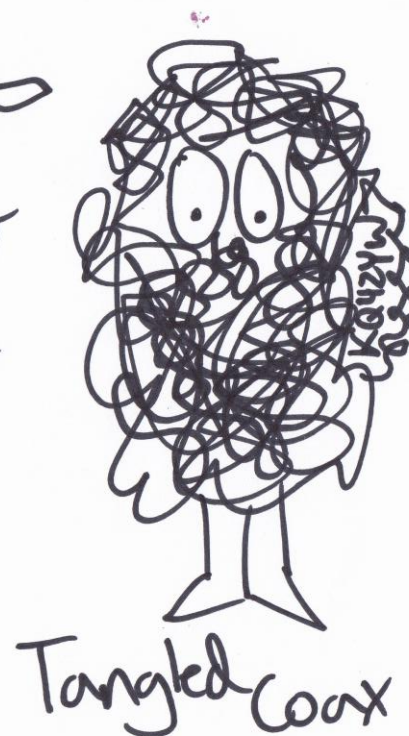
I would put a joke here, but it wouldn't be well received.

The MCU in a Parade

John Boone shared with me this article about the MCU (Mobile Communication Unit) being driven in the Bahama holiday parade. Another throwback to 2007, was written by Woody K3VSA about the mobile vehicle that club had set up. The MCU was recently sold, and you can find pics of it being towed away during [Field Day 2025 on the OCRA website](#). Hope you enjoy the article on page 4!

Newbie & Elmer #12 by Matthew KQ4ZYW

Rejected Ham Radio Costumes



Durham, NC Hams in Bahama Parade Assist with Emergency

Woody Woodward, K3VSA

A local Amateur Radio club's emergency communications van was a part of the Bahama, NC, annual Christmas Parade, and the Amateur Radio operators on board figured prominently in an emergency response to a child who was injured just before the parade began.

The Durham FM Association, an organization of Amateur Radio operators from Durham and surrounding counties, entered their Mobile Communications Unit (MCU) van as one of the approximately 150 floats in Bahama's holiday parade. The MCU was occupied by John Le May, KB4WGA, Emergency Coordinator for Durham County's branch of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and Don Watt, Jr., KE4UVJ, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Durham ARES.

At about 9:45 a.m., fifteen minutes before the parade was to begin, a young girl fell from the float she was on, landing in a ditch onto a metal culvert pipe, lacerating her chin. John Le May's emergency communications training kicked in, and he immediately contacted 9-1-1 using his cell phone, which was the most expeditious way of handling this particular situation.

Police, Fire Department and Rescue units in the parade responded at once to provide assistance to the young girl, who



The Durham FM Association's Mobile Communications Unit. (Photo by John C. Le May, Jr., KB4WGA.)

was reportedly celebrating her birthday that day. The identity of the victim, whom John guessed to be about eight years old, was not immediately available.

"We didn't expect to be involved in an emergency situation," explained John, "and so, we weren't attending the communications equipment in the MCU.

There were lots of people around who witnessed the accident, but it seemed like everyone was wrapped up in trying to help and I guess nobody except the Hams thought about contacting the emergency service folks." John had no further information as to the girl's present condition, but he added, "Next year, I think we'll look into having the MCU activated and maybe stationing Hams with handheld radios along the parade route, just in case..."

— K3VSA, Woody Woodward, Durham FM Assn.

HT "HF" Antenna Truly Handheld w/Performance!

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You can count on this antenna to bring in AM, SSB and CW!

This includes many ham band signals when the bands are in.* This is typically daily for many ham and shortwave bands (e.g. 20m, 40m & 80m). Band tuning with a long 33" whip makes the difference!

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 - Includes built-in SMA connector plus BNC & PL-259 adapters making this antenna compatible with many handheld radios
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- With performance, being truly handheld and fair price, give it a whirl, be convinced and enjoy!

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To order call (858) 487-8050 or go to www.PerformanceHF.com

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Here's how to trim your waistline...skip that donut and take out a three-year **WorldRadio** subscription

— only \$1.28 an issue.

Please see page 9.

Just Ahead in Radiosport from ARRL

October 3 – Oceania DX Contest, phone
 October 3-4 – ARRL Collegiate QSO Party
 October 3-4 – California QSO Party
 October 10 – Oceania DX Contest, CW
 October 10 – QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party
 October 10-11 – Arizona QSO Party
 October 10-11 – Pennsylvania QSO Party
 October 10-11 – South Dakota QSO Party
 October 17 – New York QSO Party
 October 18 – Illinois QSO Party
 October 19-23 – ARRL School Club Round-Up
 October 31-Nov 1 – EME 50-1296 MHz

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

**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)
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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**

Website: dfma.org

Upcoming Events (dfma.org for details)

10/06 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

10/12 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm

10/20 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm on Zoom

11/03 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm