

MARA - NORTHEAST ANNUAL MEETING Germantown, MD - 2005

21 MAY 2005

After waiting for some extra time, in case of late arrivals, the meeting opened at 1120 with Chic, WA2USI, MARA NE president giving opening prayer.

Those present were Stan, N3HS, Chic, WA2USI, Dave, VE1VQ and, Barry, N2PCT. See the picture below for the handsome foursome.



Left to right – Stan, N3HS, Chic, WA2USI, Dave, VE1VQ and Barry, N2PCT

It was determined, after a count of the paid members, that a quorum was present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was presented by Dave. He indicated that, as of the end of April, the bank account stood at \$304.20 US. The major expenditure for 2004 was the annual meeting meal.

Money on hand from memberships paid before the meeting started was \$40.00 - \$20 each for Chic and Stan.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chic and seconded by Stan. Motion carried.

MINUTES FROM 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes were read from the 2004 Annual Meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. It was announced that **Dick Rostrum, NG2R, had died on May 4th, 2005.** Chic talked about Dick, that he had been an engineer for RCA and a teacher, and how he had done so much work to keep MARA alive on the east coast.

It was decided that Dave would send Joanne, Dick's widow, a card expressing our sadness.

2. Concern was expressed that no one had heard from Art, W1OND since he and Billie's move to Florida. His email address no longer works and his FCC listed address is still the old one in CT.

3. Barry felt that he was not doing a good job as Net Manager since his appointment last year. The group felt that with his other responsibilities of family, church and work, he was doing as good as possible. When Barry is not able to check into the Saturday morning net someone else always volunteers for the next week. Barry agreed to continue.

4. BPL (Broadband over Power Line) - it was felt that BPL was on the wane. Companies formerly beating the drum for it are quietly discontinuing tests. The ARRL (American Radio Relay League) are maintaining pressure on the FCC to hold to the standards governing interference to the amateur service.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

With the move of Ginger, WN1H, and Dave, WQ1H, to Utah, it was necessary to replace Ginger as VP and Dave as a director. There were also two director's spots (Diana, KE3IU, and Barry, N2PCT) to fill as their six year terms were ended.

Barry offered to fill the Vice President's slot. This will be for a two year period as specified in the constitution. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Dave suggested that he relinquish the position of Treasurer, as the American banks won't accept a check written from the Canadian bank we use for the

account (even though in US\$! Dave then has to turn around and send a postal money order.

Stan accepted the position of treasurer. Voting was unanimous.

Diana had previously indicated that she would accept another director's term of six years. This was accepted unanimously by those present.

It was decided to seek, from the membership, another director for a six year term and a second director to fill Dave's (WQ1H) term for a remaining period of two years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The time for next year's meeting was tentatively set for the second or third weekend in May, depending on the timing of the Dayton Hamvention. The location will be the Sewell, NJ ward and will be hosted by Chic. It is hoped that in 2007, someone in New England will offer to host the annual meeting.

2. Originally, MARA was formed in response to the Teton Dam disaster, as a way of communicating in the event of future emergencies and disasters. It was felt, by those present at the meeting, that at some point in the future, an emergency would take place where the Church would require communications when the regular phone and cell phone networks failed or were overworked.

Ways were discussed to get more activity on the Saturday morning net. It was decided to send out a postcard or letter to each person we know about, asking such questions as:

- a. what happened to you and why aren't you on the net anymore?
- b. do you know of any other LDS members who are hams?
- c. what bands/modes can you operate on?
- d. do you have emergency power?
- e. what can we do to attract more people or to make MARA more interesting?

and to commit to be on the net at least one Saturday morning per month. Dave will create the mailout and forward it to the executive for ideas/changes.

After the lunch break...

Chic talked about material from the ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook. He proposed covering parts of the manual on the net each weekend for the coming months.

He brought up the possibility of members having a common communications method that could provide for written hard copy. Various formats were discussed.

It was decided that PSK31 would be the easiest one for people to implement. Stan and I will formulate specifications for hardware and software for members and this information will be posted to the web site when finalized. Software available on the internet will be considered. Simple hardware, both commercial and homebrew will be evaluated.

Dave presented information on wire antennas, feed lines and the methods he uses for his horizontal loop. He passed out handouts showing his station setup.

Motion to adjourn at 2:00 pm. by Stan.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave, VE1VQ
Secretary