

MARA NORTH EAST HISTORY

THE BEGINNING – 12 OCTOBER 1995

Richard (Dick) Rostrum NG2R was the MERCURY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (MARA) Director (appointed by K8ES) on the east coast and was the driving force behind the October 12th, 1995 informal meeting in Washington (Rockville MD) at the Woodfin Suites to see if there was sufficient interest in establishing a MARA group in the northeastern area of the Church. By this time MARA, based in Salt Lake City UT, previously tasked with providing the Church's emergency communications, but now no longer with a mandate from the Church, was disbanding and those involved had no further interest in directing the organization.



Those present at the 1995 meeting. Standing from left to right – Arthur (Art) Ayer W1OND, Jeff Porter AI7D, Dave Marling VE1VQ, Barry Smith N2PCT, Jeff Lawson KD1WZ, Shirrell Young N3DIX, and Hal Christensen W4VC. Front kneeling from left to right – Mike Helmantoler N3JJL, Dick Rostrum NG2R, and Mike Dirle KN4EE.

At the informal meeting, it was decided that there was sufficient interest to hold a second meeting. It was agreed that a constitution and bylaws would be introduced, discussed and voted upon, and that an executive and a board of directors would be elected.

THE FORMATION MEETING – 29 MARCH 1997

At the March 29th 1997 meeting, hosted by Chic WA2USI, at the Cherry Hill Ward chapel in Cherry Hill, NJ, several examples of constitutions and bylaws were viewed and discussed. The one submitted by Dick NG2R was, after some discussion and modification, accepted by the group. It was decided that we call ourselves the Mercury Amateur Radio Association – North East or MARA NE. Dick was elected the first president.



Those present at the 1997 meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ. From left to right – Charles (Chic) Naylor WA2USI, Hal Christensen W4VC, Rulon Van Dyke KA7BCD, Richard (Dick) Rostrum NG2R, Barry Smith N2PCT, Dave Marling VE1VQ, and Jeff Lawson KD1WZ.

The newly elected executive consisted of:

President – Richard (Dick) NG2R	(three years)
Vice President – Dan Janda AA3LS	(two years)
Secretary/Treasurer – Dave Marling VE1VQ	(two years)

Board Members elected were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Barry Smith N2PCT | (two years) |
| 2. Dave Marling VE1VQ | (two years) |
| 3. Charles (Chic) Naylor WA2USI | (four years) |
| 4. Rulon Van Dyke KA7BCD | (four years) |
| 5. Hal Christensen W4VC | (six years) |
| 6. Jeff Lawson KD1WZ | (six years) |

The terms of office were staggered so that not all executive and directors would have to be re-elected at the same time.

Jeff KD1WZ was appointed newsletter editor.

Art W1OND was appointed net manager.

The following meetings are covered in the MINUTES OF MEETINGS page on the website at <http://ne.mara.net/meeting.htm>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH MEETING

NEW MILFORD, CT – 11 APRIL 1998

Hosted by Jeff KD1WZ

Paul Forgrave K8ES gave a presentation about emergency communications over a telephone link.

GERMANTOWN, MD – 10 APRIL 1999

Hosted by Stan W3INK

Dave VE1VQ did not re-offer as a director saying he had enough to do as Secretary-Treasurer.

Diana Taggart KE3IU, and Barry Smith N2PCT, were elected as directors for six year terms.

Dan AA3LS was again selected as VP for another two years.

Dave VE1VQ was again selected as Secretary Treasurer.

Dues were lowered to \$5 per year from the previous \$10.

NAZARETH, PA – 8 APRIL 2000

Hosted by Barry N2PCT

Dick Rostrum NG2R retires as President.

Dennis Clark KB3DFW was selected as President.

ASHFORD, CT – 14 APRIL 2001

Hosted by Art W1OND

Dan AA3LS retires as Vice President.

Ginger Smith WN1H was chosen as Vice President

Dave VE1VQ was again selected as Secretary Treasurer.

Ted Champagne N4TW accepted a two year term as director to fill the remaining time of office for Jeff KD1WZ who has moved to Colorado.

Chic WA2USI accepts a six year term as director.

Dave Smith NQ1H accepts a six year term as director and the assignment as newsletter editor.

GERMANTOWN, MD – 11 MAY 2002

Hosted by Stan, formerly W3INK, now N3HS

Dennis KB3DFW retires as President.

Chic WA2USI is elected President.

NAZARETH, PA – 24 MAY 2003

Hosted by Barry N2PCT

Report by Chic WA2USI on Dick NG2R following his stroke.

The following were returned unopposed - - as VP - Ginger WN1H - as Sec/Treas - Dave VE1VQ - as Directors for six year terms - Hal (W4RIM) and Ted (N4TW). Dennis KB3DFW was elected to fill the vacancy created by Chic's move to President from director

YARMOUTH, NS – 5 JUNE 2004

Hosted by Dave VE1VQ

Discussion regarding Dick NG2R and all the work he has done over the years to keep MARA alive on the east coast and also his current health. A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Jeff to make Dick a life member of MARA North East.

Art W1OND moved to Florida.

Barry N2PCT will be the new net manager.

Chic WA2USI re-offers and is accepted for another two year term.

GERMANTOWN, MD – 21 MAY 2005

Hosted by Stan N3HS

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.



[Dick NG2R – SK – 4 May 2005](#)

Ginger WQ1H and Dave WN1H move to Utah.

Barry N2PCT accepts Vice President's position.

Dave VE1VQ steps down as Treasurer.

Stan N3HS accepts Treasurer's position.

Dianna KE3IU is returned as a director for a six year term.

STROUDSBURG, PA – 10 JUNE 2006

Hosted by Jeff AI7D

Barry announced the **death of Chic, WA2USI/W2CAN**, president of MARA NE, **on 16 April 2006 (Easter Sunday)**. Chic had been afflicted with cancer prior to his death and had been off the air for several months. Both Dave and Barry talked about Chic and his contributions to and enthusiasm for MARA over the years.



[Chic WA2USI/W2CAN – SK – 16 Apr 2006](#)

Concern expressed that no one has heard from Art W1OND since he and his wife Billie moved to Florida to live with their daughter.

Barry N2PCT fills the position of President.

DECEMBER 2006

Dave, VE1VQ, restarts MARA NE newsletter, in electronic (PDF) format.

WASHINGTON DC BCS – 2 JUNE 2007

Hosted by Dan NE3Z

Former MARA NE member, Bill Young W4RVY has moved to Gig Harbor WA, to live with his daughter and her family and will soon move with them to Alaska.

Bruce Wortman N3IA becomes Vice President.

Dave VE1VQ remains as Secretary.

Stan N3HS remains as Treasurer.

New directors - Steve Kelly K2KEL, Shirrel Young N3DIX, and Charles Bruington WB4FLM.

Barry N2PCT steps down as net manager.

Shirrel N3DIX replaces Barry N2PCT as net manager.

Dan NE3Z talks about Church communications.

CHERRY HILL, NJ – 17 MAY 2008

Hosted by Steve K2KEL

Barry N2PCT steps down as President

Shirrel N3DIX becomes President.

Barry N2PCT replaces Shirrel as Net Manager

It is suspected that Art W1OND has died.

Steve K2KEL made a presentation to the Naylor and Rostrum family members who were in attendance for the work done by Chic Naylor WA2USI/W2CAN (SK) and Dick Rostrum NG2R (SK).

A tour of the battleship New Jersey was available after the meeting for those who wished to do so.

Addendum:

ARTHUR (ART) AYER W1OND – SK – 4th APRIL 2005



We have confirmed that Art, W1OND, died in Connecticut on the 4th of April 2005. Art was one of the founding members of the MARA NE, acting as the Net Manager for several years.

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W7RVY/KL5R - SK - September 28, 2008 - W7RVY, Bill Young passed away. Services were held in Gig Harbor, WA

Many individuals, not only the ones mentioned here, from the beginning in 1995 until the present, have played a role in shaping the MARA North East, into what it is today.