

MARA - NORTHEAST ANNUAL MEETING Germantown, MD - 2002

11 MAY 2002

On Saturday, May 11th, the annual MARA NE Meeting was held at the LDS Chapel in Germantown, MD, from 11:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

Those in attendance were Jeff Porter, AI7D, Debbie Porter, KE3FY, Hal Christensen, W4RIM, Ginger Smith, WN1H, David Smith, WQ1H, Chuck Moore, WD4HXG, Barry Smith, N2PCT, Sherry Smith, KB2YXI, Scott Parker, K7LU, our host, Stan Statten, N3HS, and Dianne Statten.

The meeting was opened with a prayer and those present visited until dinner was ready. We had a delicious meal served by Dianne and other ladies. They served cold cuts, cheeses, rolls, potato chips, pickles, cold drinks and cookies. Thank you Dianne and friends!

Barry read last year's minutes and they were approved.

The term of our president, Dennis Clark, (call sign), has expired and he has decided not to re-offer. The floor was opened for nominations and it was unanimous that Chic Naylor, WA2USI, would be president for the next two years, subject to his acceptance. (He has since accepted - see what happens when you don't make a meeting!)

Discussion followed about putting a president's message in the newsletter and the concern about fewer members getting on the NE MARA net on Saturday mornings. Officers should collaborate in increasing people's activities with the club and on the net.

We reviewed the history of the Bishop's Storehouses in various areas and the Storehouse radio stations, especially at the Washington Storehouse.

Subjects for discussion to be brought up on the July 13th MARA conference were:

1. What were other MARA groups doing to keep members and nets active?
2. Why are other Church hams not interested in MARA or in getting on the net?
3. It has been a long time since there has been a real need for emergency networking in many areas - how should we prepare most efficiently?

QRP operation was discussed and the ability of one to build their own equipment.

The national two meter simplex frequency was discussed. Someone mentioned that in traveling a long distance that only one person was heard.

Discussion about PACTOR instead of RTTY as the former is error-correcting.

Ginger, WN1H, and David, WQ1H, presented information from the Columbus training session they attended.

In Columbus, Ohio, the ERRS group training presented scenarios ranging from a simple car accident to a major riot and how various types of communications would fit into the scenarios. People in Columbus had set up two meter radios and a pool of operators who would be on call for different emergencies. Despite the quarterly ERRS drills on HF, the system will likely not be used to contact Bishop's Storehouses, nor will it use HF extensively. Contacts will not be made with the Storehouses for several days and will likely not be necessary before the telephones are working again. The chain of contacts won't be from the local area to the Storehouses anyway. Church protocol requires that they go through the lines of ecclesiastical leadership (Area Presidency). HF might be used to facilitate these communications if the emergency is extremely wide spread and its effect is very long lasting. This type of communication would be used to report to regional or area authorities saying, "We know what's going on and we're doing what we need to do. We'll let you know in a few days."

A demo was held with a vehicle set up with emergency communication on HF and VHF with mobile antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 2 meters. A G5RV antenna was strung through the trees to improve the long distance communication on HF. Two meter and 440 handhels were used with wire J-pole antennas for improved local communication. Also stored in the vehicle was an emergency 72-hour kit.

This allows a portable base station to be set up at the stake president's house. This, along with VHF/UHF hand-helds, could be used to make a complete emergency setup.

Dave and Ginger offered to host next year's meeting in southern New Hampshire.

The last item of business was that the Washington MARA group had disbanded and left \$26.35 which Hal, W4RIM, gave to the NE MARA group.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger - WQ1H