

MARA - NORTHEAST ANNUAL MEETING Yarmouth, NS - 2004

5 JUNE 2004

Those in attendance were Debbie (KE3FY), Jeff (AI7D), Barry (N2PCT), Sherry, KB2YXI, and Dave (VE1VQ). Others who were interested in amateur radio were invited from the local area but were unable to attend. The stake high council member assigned to emergency preparation was also unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order by Dave as directed by Chic (WA2USI - MARA NE President). Opening prayer was given by Jeff.



Dave (VE1VQ), xyl Angela, Barry (N2PCT), Sherry (KB2YXI), Debbie (KE3FY) and Jeff (AI7D). in front of the steeple of the Yarmouth, NS chapel

MINUTES

This year, Dave (VE1VQ - Secretary-Treasurer) remembered to bring the minutes of the previous meeting with him, unlike the previous year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave reported that our bank account sits at \$321.08. Jeff (\$5) and Barry (\$10) paid their current memberships, so there was \$15 on hand.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **DICK, NG2R** - Discussion regarding Dick 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. Motion carried. [Click to see the certificate](#)
2. **MARA web site** - The MARA web site has changed. No longer are we providing a site for other MARA groups although links to those pages appear on MARA.NET. Dave has assumed the cost of the MARA.NET and MARA NE sites.

- Update – the cost of MARA.NET is now covered by Dick, N7JID (2005)
3. **Meeting for 2005** - Discussion of where to hold the next annual meeting ensued. It was decided to hold it in Dave and Ginger's location if they were still in the Northeast area after their move. If not, Jeff offered to host the next one.
4. **Net manager** - Since Art, W1OND, is moving to Florida it was decided that a new net manager was required. Barry offered and will be our new net manager. Our thanks to Art for the years of service in trying to find volunteers to fill the NCS spot each week.
5. **Annual meeting broadcast** - Discussion followed about providing remote coverage of the annual meeting. In the past, attempts have been made to broadcast on HF with limited success. Suggestions have been made to provide a phone system conference but the cost was found to be prohibitive. Thought has also gone into using the internet and, possibly, Echolink. Dave will investigate the latter and try to have something ready for next year's meeting. Jay, W7KBH, has offered the use of his Echolink gateways.
6. **BPL (Broadband over Power Line)** - This new threat to amateur radio and other HF communications was discussed. From indications, it appears that the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is very much in favor of BPL and is proposing a relaxation of standards to allow the power companies to provide the service to their customers. It was originally proposed by the power companies as a means to extend broadband to rural customers but this selling point has since been dropped because of the financial costs to do so. It now seems that the power companies are shifting their markets to the urban areas where the customers are concentrated. Preliminary testing by them says there is no interference. Tests performed by hams say the direct opposite.
7. **Election of President** - Chic's term of office as President expires. He has indicated to Dave via e-mail that he will re-offer. Barry moved that we accept Chic's offer for another term. Jeff seconded the motion. Carried.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

After a blessing on the food by Dave, Angela (xyl of VE1VQ) served up a meal of seafood chowder with biscuits, rolls, and punch, along with desert for those so inclined. The Yarmouth full time missionaries had dropped by the chapel earlier before the meeting started and had been invited to partake as well. Naturally, they accepted!

8. **Show and tell** - Jeff brought along a switching power supply from work (<http://www.acopian.com>) and described the inner workings. Dave brought his homebrew linear supply to compare the size and weight. Both devices will provide 13.8 volts at 20 amps.



Jeff's switching type power supply



Dave's linear style power supply

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Dave - VE1VQ