

# **MARA NORTH EAST ANNUAL MEETING**

## **Washington DC Bishop's Central Storehouse**

### **Upper Marlboro, MD**

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**2 June 2007**

The gathering of the group began at the Bishops Central Storehouse (BCS) around 10 a.m. Introductions were made and pictures were taken.

Talk around the room centered mostly on the position of MARA in relation to the Church. Stan, N3HS, voiced his opinion on leaving MARA, if it wasn't in harmony with Church leaders. Shirrel, N3DIX, stated that he would be available if he were needed. Stan then suggested that if the dues presented a problem for the Church, that members of MARA NE stop paying dues, donate the money to the Church Welfare System or change the name of the group, leaving MARA altogether. Steve, K2KEL, from the Cherry Hill, New Jersey Stake asked the difference between ERRS and ECS. The answer came from Dan Goodson, NE3Z, later in the meeting in his presentation (see below). Also discussed was the fact that most Storehouses now have satellite phone systems.

The official meeting began at 11 a.m. with a welcome to all by the President, Barry Smith, N2PCT.



Rear –L to R – Frank KB3PDT, Jeff KB3OYE, Jack KC2RDZ, Paul K3ECZ, Charles WB4FLM, Steve K2KEL, and Tony. Seated – left to right – Shirrel N3DIX, Barry N2PCT, and Bruce N3IA.

Opening prayer was offered by Frank Rogers, KB3PDT.

Minutes of the 2006 meeting were read by Barry and approved.

The Treasurers report was presented by Stan, and approved.

New membership forms and dues were turned over to Stan. They include Raymond "Paul" Renninger, K3ECZ, extra class, also VE (volunteer examiner); Jeff Niceler, KB3OYE; Steve Kelly, K2KEL, General class.

Barry thanked everyone for supporting the Saturday morning net. He also proposed the idea of someone else taking responsibility of Net Manager. This will be discussed later.

Barry then talked about the e-mail from former MARA NE member, Bill Young, WYRVY, who has now moved to Gig Harbor, WA, to live with his daughter and her family and will soon move with them to Alaska. Bill is missed by all members and best wishes extended to him.

No one has heard from Art, W1OND, since he and his xyl, Billie moved to Florida to live with their daughter.

Also mentioned was the passing of two former members who are greatly missed: Chic Naylor, WA2USI and Dick Rostrum, NG2R. Comments were made by Steve, K2KEL, concerning a memorial that has been made by members of the local radio club to which Chic belonged. A suggestion was then made that our meeting in 2008 could be held in Cherry Hill so we could all view this memorial.

Dan Goodson, NE3Z, was introduced and the time turned over to him for explanations concerning ERRS, ERC, MARA, and the Church. Dan's presentation was very good. He feels that every storehouse should have a radio room and every unit (stake and ward/branch meetinghouse) have equipment (or at least the capability – antenna/s) to operate emergency communications. He also stated that it would be really great if church leaders such as Stake Presidents, Bishops, etc. have licenses to operate that equipment. Dan pointed out the Church web site, at <http://www.providentliving.org/> where it talks about emergency communications and amateur radio.

(Click on "Helps for Church Leaders", then "Explore a Welfare Topic", and then on "Prepare for Emergencies")

He talked about being proactive and for MARA members to continue to prepare for future emergencies when they will be needed by the ecclesiastical leadership. He then asked if all in attendance would email to him the name, etc. for the Stake High Counselor over Emergency Preparedness in each of their stakes. He will personally contact them, asking about emergency communications. The meeting then moved to the radio room in the BCS. Everyone had a chance to view the various pieces of equipment there.

12 noon: Lunch was provided by Dan Goodson and the DC BCS. Juliana Letren, on staff at the storehouse, was our hostess. She provided hoagies, chips, and soda. Blessing and closing prayer was offered by Stan. Dan left following lunch.

Elections were held during lunch to make the best use of time. Results of elections are as follows:

President:	Barry, N2PCT will serve until 2008, taking over as President at the passing of Chic Naylor in late 2006.
Vice President:	Bruce Wortmann, N3IA
Secretary:	Dave Marling, VE1VQ
Treasurer:	Stan Staten, N3HS
Directors:	Steve Kelly, K2KEL

Shirrel Young, N3DIX  
Charles Bruington, WB4FLM

Replacing Barry as Net Manager: Shirrel Young, N3DIX

After elections, talk around the lunch table included batteries; working with ARES on the local level. It was also suggested that the newsletter could be published quarterly with special editions as needed, thereby easing the burden on our secretary.

(Duly noted by the secretary who was not present at the meeting to defend himself!)

Most of the group then returned to the conference room for a group picture.

Meeting ended around 1 p.m.

Submitted by Sherry Smith KB2YXI  
Acting as secretary

Those in attendance:

1. Charles S. Bruington, WB4FLM
2. Frank Rogers, KB3PDT
3. Steven R. Kelly, K2KEL
4. Bruce Wortmann, N3IA
5. H. Stanley Staten, N3HS
6. Jeff Niceler, KB3OYE
7. Dan Goodson, NE3Z
8. Jack Scheimreif, KC2RDZ
9. Raymond "Paul" Renninger, K3ECZ
10. Shirrel R. Young, N3DIX
11. Tony Angelo, no call
12. Barry R. Smith N2PCT
13. Sherry Smith KB2YXI