

## ***Message from the MARA Northeast President***

As I reflected on what to say as we near our third year as a body organized with a group of officers with a constitution and byLaws it seems to me that this is particularly the accomplishment whcih should be recognized.

We have met weekly on HF and developed a means of reliably communication through-out our area by relaying among ourselves. We have come to know each other bette by means of informal comments on our net. As my term as President, and the terms of tow of our Directors come to an end we are well positioned to elect new officers to continue our efforts to provide emergency communications. May I suggest three areas we might address to improve our capabilities:

- 1) Association of individual stations with local emergency communications such as ARES and RACES. As a practical matter most emergencies will be handled at the local level.
- 2) Practive in handling messages in standard ARRL format
- 3) Handling of traffic in tactical format as given in RACES manuals. This format is used where written messages are not needed and speed is of the essence.

I look forward to seeing you at our get-together on April 10.

73, Dick NG2R

## ***MARA NE Chapter Meeting Planned for April 10th***

The officers and directors of the MARA-NE Chapter would like to take this opportunity to invite all the membership to our bi-annual meeting Saturday, April 10 1999. The annual meeting of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association Northeast will beheld in the Relief Society room at the Seneca Stake Center in Germantown, Maryland. There are two positions for the Board of Directors up for re-election. Toss your name into the hat!

### **Travel Directions**

- ◆ From the DC beltway take I-270 North toward Frederick MD.
- ◆ Exit 15 South toward Germantown (also Department of Energy) on MD Rt 118.
- ◆ Go two miles and turn right on MD Rt 117 (Clopper Rd)
- ◆ The stake center should be view on the right. It is 0.2 miles West at the intersection of Clopper and Kingsview Rd.
- ◆ The Relief Society room is in the back of the building.

Talk-in frequency is 146.955 (- 600 Tx, PL not required)

Activities will begin with lunch at 12 noon and the official meeting following at about 1 p.m. Details have yet to be worked out on both of these items. Check the MARA web site for up-to-the-minute news and all other information. The following is the planned agenda:

- 1200 Light lunch at the church
- 1300 Business meeting (treasurer's report, secretary's report, net manager's report, election of new officers, other business, technical discussion and demos)
- 1600 Adjorn

See you there!



# Emergency Communications, Are They Legal?

Arthur Ayer, Net Manager, W1OND

All emergency communications are legal. Yet, because of folklore and second hand information, emergency and public service communications have become confusing for many amateurs. A surprising number seem to believe that much amateur public service and disaster communications are illegal. Most of the confusion can be handed to the FCC's rules banning any form of business communications, which were in effect from 1971 until 1993.

Communications in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available are legal (97.403). The difficulty is the interpretation of what constitutes an immediate threat to life or property. Obvious examples of an emergency include natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, forest fires, ice storms, landslides and earthquakes. These typically cause immediate danger to life and property and outages of normal communication systems.

During an emergency you may use your radio in any appropriate manner. Even though putting out fires or providing disaster assistance may be the regular business of your fire department or of the American Red Cross. In these situations an emergency affecting the immediate safety of life and property has occurred and your amateur radio participation is not only allowed but encouraged. Under these guidelines assisting the forest service during a wildfire, allowing a physician to use your radio or informing the Red Cross. Disaster assessments are all legitimate Amateur Radio Operations.

It is also permissible to call for a tow truck or request police assistance for a stranded motorist as this represents an immediate danger to life and property. At the scene of an accident can you hand your radio to an unlicensed person such as a fire chief or an E.M.T? Yes, as long as you remain the control operator as their merely third party operation (97.115(b)(1)). In fact this is usually the most efficient way to provide emergency communications to an agency. This will eliminate the possibility of life threatening error and is much more efficient.

It is my hope that this information may help to clarify some of the questions that net members may have concerning the legality of providing emergency communication.

(Reference ARRL publication on FCC Rules and Regulations)

## MARA NET PREAMBLE

Calling the MARA Northeast Net, calling the MARA Northeast Net. This is station \_\_\_\_\_ is calling the MARA Northeast Net.

The purpose of this net is for passing traffic, preparing amateurs for communications in the event of an emergency, and to provide those with a common interest the opportunity to meet.

Stations checking in are asked to remain on frequency until all traffic has been assigned and net business has been completed. Should it be necessary to leave the net, please check out with the net control station. All licensed

amateurs are invited to check-in to this net. New or visiting stations will be checked-in at the end of the net.

This net meets weekly on Saturday at 7:30 local hours on 3.872.5 MegaHertz, plus or minus ten kiloHertz for QRM. The exact frequency this morning is \_\_\_\_\_ MegaHerz.

The net control station this week is \_\_\_\_\_ located in \_\_\_\_\_. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Is there any emergency traffic?  
Any emergency powered or mobile stations?  
Are there any bulletins for the net?

The following will be roll call. Roll call will be by region/callsign suffix/call sign listing.

All stations \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_ (etc.)

Any late or missed member stations?

If traffic, handle at this time

Request any bulletins at this time

Request Net Manager to assign net control for next week.

Are there any additional member check-ins?  
Any visitor check-ins, please come at this time.  
Any stations requesting early checkout can now secure.  
Is there a MARA Midwest liaison station on frequency?

We will now proceed with the informal comments.

Any missed or later member stations?

Thank you all for checking in this morning. We will now close the net at \_\_\_\_\_ hours. This is \_\_\_\_\_ now clear.

## NE MARA Information

President	Dick Rostrum, NG2R
Vice President	Dan Janda, AA3LS
Secretary	Dave Marling, VE1VQ
Net Manager	Arthur Ayer, W1OND
Newsletter	Jeff Lawson, KD1WZ
MARA Midwest Liaison	Bill Young, W7RVY
NE MARA Net	Saturdays at 7:30am EST on 3.872.5 MHz
NE MARA Web Page	<a href="http://www.mara.net/northeast/">www.mara.net/northeast/</a>
MARA Washington DC Net	147.180+, Sundays, 8:30pm
MARA World-Wide SSB Net	14.287 MHz, Tuesdays, 5:00pm EST