

MERCURY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MARA - NORTH AMERICA - NORTH EAST

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2006

OUT OF THE PAST...

We haven't had a regular publication since Jeff, KD1WZ, moved away to Colorado several years ago. So, we're reviving the MARA NORTH EAST newsletter to see if we can't generate a little more interest in MARA itself, and in the long run, increased activity on the air.

INTEREST FROM THE TOP?

Several members I correspond with have mentioned that there have been inquiries from their stake leadership regarding emergency communications.

MARA members have long expressed the sentiment that we have been orphaned since the Church dissolved its connection with MARA as its emergency communications arm.

Various Church attempts have been made over the years to have some system in place, but these have not gone much further than the storehouses. And even at the storehouses, equipment and antennas have been left to deteriorate.

I've been told of one case where satellite phones have been issued but no one knows how to use them.

Perhaps these requests for information from various stakes are a result of requests from higher up the chain of authority.

We can only hope that a working system will be in place before a Katrina event happens here!

SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Have you turned your rig on lately? Or are you afraid to, because of the mice and spiders who now call it home!

Is your antenna still up in the air or has it disappeared into the leaves and grass (or snow!) on the ground?

Have you been away from it so long that you wonder what that old black cable is that you cut off with the lawn mower this past summer?

How prepared are you if your Bishop or Branch President or Stake leader asked for help?

LOOK MA, NO SMOKE!

Now might be the time to find the power switch and see if all the gear gathering dust still works.

Even though it's not the warmest time of the year for it, you might want to physically examine your antenna. Check out the mechanical and solder joints. Make sure it will stay up over the winter.

When you've vacuumed off the accumulated deposits, and checked the antenna system, then take the risk - power things up.

See if the SWR is within reasonable limits.

If you can't remember where you last saw your microphone, you can at least listen.

MARA NE 3.872.5 MHz LSB Saturday
0730 ET

MARA NW 3.872.5 MHz LSB Saturday
0800 ET

MARA SE 3.872.5 MHz LSB Saturday
0830 ET. 40M net on 7.283 follows.

MARA SE 3.613 MHz PSK on USB
Saturday 0815 ET.

MARA/ERRS International 20m net
14.289 MHz SSB Fridays at 2200 hours
(Pacific), visitors are welcome to check
in.

International Net, 14.287 MHz
Mon/Wed/Fri 1930-2000 GMT. Contact
Neville, ZL1BJU and Jack, ZL4WA.

I can vouch for the first two nets as I check into the NE one each

Saturday, and listen to the MW afterward. An e-mail to a member of the South East group indicates their nets are active. The last two I've not checked out. They were taken from a couple of other MARA web sites.

If you don't have HF capabilities, ask around the stake and see if there's a VHF or UHF net you might be able to check in to.

OLD NEWSLETTERS

If you have some old ones stuck away in a drawer or a box, let me know.

Send them to me, or better yet, scan them and e-mail me a copy.

I'd like to gather as much information as I can, for the archives.

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...

... our thoughts turn to family and friends.

Over the years I've made some good and lasting friendships through both on-the-air and in-person meetings of MARA.

Take some time to remember your friends and send them a card, a note, or an e-mail.

May God grant you the blessings He has in store for you in the New Year.

73,
Dave VE1VQ