

# MERCURY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MARA - NORTH AMERICA - NORTH EAST

## Newsletter - July 2007



In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day. He recognized ice cream as a fun and nutritious food that is enjoyed by a full 90% of the nation's population. In the proclamation, President Reagan called for all people of the United States to "observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

... from the International Dairy Foods Association web site

### CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING	2
DI-DAH-DI-DAH-DIT	9

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I think back on the annual meeting in June I remember being a bit nervous initially, but quickly found that, with the help of everyone, the meeting went quite smoothly. The attendance was excellent and I really enjoyed everyone's remarks.

I also extend a hearty welcome to all the new members and look forward to

chatting with all of you during the weekly net on Saturday mornings.

I extend a special thanks to Dan for his efforts in providing a place to meet. His presentation was very informative and I know we all enjoyed the tour of the radio room.

One of the main questions was, "What is our place in helping the Church with emergency communications?" We did not come up with any one right answer; however, Dan gave us a great deal of encouragement, especially with his often-used word "proactive". And so, considering all that was said, I do not feel that there is any problem between us and Church leadership and that we can continue to be a stand-by support group.

Respectfully, Barry, N2PCT

## MARA NORTHEAST JUNE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

The politicking was fierce, the arm twisting at times painful, but in the end, the incumbents managed to retain their offices (probably because no one else wanted them!). Barry N2PCT, stays as president for another year, Stan N3HS, held on to the treasurer's office, and Dave VE1VQ, was able to keep his job as secretary.

The newcomers didn't fare too shabbily either. Bruce N3IA, took the coveted second spot as vice-president. Steve K2KEL, Shirrel N3DIX, and Charles WB4FLM, fill the empty director's spots. Shirrel, with his great signal on 75m, takes over from Barry as net manager.



Rear – left to right – 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.

Some of the highlights from the meeting -

**The tour of the BCS operation and the radio room;**

**The presentation by Dan Goodman, NE3Z, on the Church directed Emergency Response Communications (ERC), and how MARA can provide trained amateur radio operators for ward and stake emergency communications;**



Any radio room is always a popular spot with hams. This one at the Washington DC BCS was no exception. Have you ever seen anything so disgustingly neat?



Dan NE3Z (the guy with the tie!), presenting his information to the meeting.

E-mail your comments, ideas, or submissions to [marane@mara.net](mailto:marane@mara.net)

Please send copies of any old newsletters you might have, for the archives.

Join us on the Saturday morning SSB net at 0730 Eastern time on 3.8725 MHz



**The lunch** (always a hit!) provided by Juliana Letren;



Lunch break on the left



Lunch break on the right

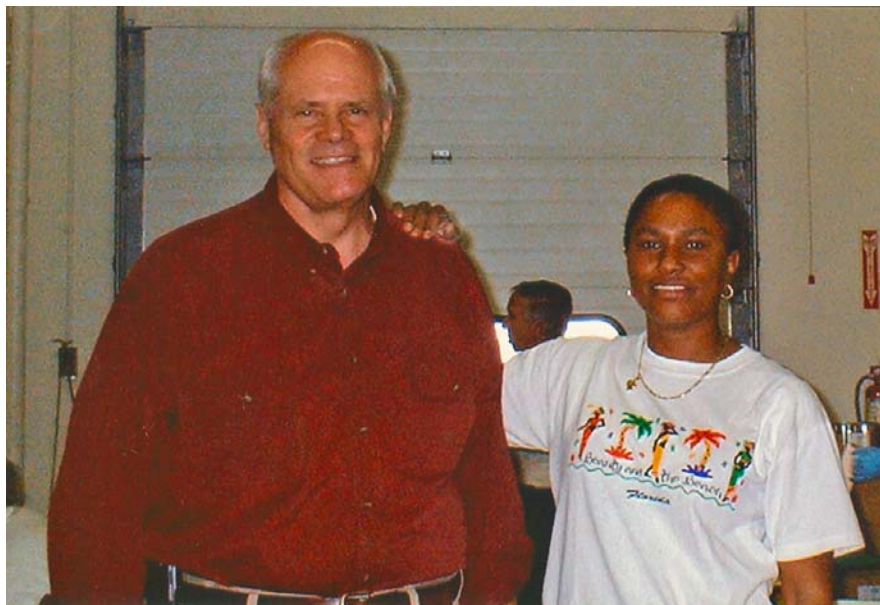
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Lunch break from the other end of the dining spectrum



Shirrel N3DIX, and Juliana Letren

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... And **the camaraderie** of just being able to get together with other LDS ham radio operators.



Charles WB4FLM, Frank KB3PDT, and Steve K2KEL



L to R – Bruce N3IA, Stan N3HS, Jeff KB3OYE, Steve K2KEL, Barry N2PCT, Frank KB3PDT, Shirrel N3DIX holding up the white board behind Frank, and Charles WB4FLM

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L to R – Jack KC2RDZ, Paul K3ECZ, Tony, Sherry KB2YXI, and in the front, Steve K2KEL



L to R – Stan N3HS, Jeff KB3OYE, Shirrel N3DIX, Barry N2PCT,  
Charles WB4FLM, Frank KB3PDT, and Steve K2KEL

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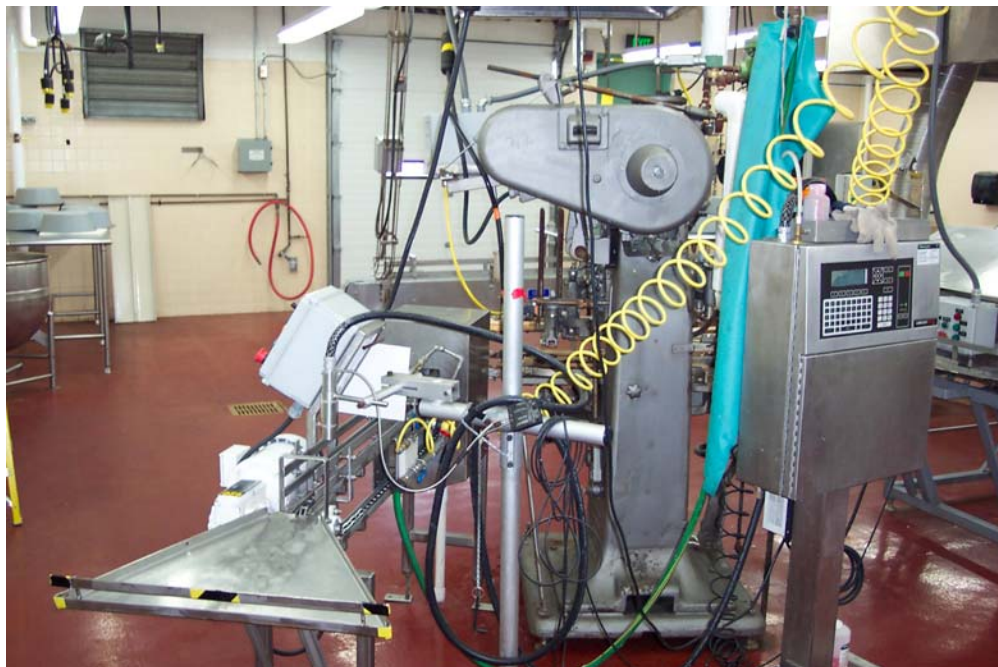
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Some of the equipment at the BCS – Jeff KB3OYE not included!



More of the BCS equipment. Reminds me of my radio and computer cabling.

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For the full version of the minutes, see Washington DC - 2007 in the [Minutes](#) section of the website.

Photos by Sherry, KB2YXI and Bruce, N3IA.

Our thanks and appreciation to Dan Goodman, NE3Z, for providing this year's meeting place at the Washington DC BCS, and to Juliana Letren, on staff at the storehouse, for providing manna for the multitudes.

To all of you who took the time and attended this year - a sincere thank you! It was the largest turn out in several years.

-- MARA NE --

## SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

The hardworking (?) newsletter assistant staff person is taking some time off. As you can see below, she is already into some quality down time. She will rest her typing fingers over the summer and be back with the September issue on or about the last day of August.



Teixa Alexy (little red)  
– newest grand daughter of VE1VQ

In that issue we hope to have reports of operations (field day or otherwise) from the chapels – *if anyone sends them in*.

### ARE YOU ON THE MARA-NE E-MAIL REFLECTOR?

If not, sign up at  
<http://ne.mara.net/reflector.htm>

## DI-DAH-DI-DAH-DIT

As ham radio operators we are a very rare breed! There aren't a lot of us in the world. When compared to the total world population, we come out at a miniscule 0.04%.

If we were a bird, animal, fish, or plant, we would be considered an endangered species!

Many words have been written about why we can't attract more people into the hobby.

Maybe it's like getting someone to listen to the missionaries, agree to hear the discussions, and then make changes to their life. Becoming an amateur radio op requires that you do something. Yes, it has gotten somewhat easier than

it used to be, but it still takes considerable effort to get your “ticket”!

We seem to be intent on raising a generation where effort is not demanded. Students are moved from one grade into the next, whether or not they deserve the promotion, so that they don't “experience failure”, which might “damage” their self-esteem. So we end up with students graduating from high school who can't understand what they read, write coherent sentences, or perform basic math.

The internet with its multitude of chat rooms makes it simple to “talk” with others. Cellular phones are now so common that many folks seem to have them permanently attached to the side of their heads as they drive or walk. People have come to expect things for little or no work.

So why are we surprised when they are unwilling to make the effort to study, and pass the necessary tests, in order to get a license “just to talk”?

It takes someone with curiosity, focus, and determination, to study the material and pass the test.

Kind of like the gospel!

Have a good and a safe summer,

Dave  
VE1VQ

**DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE TO CONTRIBUTE FOR THE NEWS-LETTER - OR EVEN A FAINT IDEA FOR ONE?**

- ANTENNAS,
- TEST EQUIPMENT,
- OPERATION,
- FIELD DAY,
- EMERGENCY POWER,
- HOME BREW GEAR,
- MOBILE,
- QRP,
- MOON BOUNCE,
- GUEST EDITORIAL
- HAM SHACK,
- HF,
- VHF,
- UHF,
- COMPUTERS & RADIO,
- CHURCH & RADIO,
- ETC., ETC., ETC.

**DO YOU HAVE PICTURES OF ANY OF THE ABOVE THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR FUTURE ARTICLES?**

Contact Dave, VE1VQ, at  
[marane@mara.net](mailto:marane@mara.net) or  
[ve1vq@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1vq@eastlink.ca)

**GOT YOUR CORNER PICKED OUT IN THE CHAPEL FOR A SATURDAY RADIO OPERATION SOME UPCOMING WEEKEND?**

**CALL INTO THE NET FROM YOUR WARD, BRANCH, OR STAKE CENTER BUILDING.**

**REMEMBER – WE WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOUR EFFORTS!**