

# NEWSLETTER

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Mercury Amateur Radio Association - MARA - North America - North East



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## OTHER STUFF

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

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## VIEW FROM THE TOWER



## FEATURE ARTICLE

Some Questions and Answers  
Dave VE1VQ

### SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PERTAINING TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND THE CHURCH

The following material is reprinted in answer to questions that we hear from time to time at an annual meeting, on the Saturday morning net or see on the e-mail reflector. For more information, go to [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org) and click on 'Emergency Preparedness and Response' in the left column.

#### Is there a need for emergency communication in my ward or stake?

*When an emergency occurs, leaders need the ability to immediately communicate with members, missionaries, and civil and Church authorities to provide status reports or to request assistance. A reliable emergency communication system should be in place if regular telephone or cell phone service fails.*

#### If we typically do not have natural disasters in our area, why should we include emergency communication in our ward and stake emergency plans?

*In addition to a natural disaster, an emergency may occur anywhere and without warning. Examples include hazardous material spills, fires, power failure, and terrorist attacks. Consider which emergencies are possible in your location and identify specific ways to communicate in these types of emergencies.*

#### What is the job description of a ward or stake emergency communication specialist?

*Leaders may choose to call a ward or stake emergency communication specialist from their community to assist with planning and implementing communication plans. Emergency communication specialists provide training and ensure the readiness of communication equipment. Emergency communication specialists may be invited to participate in ward and stake communication discussions as directed by leaders.*

#### Will my mobile telephone work in an emergency?

*The mobile telephone is an effective tool for communication under normal circumstances. However, in a disaster, mobile telephone systems often fail due to overload, damage, and loss of power. Mobile telephone providers will restore service following a disaster, but it may take several hours, days, or weeks.*

#### Should wards and stakes purchase or accept a donated satellite telephone or amateur radio equipment for use in an emergency?

*No. The ward and stake budget allowance does not include expenses for the purchase of equipment, repair, maintenance fees, or service contracts associated with satellite telephones and radio equipment. Leaders are encouraged to identify individuals who may already have their own equipment to assist with specific ward and stake communication needs.*

#### What information should be reported to leaders following an emergency?

*Leaders should be prepared to report the nature of the disaster, the welfare of members and missionaries, the condition of meetinghouses, and any requests for assistance.*

#### A member of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA) approached me with an offer to provide communication services and an emergency communications plan template for my stake. What relationship does the Church have with MARA, and is it appropriate to utilize MARA or other similar organizations in my emergency planning?

*Priesthood leaders may utilize resources outside of the Church organization to assist in emergency communication planning as appropriate. A leader may also choose to call a member of MARA or another amateur radio organi-*

zation to serve as a ward or stake communication specialist under priesthood direction. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has no formal relationship with any amateur radio organizations or clubs, but may find the training and experience of Church members who belong to these organizations useful during an actual emergency. As a reminder, amateur radio clubs or associations, including MARA, may not use church meetinghouses to hold association meetings or other club events as this could be interpreted as a form of remuneration, and could possibly be a violation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

So there you have it, answers from an official LDS web site. Obviously, it is brief and much more could have been written to expand upon the material but this should give you an idea of the policies and guidelines.

Now we can't say we don't know!

## CULTURED CORNER

by ANØNMS

*There's Christmas in the home and church,  
There's Christmas in the mart;  
But you'll not know what Christmas is  
Unless it's in your heart*

*The bells may call across the snow,  
And carols search the air;  
But, oh, the heart will miss the thrill  
Unless it's Christmas there.*

- Thomas S. Monson



## GRANDMA MARA'S CORNER

Grandma was supposed to continue with her motorcycle adventures from this past summer, but this being the Christmas issue of the newsletter and

all, the editor decided that I should stick more with the season, and save the nice warm memories for the winter months to come.

So I've made my list (checked it more than twice!) and circulated it around the children and grandchildren. Even suggested where they would get the best deals! Isn't shopping on line just the best thing? Or, I told them, if they wanted to pool the money, they could give me a new Heil microphone for my transceiver.

You know, one of those with the dual elements, DX and ragchew. I'd really have a signal then, what with the amplifier I picked up on E-Bay this summer.

Anyway, I'm about ready for the big day. Got my cards mailed and the gifts bought. Managed to persuade one of the daughters to take the family gathering/dinner this year. Even been practicing singing the Carols; not that anyone would notice any improvement!

So, I hope you have a good Christmas with family at this time of the year (even if you can't really stand them much the rest of the time); smile as if you meant it, and who knows, it might turn out to be not as bad as you think!

And above all, remember why we celebrate the Christmas season. And no, it isn't for the Boxing Day sales.

*Grandma Mara*



## TECH STUFF

by VE1VQ

Repeated bouts with the dreaded kidney stones for the month of November and the first half of December have kept me in and out of hospital and away from the computer. Although I suppose I could have written a technical piece on crystal formation!

Next month I'll conclude the series on batteries. Unless something else unforeseen happens.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder. The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human faculty, for in it are born our art, our science, our religion.*

Ralph Sockman

## SWAP SHOP

List for free any items you wish to buy, sell, trade, or give away.

## DI-DAH-DI-DAH-DIT

### SO WHY DOES MARA CONTINUE TO SURVIVE?

For a while, after the disconnection between the Mercury Amateur Radio Association and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, it appeared that the MARA would simply fade away. That it did not has likely surprised more than a few people!

Some of the MARA chapters disappeared as the central controlling body ceased operation and no longer provided direction; others,

perhaps with an individual or two who felt it was too good an idea to abandon, simply kept on going, even after many of the other members had stopped playing any part. [In the northeast, Dick Rostrum NG2R (SK) comes to mind

- Ed] MARA chapters, where they survived, evolved into independent groups concerned with what they saw as their own priorities; some into training nets or into social nets (or a combination of both), some into area VHF/UHF repeater emergency operation, and some simply for

**There may be more activity under the MARA name in North America now than ever before...**

the social aspects.

In fact, there may be more activity under the MARA name in North America now than ever before, as new groups have sprung up where people felt a need to do so.

It is my thought that MARA, in all its parts, has not only survived but continues to grow because many Latter-Day Saint hams feel a need to make connections with others of a like mind. After all, how hard is it for us to find something in common to talk about. There is something special about the combination, or at least it is for me.

Until next month,  
VE1VQ

*From all of us here at the newsletter, we wish you...*

