

The NEWSLETTER

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Mercury Amateur Radio Association - MARA

North America - North East



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E-mail your comments, ideas, or submissions to marane@mara.net or to ve1vq@eastlink.ca

MARA - NORTH EAST

ANNUAL MEETING

11 OCTOBER 2014

The annual meeting of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association - North East was held via SKYPE, on the 11th of October 2014.

Members attending

Robert Anderson, N3TS
Dan Beidler, KE4JSX
Charles Bruington, WB4FLM
Norm Eby, K4EBY
Caryl Kelly, KC2QCL
Steve Kelly, K2KEL
Lyle Lockhart, KD7SXQ
Dave Marling, VE1VQ
Chuck Moore, WD4HXG
Bruce Wortmann, N3IA

Visitor

Harvey Bauss, KB8MUP

The opening prayer was offered by Bruce, N3IA.

The meeting was called to order by N3IA at approximately 9 AM.

• Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved.

Motion by WB4FLM and seconded by VE1VQ. Carried by voice vote. There were no votes against.

• Treasurer's report

There was no report from the Treasurer, so the amount of \$245.51 as tabled at the 2012 annual meeting was accepted.

• New member applications

The new member applications were accepted as posted on the MARA NE web site as of this meeting date.

A motion to approve was made by VE1VQ and seconded by WB4FLM. Carried by voice vote. There were no votes against.

• Nominations for Directors and Executive

For six year terms as directors

Bruce Wortman, N3IA
Dan Beidler, KE4JSX

For a one year term to fill the position left vacant by the death of Jeff Niceler, K3DEY

David Hinkel, N3GRH

Executive

President

- Robert Anderson, N3TS, for a term of three years.

Vice-President

- Steve Kelly, K2KEL, for a term of two years.

Secretary

- Dave Marling, VE1VQ, for a term of two years.

Treasurer - this position was left vacant as no dues are currently being collected.

These nominations were accepted by the membership and carried by a voice vote.

• Business

1. It is proposed that we instruct the Treasurer (N3HS) to issue a check to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Perpetual Education Fund in the name of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association - Northeast, for the full amount in the bank account.

There was some discussion followed by a voice vote of the members. Carried. There were no votes against.

2. It is proposed that with the donation of the funds in the bank account, that we officially close the bank account.

Carried by voice vote. There were no votes against.

3. It is proposed that because N3HS has repeatedly asked, for health reasons, to be released from

the office of Treasurer, that we do so effective the closure of the bank account, and that we issue a vote of thanks to Stan for his service as Treasurer, and further that we leave the office vacant until such time as we require a Treasurer.

Carried by voice vote. There were no votes against.

• Net Manager

Charlie, WB4FLM, was reconfirmed as the net manager for the Saturday morning voice (ssb) net on 3.872.5 MHz.

• General discussion

1. The boundaries of the area comprising the MARA North East were discussed. We have always said that the area should be the same as those accepted by the LDS Church. No one seems to actually know what those boundaries are. Steve, K2KEL, was asked to find out.

2. Steve, K2KEL, talked about the ERC emergency communications net in his area. He also noted that the new general authority for our area is a ham.

3. Future meetings - discussion followed about whether to have future meetings face-to-face or to have them via SKYPE (or some similar form of voice-over-Internet communication). Suggestions were tossed around for a face-to-face meeting for 2015. The open house for the Philadelphia Temple being one, while an overnight stay (Friday) and meeting (Saturday) on the USS New Jersey anchored in Camden, NJ, was another suggestion.

It was left up to the executive to make a final decision.

• Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave
VE1VQ
Secretary MARA NE

AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Bob Anderson N3TS

My stake president, who is not affiliated with amateur radio, asked me to accept a stake assignment to become an amateur radio operator and help with emergency communications. This was to be accomplished as soon as possible at my own expense for training, equipment and facilities.

I was still working as a full-time consultant, so it took some time for me to determine what was entailed with this assignment and the involved cost. Following much study, I was able to understand the assignment in terms of license, capabilities and equipment. With my first license, I was able to get on the air on April 25,



2012. My retirement and XYL of forty-nine years afford me time that others only dream about to delve into my newfound hobby of amateur radio as well as to provide associated service.

We all now live during a time with ever-growing opportunities to contribute emergency communication service for both The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church) and for non-member organizations. Most agree that the world is now poised for change that could well impact the technical infrastructure that underpins our society and the remarkably efficient supply chain that sustains us all.

As I understand the primary purpose of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association, North America Northeast

(MARA-Northeast), we do not have a direct support role requirement, but are poised to provide emergency communications support to the LDS Church should it be needed. We also have opportunities to provide support to other organizations that may be impacted by similar circumstances. Our service opportunities may be associated with such things as hurricanes, earthquakes and fires, floods, power failures, hazardous material spills, pandemics, as well as terrorist attacks. The ability to take care of our own families must remain priority #1 in all that we do. Of all people, we must think and plan ahead. As amateur radio operators, our preparation must involve more than just food and water. We must also be concerned about power, fuel, communications, medical needs, spare parts, forms, and the myriad of other items that comprise a complete preparedness solution to sustain emergency communications. And it all takes time, resources, and effort.

I'm hearing that civil authorities are now incorporating amateur radio volunteers to assist with alternate communication technologies, especially using WinLink. Specific emergencies and those we support often dictate the type of traffic we must support. Observation indicates that we must be able to pass emergency traffic via telephone, text messages, e-mail, twitter, VoIP (e.g. EchoLink or CQ-100), or if necessary, via UHF/VHF/HF communications using various modes that include voice, cw, PSK31, WinLink, and Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS ... Olivia 8-500).

Sometimes in order to be in the right place at the right time we may need to develop operational planning communication predictions telling us when and on what bands the best openings are in a

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given direction and time at a suitable signal strength, so that the QSO rates can be maintained at their best. We could need to know at what times it's good to use those valuable long-path openings, and when to focus on working those hard-to-reach areas. Some situations may simply require messengers/runners.

Regardless to whom we may provide communications support, in a myriad of possible emergencies, there are at least seven questions that universally need to be addressed.

1. Name, title and unit of the reporting office
2. How the presiding officer or official in charge can be reached
3. Description, location, and magnitude of the emergency
4. Number of people injured, missing or dead (In the case of the Church, this includes specifics regarding members and missionaries)
5. Location and extent of damage (In the case of the Church, this includes specifics regarding Church or member property)
6. Actions taken to help those in distress
7. Needed assistance that is unavailable locally

Priesthood leaders in the LDS Church need the ability during emergencies to immediately communicate with members, missionaries, as well as civil and church authorities to provide status reports or to request assistance.

I am pleased to see that the ranks of MARA-Northeast are growing. I know from experience that we have a great net control operator for our weekly radio net, Charles Bruington (WB4FLM). I'm also pleased with the professionalism of this newsletter as prepared by Dave Marling (VE1VQ).

MARA-Northeast members can recruit, train and encourage amateur radio operators, as well as offer support within our individual stakes. We can work under the guidance of our local priesthood leaders. The LDS Church, through its Emergency Radio

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Communications (ERC) operations, is concentrating on voice and cw. Non-member organizations can be a source of support, training and operation in these two modes as well as the various digital modes.

Grandma Mara's RAMBLINGS

As individual members of MARA-Northeast, we have on-going opportunities to keep our various priesthood leaders and others informed of our existence and services. As a group, and certainly as individuals, we are able to assist in the recruitment, training and assembling a pool of amateur radio operators who can be assigned to support both local and remote emergency communications service.

For every health and welfare message intended for Church response, one hundred messages need handling for those not of our faith. With appropriate training, education, and involvement, MARA-Northeast members can study and train to become a "trusted partner"

As we work together, MARA-Northeast will continue to provide opportunities to promote emergency communications knowledge, fraternalism, and improvement in our individual amateur radio operating capabilities.

for relief operations by participating with other well-organized networks. In order to better our skills, we can create links with others. Where appropriate, we can consolidate the use of technical and training materials already developed by others skilled in emergency operations. In so doing, we can bind a great group of amateur radio operators together in this hobby that we all love and appreciate as we provide public service, technological advancement, and just plain camaraderie.

Over time, I hope to get to know each of you individually. As we work together, MARA-Northeast will continue to provide opportunities to promote emergency communications knowledge, fraternalism, and improvement in our individual amateur radio operating capabilities. I'm interested in your input and ideas as we move forward together.

The surgery was a success and Grandma has a straight large toe on her newly slender left foot once again. The foot is still kind of tender, but not nearly as bad as it was when I woke up from the anesthetic and the throbbing set in. Sure glad I had the pain medication! That kept it down to a (more or less) dull roar for the first week. And for that time period, I was almost as grouchy as a mama bear coming out of hibernation and finding her porridge stolen. I tried not to take it out on Walter. I know I had to apologize a lot to him each day. He would just smile and say he was glad to be there to help. I found I slept a lot the first few days, whether from leftover effects of the anesthetic, the pain medication or whatever, I don't know. I do know I'm not looking forward to the surgery on the next toe.



Wendy has been over a few times to spell Walter when he has had to go out in the evenings for something or other. More, I think to make sure I didn't get out of bed without someone to help me, and to make sure I didn't fall flat on my face. That embarrassment almost happened the first week home. If Walter hadn't been right beside me, it wouldn't have been pleasant.

Gradually, the pain has lessened to the point where I've cut back on the pills during the day, saving them for just before bedtime.

I've just about caught up on my reading. I've even made a few contacts on Walter's QRP rig he geared up for me on a clipboard placed on the bed convenient to my right hand. The paddle sits just to the right of the rig. All I have to do is move my hand from the tuning knob to the paddle and back again. Can't

The good news from my doctor is that I'll be able to dance the night away on New Year's Eve.

get much easier than that. Mind you, I wouldn't win any contests with this set-up but it's fun for an occasional casual contact.

The bad news is that I'll have to remain off my foot as much as possible for the next month, using crutches when vertical, then use an "air boot" for another month after that. The good news from my doctor is that I'll be able to dance the night away on New Year's Eve.



TECH AND OTHER STUFF

by VE1VQ

My apologies for not having a column this month. Other commitments took precedence and I had to be away from the workbench for most of October.

Good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise, I'll be back here next month.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.."

Laurence Binyon

*Excerpted from **For the Fallen***

DI-DAH-DI-DAH ^P_T

Some of you may have heard the news in the last two weeks about two incidents in Canada where "self-radicalized" individuals killed two Canadian soldiers in two separate incidents several days apart. The first was in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que where War-rant Officer Patrice Vincent was struck and killed in an intentional hit-and-run. Another soldier was injured. The second was Corporal Nathan Cirillo, who was shot and killed while standing guard (unarmed) at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, the nation's capitol, by a man carrying a 30-30 Winchester rifle. In both cases, the killers were themselves shot and killed by police or other authorities.

Bruce MacKinnon, the editorial cartoonist for The Chronicle Herald newspaper (Halifax, NS) penned the cartoon shown here.

"Simply stated, for the few who may not have seen it, the cartoon suggests the coming to life of the bronzed First World War soldiers that sit atop the memorial. One soldier is bent over, supporting Cpl. Nathan Cirillo's body. Others are reaching down as if to help, while still others stare stoically forward."



"His feet, complete with Argyll and Sutherland Highland socks and white spats, are the only part of the young soldier showing." - The Chronicle Herald - Oct 23, 2014

The newspaper has reported that they have received phone calls, letters, and e-mails from people all over



The [National War Memorial](#) in Ottawa. The twenty-three bronze figures, representing the eleven branches of the Canadian forces engaged in the First World War, viewed from the front.

the world asking if they could have a copy, saying this cartoon has touched them deeply.

Remembrance Day (Veteran's Day or Armistice Day in the U.S.) is coming up on November 11th. Politicians everywhere will be participating in the ceremonies, laying wreaths and making speeches. But remember one very important thing - it isn't a politician you should thank for the freedoms you enjoy! Instead, thank all those members of the armed forces who have served and who now serve, and who have sacrificed so much.

Thank the fighting men and women that we may follow the paths and desires of our hearts. Thank them that we will have the freedom to make our tomorrows the kind of days we want them to be.

Until next month,

VEINQ