

MERCURY NEWSLETTER

North West

September, 2007

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Mel Martin, N7BCY

We have been known by several names: MARA, MARA Northwest, Mercury Northwest, Mercury Amateur Radio Association. Which is it? In addition to confusion about our name there is uncertainty concerning our relationship to the Church. The Executive Board felt we should settle on a single name that is recognizable and has some historical basis while not misleading people into assuming we are the same organization that existed some years ago.

First some background: At the request of the Presiding Bishopric MARA was organized shortly after the Teton Dam disaster. The organizers were looking for a name that was consistent with the objectives of the organization while not drawing attention to the Church. The decision was made to use Mercury, the Greek messenger God, because of the message handling role of amateur radio. Hence, Mercury Amateur Radio Association which soon became known as MARA.

In 1980, just a few weeks after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, four LDS hams and one future ham met in Olympia and formed an organization they named the Northwest LDS Ham Radio Group. A few months later we heard of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association and decided to change the name of our net to the Mercury Northwest Net (without permission from MARA).

A few years later those of us in the Northwest formed the first MARA affiliated Chapter and changed the name of our organization to MARA Northwest.

Through the years the relationship between MARA and the Church evolved. In 1990 MARA

became independent of the Church and the emergency communications role for the Church was assumed in total by ERRS (the forerunner to ERC which had been around in one form or another since the beginning of MARA).

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THE RESURGENCE

By Dave Zehring, AA7L

We're in an organization that has had several names over the last two decades. The names have primarily changed due to a change in directions. The names have been "Mercury Net", "Mercury Amateur Radios Association (MARA)", "MARA-Northwest"; now it's proposed we call ourselves "Mercury North West (MNW)".

All the changes have been for a good reason at that time. Whatever the official name, many of us will call it by former

names for a time. (I have a daughter whose name is Pamela Jean – "PJ" to me. Forty years later, I'm about the only one who still calls her that). The name change is not the primary point of this article.

The organization has dwindled over the past few years. The last get-together to try to ratify some bylaws and do some training was in 2002, and the required mail vote for ratification never happened. So an "ad hoc steering committee", comprised by those who once held office and have been talking about the need for the organization to continue, have had some conference calls, adjusted the bylaws, and scheduled some meetings. This newsletter is one of the products of those conversations. The steering committee has decided to designate interim officers to serve until September 2008 and try to get the ship back into the water.

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**At the request of the
Presiding Bishopric
MARA was organized**

SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL

by Ignatious J. Riley

In order to protect the guilty, innocent, and, most importantly, the author, this contribution is bylined under a *nomme de plume*. Its theme is developed from LDS Hymn #252, a pioneer classic. While singing the words, “We all have work, let no one shirk, Put your shoulder, to, the wheel,” we envision their echoing across the plains when the going got difficult during the great westward pioneer exodus. In actuality, Jean I. Kaberry, who was born in 1918, penned the words. Similarly, Robert P. Manookin, born that same year, composed the music. (Don’t you learn amazing trivia through your amateur radio activity?) So much for pioneer nostalgia; but the principles and implied ethics and values of the hymn hold true.

Another premise of this article is that familiarity and inertia in an existing enterprise often result in an unchallenged acceptance of the status quo, false security, and a sense of complacency. It is easy to let the inertia continue as the same handful continues to run and manage the enterprise. Our contribution is to chime in for the “All Is Well” chorus and not break a sweat or experience any inconvenience.

This is not to say that each of us does not already have a lot on our plate. We have Church callings (all too often more than one), family, and employment, just to mention a few. We are encouraged to do missionary work, get educated, search out our ancestors, and be involved and active in our communities while we serve and help others.

Regardless of the reason or reasons we become involved in (even incurably addicted to in many cases) amateur radio, we are brought to this juncture of our present discussion. There is a pressing need for an organized cadre of trained and equipped amateur radio operators to be available to provide emergency communications support to the Church, something which we all

have in common and are deeply committed to. It isn’t often that your hobby can be directly applied to support the Church and even, your specific calling. However, being a watchman on the proverbial tower can be lonely, thankless, and taken for granted until such time as the enemy, thief, wolf, or disaster are upon us and the watchman is alert, prepared, and able to sound the alarm.

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LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

We are looking for a new logo for Mercury North West and have decided to have a design-the-logo contest. We know there are many creative people in our group. It’s time to get the juices flowing!

We are looking for the logo which best represents Mercury North West’s heritage and exemplifies the objectives and mission of MNW. Here are some general suggestions that may start the thought process: Mercury, the Greek message God, is used in our name because of the message handling aspects of amateur radio. Consider Mercury North West’s relationship to the Church and possible visuals that brings to mind. Remember, we are an amateur radio group and consider the possibilities that suggests. You may use some, all, or none of these suggestions; but remember the official title of our organization, Mercury North West (or the

approved abbreviation MNW), should be prominent in your proposal.

Submissions must be received by the Executive Board by November 15, 2007. They can be submitted in a graphic file (preferred) or on paper. Send your submission to: board@majesticwa.com. If you are submitting a hard copy mail it to: P.O. Box 19421, Spokane, WA 99219.

Selection of the best logo will be made by the Executive Board and their decision is final. Because of the times we live in, we must provide a legal disclaimer: All submissions become the property of Mercury North West and submitters will receive no compensation for their efforts either at the present or in the future.

Get at it folks. This could be your first step to fame and temporal immortality!

**Our contribution is to
chime in for the “All Is
Well” chorus**

NETS AND (HOPEFULLY) MORE NETS

By Vic Bak K3SHD

Have you ever wondered why the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) ended up with that name? The American fits, as does Radio, and in the 2nd decade of the 20th Century the word "League" was in vogue. For example, the short-lived predecessor to the United Nations was the League of Nations. But what about Relay?

As we are well aware, there are limitations on the distance radio signals can be transmitted and received. As amateur radio enthusiasts started to congregate and organize, they came up with the concept of using an intermediate station to **relay** the signal between two distant points. Then, as amateurs in close proximity encountered each other on the air, they began to establish times and frequencies to gather and communicate. This practice became the forerunner of "Nets."

Most people did not own a telephone and long distance calling was expensive for those who did. People soon discovered that ham radio was an effective way of sending messages across the country.

As the numbers of hams increased, more nets were formed, especially in the vicinity of a relay station. Messages were transmitted from net member stations to a local relay station who sent them out of the area toward their destination. On the other end, messages would be sent from the relay station through a local net to a net member station for delivery.

These procedures have changed little in principle, but simply were refined and updated with progress and technology. VHF and UHF FM and repeaters have added an additional dimension; but nets are still alive and well in amateur radio on HF, VHF and UHF.

Nets make sense! They allow a greater number of amateurs to talk together on the same frequency or

frequencies. They structure communications, save time, and make efficient use of the spectrum by facilitating the transfer of information to a number of individuals simultaneously. When modern technology fails due to power loss, earthquakes, storms, or even terrorist attacks, amateur radio comes through as the communications of last resort.

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THE BYLAWS: RATIONALE AND PROCESS

By Dave Zehring, AA7L

The intended purpose of the bylaws in any organization is to determine membership, the procedures for giving notice, holding meetings, attaining quorums, voting, electing officers, etc., and what happens if the organization needs to be "put to rest" at some point in the future. Although most members of many organizations will never read the bylaws, they should always be an available reference as to how things are supposed to be done.

**A good set of bylaws
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down in the details of
mechanics.**

A good set of bylaws should not get bogged down in the details of mechanics. The governing board should be given the power to take care of details. Then, the actions of the governing board need to be properly documented in resolutions or minutes, and those documents kept where interested members have access to them. A good rule of thumb in any properly functioning organization should be: "If reading the bylaws, resolutions, and minutes available to members doesn't properly define a program, the program doesn't exist."

Drafts of bylaws were taken up at meetings in 2000 and again in 2002; but there were no minutes of meetings stating they were ratified in accordance with the voting requirements in those bylaws, nor any copies certified by officers as to their adoption.

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THE FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

Please forgive the rough nature of this addition of the newsletter. There is a lot of information to distribute to the membership and we felt this was the most effective way to disseminate it quickly. Future additions of the newsletter will be professionally produced on a quarterly basis and will provide a wide range of valuable content.

We are fortunate to have within our midst Bob Sturtevant, AD7IL who has consented to edit future newsletters. Bob has 30+ years experience as an editor in the newspaper industry. He writes a regular column for *Popular Communications Magazine* and has served as the Newsletter editor for Oregon Army MARS up to the July 2007 issue. You can see an example of his work at: <http://www.oregonarmymars.org/oregonarmymars/files/2006January06NewsletterVol2.pdf>

A newsletter is a valuable asset to any organization. Through the efforts of Bob and others within the Mercury North West group we are confident the future of our newsletter will be in good hands. We are looking for individuals who are willing to assist with the newsletter. Bob will serve as the overall editor, but there are opportunities for others to assist in various capacities. Please let us know if you are interested in helping.

In particular we are looking for individuals who would be willing to write a regular column. We are open to suggestions for column topics which are consistent with the overall objectives of MNW. If you have an idea for a topic for a regular column or would like to suggest an individual (maybe yourself) who could write an effective column, please let us know at: newsletter@majesticwa.com

We are excited about the future of the newsletter under Bob's capable stewardship. This is one more step in the right direction for Mercury North West! Thanks Bob for your willingness to help.

ROAD SHOWS

I remember the "good old days" in the Church when Road Shows really went on the road. (For the young ones out there, Road Shows were 12 minute MIA [Young Men / Young Women] productions, written and produced by each Ward in a Stake. Road Shows were presented in each building in the Stake on the same evening. Thus, they were "on the road"). The Executive Board has decided to go on the road. During the coming months we will hold a training meeting in the major metropolitan areas of the Northwest.

The purpose of these get togethers is to meet with as many Mercury North West members and prospective members as possible, answer questions they may have, provide an interesting and practical training exercise, help organize local Chapters should there be interest, and break bread together.

The meetings will be from 10:30am to 3:30pm. There will be lunch provided for a fee or you can bring your own. Meetings scheduled thus far are:

Tacoma October 20
Portland November 17

Meeting sites and greater detail will be provided as we get closer to the dates.

After the first of the year we will schedule meetings for the Tri-Cities, Southern Oregon, and Spokane. Meetings in British Columbia will be scheduled if there is sufficient interest.

Should you see a special need that could be addressed by the Executive Board, please speak with a member of the Board. We look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in the coming months!

THE BYLAWS: RATIONALE AND PROCESS

Continued from pg 3

In addition, those involved in trying to restart the organization want to state things a little differently so the organization meets certain needs. So the current state of affairs concerning bylaws.

The plan is as follows: A set of bylaws that was developed and approved through two conference calls of the interim officers is printed in this newsletter. It is available for all members to read and comment on. The officers will read and review the comments, and possibly make adjustments. Then, a set of proposed bylaws will be sent by mail ballot to every registered member for ratification. The ballot for ratification will also contain the names of candidates for the directors of each Chapter.

Ballots must be returned by a date which will be three weeks out from the date ballots are mailed. From the returned ballots, the election of Directors and ratification (or not) will be determined. After that, a consistent organization should be in place. Elected Directors will then meet and confirm or change the slate of interim officers, who will serve until the next election in September 2008.

The Executive Board will then put resolutions and procedures in place as authorized by the bylaws. One of their acts will be to file Articles of Incorporation in the State of Washington to make the organization a legal nonprofit association. They will also officialize a dues schedule. In the meantime, the ad hoc Executive Board has determined that a member will be any one who was on the MNW HF net roster or any associated local net roster as of September 2007, and who confirms their intent to be called a member by registering before October 15 as follows: Email your name, callsign, mailing address and primary email address to: register@majesticwa.com You can also mail the same information to: PO Box 835, Gold Bar, WA, 98251.

We encourage everyone to read the bylaws, ask questions, and make comments. You can send your comments to board@majesticwa.com. Comments on the proposed bylaws will be cut off after October 15. Remember that the bylaws should be kept simple, as they require considerable time and effort to change them. Many of the comments and suggestions may be responded to in the form of resolutions or policies.

73, AA7L

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Continued from pg 1

The role of MARA diminished to the point that we were notified in 1996 that MARA was going to formally disband. (We recently learned that MARA was never completely disbanded, but not currently active). We were encouraged to continue our efforts but under local independent leadership.

The decision was made to call the new organization MARA Northwest. The HF net has continued to be called the Mercury Northwest Net since 1980.

The Board has decided to use Mercury North West as the official name

To maintain some of the original identity while distinguishing ourselves from the original MARA organization, the Board has decided to use Mercury North West as the official name (the approved abbreviation is MNW). The separation of North and West is intentional (in part to be consistent with our club callsign W7MNW).

We encourage all affiliated nets and Chapters to use the designation Mercury with an appropriate local description (eg Mercury Spokane) and discontinue the use of MARA which references the old Church supported organization.

NETS AND (HOPEFULLY) MORE NETS*Continued from pg 3*

The Mercury Amateur Radio Association came into being in the aftermath of the Teton Dam failure as Church leadership and LDS hams recognized the need. It spread throughout the U.S. and even abroad. Shortly after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, the precursor to a MARA organization was founded in the northwestern part of the U.S. – and still exists.

MARA NW was primarily based around the HF net; but with advances in technology and changes in practices and operating habits some local VHF nets were organized. Unfortunately, because of the license structure and privileges, despite the common cause and support of the MARA NW organization, the exchange of information between VHF and HF nets stayed limited. Unless someone had HF privileges, he or she could only participate in VHF nets. Most cross exchange between the HF and VHF net groups occurred via individuals who participated in both type of nets or by those attending an occasional MARA NW meeting.

In emergency situations VHF nets cannot operate successfully in a vacuum. Procedures must be developed and practiced to relay information into and out of the affected area. The old adage is true: As things change the more they remain the same! There is still the need to relay information between local nets and distant locations.

We're at a new beginning, bringing Mercury North West and our affiliated nets to the next level. Heightened HF activity, ever increasing numbers of new LDS hams, the Internet, and other factors make it both possible and desirable. If we try to look ahead, with an eye to past events, it is clear that modern day technical communications infrastructure is still prone to failure (maybe even more so). Mercury North West would do well to develop a stronger relationship between and instigation of the VHF and HF nets.

Our regular HF and VHF nets provide good training in their respective realms; but we need to develop better coordination and procedures to bring everything together. The listing of ERC and Mercury North West nets at the MNW web site (www.maranw.net for now) is a start. Reporting local VHF net participation numbers when checking into HF nets is another step. But we need to do more!

As we develop plans and test ideas, we need to focus on how we can bring the VHF and HF nets together in an emergency without telephones or the Internet to coordinate. Much of this will, of necessity, take place on the Chapter level as the practices and procedures developed will be tailored to meet local needs.

Sharing information and lessons learned can occur at various MNW and ERC local, area, and regional meetings, as well as, via the Internet. With practice Mercury North West can be activated and utilized in an emergency, should the need arise.

The Mercury North West organization is on the verge of taking another major step in coordinating our efforts. In short, Sunday evening of General Conference (October 7, 2007), we would like to activate as many MNW and ERC nets as possible. A message will be originated by the Mercury North West HF Net Control Station.

The message would be received by members of the HF Net and re-transmitted on local VHF nets. We would like to have VHF Net Control stations and/or their designees pass the name and coverage area of the local net and number of participants to the HF net for consolidation. You can read the details of the SMART exercise on the website.

Such a simple exercise has the potential to provide a communications network of hundreds, if not over a thousand, LDS amateur radio operators in the northwestern part of the United States and southwestern portion of Canada. Spread the word; let's get as many LDS hams as possible to participate as part of their Conference weekend.

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VHF nets cannot operate
successfully in a vacuum.**

THE RESURGENCE

Continued from pg 1

So what's the need for the organization to continue? Most of us in the organization are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). When the organization was MARA, it was an auxiliary of the Church welfare system. We did training, provided some equipment networks, and supported the need for a backup communications system in the event of disasters affecting the Wards and Stakes of Zion.

As things have developed, the LDS Church has changed its program and has adopted the Emergency Response Communications (ERC) program as its official backup communications plan. Instructions for ERC implementation leave it up to Regional Representatives, Stake Presidents, and in some cases Bishops, to decide how much of a program is appropriate for their areas of responsibility.

The biggest difference is that MARA was primarily ham-driven, as a result of the ability to see a need and a potential application for talents. ERC is primarily Priesthood and mission-driven, based on the perceptions of non-hams as to what needs there are.

In some cases, ERC assignments have been taken on by enthusiastic hams who have trained many people to get amateur radio licenses, organized local nets, and accomplished additional skills and/or mission-oriented training. In most cases, though, local ERC enterprises are a net gathering of already-licensed hams who essentially just conduct a weekly check-in, so they continue to know who's available.

The driving vision behind MNW is a club – pure and simple. There are several goals:

1. Maintain a treasury to receive membership dues, donations, and other tax-exempt income.
2. Maintain a web-site and/or circulate a newsletter with information related to the responsibilities and goals of the Association.

3. Occasionally conduct in-person or on-air training exercises involving Chapters and individual members.
4. Establish committees and working groups to exist at the pleasure of the Executive Board for specified purposes.

One of the observations in the background of MNW is that LDS hams are (or should be) all very busy with things that are a lot more important than ham radio, or any other form of emergency communications – except maybe in a few of those punctuating instances where lives or property of our members or neighbors are actually at risk due to some kind of emergency. Now, especially since 9/11/2001 and Katrina, there has been a lot of emphasis on emergency communications training for amateur radio operators, with even some formal credentials being applied. However, those programs are very time consuming. There are a few of our members who participate with RACES or ARES; but few can take the time to meet the new participation requirements.

The biggest difference is that MARA was primarily ham-driven

Enter MNW: The more experienced among the ranks can share their knowledge and experience over years of net meetings and occasional in-person training events so all members do not have to submit

the time required to become EmComm proficient. This level of training should be helpful to the “young” ham who may be called on to support the welfare program in his or her local community.

Sometimes the ability to communicate within a community affected by an emergency requires some special piece of equipment or knowledge to close a gap.

Enter MNW: As a club, funds can be raised and expended to provide useful equipment. This might be something like portable repeaters, packet stations, portable antennas, etc., which can be sent into a situation where they could make a difference.

So to meet this kind of mission, some housekeeping issues needed to be taken care of.

We looked at a dozen or so documents that were developed at one time or another, but not necessarily updated to the changes that were taking place. The club website is recognized as an appropriate place to put documents; but many of those that are still posted need to be culled out. So part of this current initiative is to “zero-base” the website to be sure all the information there is actually current and to supply additional needed information.

One of the current items going into the website is an explanation of MNW Chapters, and Affiliates, as defined in the proposed bylaws. First, bylaws adjustments are needed to reflect the newest goals, permit ownership of equipment, assure legal non-profit status, and assure a democratically-managed club.

Second, in the past a lot of the perception has been that the organization is synonymous with the High Frequency (HF) net that meets Monday nights and Saturday mornings. In the new MNW, that net is only a communications/liason device. The real focus is centered on the things that can be done in each locale by a Chapter. A Chapter is a section of the club whose members all live within a smaller geographical area, usually defined by some kind of line-of-sight amateur radio communications medium. A “Chapter” does not have to coincide with any organizational section of the LDS Church, as was often the case in the past.

Some Chapters want to be more than a section of MNW. They want their own bylaws, non-profit corporations, treasuries, officers, equipment pools, etc., but still want to be a part of the MNW purpose. They may do that, and be accepted as an “Affiliate”. For border-related legal reasons, local entities in Canada will also be Affiliates. (What’s in a name, again? I’m sure we’ll all be calling them “Chapters” unless there’s a need for distinction.)

The horizon, direction, and enthusiasm looks good from where I sit. We hope you will all embrace

the new focus and maybe even let the old “MARA” name go by the way of past organizational details.

73, AA7L

SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL

(Continued from pg 2)

Mercury North West weekly HF net and the various local chapter nets have “carried on” (like in the words of another pioneer-oriented hymn) over the last decade or so. But for a variety of reasons (some high-level policy decisions beyond our control), while it appeared we had a lot of inertia, we had indeed lost a lot of the mass behind the inertia. The words “All is Well” did not have the same solid and rich timbre and tones and became even tinny and weak at times. MARA NW was a shadow of its former self, and nearly a hollow shell.

We are now in a time of opportunity and change. Mercury North West is rejuvenating, not all that unlike the mythical phoenix from its ashes. There is wide recognition in and out of the Church of the importance and necessity for emergency communications. With the removal of the Morse code requirement, amateur radio licenses are easier to obtain and thus there is an upswing in new and upgraded licenses.

The Church has need of willing hams. Unfortunately, in many instances the willing hams are the ones who best know the needs and how to accommodate them, and must work toward that end, often through their own initiative and motivation. This is the organizational environment that Mercury North West and its Chapters provide. We cannot leave the work to a few, but must spread it as broadly as possible in order to achieve the maximum possible strength and capability. And it can be synergistic!

As Mercury North West rejuvenates, new chapters organized, and existing chapters increase, we need the newcomer to step up and get involved. Just

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like Church organizations, MNW and its Chapters can become “all they can be” provided there is a greater amount of rotation and maximum possible involvement of all members. This must, however, be more through volunteering as opposed to callings.

We need fresh ideas from new people which can allow the existing leadership to recover from burnout and have opportunities to continue their commitments in different aspects of the organization. The principle of “Delegate or Die” is a basic axiom in management.

Instead of the STP (same ten people) doing everything, we need special committees to tackle short term projects and standing committees for the ongoing tasks. This is where true and meaningful, quality contributions can be made: Help prepare for and present MNW and Chapter

meetings and training events. Take a turn as net control and develop those skills. Participate in discussions on planning for and acquiring repeaters. Investigate digital modes, packet, and APRS options for MNW. Help with the website or newsletter. Share your technical knowledge and expertise. Etc, etc etc.

Watch the website and newsletter and listen on the nets or at meetings for subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pleas for help. Better yet be proactive. Express your willingness to help to anyone who will listen! If everyone supports, participates, and assumes some of the work and responsibility, no one will burn out from overload. Please seriously consider your level of commitment to the Church and the purpose of this organization in support of the Church. Determine what you can do and then follow through.

Ignatious J. Riley

BYLAWS OF MERCURY NORTH WEST - first referral to membership for comment

9/22/07

1. The full name of this organization is "Mercury North West". An approved abbreviation is "MNW".
2. The purpose of the organization is to provide a common communications and coordination organization for licensed Amateur Radio Operators who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and any other persons who support the goals of the organization.
3. MNW will serve as a coordinating body for training and information in support of Chapter activities. In doing so, MNW will:
 - a. Maintain a treasury to receive membership dues, donations, and other tax-exempt income.
 - b. Publish a budget annually.
 - c. Meet the requirements of a tax-exempt entity.
 - d. Conduct annual mail-ballot elections for Directors of those Chapters that are not registered as affiliates.
 - e. Maintain a web-site and/or circulate a newsletter with information related to the responsibilities and goals of the organization.
 - f. Occasionally conduct in-person or on-air training exercises involving Chapters and individual members.
 - g. Establish committees and working groups to exist at the pleasure of the Executive Board for specified purposes.
4. The goals shall be to unofficially provide training and support for emergency communications processes useful to the Church and to other humanitarian relief organizations.
5. A Participating Member is anyone who is on the current Mercury North West HF net or affiliated local nets roster, or who has registered on the MNW website. A Voting Member is a Member who is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and is current in their dues.
6. The Executive Board is authorized to set dues amounts, classifications, and associated privileges.
7. All members will be assigned to a Chapter. As much as is possible, Chapters will be organized as local entities. Members who do not reside within fifty miles of the center City of a Chapter may be placed in an "At-Large" Chapter. A chapter must have five Voting members to qualify for Chapter status. The Director of a Chapter will be elected by the Voting Members in that Chapter. Either the Director or an appointed proxy must participate regularly in scheduled MNW monthly coordination activities. Each local Chapter should operate or participate in a local net and report such activity.
8. Organized clubs may apply to the Executive Board for "Affiliate" status. Affiliates may have additional membership requirements of their own. Affiliate clubs, to remain in good standing, must submit dues equal to five members to MNW, except that Canadian affiliates shall not be required or permitted to make dues payments to MNW. Affiliate clubs may designate five voting members in MNW. In addition, members who are members of affiliates may join MNW as individuals. No individual may exercise more than one vote as the result of dual designation or membership roles.

9. MNW will be governed by an Executive Board consisting of two groups: The elected Directors of each Chapter / Affiliate and the officers appointed by the elected Directors. Each member of the Executive Board will have one vote in Board matters (except for appointment of Officers, which shall be voted on only by duly elected Directors.)

The Officers serve at the pleasure of the Elected Directors and consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers may be Directors or other members of the organization. The Officers will manage the day-to-day operation of the organization. The Elected Directors may remove an Officer from their position for any reason by a majority vote of the Elected Directors. The Executive Board will also designate three residents of the State of Washington to be named on corporation documents as Trustees, and a current Trustee for the club station license.

10. In July of each year, the Secretary shall canvass each Chapter through the nets system and website for nominations for Directors to be placed on the ballot. In September of each year, the Secretary shall mail a ballot to each Voting Member of record, listing candidates for Director of the Chapter to which addressed members are assigned. Any other organization-wide issues requiring a vote of the general membership shall be voted upon in the same manner or at the same time. The ballots shall be mailed at least three calendar weeks prior to the date upon which ballots are due. A quorum in elections shall consist of the number of ballots returned by the due date.

Ballots shall be counted by the Secretary and one other Director or Officer together, and results shall be posted on the Website and announced on the net system immediately following the count. Election results shall also include the number of ballots returned in each Chapter. Ballots shall be kept for a period of three months for review upon request of any Voting Member. Following the annual election of Directors, the Board shall convene a meeting as soon as possible, but no later than November 15 of each year, to appoint Officers and holders of other positions deemed desirable.

11. The Executive Board may meet using electronic communications of any means that is available to all members of the Board, or in person. Minutes of every Board meeting at which decisions are made will be posted on the Internet Website; or, distributed to each Voting Member by e-mail and/or US Mail. A quorum at a Board Meeting shall be 50 percent or more of the currently sitting members of the Executive Board.

Board votes may be conducted by e-mail, provided the ballot e-mail contains the full text of the motion or proposal being voted on, and an unqualified "YES" or "NO" response by the Board member. The Secretary will record any e-mail vote as a Board Meeting in the form of minutes.

Notice of Board Meetings shall be given by a means known to be available to all Board Members at least three days prior to a Board meeting, unless waived by all Board members in writing or e-mail. Attendance in a Board shall be considered the same as waiving notice.

12. In the event of dissolution of the Association, or inactivity of the MNW HF Net for a period of six months or more, any funds held by the Association shall be donated to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints through a Stake of the Church local to the Secretary/Treasurer. A complete accounting of the funds and all expenditures since the last annual accounting will be mailed to all members of record as of the last date of activity.

End of Bylaws

The following is by resolution of the Mercury North West Executive Board. As with all Board actions, this document is required to be consistent with the Bylaws. While not requiring ratification by the Voting Members, your questions and comments are invited before final approval of the Executive Board. This is a DRAFT document and subject to revision by the Executive Board.

Mercury North West Chapters and Clubs

- I. Mercury North West (abbreviated MNW) will be the coordinating organization for Chapters and Affiliated Clubs in the Northwest.
 - A. Local organizations may connect with MNW by either of two organizational means: Mercury North West Chapter, or Affiliated Club.
 - B. Affiliated Clubs are those organizations which have their own set of bylaws, officers, elections, treasuries, and equipment/insurance programs (if desired). An affiliated club makes its own organizational rules and affiliates with MNW for the purpose of participating in area nets, training programs, or use of network infrastructure owned by Mercury North West. Affiliates designate a representative to be the liaison with MNW as a Director on the Executive Board but govern themselves with their own slate of officers.
 - C. Mercury North West Chapters are those entities established and authorized by the MNW Executive Board to use the Mercury North West name, logo, website, and other resources as a part of an area-wide organization governed by the Mercury North West By-Laws and Executive Board. MNW Chapter members have direct access to MNW resources, voting rights, insurance programs, and other benefits.
- II. Following are the minimum criteria to become and remain a recognized Mercury North West Chapter:
 - A. Have at least five Voting Members.
 - B. Operate an independent local net on amateur radio at least once each month and report net activity to the Mercury North West Nets Manager. Local net structures need not coincide exactly with Chapter boundaries, or be led by MNW members to qualify. For example, a local MNW Chapter may utilize an independent net who's philosophy is consistent with Mercury North West objectives as its communication tool, reporting checkins to that net to meet this requirement.
 - C. Have a designated liaison representative check into the prescribed MNW nets at least once each month.
 - D. Provide quarterly reports of Chapter activity to MNW via e-mail or post.
 - E. One member of the Chapter will be elected as the Chapter Director and will actively serve as a voting member of the Mercury North West Executive Board. Elections for Chapter Directors will be conducted by mail by the MNW Secretary. Chapter Directors may designate or have elected within the Chapter individuals to fill additional positions as deemed necessary.

- F. Provide an annual petition to the MNW Executive Board documenting that they meet the criteria outlined above and in the following Chapter Structure.

III. Chapter Structure:

- A. A new Chapter may be created from an existing Chapter by a two-thirds majority vote of Voting Members in the proposed new Chapter boundaries. At least five Voting Members must remain in the previously existing Chapter before a new Chapter can be formed.
- B. Anyone who chooses to participate in Chapter activities is considered a Participating Member. A Voting Member is a Participating Member who is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator current in their dues to MNW. All Mercury North West Officers and Chapter leadership must be Voting Members.
- C. At-large Chapters may be organized to provide the benefit of chapter affiliation to Mercury North West Members not served by a local chapter. At-large Chapters allow all Voting Members a voice in MNW matters through their elected Chapter Director. At-large Chapters function the same as a local Chapter except they serve a wider geographic area. In situations where amateur radio communications methods are not practical, non-radio communications methods may be utilized.
- D. Only Voting Members have voting rights regarding issues that may affect the operation of MNW including (but not limited to) the election of the Chapter Director or ratification / modification of Bylaws.
- F. The Chapter organization will be determined by its Voting Members, provided one member is designated the Chapter Director.
- G. The primary objective of the Chapter will be to meet often to provide training and opportunities for fellowship between its members.
- H. Up to one half of the dues paid to Mercury North West will be made available to the Chapters for local use. The MNW Treasurer will disburse the funds upon receipt of a voucher signed by the Chapter Director. Chapters may raise additional funds from donations or fund-raising events, but may not assess additional dues as a requirement of membership.
- I. All Chapter funds are to be kept in the Mercury North West account. The MNW Treasurer will maintain individual ledger accounts for each Chapter. To maintain nonprofit status no funds will be held in Chapter bank accounts.

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