

# MAARS Quarterly Newsletter

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One of the efforts that typically fall to the wayside when people get overwhelmed is communication. Staying in touch with members is critical to the overall health of any organization.

That's why the leadership at the Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society is going to do everything in its power to change that! It is our intention to send you a quarterly update on all things MAARS related. In order to succeed, we need your help and input.

We intend to bring a technical update on the repeater, equipment & receive sites in every communication. When things haven't changed and status remains the same, we'll simply say that so you know.

With the current restrictions in place controlling group activities, we're restricted from having a membership meeting in the usual way. However, as we all learn to adapt to doing old things in a new way, we're open to the concept of having a virtual meeting via the

internet. A dozen of us used one recently and it worked quite well. If you're interested and willing to participate, we can schedule a meeting and work out any kinks! A virtual meeting would be much better than no meeting!

In every organization the topic of conversation eventually turns to money, and MAARS is no different. One of the topics we feel the need to discuss is how and when we pay our dues. And, we'd love your input. In an effort to simplify, removing the need to physically visit a mail box is something we'd like to consider.

But, we suspect some members would still like to send a physical check. So, how can this be handled? Perhaps we have checks sent to a home address understanding that address would change as the roles within the Club change. Would that create difficulties? Many like to use a service like Pay Pal for the streamlined experience of bill paying. Services like this would make payments and acknowledgements faster and perhaps more efficient.

Under current procedures, dues are due on July 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. (Unless of course you paid for a

lifetime membership). Since our communication efforts fell a bit short, sending membership invoices also disappeared. Because of that any number of folks either paid late or not at all.

There is nothing in place to apply a late charge and we don't feel that would be needed if we get back to sending an invoice. Although club administrators have done an amazing job of reducing expenses, there are still some things that must remain. Insurance, web hosting, internet access, fees and more all must be paid on time if we are to enjoy the repeater. Therefore, it's critical that dues be paid on time to provide the funds needed at the time they're needed.

In order to send quarterly communications and membership dues notices, we must maintain a healthy database of email addresses. This document will be electronically sent to every email address we have for you. We'll be able to monitor those that are undeliverable then know who we must catch up on. So if you know of someone who has changed their address, please let us know. And if you get this communication at more than one

address, let us know which you prefer and which to drop from our database.

The 5.13 repeater has served us well for a very long time. One of the ways in which it continues to provide a high level of service is by having such a talented group of men & women that don't just diagnose a problem, but set a course of correction and make it happen. In order to continue working on older equipment, newer sites and endless wires, connectors, fuses and the like, it is important to have funds available for parts and replacements. Those funds come from membership.

So, we will step up efforts to find and recruit new members as well as re-sign members who have fallen away for whatever reason.

If you know of anyone who could/should be a member of this great club, PLEASE let us know. And if your generosity extends to making even the slightest donation on top of your dues, we'll be thrilled to accept it! Just a \$5.00 donation from 30 members can help greatly!

And lastly for this edition, and speaking of dues, July 1<sup>st</sup> is coming

up quickly! So as a reminder, the current fee schedule is:

Regular Individual Member  
\$20.00 (\$0.39/ week)

Regular Family Membership  
\$25.00 (\$0.48/week)

Senior Citizen Membership(65+)  
\$15.00 (\$0.29/week)

Senior Family Membership  
\$20.00 (\$0.39/week)

We'd like to know what your level of licensure is so please include that in the notes section of your payment (whether sending a physical check, or PayPal). And, we'd like to track whether you and/or your family member belong to the ARRL.

The forms for renewing or joining, are located on the MAARS website at:

**[513repeater.org](http://513repeater.org)**

You'll find the form under the tab labeled "ABOUT"

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter about our organization! Please help it along by asking questions, submitting articles and thoughts so we can all grow together! Send your questions, comments and thoughts to:

[KB9JMH@513repeater.org](mailto:KB9JMH@513repeater.org).

Thank you for your continue support of the Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society repeater!

We hope you and your family stay safe during these uncertain and difficult times. For those of us "stuck" at home more than normal, get on the air and let's get re-acquainted!

73's

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