



**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
General Membership Meeting  
Friday, November 29, 2019  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**Call to Order:**

The MARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Tabitha Sherman at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members and guests introduced themselves. A quorum was established.

New Ham/Tech: **JoAnne Pawluk, KLOUPS** - Congratulations!

Upgrades/Extra: **Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ**; and **Michael Jonrowe, KL3XA**: - Congratulations!

**Agenda Review / Additions:**

The written agenda was accepted as presented.

**Minutes:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

General meeting and Board minutes are to be published on the MARA website.

**Reports:**

**President:** Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- shared that she recently read an article about what makes a good ham radio club, noting things like elmers, emergency procedures, license testing, newsletters, Facebook page, informative programs;
- commented she believes MARA has almost all of it and believes the new leadership has inherited a very healthy club.

**Vice President:** Bridgit Larson, KL4B

- reported she is working on presentations for the upcoming year;
- discussed APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) and explained Skywarn (recognized on the first Saturday of every year);
- commented that as a VE, the focus for general meeting programs will be related to keeping ham radio skills up to date.

**Treasurer:** John Carrington, KL1XM

- Book account: \$1226.00
- General account \$1497.43
- Amazon Smile donation: \$20.12
- Reminder that membership renewals are due by end of December.

**Website Facilitator:** Shelia Olson, KL3TP

- reported she is waiting on TJ to be able to get on the website.

**VE Report:** Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- reported one new volunteer VE, one new Tech and three upgrades to General and Extra from the most recent license exam;
- solicited volunteers for the exams: always the fourth Saturday of the month.

**ARES Report:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported status of ARES activities; discussed major review of ARRL personnel qualifications for running emergency communications; noted our people have the proper training - Winlink and Digitil.
- Commex exercises are conducted quarterly -- the next one is December 21, 2019 called "Tracking Santa"; explained the content of the training; recommended going to the website KL7JFT.org for further information; will need mobile 6 meter volunteers.
- Encouraged getting on the roster for ARES net on Thursday nights at 8 p.m.; explained the various themes.

**Suggestion Box:** John Mears, AL7LA

- reported there were no new suggestions submitted.

**Licensing Classes:** John Mears, AL7LA

- Tech class has been scheduled at St. Hermon's Orthodox Church - Saturday, January 10-12, 2020.

**Sunshine Committee:** Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- reported three get-well cards sent this month.

**Trailer Committee:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported on the current status of upkeep and winterization of the Comm Trailer.

**Upcoming Events:**

12/11/2019 MARA Board Meeting, Mat-Su Regional, 7 pm  
12/21/2019 COMEX, "Tracking Santa" Bushmaster Ops, 9 am-1 pm  
12/27/2019 MARA Christmas Party/General Meeting, 7 pm  
12/28/2019 Valley Testing, Red Cross Office-Wasilla, 7 pm  
01/08/2020 MARA Board Meeting, Mat-Su Regional, 7 pm  
01/31/2020 MARA General Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7 pm

**New Business:**1. Christmas Party

- There was general discussion regarding the Christmas Party, including setup, timing, content, and rules for the Chinese Auction.

2. MARA Announcement Lists -- Bridget Larson, KL4B

- Explained how the Announcement List would work on the Groups.io email list.

3. HAM OF THE YEAR Nominations -- Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

- Nomination forms were distributed to members present; encouraged everyone to submit nominations.
- Tabitha explained the nomination process -- HOTA to be announced at the Christmas Party/Meeting on December 27.

**Old Business:**1. Chickaloon Training, Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported working on scheduling.

**Break/Door Prize Drawings:** [A break was called at 7:45 pm; returned to order at 8:00 pm]

Door prize drawing was conducted.

**Program:**

**Game Time -- AMATEUR RADIO JEOPARDY.**

Bridgit/KL4B explained that part of her focus as Vice President this year would be on providing programs to assist members in updating their ham radio operation skills. She and Tabitha built a large game board patterned after the game show Jeopardy, only all the questions had to do with Amateur Radio Operation.

MARA members had a good time playing amateur radio jeopardy relying on their knowledge of ham radio. The program was well received by club members and they would like to do it again.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next General Meeting/Christmas Party: December 27, 2019.

*Pamela J. Whitehead* [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary  
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association