



**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**January 31, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

The MARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Tabitha Sherman at 7:00 p.m.

Members and guests introduced themselves. A quorum was established. Mark Olson/KL3MRO (previously /TO) and Shelia Olson/KL3SRO (previously /TP) announced their new call signs. There were no new hams in attendance.

**Agenda Review / Additions:**

The written agenda was accepted as amended, adding one item to Old Business requested by Craig Bledsoe/KL4E.

**Minutes:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

11/v29/2019 General Meeting - submitted and posted to the MARA website.

12/13/2019 Board Meeting - submitted and posted to the MARA website.

12/27/2019 General Meeting - Christms Party; minutes were not taken.

01/08/2020 Board Meeting - submitted and posted to the MARA website.

**President Report:** Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- shared that she listens to a podcast that praised the ham community as being the most civic-minded group they knew; commented she thinks MARA is living up to that reputation;
- spoke to the many training opportunities offered for people to get involved;
- discussed the recently-acquired speaker equipment for ease of hearing at meetings and events;
- briefly described the Science Olympiad competition to be more fully explained under New Business.

**Vice President Report:** Bridgit Larson, KL4B

- distributed and explained the MARA Planning Questionnaire 2019-2020 asking for 1) topics to be presented at General meetings, 2) community activities in which members would like to participate, suggestions on how members would like to participate/contribute to the hobby, suggestions for fundraising items for the club to consider;
- encouraged club members to fill it out and send in.

**Treasurer Report:** John Carrington, KL1XM

- reported Book Account: \$927.82; General Account \$1941.42;
- reminded that club membership dues are due.

**Website Facilitator:** Shelia Olson, KL3SRO

- Don Bush/KL7JFT and Webmaster TJ Morgan/KL3IT reported on the status of the club website informing a recent update has occurred. TJ has worked with Don and will also work with Shelia for continued website maintenance.

**VE Report:** Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- reported that as of the most recent license testing session: 1 new Tech, 3 upgrades to General, and 1 upgrade to Extra.

**ARES Report:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported the next operation will be on February 8-9, 2020 - MVS Gun Show at Raven Hall. The club has secured table space and is seeking volunteers to man the table at various times throughout the weekend; contact Don to volunteer your time.

**Suggestion Box:** John Mears, AL7LA

- Nothing to report.

**Licensing Classes:** John Mears, AL7LA

- reported has been contacted by Houston Fire Department wanting a class at the Houston Fire Hall; tentative date: April 4, 2020; will be working to try and make it happen.

**Sunshine Committee:** Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- Nothing new to report.

**Trailer Committee:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported on the status of maintenance of the comm trailer; waiting for warmer weather to complete some of the tasks;
- brought to the club's attention that police cars are being parked in front of the trailer blocking access or making it difficult to get to it; noted he will be working on trying to resolve the issue.

**Upcoming Events:**

02/12/2020 MARA Board Meeting, Mat-Su Regional, 7 pm  
02/22/2020 Valley Testing, Red Cross Office, 7 pm  
02/27/2020 MARA Luncheon, Denali Restaurant, Wasilla, 11:30 am  
02/28/2020 MARA General Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7 pm

**New Business:**

1. HOY Presentation:

The **MARA 2019 Ham of the Year** award was presented to **Mark Allan/KL2EC**, honoring him for his approximate 15 years of accomplishments and contributions to MARA activities and community emergencies. He is the Emergency Coordinator for Caswell Lakes and Willow areas, active in both ARES and CERT training, and is recognized in particular for his assistance to new hams and those wishing to get involved. A very well-deserved congratulations to Mark.

2. Science Olympiad in April:

President Sherman explained that she was contacted by Chris Gooch (new ham/KL4WA), who is the State Director for Science Olympiad in Alaska, looking for MARA's help with their upcoming competition on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at Teeland Middle School in Wasilla. He explained that **Science Olympiad** is a competition where Middle and High School teams compete in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based events in a format similar to the Olympics.

Discussion followed whether the Club would want to participate. More to come.

**Old Business:**

1. MARA Club Dues are due.

- discussed during Treasurer's Report.
2. January VHF Fun -- Don Bush/KL7JFT
    - reported and described the January contesting event in which several Mat-Su operators participated; received thanks from Brandon Clark/KL7BSC, VP, Alaska VHF-Up Group.
  3. Radio purchase available - Craig Bledsoe/KL4E
    - announced and described the Kenwood TS 2000 that is available for group purchase at \$900.00.

**Break/Door Prize Drawings:**

A break was called at 7:20 p.m.; back to order at 7:30 p.m.

Door prize drawings were held.

**Program:**

**Avalanche Awareness and Safety by Matthew Lemons of the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center.**

Matthew Lemons, HPAC:

- gave a presentation on Avalanche Awareness Safety showing several safety videos geared toward those who enjoy wintertime activities in the back country and mountain terrains.
- the presentation concentrated on knowing the signs of an impending avalanche and what to do;
- bottom line -- *be aware* and don't go unless you get a forecast of the conditions and have training and the proper safety and rescue gear with you;
- explained and demonstrated some of the rescue equipment: avalanche beacon, avalanche shovel, avalung.
- visit the HPAC website for forecasts and further information: [hpavalanche.org](http://hpavalanche.org).
- responded to MARA member questions and open discussion ensued.

The membership thanked Mr. Lemons for the very well received presentation.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next General Meeting: February 28, 2020.

*Pamela J. Whitehead* [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary  
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association