



MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
Board Meeting via Zoom
April 8, 2020

Call to Order:

The MARA Board Meeting was called to order via Zoom Video/Teleconference by President Tabitha Sherman at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Present and constituting a quorum were:

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| KL4FZ | Tabitha Sherman, President/Director |
| KL7SLM | Scott McCormick, Vice President/Director |
| KL3PAM | Pam Whitehead, Secretary/Director |
| KL1XM | John Carrington, Treasurer/Director |
| KL3SRO | Shelia Olson, Immediate Past President/Director |
| KL2HF | Ken Hudson, Director/VE |
| KL7JFT | Don Bush, Director/DEC/Repeater Trustee |
| KL4B | Bridgit Larson, Director |

Not present:

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| AL7LA | John Mears, Director |
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Agenda Review / Additions:

The written agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes: Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

04/08/2020 Board Meeting -- submitted to Board for review and posting to the MARA website.

Question of the Month:

Use your call sign suffix to say something about life right now.

President's Report: Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- spoke to be on alert for the recent scam email purporting to be from John Carrington.

Vice President's Report: Scott McCormick, KL7SLM

- Had no report.

Treasurer's Report: John Carrington, KL1XM

- Account balances as of 4/8/20: General account \$2362.41; Book account \$1027.82;
- Spoke to the financial health of the Club, noting at approximately \$2,000/year, there is enough funding to run the Club for about 2-1/2 years.

Website Facilitator: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported the website is up to date;
- reported current COVID-19 numbers in Alaska and Mat-Su noting participation in three conference calls a week;
- discussed SkyWarn, weather spotter certification training.

VE Report: Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- reported March testing was cancelled due to restrictions of COVID-19.

ARES Report: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- reported on the status of the Dog Walk describing the particulars and how many volunteers would be needed (if it happens);
- reported currently no schedule for the next Comex;
- commented he is working on training via teleconference;
- discussed how to do remote testing, however, MARA VE group is not currently authorized.

Licensing Classes: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- next licensing class will happen in May, four weekends;
- there will also be a licensing class in Sutton.

Sunshine Committee: Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- No recent activity.

Trailer Committee: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- The trailer is in good shape, no problems.

Upcoming Events:

1. 04/24/2020 Virtual MARA General Meeting - discussion whether it would be possible, what would be the content and logistics of how to do it. Although a final decision was not made at this meeting, it was more likely that it would have to be cancelled.

New Business:

1. Planning the Virtual MARA General Meeting: see above.
2. Training classes via Zoom: Director Bush/KL7JFT
 - discussed doing training classes via Zoom -- packet training, solar propagation (HF).
3. Valley Packet Node grant: Director Bush/KL7JFT
 - explained there was a target of opportunity requiring quick action (with no money outlay by the Club) to submit a grant request for MARA's Valley Packet Node to replace its current very outdated radio equipment from KL7AA spare equipment Alinco type DR-135TMK or DR-635. (See KL7JFT 4/6/20 email to the Board with attached Grant Request for the Valley Packet Node Replacement). Brief discussion followed.

Old Business: None.

Non-agenda items/ announcements:

1. Hamfest: Following discussion about whether to cancel or postpone the our annual Hamfest in light of the COVID-19 restrictions:

Moved CARRINGTON/KL1XM, seconded McCORMICK/KL7SLM, to postpone the Hamfest until September 12, 2020. There were no objections.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. SSL Security Certificate: TJ Morgan/KL7IT inquired as to obtaining an SSL security certificate for the MARA website at the cost of \$250/year, which he would be willing to donate.
3. Trailer Cleaning: Don/KL3JFT discussed the need, probably mid-April, for a good cleaning/disinfecting of the trailer before the training in Sutton.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: May 13, 2020.

Pamela J. Whitehead [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association