



**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
Board Meeting/Covid-19 Zoom  
October 14, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

The MARA Board Meeting was called to order by President Tabitha Sherman at 7:01 p.m.

Present and constituting a quorum were:

KL4FZ	Tabitha Sherman, President/Director/VE
KL7SLM	Scott McCormick, Vice President/Director
KL3PAM	Pam Whitehead, Secretary/Director
KL1XM	John Carrington, Treasurer/Director
KL2HF	Ken Hudson, Director/VE
KL7JFT	Don Bush, Director/DEC/Repeater Trustee
KL4B	Bridgit Larson, Director/VE
Not Present:	
KL3SRO	Shelia Olson, Immediate Past President/Director
AL7LA	John Mears, Director/Class Instructor

**Agenda Review / Additions:**

The written agenda was accepted as presented.

**Minutes:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

08/28/2020 Gen, 09/09/20 Bd, and 09/25/20 Gen Meeting Minutes were submitted on 10/16/2020 for review/approval by the Board and posting to the website.

**Question of the Month:**

Disasters -- If you were dispatched to work a disaster and had the opportunity to choose, what type of disaster would you choose?

**President's Report:** Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- Provided a recap of MARA activities/events over this last year, noting the last in-person General meeting was February, 2020 before Covid, including:
  - 2019 Christmas Party;
  - Unfortunately had to postpone Hamfest, but was able to reschedule for September, which was well-attended and was financially beneficial for the Club;
  - Had to cancel Field Day, everyone should think about how to get involved in it next summer, plenty of jobs for everyone;
  - Ken Hudson and team of VEs have continued to offer testing once a month in addition to holding sessions during most of our events, which are offered for free as a service to our community;
  - Next month we will starting taking Ham of the Year nominations;
  - The November meeting is Thanksgiving Weekend and the HOTY award will be announced at the Christmas Party. The newly-elected secretary will start taking nominations after the election.

**Vice President's Report:** Scott McCormick, KL7SLM

- Had no report, but will think about the events over the last year and report at the General meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Carrington, KL1XM

- Provided an update to Club finances:
- Total Paid Members: 71; 7 members paid dues, and 3 joined at the Hamfest;
- General Account: \$2,280.28
- Book Account: \$1,002.63
- Hamfest Total: \$1,300.00+
- Hamfest gave the Club a much needed infusion of cash;
- The Club is looking good until this time next year.

**Website Facilitator:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Website is up to date; contains information about VE testing, Covid-19 statistics for the Valley, calendar has been updated; information about the October Annual General Meeting at the Valley Church of Christ.
- It was suggested to put Election Nomination Forms on the website to encourage nominations as well as the newsletter.

**VE Report:** Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- Reported 3 new technicians resulted from the September testing;
- Provided a recap of the year: 27 new Technicians; 14 Generals, 11 Extras, for a total of 52 for the year (September to September);
- Spoke to the new rule that testers can no longer use social security numbers as an identifier to obtain a license and must apply for a FRN number; suggested posting instructions on the website on how to obtain an FRN number; he will forward the Instruction Sheet which he obtained to Don for posting; noted deadline for no longer accepting social numbers is fast approaching (November or December).

**ARES Report:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Currently no upcoming exercises;
- Has been working with two or three of the new hams who will be signing up for ARES; has three people working on qualifications to add to the Skywarn Team;
- Last COMEX went really well; need to get a little more active in training on how to do Winlink, passing traffic, learning the new forms in the system that will make it easy for operating such as Windshield Report; there is also a new form for when an earthquake occurs to send a Spot Report from your location.

**Licensing Classes:** John Mears, AL7LA

- John Carrington reported 8 books were sold.
- The understanding is there are two current classes, one at the Houston Fire Station and one at a Church in Palmer.

**Sunshine Committee:** Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- Reported that since this time last year, 12 sympathy or get well cards have been sent out and one member in the hospital received a bouquet of flowers; also high school graduate Alex/KL4TZ received a balloon and card.
- Don encouraged members to call and check in on Mark Allan/KL3EC to cheer him up.

**Trailer Committee:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported on the status of the load-tested batteries and check on the connections tomorrow.

**Upcoming Events:**

1. Licensing Exams, October 24, Am-Vet Bldg, 7 pm
2. MARA Annual General Meeting & Elections, October 30, Valley Church of Christ, 7-9 pm
3. MARA Board Meeting with new members, November 11, 2020

4. MARA General Meeting, November 27
5. Licensing Exams, November 28, Am-Vet Bldg, 7 pm

**Old Business:** None.

**On-going Business:**

1. Elections and Nominations -- Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM

- Reported she has received no nominations as far as VP or Secretary; discussion followed on best way to get the word out to the members encouraging nominations, perhaps a nomination form that outlines the duties/responsibilities of the office.
- Upgrading Zoom: It was suggested to upgrade the Club Zoom subscription to Zoom Pro for \$150/year primarily to avoid the 40-minute time limit and everyone having to log in again. Brief discussion ensued.

MOVED Bush, SECONDED McCormick, to approve the purchase of Zoom Pro for \$150/year.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Don will arrange the Zoom Pro setup for MARA.

- Upgrading License for VARA Sound Card for Winlink: It allows Winlink to run at greater speed between Pactor 3 and Pactor 4 with a sound card. Don explained we are currently running at Pactor 1 on VARA. The cost would be a \$69 for a lifetime license.
- MOVED McCormick, SECONDED Larson, to approve the purchase of the software license for VARA Sound Card for \$69.00 lifetime license.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**New Business:**

1. Batteries for Comm Trailer? -- Don Bush/KL7JFT

- Reported the batteries are currently being load-tested; noted the main thing found was loose connections. Don will check it all out tomorrow and make sure everything is secure to go. Will advise of status to the Board by email.

2. Annual General Meeting -- Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- Explained the reports made tonight should be repeated at the Annual General Meeting.

**Non-agenda itmes / announcements:**

Christmas Party: Tabitha informed the last Friday in December is Christmas Day. Discussion ensued re changing the date for the Christmas Party.

Don suggested December 18, 2020. There were no objections. Announcement will be made at the Annual Meeting. Tabitha will call the Valley Church of Christ to see if it is available.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

*Pamela J. Whitehead* [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary  
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association