



**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
General Membership Meeting - Covid-19 Zoom Edition  
September 25, 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 were acknowledged. A quorum was established.

**Agenda Review / Additions:**

The written agenda was accepted as presented.

**Meeting Minutes:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

08/28/2020 General -- pending

09/09/2020 Board -- pending

**President Report:** Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- Reminded of elections coming up next month;
- Reported open officer/director positions for which will be seeking nominations;
- Announced the October General/Annual Meeting will finally be in person at the Valley Church of Christ (same venue as the Hamfest);

**Vice President Report:** Scott McCormick, KL4FZ

- Announced he would like someone else to take over as Vice President, but would be willing to serve another term as Director.

**Secretary Report:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

- Announced that she has to step down as Secretary citing current personal and work obligations to do a good job for MARA; would be willing to remain on the Board as a Director if the Club so desired;

**Treasurer Report:** John Carrington, KL1XM

- Provided an updated status of Club finances:
- \$1116.58 Book Account -- John/AL7LA recently sold 8 books totaling \$200 for Licensing Classes and the Club reimbursed John \$425 for books he had ordered.
- \$2405.22 General Account, which includes the income from the Hamfest (grossed \$1394.00) and membership dues paid; recapped the Hamfest receipts.
- Announced he will be glad to continue to serve as Treasurer.

**Website Facilitator:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Website is up to date: contains information for current Licensing Classes and an updated Calendar.

**VE Report:** Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- Ken Slauson, reported the last VE session was quite successful; a couple that drove up from the Kenai Peninsula, both earning a Technician license and the door prize; also three people upgraded to Extra.
- Ken Hudson, KL2HF announced he would like to remain on the Board.

**Licensing Classes:** John Mears, AL7LA (not present)

- Don Bush reported Technician Class currently at a Church in Palmer; and General Class at the new Houston Fire Department Station (see details on website).

**Sunshine Committee:** Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- Reported one card was sent to a Club member to cheer him up;
- Noted fund is still doing well.

**ARES Report:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported Quarterly COMEX/Harvest Moon is scheduled for tomorrow 9/26/2020 0900-1400; will be passing ICS 213 forms; need people to participate; explained the exercise "lost hunters" in further detail;
- Will also be exercising the Skywarn Program, more and more weather spotters are being added; the program covers severe weather as well as earthquakes, flooding, high winds.
- Announced he also would like to remain on the Board.

**Trailer Committee:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported the Trailers are all winterized and ready to go; generators are up and in good shape; headbolt heater is ready as needed; trickle charger is on the new battery in the generator; discussed the condition of the batteries.

**Upcoming Events:**

1. Licensing Exams, September 26, Am-Vet Building, 7 pm
2. MARA Board Meeting, October 14, 2020, via Zoom
3. Licensing Exams, October 24, Am-Vet Building, 7 PM
4. MARA Annual General Meeting, October 30, 7-9 PM, Valley Church of Christ, Wasilla - Thank you to John and Betty Carrington for their help in setting it up.

**New Business:**

1. Nominations for MARA Officers and Board
- Nominations were solicited from the membership present; none were offered.
  - Members may email nominations to Pam at [pam.whitehead@gmail.com](mailto:pam.whitehead@gmail.com).

**Old Business:**

1. Hamfest Report:

John Carrington earlier recapped the receipts from the Hamfest (see Treasurer's Report)

Craig Bledsoe reported on the success of the Am-Stat at the Hamfest, noting they worked Canadian and Lower 48 stations, did three satellite passes, and had a big turnout at the Am-Stat booth.

**Door Prize Drawings:** None.

Announcements/Good of the Order

**Program: Scott McCormick/KL7SLM**

- Initiated open discussion on working VHF/UHF in areas that are restricted for antennas, noting his son, Alexander/KL4TZ currently going to school in Fairbanks, living in the dorms. It is always a challenge living in a restricted area just to be able to operate and reach the local repeaters.
- Solicited suggestions for antenna equipment and ideas from the membership. Recommendations included getting some kind of antenna outside the window.
- Craig/KL4E offered to donate a "cliff-hangar" which are supposed to hang on the rail of a porch or lanai.

Tabitha reminded everyone about the election next month and to think about nominations. Open positions include: Vice President and Secretary. If you have someone to nominate or self-nominate, email Pam who will be preparing the Ballot.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

*Pamela J. Whitehead* [Electronic signature]  
Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary  
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association