



**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
General Membership Zoom Meeting  
November 27, 2020**

**Call to Order/New Hams/Roll Call/Quorum Established:**

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

Members/guests in attendance provided names/call signs for door prize drawings later in the meeting:

John Ramsey/KD6YKS	George Strother/KL7GS	Don Bush/KL7JFT (Club Host)
Mike Gibson/KL5AX	John Orella/KL7LL	Ken Hudson/KL2HF
Mike Von Ah/KL4YO	Dan O'Barr/KL7DR	Craig Bledsoe/KL4E
Chris Hamman/KL5BF	David Stevens/KL7EB	Bridgit Larson/KL4B
Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM	Matthew Miller/KL4JB	Mark Olson/KL3MRO
		Shelia Olson/KL3SRO

**Approval of Agenda/Additions:**

The written agenda was accepted as presented.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

The Minutes of the **October 30, 2020 General/Annual Meeting** (via Zoom) were presented for approval and posting to the MARA website. John Orella/KL7LL corrected the call sign of recent Silent Key Karl Wurilitzer (Hap) to KL7UPS (not KL7UP).

**MOVED** Hudson/KL2HF, **SECONDED** Orella/KL7LL, to approve the minutes, as amended.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**President Report:** Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- Noted she is happy to serve another term as President and hopes we can get back to normal meetings and MARA activities;
- Solicited input from for ideas to keep members engaged in the Club.

**Vice President Report:** Chris Hamman/KL5BF

- Reported a little bit about his background -- new ham, received his Tech and General during testing at the MARA Picnic and his Extra a couple of months later; has a long history in IT.
- Described this month's program presentation centering emergency preparedness.

**Treasurer Report:** John Carrington, KL1XM (Not Present)

- Although John was not present due to internet problems, he provided an update via email to Club finances on 11/28/2020 as follows:
- Book Account: \$1,002.62; General Account: \$2,090.27
- Reported receipt of Amazon's Quarterly Donation: \$44.97

**Secretary's Report:** Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

- Encouraged members to submit nominations for Ham of the Year to the committee comprised of John/KL1XM, Bridgit/KL4B, and Pam/KL3PAM.

**Website Facilitator:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported the MARA website is up to date;
- Covid-19 statistics to date/Mat-Su Valley: 384 new positive tests, 6 reported death, 2300 active cases,

**ARES Report:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Described the upcoming December Winter COMEX on December 5, 2020: "Where is Santa?"
- Practice sending traffic using Winlink; KL7JFU will be net control for the State.
- See information posted on both the ARES and KL7JFU websites.

**Trailer Committee:** Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Both Trailers have been moved back into position after having to move them to the middle of the parking lot while MEA planted new cable from the emergency generator plant;
- Batteries for both trailers are back up to full charge; Generator system is working well;
- The trailers are in the same place but positioned more parallel to the fence.
- Electric heaters and the propane furnace are all working fine and everything is secure.

**VE Report:** Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- Reported the last testing session had to be cancelled; 2nd time this year; is planning the next testing session for December 26, 2020.
- Reported a total of 52 new hams resulted from the testing sessions to date.
- Don/KL7JFT added that Ken has put together new safety procedures for the testing sessions.
- George/KL7GS informed that Mike/KL3M has offered to award an HF Radio/speaker/amp/digital readout/antenna tuner to the next "young" (21 and younger) ham to pass Extra.

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

- No report.

**Sunshine Committee:** Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- No current activity.

**Upcoming Events:**

1. 12/18/2020 - Christmas Party (venue cancelled)
2. 12/18/2020 - General MARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (Note 3rd Friday)
3. 12/19/2020 - Virtual Breakfast Informal Meeting, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
  - Don/KL7JFT hosted the Zoom Virtual Breakfast; reported it was a good turnout, good discussions regarding technical and emergency operations and about the Club; good discussions about the Raspberry Pi and the new MARA Tech group.
4. 12/26/2020 - Licensing Exams, 7:00 p.m. at Am-Vets
5. 01/13/2020 - MARA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**New Business:**

1. MARAtech discussion group report - Bridgit Larson, KL4B (Group Moderator)
  - Described the purpose of the new tech discussion group for MARA members; reported invites were sent via email to the Club membership for which she had email addresses;
  - Advised MARA members should send invite requests to [MARAtech@groups.io](mailto:MARAtech@groups.io) for approval.
  - Information can be found on the Club website.

**Ongoing Business:**

1. Ham of the Year nominations -Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM
  - Reiterated earlier encouragement for members to submit Ham of the Year nominations; to check website for nomination forms; instructions where to send are on the form.
2. Saturday Virtual Breakfast report - Don Bush, KL7JFT -- discussed earlier.
3. Pick up door prize winnings at Don's/KL7JFT -- Tabitha/KL4FZ

- Explained she will deliver the door prizes to Don's house for pickup next week.

**Door Prize Drawings:**

- Tabitha conducted the Door Prize Drawings: 5 items.  
 KD6YKS - All-purpose scissors      KL4JB - Ammo Box      KL7DR - Cleaning Kit  
 KL7EB - Metal Strip      KL3MRO - Gloves

**Program: Ham Radio and Response Preparedness - Chris Hamman/KL5BF**

- Presented the program and spoke to his background in dealing with emergency response and being prepared as part of his job in IT and involvement in Civil Air Patrol;
- Chris narrated a slide-sharing presentation on being prepared for all types of emergencies and the importance of knowing how to respond to severe weather or a disaster in your area; should be able to be self-sufficient for at least three days -- shelter, first aid, food, water, sanitation.
- Described the events of the '64 Earthquake as the strongest ever recorded in North America; most of Alaska's mainland felt it; Seattle's Space Needle 1200 miles away wobbled from it, and then the tsunamis followed; the worst being the quake triggered the devastating land slides and swells that wiped out Valdez.
- Spoke to the Hams' response -- establishing communications all over the State and to the Lower 48.
- Played a radio program describing the messages coming from Alaska to the Lower 48.
- Discussed the November 20, 2018 Earthquake off Point McKenzie, lasted 2 minutes and there were 2800 aftershocks.
- Tabitha/KL4FZ described her experiences as a Ham Radio Operator during the 2018 Earthquake while working at Colony High School and what she was able to report on her way home; that once she got to her radio, it gave her comfort that she was not alone and hearing some of the windshield reports dispelled some of the rumors; she was able to report on her way home on Lazy Mountain that half of the outside lane on Canyon Road had broken off and slid down into the canyon making the road impassable. She reported it to Don/KL7JFT who reported it to the Borough who had flaggers on the road right away.
- Don/KL7JFT, DEC, shared his experiences during the earthquake and his preparedness capabilities. Power goes off, system switches to battery, automatic generator came on, and system back up and operational. Started collecting information, had 3 or 4 hams on windshield reports in Anchorage, along the Glenn and Palmer-Wasilla area; activated emergency frequency, Army MARS was passing information into the State Operation Center. Our two main repeaters and the Alaska Pacific Net were up and running. Various places were sending Winlink traffic (provides a hard copy of who reported what). A good picture was lined out and the State EOC was able to decide where to start sending resources. Everything worked according to our Emergency Plan, which covers just about everything that Chris has been presenting, that we have a complete layout to cover every emergency. He emphasized that people have to be prepared and further described the relationship between MARA and the State/Borough, along with the challenges related to training on both sides.
- The presentation continued on how MARA members can prepare for the next event, including sharing your location with the Club so someone can reach out, maintain regular contact with others in the group, and develop an emergency preparedness plan for you and your family.
- Chris's Emergency Preparedness presentation will be posted on the MARA website.
- Also see KL7JFT.org for MARA ARES emergency preparedness plans and information.

**Announcements/Good of the Order:**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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