



MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
General General Zoom Meeting
January 29, 2021

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 introduced themselves providing call signs:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ | Don Bush/KL7JFT | George Strother/KL7GS | Francine Strother/KL7EG |
| John Carrington/KL1XM | Carol Bush/KL2FA | Mike Gibson/KL5AX | Dan O'Barr/KL7DR |
| Betty Carrington/KL1XL | Bridgit Larson/KL4B | Chris Hamman/KL5BF | Gretchen O'Barr/KL7GO |
| Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM | Shelia Olson/KL3SRO | Ken Hudson/KL2HF | Craig Bledsoe/KL7H |
| Harvey Whitehead/KL3RVW | Mark Olson/KL3MRO | Tyler Sutcliffe/KL2S | John Phillips/AL0C |
| Brandon Clark/KL7BSE | Joe Princiotta/KL4VB | Bud Burnett/KL7GY | Brad Billingslea/KL5EE |
| Matt Miller/KL4JB | Rob Stanley/KK4CAU | Debra Stanley/KK4CAS | David Stevens/KL7EB |
| TJ Morgan/KL3IT | | | |

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

MOVED Strother/KL7GS, **SECONDED** Gibson/KL5AX, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

The Minutes of the **January 29, 2021 General Meeting** were presented for approval and posting to the MARA website.

MOVED Carrington/KL1XM, **SECONDED** Bush/KL7JFT, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

President Report: Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

* Had nothing new to report.

Vice President Report: Chris Hamman/KL5BF

- Reported concerning preparations for Winter Field Day.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: John Carrington, KL1XM

- Provided an update to Club finances:
- General account: \$2493.00
- Book account: \$1002.62
- Reminded members to pay their dues.

Website Facilitator: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported the website has been updated with the latest information on Winter Field Day, most recent Covid statistics and the latest information concerning distribution of the vaccine.

ARES Report: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported the Matsu Borough is contemplating a pod exercise for the Covid vaccine distribution site at Raven Hall/Alaska Fairgrounds; expounded on the Trailer set up at the EOC site.

Trailer Committee: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Updated current status -- good to go;
- One HF Go-Kit has been checked out for Winter Field Day.

VE Report: Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- Reported 10 people appeared for the testing; 8 passed (7 new Techs, 1 Gen).

Licensing Classes: John Mears, AL7LA

- KL7JFT reported last information is expecting to start a new class in March.

Sunshine Committee: Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- No activity this month;
- Let Tabitha know if there's someone that needs cheering up or has something special to celebrate.

Upcoming Events:

1. 01/30-31/2021 - Winter Field Day, Finger Lake State Park, 10 am Sat. to 10 am Sun.
 - There was discussion on the location, what to bring, be prepared for sub-zero temperatures.
2. 02/09/2021 - MARA Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 pm
3. 02/20/2021 - Virtual Breakfast Meeting, via Zoom, 9-10 am
4. 02/26/2021 - MARA General Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 pm
5. 02/27/2021 - Licensing Exams, Am-Vet Building, 7:00 pm

New Business: None.

Ongoing Business:

1. Ham of the Year Presentation - by Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM was recognized as MARA Ham of the Year 2020.

Personal note from Pam: Since I am currently the MARA Secretary and having to write Minutes recognizing myself (somewhat awkward) with his award, I have decided to use this forum to share my thoughts with the MARA membership. The year 2020 (and it looks like continuing into 2021) has, to say the least, been the most scary, sometimes maddening and adversarial, lonely for some, educational, and learning what is most important in our lives. From the beginning of my license, I have felt a true camaraderie with fellow hams and in these times of stress and uncertainty I feel uplifted and thankful that we have a whole club full of people to not only call friends, but a group with so many expertises from which to learn anything you'd ever want to know about ham radio. My favorite saying: When the cell towers go down, the ham radio antennas go up (actually they are always up)! One of the lessons I learned from my mother is optimism! We will get through these challenging times and the thing I look forward to the most as relates to MARA are in-person General Meetings! We are such a sociable group and we to get back to normal! *I am so honored and humbled to receive this recognition as MARA Ham of the Year. Thank you all.*

Break/Door Prize Drawings: (Pick up at Don's/KL7JFT)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| KL1XM - DeWalt Drill bits | KL4VB - thank you but passed to a paid member |
| KL2S - Spring cleaner | KL4JB - garden nossle |
| KL3MRO - Wire cutters | KL3IT - paint brush |
| KL7H - Tie Wraps | |

MARA extends a big thank you to John O'Rella/KL7LL for his continued support and Door Prize donations over the last seven to eight years.

Program: "21st Century Battery Technology, Ready for Prime Time and Alaska"

By Chris Hamman/KL5BF

- Chris presented the program and initiated discussion with regard to various batteries;
- Recommended the lithium iron phosphate battery pack as one of the best on the market because it can be charged at sub-zero temperatures;
- Attempted to play a U-Tube video by screen sharing, but experienced technical problems; he will email the link to the video to Don to forward to the membership; described the content of the video;
- There was a brief question and answer session on where to find them.

Announcements/Good of the Order:

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Pamela J. Whitehead [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association