



MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
General Zoom Meeting
MARCH 26, 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 and provided call signs:

Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ	Don Bush/KL7JFT	George Strother/KL7GS	Francine Strother/KL7EG
John Carrington/KL1XM	Carol Bush/KL2FA	Dan O'Barr/KL7DR	Craig Bledsoe/KL7H
Betty Carrington/KL1XL	Bridgit Larson/KL4B	Gretchen O'Barr/KL7GO	Kathy O'Keefe/KL7KO
Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM	Shelia Olson/KL3SRO	Ken Hudson/KL2HF	John Ramsey/KD6YKS
Harvey Whitehead/KL3RVW	Mark Olson/KL3MRO	David Stevens/KL7EB	Leah Carling/KL5EG
Sylvan Morgan/KL0WX	Nancy Morgan/KL1EU	Steve Geddes/KL5AH	Arthur Peterson/KL7FXJ

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Following review by screen share:

MOVED George/KL7GS, **SECONDED** Shelia/KL3SRO, to approve the Agenda presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Pam Whitehead, KL3PAM

-- pending.

President Report: Tabitha Sherman/KL4FZ

- Reported that earlier this year she sent a thank you letter to John O'Rella thanking him for donation of all the wonderful door prizes; noted the Board has voted to grant him a life membership in MARA as a token of our appreciation.
- Advised she has a conflict and won't be able to attend the next General Meeting; VP Chris Hamman will chair the meeting.

Vice President Report: Chris Hamman/KL5BF

- Had no report.

Treasurer Report: John Carrington, KL1XM

- Provided an updated report of Club finances:
- Gen Account: \$2996.48; reported status of dues receipts;
- Book Account: \$1028.42; reported received for deposit from John Mears/AL7LA \$450 for books sold; reimbursed John for \$424.20 for 20 books ordered and received.

Secretary's Report: None.

Website Facilitator: Don Bush, KI7JFT

- Reported status of the MARA website; updated the net pages (VHF and HF);
- Posted explanation for the Alaska Emergency Frequency tests (last Saturday of the month) on 5176.5;

ARES Report: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Next emergency exercise will be in June;
- Reported current status of the Skywarn Program -- reports on snow depths are being sent to the Weather Service; encouraged people to sign up, get certified as weather spotters, and join the program; that it

really makes a difference; Weather Service is appreciative that Mat-Su is leading the charge; expounded on the training.

Trailer Committee: Don Bush, KL7JFT

- Reported current status of the Trailer; batteries are in good shape; it's mission-ready;
- Waiting for spring to do some maintenance and training on the operation of the trailer.

VE Report: Ken Hudson, KL2HF

- No report.

Licensing Classes: John Mears, AL7LA

- No report.

Sunshine Committee: Tabitha Sherman, KL4FZ

- One card sent to a very worthy member.

Upcoming Events:

1. 03/27/2021 - Licensing Exams, Am-Vets Building, Wasilla, 7:00 pm
2. 04/12/2021 - MARA Board Meeting, **2nd Monday**, via Zoom, 7:00 pm (Note, not 2nd Weds.)
3. 04/17/2021 - Virtual Breakfast Meeting, via Zoom, 9am-10am
4. 04/24/2021 - Licensing Exams, Am-Vets Building, Wasilla, 7:00 pm
5. 04/30/2021 - MARA General Meeting, via Zoom, 7:00 pm

New Business:

1. Hamfest -- May or September? Membership input welcome.

Following brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have the Hamfest in September to have a better chance at getting past Covid restrictions and easier to find venues; final decision at next board meeting.

2. Looking ahead -- Field Day in June. Participants need to start training.

Field Day is June 26-27, 2021 (same weekend as Motley). There was brief discussion about getting started on trailing. It is hopeful that new members will be interested in participating.

Break/Door Prize Drawings:

Door prize drawings were conducted. Winners were encouraged to pick their prizes up at Don's/KL7JFT's house by the end of April. Winners: KL3PAM, hat; KL7EB, wire strippers; KL3RVW, screw drivers; KL2HF, fire starter, KL1AU, screen cleaner.

Program: Portable Operations - Parks on the Air (POTA) -- Bernie Wimmers/KL4JDF:

- Provided a screen-share slide presentation on Portable Operations -- example: Field Day;
- Check out parksontheair.com website for a list of parks;
- What do you need for POTA?: radio, battery, antenna, logging (laptop, tablet/cell phone, paper/pen);
- Spoke to and instructed on radio choices and antennas.
- Open discussion followed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Pamela J. Whitehead [Electronic signature]

Pam Whitehead/KL3PAM, Secretary
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association