



THE MARA VOICE

MAKING WAVES IN A DIGITAL WORLD

PO Box 873131, Wasilla, AK 99687

website: <http://kl7jfu.com/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/don.bush.3388>

2025 FIELD DAY RECAP

MARA CLUB participated in the ARRL Field Day 2025 on June 28-29 along with our Annual Picnic at the Trunk Road Park and Ride, near Mat-Su Regional Hospital. The Point of Contact for Field Day was Kate Nagibina, KL5MB and Point of Contact for the Picnic was Shelia Olson, KL3SRO

Some of the highlights: 41 people signed in; made 28 contacts including Will Brady, AL9D, making a couple satellite contacts; George Strother, KL7GS, provided a great training of soldering PL259 connectors on RG8 coax; Mat-Su Borough Mayor, Edna DeVries stopped by; fellow hams from Florida showed up and stayed the whole time; hams and/or family members of hams stop by and said they were happy to see field day; there was a license testing session with 4 people attending and 1 passing their exam; and we had great weather especially during the picnic! See pages 5 & 6 for pictures from the event....



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued on page 5

AUGUST

BOARD MEETING 8/6 at 7pm

VE TESTING 8/23 at 7pm

LUNCHEON 8/28 at 11:30am

GENERAL MEETING 8/29 at 7pm

COMMS TRAILER TRAINING 8/29



SEPTEMBER

BOARD MEETING 9/3 at 7pm

SUPPORT TRAILER TRAINING 9/13 at 10am

EMERGENCY EXPO 9/27 at MENARD

LUNCHEON 9/25 at 11:30am

GENERAL MEETING 9/26 at 7pm

VE TESTING 9/27 at 7pm



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MARA Information and History

Contributed from Rosana Eppler, KL7IRE

The Matanuska Amateur Radio Association (MARA) is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization that has been around since 1977.

There were 6 people who created the club (Norm Dietz, KL7IPJ; Milt Souter, KL7IPA; Doug Olive, KL7IKN; John Miller, AL7AA; Mike Eppler, KL7ILA; and Rosana Eppler, KL7IRE. The Club quickly grew to 18 full members and 7 associate members.

The list can be found at <http://kl7jfu.com/founding-members/>. MARA has over 80 members now.

OFFICERS REPORTS

PRESIDENT - Scott McCormick, KL7SLM This year's schedule is outlined on page 4. We hope to see you at the meetings, trainings, and events throughout the year.

VICE PRESIDENT - Ken Hudson, KL2HF Let us know what topics you would like for presentations or trainings. We will do our best to accommodate the requests.

SECRETARY - Shelia Olson, KL3SRO Let me know if you have input for the MARA Voice or what topics you would like us to report on.

TREASURER - John Carrington, KL1XM Membership Dues can be paid in person at a meeting or mailed. Payments can be cash, check, or if by credit card then only through the website by clicking the "Donate" link.

— JOB OPENINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS —
EVENT PLANNER, LICENSING INSTRUCTOR, SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WINLINK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to become versed in winlink and missed the April General Meeting, please contact Don Bush, KL7FJT or Ken Hudson, KL7HF to schedule another training session.

Or attend the ARRL Field Day/MARA Annual Picnic on June 28 at the Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry (MATI), see page 3 for more information.



MOTLEY GROUP 2025



43rd ANNUAL MOTLEY PICNIC / WEEKEND CAMPOUT

JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2025

Being held at the TOLSONA WILDERNESS CAMPGROUND, at Mile 173 of the Glenn Highway. To reserve a spot, you will need to call Cathy directly on 907-717-8705 to grab one of the 13 open sites, let them know you are with the Motley Group.

BRING YOUR RADIOS - TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA ACTIVITIES!! Listen on 146.52 MHz or MOTLEY PICNIC RADIO – 99.9 FM – KMOT FM radio from 9 AM - 10 PM for music and picnic announcements

Below is the tentative daily schedule. Also found on the website <https://motleygroup.kl7.net/picnic>

Thursday

- **10 AM – Setup** – Put up Motley signs, tarps and tables
- **1 – 3 PM Motley Makers Market** – Featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- **4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing**
- **4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing** (ticket sales: 1 – 3 PM)
- **5 PM – Early Bird Meet and Greet** – Soup Supper – Bring snacks to share

Friday

- **10 AM – 3 PM Motley Swap and Shop**
- **1 – 3 PM Motley Makers Market** – Featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- **12 Noon – Brown Bag Luncheon** – Campground pavilion – All are welcome
- **4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing**
- **4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing** (ticket sales: 8:30 AM – NOON and 1 – 3 PM)
- **5 PM – Baked Potato Bar** – Spuds are provided – Bring trimmings to share

Saturday

- **10 AM – 12 PM – Motley Makers Market** – Featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- **10 AM – 1 PM – Motley Swap and Shop**
- **1 – 3 PM – Radio Workshop / Presentation(s)**
- **1 – 3 PM – Card and/or Board Games**
- **4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing**
- **4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing** (ticket sales: 8:30 – NOON and 1 – 3 PM)
- **5 PM – Motley Cookout** – Hamburgers / hot dogs provided – Bring trimmings to share
- **After cleanup – RED LANTERN & MODERATORS OTHER MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS**
- **Group Photo / Chinese Auction / White Elephant Gift Exchange**

Sunday

- **9:00 AM – Farewell Breakfast** – Rolls, muffins, and pastries will be provided

2025 GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

JULY - MOTLEY GROUP PICNIC, TOLSONA WILDERNESS CAMPGROUND
AUGUST - SHORT BUSINESS MEETING & ONSITE COMMUNICATION TRAILER TRAINING
SEPTEMBER - BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER - OFFICER AND BOARD ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER - SHORT BUSINESS MEETING & TRAINING TO BE DETERMINED
DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY



MARA CLUB JOB OPENINGS

- * **LICENSING INSTRUCTOR** - would teach both the technician and general levels of amateur licensing in a classroom setting with updated study guides.
- * **ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR/EVENT PLANNER** - would coordinate the events and activities the club holds or attends each month.
- * **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSON** - would provide cards and flowers to members or families.

Contact MARA Club President Scott McCormick, KL7SLM for more information or if interested in a job.



NETS JOB OPENINGS

OLD TIMERS NET OPERATORS ON 3920 at noon - Contact Toby Reich, KL2T at tobyr35w@gmail.com if interested.

OTHER NET CONTROL OPERATORS - Contact Don Bush, KL7JFT at kl7jft@gmail.com, for more information to provide necessary communications each week to provide alerts and general traffic and be ready in times of emergencies.



"In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death," Senator Wicker

"Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times," said Rep. Pfluger



Communication Trailer set up connected to Support Trailer set up by many folks starting at 1000 hours



GOTA Station Scott McCormick, KL7SLM



Continued on page 6



Picnic time John Carrington, KL1XM and Shelia Olson, KL3SRO the grill masters

Educational Activity by
George Strother, KL7GS —
Proper COAX end soldering



Don Bush, KL7JFT, Craig Bledsoe, KL7H, and Mark Olson, KL3MRO at the comms youngsters on the radio with dad looking on

Another view of the GOTA station,
plus the CERT information table, dis-
cussion after the educational activity
training by George Strother, KL7GS



MARA Club in 2027

Did you know

the MARA Club will be **50 years old in 2027?**

What would you like the golden jubilee celebration to include? Where would you like the gathering to be located? Do you have any pictures you would like to share for the slideshow?? Any memories you would like to share that we put in a keepsake book?

Even though it is three years away, we need to start thinking and planning now.....



NEED EQUIPMENT OR WANT TO SELL SOME ??

CHECK OUT THE SWAP AND SHOP ON

MARA CLUB WEBPAGE <http://kl7jfu.com/swap-and-shop/>

~~~~~

There will be a swap & shop table at

**MOTLEY PICNIC this year!!**

## ELMERS

MARA Club members have the opportunity to connect with Elmers to assist with radio-related projects or learn new skills. To contact our Club Elmers, go to the webpage <http://kl7jfu.com/Elmers/>.

If an Elmer has been a tremendous help and you want others to know, nominate them for the Elmer of the Year award!!

Contact John Carrington at [sniffles@mtaonline.net](mailto:sniffles@mtaonline.net) for more information.

Alaska QSL Bureau  
P.O. Box 520343  
Big Lake, Alaska 99652

Dear

Possibly you may not know about this bureau or how it operates and therefore I will explain. You do not have to be a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), to use this bureau, just make contacts and when asked how to "QSL", say via the bureau. This bureau is an "incoming bureau" only, we receive cards from the various bureaus around the world but we do not forward cards from hams to the various bureaus world wide. Cards received for this purpose will be returned. Please do not return cards to the bureau that you did not make contact with.

The ARRL suggests keeping self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE's) on file with your bureau. However we have found that this is a waste of money because often there is too much or too little postage on the envelopes, or the envelopes are too small. Postal increases also raise havoc with the SASE method too. To avoid this, the "POSTAL FUND" method is used which is the prepayment of stamp(s) and envelope(s). This method has proven to be the best, cost wise. Up to and including two (2) ounces of cards, legal size envelopes are used and our cost is \$0.01 each and the cost to the hams is \$0.01 each. For over two (2) ounces, manila envelopes are used and the cost rate is \$0.03 each. When a mailing is made, the cost of the stamp(s) plus the envelope is deducted from the ham's "postage fund". When the "postage fund" gets low, an informal note will be included with the cards and upon receipt of additional funds, the process continues. The date and amount of received funds are noted in the ham's file. There is no set amount necessary to start one's "postage fund". This is determined by the individual's planned activity.

In all correspondence with this bureau, please give your call letters. The files are set up by call sign first and then name and address. Should a ham decide not to receive QSL cards, please advise in writing and this will also be noted in the ham's file.

Please keep this bureau advised as to any change in address or call letters. Also, any former call letters are greatly appreciated, since some cards received go back a few years. Regardless of where you reside and are using the Alaska call sign, we will forward cards to you. The ARRL "outgoing QSL bureau" service is by far the best to forward cards worldwide, but one must be a member of the ARRL to use this service.

Keep up the good contacts and see you on the air.

Best Regards,  
Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ  
Mgr., Alaska QSL Bureau



## FINAL STRATEGIC PLAN

**CLUB MISSION:** Fostering community, communication, and technical expertise throughout Alaska, the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association is dedicated to promoting the exploration of radio technology, facilitating meaningful connections among enthusiasts, advancing knowledge in the diverse world of amateur radio, providing support for community events with communications, and supporting emergency communications during and after disasters.

**VISION:** Empowering individuals to explore the boundless possibilities of amateur radio, the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association envisions a future where members thrive in a vibrant community, continually expanding their knowledge, skills and camaraderie, while contributing to the broader landscape of technology.

### CLUB GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### Goal 1 – Information Sharing

- Objective 1 – Newsletters – Mukluk Telegraph, MARA Voice
- Objective 2 – Social Media – Website, Facebook, Zoom, Email, Message Board, YouTube

#### Goal 2 – Training with Equipment

- Objective 1 – Hold in-person and zoom
- Objective 2 – In-person on weekends, social media on demand

#### Goal 3 – Public Interaction

- Objective 1 – Make Field Day an Outreach Event
- Objective 2 – Attend Various Community Events – Field Day, Emergency Fairs, POTA, JOTA, GOTA,

#### Goal 4 – Keep Relevant in a Digital Age

- Objective 1 – Provide training videos on social media
- Objective 2 – Have equipment at community events to allow hands-on

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTION ITEMS

1. Hold Monthly Testing Sessions
2. Hold Monthly Meetings
3. Provide Information via Newsletters, Flyers, Website, YouTube
4. Provide Training Sessions at Public Accessible Locations and on Social Media
5. Attend Community Events with Equipment for Attendees to Try



## FINAL STRATEGIC PLAN



### CLUB ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

Palmer Junior Middle School Support  
 Trailer maintenance  
 Trailer equipment install  
 Summer Field Day  
 Winter Field Day  
 HAM OF THE YEAR Award  
 Elmer Award  
 Hamfest  
 JOTA / Girl Scout Encampment  
 Sutton Emergency Fair  
 Willow Emergency Fair  
 Menard Center Emergency EXPO  
 Table with Equipment Demonstrations at Gun Shows  
 Nerd Con  
 DMR/TJs Tower Completion  
 POTA/SOTA  
 COLONY DAYS / 4TH OF JULY PARADES  
 Summer Picnic  
 ALASKA SHAKE OUT  
 PALMER/WASILLA Dog Jog  
 Annual Meeting and Elections

### TRAININGS PROVIDED

Comm Center/Support Trailers  
 Message and Logging Procedures  
 Net Control Procedures  
 ARES Training  
 Winlink HF, VARA, Packet, VHF Training, Digital Mode,  
 HF & VHF, JT65 JT9, PSK, RTTY, PSK31, MT63, CW  
 Antenna Construction  
 SKY WARN/WEATHER SPOTTER  
 GO KITS  
 DMR/D-STAR Radio Training / Deluxe & FLDIGI  
 Packet Radio  
 FRS/GMRS & GMRS REPEATER  
 MOBILE Radio Installations  
 Alternate Power Production  
 Public Service Activity Support  
 ICS Training Courses, 100, 200, 700, 800, 144  
 Satellite Ops Logging Programs, N3FJ Amateur Contact  
 Log, Logger 32, N1MM Logger+, LOTW

## NETS From website <http://kl7jfu.com/nets/>

Contact Don Bush at [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com) with questions or revisions so the website and this page is kept current.

### Repeater Nets, VHF-FM

|           |                                              |                       |                                     |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 2000 hrs 146.43 Mhz Simplex                  | MATSU Old Timers Net  | Open Check ins and discussions      |
| Monday    | 1930 hrs DMR Net, AK TG 3102                 | Statewide Net         | General DMR Discussion              |
| Monday    | 2000hrs 146.58 Mhz Simplex                   | Valley North Net      | Contact: Hal/KLOWX                  |
| Wednesday | 1900hrs 146.52 Mhz Simplex                   | S Central Simplex Net | Contact: Various Freqs. KL7AA/KL7TS |
| Thursday  | 2000hrs 147.330 Mhz Plus Shift, 103.5hz Tone | ARES Net              |                                     |

**This is the main emergency VHF net. You do not have to belong to the ARES group to check in, There are different themes each week, such as Hand Held/Cross Band, Mobile, Red Cross and Emergency Power. Listen for theme at the beginning of each NET. Alternate/backup NET Freq. is 147.30 + shift/141.3hz Tone**

### WINSystem

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              |                                     |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daily                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2200hrs      | 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone | Insomniac Net                                                                                                         |
| It's a Trivia Net. Usually 3 questions & 3 Answers to choose from each question. There's a different Net Controller for every night. Check in 2 weeks in a row with each individual Controller to get on the list. You can also sign up for the questions to be emailed to you each night |              |                                     |                                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1600hrs      | 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone | East Coast Reflector Tech/Check-in Net                                                                                |
| Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1730-1930hrs | 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone | WINSYSTEM Tech Net w/Gordon West, usually for the first hour, Ron WB6IAG "Antenna Specialist" & hosted by Steve N5ZUA |
| Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1930hrs      | 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone | Swap Net following the WINSYSTEM Tech Net                                                                             |

### Packet Nets

|         |                                 |                                                                       |                                      |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Anytime | 147.960 Mhz / simplex 1200 baud | Packet Peanut Gallery (PPG)                                           | Connect to "valley" and type "talk". |
| Anytime | 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud  | Eagle packet has changed to Digital and mailbox system to reach Kenai |                                      |

### Simplex Chat

|           |             |                 |             |                         |            |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| National  | 146.520 Mhz | Mat-Su Valley   | 146.430 Mhz | Trapper Creek/Talkeetna | 146.58 Mhz |
| Anchorage | 146.490 Mhz | Kenai Peninsula | 146.420 Mhz |                         |            |

### HF Nets

|                       |          |                |                            |                                    |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday – Friday       | 0830 hrs | 14.292 Mhz USB | Alaska Pacific Net         | Directed Net                       |
| Monday                | 2000 hrs | 3.920 Mhz LSB  | Willow CERTs Net           | Open check in                      |
| Daily                 | 1800 hrs | 3.920 Mhz LSB  | Alaska Sniper's Net        | Directed Net                       |
| Daily                 | 2000 hrs | 7.093 Mhz LSB  | Alaska Bush Net            | Open check in                      |
| Daily                 | 2100 hrs | 3.933 Mhz LSB  | Alaska Motley Net          | Open check in                      |
| Saturday              | 1000 hrs | 3.920 Mhz LSB  | Alaska Swap Net            | Open check in. Contact: Dean/WL7PM |
| Monday – Friday       | 1200 hrs | 3.920 Mhz LSB  | Alaska Old Timers Net      | Open check in                      |
| 4th Saturday of month | 1000 hrs | 5167.5 Mhz USB | Alaska Emergency Frequency |                                    |

Open check in § 97.401 Operation during a disaster. A station in, or within 92.6 km (50 nautical miles) of, Alaska may transmit emissions J3E and R3E on the channel at 5.1675 MHz (assigned frequency 5.1689 MHz) for emergency communications. The channel must be shared with stations licensed in the Alaska-Private Fixed Service. The transmitter power must not exceed 150 W PEP. A station in, or within 92.6 km of, Alaska may transmit communications for tests and training drills necessary to ensure the establishment, operation, and maintenance of emergency communication systems.

## SKYWARN

MARA ARES is an active participant of the Alaska National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Skywarn program. For additional information, please review the website <https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN>

Contact Don, KL7JFT, [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com) to sign up for local training and involvement in the program.



"Skywarn® and the Skywarn® logo are registered trademarks of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission."

## PACKET RADIO—AKA PuTTY

MARA ARES includes communications via packet or PuTTY during the Thursday night net. Valley Node is on frequency 147.960 and Eagle Node is on 145.010.

To participate, you will need a laptop or desktop computer with the PuTTY program installed and a radio with a TNC or a separate TNC to connect to the node(s).

For further information or attend a training, please contact Don Bush, KL7JFT, at [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com).



"Before, during, and after disasters, CERT volunteer teams perform basic response activities, including checking in on neighbors, distributing information to the public, supporting emergency operations centers, and helping to manage traffic and crowds.

Local CERT programs train and organize teams of volunteers to assist their families, neighbors, co-workers, and other community members.

CERT training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available." Quoted from website <https://ready.alaska.gov/Preparedness/CERT>

Info on establishing a CERT group, please contact EOC Talon Boeve, [talon.boeve@matsugov.us](mailto:talon.boeve@matsugov.us)



## ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Membership costs vary, depending on type and if you add any or all of the QST, On the Air, QEZ, and the National Contest Journal magazines. The ARRL membership fee and their benefits information is at website <https://www.arrl.org/membership#dues>.

If you have the MARA Club Treasurer submit your membership application and fee, then MARA Club receives a percentage. Contact John Carrington, KL1XM, at the general membership meetings.





## MARA PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

### 2024-2025

Name / Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS PRESENTED AT THE GENERAL MEETINGS

Topic and  
Presenter \_\_\_\_\_

Topic and  
Presenter \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE MARA TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS

\_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE / CONTRIBUTE TO OUR HOBBY

Be an Elmer \_\_\_\_\_ Teach / Present topic \_\_\_\_\_

Be a VE \_\_\_\_\_ Program Equipment \_\_\_\_\_ Setup / Take down equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Participate in MARA activities \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in ARES activities \_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas \_\_\_\_\_

FUNDRAISING ITEMS I WOULD LIKE CLUB TO CONSIDER

T-shirts \_\_\_\_\_ Patches \_\_\_\_\_ Decals \_\_\_\_\_ Travel Mugs \_\_\_\_\_ Hat/Lapel Pins \_\_\_\_\_

Water bottles \_\_\_\_\_ Bumper sticker \_\_\_\_\_ Other ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Ken Hudson/KL2HF at [radiohamming@gmail.com](mailto:radiohamming@gmail.com) or Shelia Olson/KL3SRO at [okfam@hotmail.com](mailto:okfam@hotmail.com) or PO BOX 871141 Wasilla, AK 99687