



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>

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PROTECT AMATEUR RADIO

Information found in April Edition of ARRL QST Magazine, page 69; and parts of quotes from website [Pfluger Introduces Bill to Protect Amateur Radio | U.S. Representative](#)

Background: Amateur radio is essential for emergency preparedness, as other forms of communication can easily be disrupted in emergencies and natural disasters. However, current homeowner association rules prevent amateur radio operators from installing outdoor antennas on residential property, potentially hindering access to this critical communication. This legislation would correct that by giving amateur radio operators the right to install their antennas and serve their community.

Specifically, this legislation would: Prohibit homeowner association rules from preventing or banning amateur radio antennas; Clarify the approval process for installing amateur radio antennas; and Give amateur radio operators a private right of action.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued on page 7

MAY

BOARD MEETING 5/7 at 7pm

VE TESTING 5/24 at 7pm

LUNCHEON 5/29 at 7pm

GENERAL MEETING 5/30 at 7pm

*Happy
Mother's
Day*



JUNE

BOARD MEETING 6/4 at 7pm

NO LUNCHEON

NO GENERAL MEETING

FIELD DAY/ANNUAL PICNIC 6/28-29

SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO

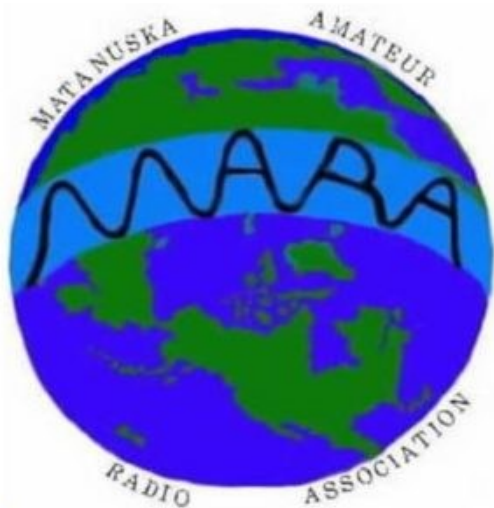
ANNOUNCEMENT

A Celebration of Life will be held
May 10, 2025 for Bob Engberg,
NL7S at his QTH.

For further information, please
contact, Shelia Olson, KL3SRO,
the MARA Club Secretary, by
email okfam@hotmail.com.

IN THIS ISSUE

OFFICER REPORTS	2
PJMS RADIO CLUB	5
IDEA QUESTIONNAIRE	12



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.



SUMMER EVENTS

FIELD DAY 2025

ARRL FIELD DAY



JUNE 28-29

The MARA Club will be setting up for Field Day and our Annual Picnic on June 28 at the Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry (MATI). We will operate from our communications trailer on as many stations as possible, given the atmospheric conditions.

Plus, we will set up a separate **GOTA** station so new ham operators can learn about radios and operate to **Get On The Air** their first time in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

Field Day is open to all amateurs.

MARA Club will be operating from 10AM Saturday until 1PM Sunday and will need several people to help with setup at 10 AM, also to help during the picnic that will include grilled burgers and hot dogs provided by the club and attendees are welcome to bring side dishes to share, and assistance on Sunday at 1pm to take things down. Please reach out to the MARA Board members if you are able to assist.

COME HELP US MAKE **RADIO CONNECTIONS**

MOTLEY GROUP 2025



43rd ANNUAL MOTLEY PICNIC / WEEKEND CAMPOUT

JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2025

At the TOLSONA WILDERNESS CAMPGROUND, at Mile 173 of the Glenn Highway. You will need to call for reservation availability at 907-822-3900 and let them know you are with the Motley Group.

You can participate in some or all of the activities or enjoy the serenity of the location. Important thing is to have a good time. For the tentative daily schedule, tips, and activity rules, go to the new Motley Group website at <https://motleygroup.kl7.net/picnic>

2025 GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY - Business/Reports
FEBRUARY - Presentation/Training
MARCH - Business/Reports
APRIL - Presentation/Training
MAY - Business/Reports
JUNE - Field Day/Annual Picnic

JULY - Motley Campout
AUGUST - Business/Reports
SEPTEMBER - Presentation/Training
OCTOBER - Business/Reports/Election
NOVEMBER - Presentation/Training
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 - coordinate the events and activities the club holds or attends each month.
- * SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSON - provide cards and flowers to members or families.

Contact MARA Club President Scott McCormick, KL7SLM if interested.



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.



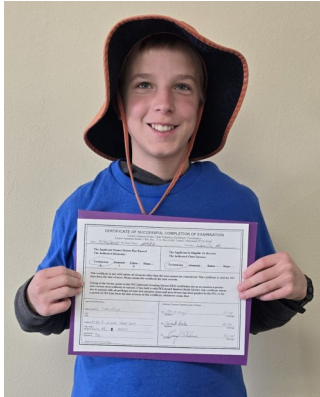
"In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death," Senator Wicker

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

PJMS HAM CLUB NEWS

By William Crume, KL5LD

A couple students in our club passed the technician licensing exam! I have been on personal leave and will resume club activities once I am able.



Congratulations to
Avery White, KL5WS and
Lance Simonson, KL5SV (pictured here)!

Continued on page 1, Legislation Introduced to Protect Amateur Radio

Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11), alongside Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) and U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (MS-R) and Richard Blumenthal (CT-D), introduced legislation to enhance emergency response capabilities and safeguard our communities. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act will ensure that amateur radio operators can continue to play a vital role in ensuring public safety during emergencies by providing critical communication when other systems fail.

"Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times," said Rep. Pfluger.

"As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction," said Rep. Courtney.

"[Citizens] should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death," Senator Wicker said.

"The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires." "When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn't be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies," said Senator Blumenthal.

Rep. Pfluger's legislation is supported by the National Association for Amateur Radio and the Midland Amateur Radio Club. Richard A. "Rick" Roderick, President of the National Association for Amateur Radio said, "The ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio is sincerely grateful to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their reintroduction of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. This legislation will allow approximately 750,000 voluntary Amateur Radio licenses to continue providing reliable emergency communications from coast to coast, free of misguided private land use restrictions that threaten Amateur Radio operations."

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
THE MARA CLUB WEBPAGE

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

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 for more information.

SILENT KEY - AL2V

By Ellen Godden, KL2AE

These are the things that come to mind with Ron and his radio: His struggles to keep an antenna up on top of our windy hill were endless. The last big project the summer of 2024, after he was out of the hospital with his broken pelvis, was trying to put the SteppIR antenna back together again, for the second time, or maybe even the third. He had a crew of friends trying to help him, but bad weather and bad health set in before project completion. Bill Hobart, KL7JV, came over and put up a different antenna on the tower that got Ron on the air, but even it suffered wind damage, and Bill had to come back, climb the tower again, and fix it.

Ron's very last project was to get Bill over to set up a small station in the kitchen so that Ron's friend, John, who also was having radio issues and having to use a walker, could come over with his radio so Ron could help him program it. Ron said they both couldn't fit in the radio room with the walkers so Bill set them up a mini station in the kitchen. His greatest disappointment with amateur radio was that Terry Clark, AL7TC, got more contacts than he did!



To the very end, Ron was a radio enthusiast who just wanted to be on the air making new contacts.

Since he left, I walk through the house from time to time calling Alpha Lima Two Victor, hoping one day for a callback. I know he's out there riding the waves somewhere.

Ron just wanted to have fun on the air!



Continued on page 9

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 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.



"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 joining the Palmer/Wasilla CERT group, please contact Kathy Cappa, kathy@thecappas.com

Info on attending available CERT trainings, please contact Ken Hudson, radiohamming@gmail.com

Info on establishing a CERT group, please contact EOC Talon Boeve, 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.

Alaska QSL Bureau
P.O. Box 520343
BigLake, Akaska 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 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 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.



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 or Shelia Olson/KL3SRO at okfam@hotmail.com or PO BOX 871141 Wasilla, AK 99687