



# 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>

## BE PREPARED

In an emergency situation, do you have what your household needs? Life is very unpredictable - the weather, earthquakes, floods, wildfires (natural or human caused), economy or political arena, workforce, health, any unforeseen emergencies - all factors that can change at any time, leaving a person without the ability to get to the things needed. Within this issue there will be a variety of information to help you become prepared.

You should start with stocking up on the basic needs, like a 72 hour kit. A list from Ready.gov can be found on page 12, from website [https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/ready\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/ready_checklist.pdf). Also, depending on the emergency, the power could be out, so you should have items on hand that would provide light, warmth, and meal preparation, such as wood, generator, candles, lighters, matches, camp stove and fuel. Additionally, connecting to family and friends is very important to determine continued safety needs, and depending on the severity of the emergency, the cell towers will be non-functioning so your cell phone will be nothing more than a paperweight with a built-in flashlight until the battery dies, so you should have the equipment to communication such as a radio, power supply, antenna, laptop with winlink and/or putty. You are in luck, MARA Club is holding a "ham fest" on September 6, more information is on page 11; and trainings with the information is on page 6. Lastly, the Mat-Su Borough is holding an Emergency Expo on September 20, at the Menard Center in Wasilla and will include a variety of booths and raffle prizes opportunities. The flyer with more information can be found on page 8.

## CLUB CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

BOARD MEETING 9/3 at 7pm

HAM FEST 9/6 at 10am

TRAILER TRAINING 9/13

LUNCHEON 9/25 at 11:30am

GENERAL MEETING 9/26 at 7pm

VE TESTING 9/27 at 7pm



### OCTOBER

BOARD MEETING 10/1 at 7pm

VE TESTING 10/25 at 7pm

LUNCHEON 10/30 at 11:30am

GENERAL MEETING 10/31 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 6. 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.



# SILENT KEY KL1XL

**Betty, with a huge heart for bringing people together ... after decades of orchestrating numerous community events and years of welcoming many into ham radio, Betty passed after some much needed rest and will now be keeping the angels busy.**



Betty became a ham October 2005 and utilized the radio as another way to connect people. Each year she brought the community together. Photo above is one of the yearly MARA Club picnics, photo below on the left is our Christmas party one year that Betty decorated all the tables and brought Buddy from Primrose to each activity, photo below right is her well-deserved Ham of Year Award in 2014.



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## 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](mailto:tobyr35w@gmail.com) if interested.

OTHER NET CONTROL OPERATORS - Contact Don Bush, KL7JFT at [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto: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**

## BETTY IN HER ELEMENT—HAPPY TO BE HELP ALL AGES BE RADIO ACTIVE



No matter the location or event, Betty was willing to share her concern to groups of all ages that we should be able to talk on the radio with family and friends during an emergency.

Top row photos are Women in Science event one year. Second row photos are winlink training at Don & Carol Bush' home and a gun show one year at Raven Hall. Photo on bottom row is during an emergency expo one year.

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## 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.....



# BE PREPARED BE BEEBVED

## MARA CLUB TRAINING SCHEDULE

**COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER—AUGUST 29, 7PM**

**VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1125 MAJESTIC VIEW CIR, WASILLA**

**SUPPORT TRAILER—SEPTEMBER 13, 10AM AT MATCOM**

**1800 E PARKS HIGHWAY, WASILLA, IN THE PARKING LOT**

**BOTH TRAILER FULL SET UP AND PRACTICE—SEPTEMBER 20  
AT MAT-SU BOROUGH EMERGENCY EXPO AT MENARD CENTER  
1001 S CLAPP ST, WASILLA**

## 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.



For many years Betty and John were active in Motley Group picnics which included hams from many locations that stay a weekend to discuss radios, equipment, great conversation and delicious food.

Each year Motley Group takes photos using a drone.

One of many potluck dinners at Motley



Betty believed we should all have emergency supplies in our vehicles.

Here are kit contents she recommended at presentations at MARA Club monthly meetings.







# 17th Annual Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo

Saturday September 20, 2025

10 am - 3 pm

Menard Sports Center,  
1001 S. Clapp St. Wasilla

**FREE event with exhibits & activities for all ages**

- New Indoor/outdoor exhibits
- Home & backcountry safety
- Pet & livestock preparedness
- CPR, Stop the Bleed, & First Aid
- Door prizes and giveaways
- Live demonstrations
- Poster contest
- Vendors & food trucks



[READY.MATSUGOV.US](https://www.ready.matsugov.us)

Check the website or Facebook event  
for a schedule of presentations

**Ready, Prep, Go -**  
Learn how at the Expo!  
with  
workshops, presentations,  
and hands on training!





## 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**

### GMRS

**462.600/467.600 PLUS Shift, 103.5 tone. Repeater Channel 17, Call sign WSAC944 located at KL7JFT QTH off 49th and State Street, Across from Colony High School**

### 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.



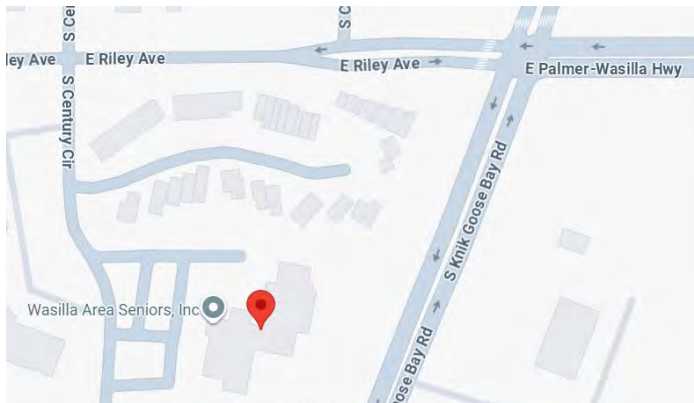
# 2025 HAM FEST

ARRL Division: Northwestern

MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC, PO BOX 871141, Wasilla, AK 99687 Web URL: <http://kl7jfu.com/>

**Date: SEPT 6 2025 Time: 1000-1600**

Event Facility: WASILLA AREA SENIORS CENTER, 1301 S. CENTRY CIRCLE, WASILLA, AK



Exams being given but NOT affiliated with ARRL Talk-In Freq: 147.30 (REPEATER) 146.43 (SIMPLEX)

**COST: Advance/At Door admission fee: \$5.00 - Table fee: \$10.00**  
**(pre-reserve table by contacting MARA Treasurer John Carrington 907-354-4422)**

Point of Contact name: KEN HUDSON, KL2HF - phone (day): 9073450206 - email: [radiohamming@gmail.com](mailto:radiohamming@gmail.com)

## 2025-2026 ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD

### ON OCTOBER 31, 2025



NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, OR BOARD MEMBER ARE OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2025, and can be provided to Shelia, KL3SRO by text/call 907-631-2356 or email [okfam@hotmail.com](mailto:okfam@hotmail.com)

TREASURER is not up for reelection until January.



### Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- ☐ Cash and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



**Ready**

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. ®



## Emergency Supply List



**FEMA**

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



### Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Water and non-perishable food for several days
- ☐ Extra cell phone battery or charger
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps

#### FEMA's Ready Campaign

educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including those from natural hazards and man-made disasters. Ready asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and appropriate responses. Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive several days if an emergency occurs. This list of emergency supply kit items is only a starting point. It is important that individuals review this list and consider the unique needs of their family, including pets, for items to include. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits: one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.



**Ready.**



**FEMA**

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, DC 20472