



# 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>

## LICENSING CLASSES HELD IN OCTOBER

John Mears, AL7LA, will be facilitating ham radio licensing classes every Saturday in October from 6-8pm at WASI the Wasilla Area Senior Center, 1301 S Century Circle, conference room next to the library.

If you are interested in attending, please contact John Mears at 907-745-6835 or Ken Hudson at 907-354-0206. You can purchase textbooks at the class for \$30. The MARA Club will reimburse you, — if you purchase the book, attend the classes, take the exam and pass!!

## OFFICERS REPORTS

**PRESIDENT—**

**Scott McCormick**



**VICE PRESIDENT—**

**Ken Hudson**

I am looking forward to providing educational and fun presentations in the coming year! Please contact me with your ideas/suggestions at [radiohamming@gmail.com](mailto:radiohamming@gmail.com)

**SECRETARY—Shelia Olson**

Meeting note taker and MARA Club Event Planner and also this Newsletter Editor.

If you want to provide info to share with readers, please contact me at [okfam@hotmail.com](mailto:okfam@hotmail.com).



**TREASURER—**

**John Carrington**

Membership Dues can be paid in person at a meeting or mailed. Payments can be cash, check, or credit card on the website by clicking the “Donate” link. This opens a new window where you type in the amount and whether it will be PayPal or credit card.

## ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

To be held on 10/27/23 during the MARA Club Annual General Meeting at 7pm at Wasilla Valley Church of Christ at 1123 Majestic View Circle

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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.



## HAM OF THE YEAR

Here are the criteria for who can be nominated

- Has not won Ham of the Year in the previous five years.
- Contributes to Amateur Radio in the past year
- Attends club meetings as possible during the year
- Provides assistance to other amateurs such as Elmering, becoming an active VE.
- Helps prospective hams join the hobby with Elmering or answering questions on air
- Assists other hams in setting up stations and towers
- Participates in club activities with the community (Comex, Safety Fair, Public Events)

- Participates in club activities such as field day, meeting presentations and maintaining trailers and club equipment
- Participates on a personal level such as net control, contesting, activity on the air
- Promotes Amateur Radio to the public
- Must be a club member in good standing

For Previous year's winners see webpage <http://kl7jfu.com/mara-hams-of-the-year/>

For the nomination form see page 7 or download from website <http://kl7jfu.com/forms/>

**Send completed forms to George Strothers, KL7GS.**



ALWAYS CHECK THE MARA CLUB WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFO ON OUR EVENTS

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

IF ADDITIONAL INFO NEEDED, YOU CAN CONTACT THE MARA CLUB EVENT PLANNER, Shelia at

[okfam@hotmail.com](mailto:okfam@hotmail.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## OCTOBER

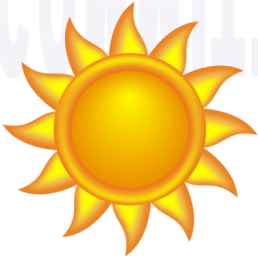
- BOARD MEETING 10/11 at 7pm
- GREAT SHAKE OUT 10/19 at 10:19am
- JOTA 10/20 at 10am (see page 8)
- LUNCHEON 10/26 at 11:30am
- GENERAL MEETING 10/27 at 7pm
- VE TESTING 10/28 at 7pm

## NOVEMBER

- BOARD MEETING 11/8 at 7pm
- NO LUNCHEON IN NOVEMBER
- GENERAL MEETING 11/24 at 7pm
- VE TESTING 11/25 at 7pm



# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## SUNSHINE

If you know of anyone in the MARA club who is under the weather or recovering from illness or injury, please contact Shelia Olson, KL3SRO at [okfam@hotmail.com](mailto:okfam@hotmail.com) to request a card and/or flowers be sent to the person to help cheer them up. We also provide card and/or flowers to the families of Silent Keys.

## VOLUNTEER EXAMINER (VE)

Amateur radio licensing exams are held each month on the last Saturday at the Wasilla Area Senior Center, Inc. (WASI). Ken Hudson, our lead VE, along with others who attend the test sessions, review and score the exams. Once it is determined the person passed the exam, Ken submits the necessary documentation to FAA.



## TRAILER

MARA club has two trailers, one for communication and the other for support/tower. The trailers are kept ready to use for the radio-related communication needs of the club or by request from ARES, Mat-Su Borough, or Statewide for any emergency.



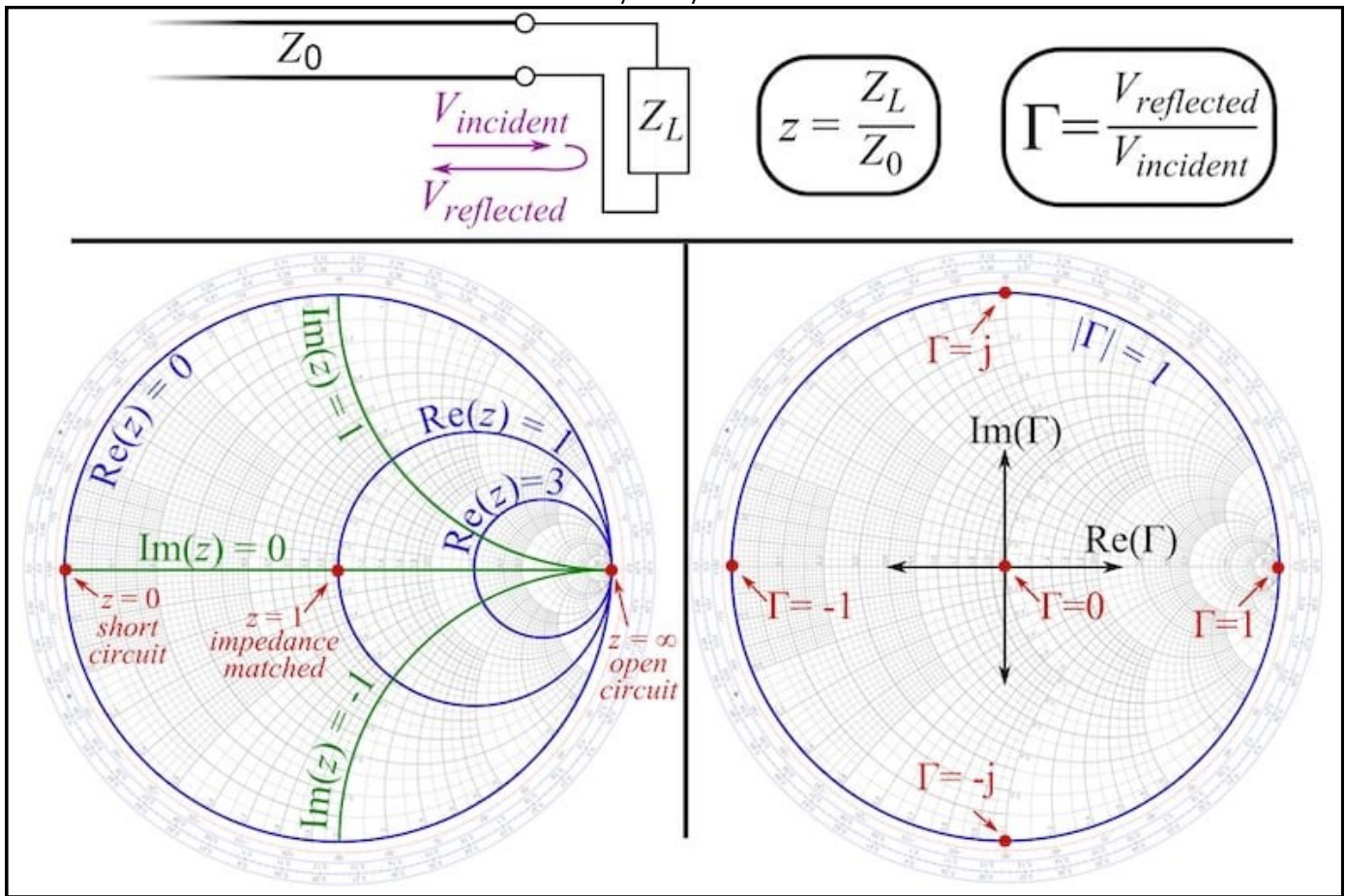
## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

Don Bush, KL7JFT, is the Alaska DEC, and facilitates the MARA ARES efforts in Mat-Su

Valley. Weekly nets are held every Thursday promptly at 8pm on 147.300 or 147.330 or 146.670 depending on the cooperation of the airwaves. More info is on page 5. Monthly training topic will be winlink, with date to be determined. There are also quarterly communication exercises.

To be a member of ARES or obtain additional information, contact Don at [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com).





### Phillip Smith: From Amateur Radio Operator to Creator of the Smith Chart

Contributed by Craig Bledsoe, KL7H, Edited for space

Phillip Smith, an electrical engineer, was tasked in 1931 with taking countless measurements of standing waves. He created the “first graphical solution” that could “compute the input impedance of transmission lines.” He realized his first version was very limited so after enhancements, the chart, pictured above, became the standard.

Even though the computer age has made the necessity of a paper version of this tool basically obsolete, the charts are used to improve understanding of transmission lines and how they behave from an impedance viewpoint while also helping with impedance matching, plus “are incredibly useful for showing how RF parameters behave at one or more frequencies.” In addition to the Smith chart, he developed charts for L-type impedance transformation circuits and he worked on the design of FM broadcasting antennas and invented the “Cloverleaf” antenna.

Full story with many links to more information about the topic can be found at the following website [https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/news/phillip-smith-from-amateur-radio-operator-to-creator-of-the-smith-chart/?utm\\_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/news/phillip-smith-from-amateur-radio-operator-to-creator-of-the-smith-chart/?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)

### ELMERS

MARA 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.

# NETS

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

## Repeater Nets, VHF-FM

Sunday 2000 hrs 146.43 Mhz Simplex MATSU Old Timers Net Open Check ins. Contact Tim/NL7SK  
Monday 1930 hrs DMR Net, AK Statewide 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 South 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)  
Anytime another 2 meter net is in progress. Connect to "valley" and type "talk".  
Anytime 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud  
Anytime another 2 meter net is in progress. Connect to "eagle" and type "talk".  
Anytime 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud  
Open Packet Network for South Central AK. Homer-Anchorage-Matsu Links thru KL7ION-2, KL7AIR-7, KL7JFT-7, KL7GRM-7 (Some Nodes have BBS on -1)

## Simplex Chat

National 146.520 Mhz Mat-Su Valley 146.430 Mhz  
Anchorage 146.490 Mhz Kenia Peninsula 146.420 Mhz

## HF Nets

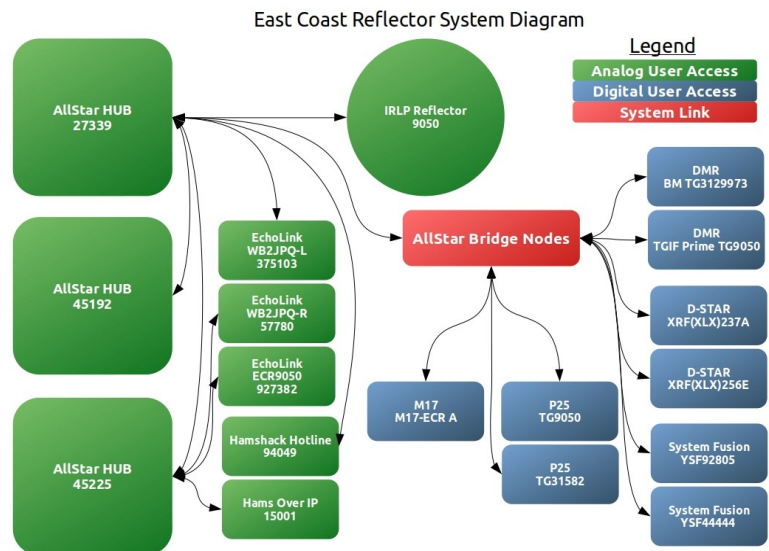
Monday – Friday 0830 hrs 14.292 Mhz USB Alaska Pacific Net Directed Net  
Monday 2000 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Willow CERTs Net Open check in  
Daily 1800 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Alaska Sniper's Net Directed Net  
Daily 2000 hrs 7.093 Mhz LSB Alaska Bush Net Open check in  
Daily 2100 hrs 3.933 Mhz LSB Alaska Motley 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  
Last Saturday of the month 1000 hrs 5167.5 Khz 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.

## Node News is Good News—Contributed by Rich Schwab, KL4RCS

I operate the KL4RCS Repeater. 146.79 w/100 PL it is connected primarily 24hrs to the ECR “East Coast Reflector”. I have back-up power for local emergency use. There are a lot of really good Nets on the ECR including my favorite is the Trivia Net. Need anything else let me know. **All are Welcome.**

Please follow ECR Protocol when on their system, on [www.eastcoastreflector.com](http://www.eastcoastreflector.com).

You can contact Rich at [KL4RCS@gmail.com](mailto:KL4RCS@gmail.com)



Additional info about ECR found on youtube <https://youtu.be/OmsPakRwfaE?si=hmgRZeSzJpELRt3h>

# OTHER WAYS WE MAKE WAVES

## HamWAN Taken from <https://hamwan.org/>

A modern, multi-megabit, IP-based, digital network for amateur radio use!

HamWAN, a non-profit organization (501c3), that is developing best practices for high speed amateur radio data networks. So far, HamWAN networks have been used for things like low-latency repeater linking, real-time video feeds from distant locations, serving APRS I-gates, providing redundant internet access to emergency operations centers, and more.

Any licensed radio amateur in the service area can connect their shack directly to the network with just a small investment in equipment and no recurring cost. Since many traditional uses for Internet at home are not compatible with [Part 97 rules](#), this won't replace your home Internet connection. However, it works and acts just like one.

## FT8 or Franke & Taylor 8

Taken from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FT8>

A frequency shift keying digital mode of radio communication used by amateur radio operators worldwide. Released on June 29, 2017, by its creators Joe Taylor, K1JT, and Steve Franke, K9AN, along with the software package WSJT.

FT8 is utilized on 20 meters to communicate on HF amateur bands and provides the ability to communicate in unfavorable environments such as during low sun spot numbers, high RF noise, or during low power operations. The signal processing technology is able to decode signals with a signal to noise ratio as low as  $-20$  dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth, which is significantly lower than CW or SSB.

## 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.



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**WEATHER.GOV®**

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"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 training or joining a CERT group, please contact Kathy Cappa, [kathy@thecappas.com](mailto:kathy@thecappas.com)



"is a network of amateur radio and authorized government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. ... built, operated and administered entirely by licensed "Ham" volunteers. ... supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in ... emergency and disaster relief communications. ... capable of operating completely without the internet --automatically--using smart-network radio relays.

Licensed Winlink operators/stations use both amateur radio and government radio frequencies worldwide."

Quoted from <https://www.winlink.org/>

**Training to be provided soon.....contact Don Bush, [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com) to sign up.**

## ARRL MENTOR OF THE YEAR

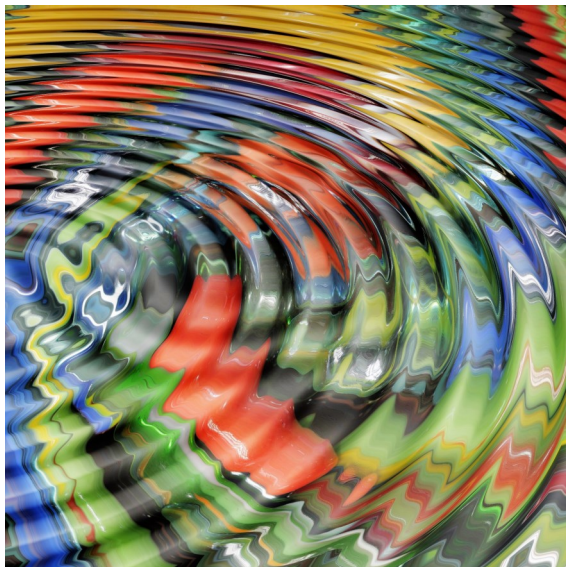
ARRL has a Mentor recognition program with the belief that—

"Mentoring has long been the backbone of Amateur Radio. While technology constantly evolves, the human interaction between hams will not be replaced and will always remain one of the hobby's strongest traditions. As licensed hams we are all ambassadors of Amateur Radio and we should always be looking at ways in which we can welcome newly licensed hams and project a positive image that will attract others to ham radio." Quoted from <http://www.arrl.org/mentor-award> where you will also find the form to download and present.





# RIPPLES



# FROM OUR WAVES

## 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).

## JOTA-JOTI

The world's largest digital Scout event taking place online and over the air. The educational event brings together more than 2 million Scouts every year for a weekend in October.

Young people can learn about communications technology and connect with fellow Scouts from over 174 countries. <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

MARA ARES provides the local scouts with hands-on communication experience from October 20-21 at the at the Scout Camp Gorsuch at Mirror Lake, 22700 Camp Gorsuch Rd, Chugiak. Trailers will be set up on Friday at 1000 and will operate Saturday until tear down Saturday evening around 1600.



Those interested in helping with driving, set up, take down, and helping scouts earn the patch shown to the left, should contact Don Bush, at [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com).

Hope to see you all there!!





**MARA PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**2023-2024**

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 P.O.BOX 871141 Wasilla, AK 99687