



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>

ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At the MARA Club Annual General Meeting scheduled for October 25, 2024, elections will be held for Board Officers and Board Directors. The meeting will be at Wasilla Valley Church of Christ at 1123 Majestic View Circle beginning at 7pm. Nominations are open for all the positions, criteria and descriptions paraphrased below from the MARA Club Bylaws. The number of board directors is determined by the total of club members.

To be eligible to be a board officer or director, you must be a paid member in good standing. Membership Dues can be paid in person at a meeting or mailed. Payments can be cash, check, or credit card on the website.



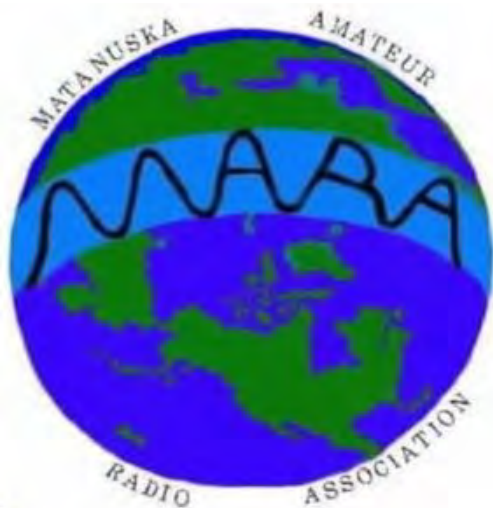
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CRITERIA AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Directors - shall be at least 18 years old, a member of the club, and a licensed amateur radio operator during his/her directorship. The initial board will be 5 people with additional people for every 20 club members with a maximum number of 10 directors. (Article 3, #1) The new board will meet right after the annual meeting. All other board meetings will be held at such place and time as the board chooses. (Article 3, #5a)

Officers - The members shall elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, who along with the past president will consist of the primary board members. (Article 4, #1) Each Officer will hold office from the date of the annual meeting they are elected into office until a successor has been elected and qualifies. (Article 4, #2)

President - The president shall be the chief executive officer, shall have the responsibility for the general management of club affairs. The president shall preside at all meetings and conduct the meetings according to the rules adopted, enforce observance of the by-Laws and rules, carry out the resolutions and regulations established by the board of directors, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of the president. (Article 4, #3a)

Vice-President - The Vice President shall have all the powers and functions of the president, perform such duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors from time to time. In addition, the vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the absence of the latter and shall act as program chairman. (Article 4, #3b)



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.

FROM ARRL DIVISION DIRECTOR

It was great to visit with all the folks at the MARA Hamfest this year. I just wish I could figure out a way to stay longer. Flying up on Friday and back on Sunday makes it hard to take a breather, but then again, it's a "work trip" right.

It's nice to see such an active club. I really appreciate all the members that offered support for the work we do on the board. It is work, and at times, not the most fun job, but at the end of the day we have to look to the future and make decisions on what is best for the overall organization. I do fully believe that without the league we would not have the Amateur Radio service we have today.

Those who know me, know that I am always (well almost always) available for an email or phone call. Michael and I try to keep the newsletter full of both big and small items going on with the ARRL. And I'll put out a direct request to the Division news when the club has an event or activity going on. It is a great (and free) way to advise all your fellow Ham radio operators about it.

73 for a fantastic fall season and I look forward to making another trip to the Hamfest in the future.
Mark, KB7HDX

Mark J. Tharp
ARRL Director, Northwestern Division
kb7hdx@arrl.org 509-952-5764



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



OCTOBER

BOARD MEETING 10/9 at 7pm
JOTA 10/19 at 9am (see page 7)
LUNCHEON 10/24 at 11:30am
GENERAL MEETING 10/25 at 7pm
VE TESTING 10/26 at 7pm

NOVEMBER

BOARD MEETING 11/13 at 7pm
NO LUNCHEON IN NOVEMBER
VE TESTING 11/25 at 7pm
GENERAL MEETING 11/24 at 7pm



PJMS HAM CLUB NEWS

By William Crume, KL5LD

Hello,

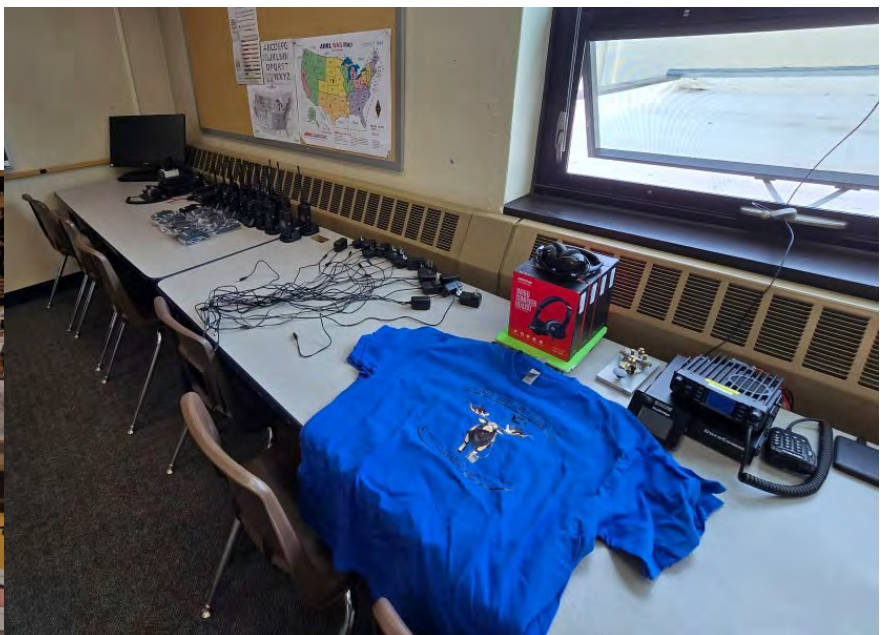
Our club class starts on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. We just got the coax installed by our school maintenance, and now we just need to put antennas up. So hopefully Scott McCormick, KL7SLM, will be able to help me this week with that.

We just got a scholarship from Ham Radio Prep to give all the students free access to both their tech and general courses, so that is nice. That's all I got for now.



New PJMS Ham Club T-shirt, their club meeting area in room 212 at PJMS with their equipment and study guides.

Looks great!! We look forward to the new licensed hams this year!

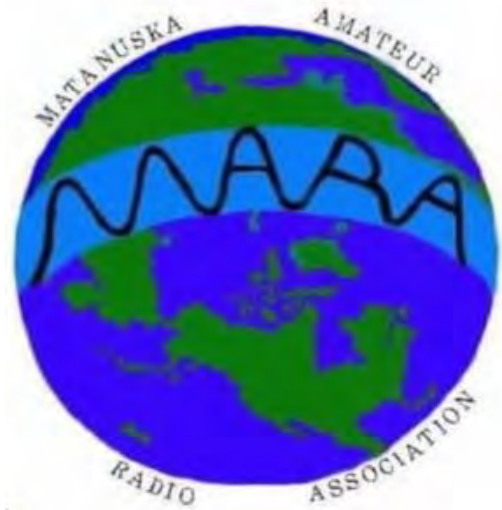


MARA Club in 2027

Did you know

that 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.....



NOMINATION TIME

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 12** or download from website <http://kl7jfu.com/forms/>

Completed forms to Shelia, okfam@hotmail.com

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.

Secretary - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting as well as the minutes of the General and Annual membership meetings, have custody of the seal of the club and affix the seal to the documents duly authorized by the Board of Directors, and serve all notices as necessary, and maintain all books and records of the club. (Article 4, #3c)

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall have care and custody of all funds of the club, shall deposit funds in the name of the club in bank accounts determined by the Board of Directors, shall sign and execute all contracts in the name of the club, and authorized to sign checks. The treasurer term of office shall be January 1st to December 31st each year. (Article 4, #3d)

Activities Director (Event Planner) - The activities director shall organize activities throughout the year for the club as approved by the Board to enhance the members' knowledge and skills, encourage new stations to the club by providing the activities information to the club newsletter editor, uphold the reputation of the club and provide outstanding amateur radio activities in the community. (Article 4, #3e) The Event Planner has been the club Vice President in the past and is currently part of club Secretary position. The duties of the Event Planner can be a separate board member's duties.

Newsletter Editor - MARA Voice Editor - The current club Secretary creates the editions, the board reviews and approves each edition before it is distributed via email, social media, and print. Article submissions or article ideas are welcome at any time.

**ALL MARA CLUB MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE BOARD**

PRESIDENT—

Scott McCormick, KL7SLM

I want to continue the club's connection in our community with the various modes of communication—voice, cw, digital.

I ask that members chair the planning on the club's events

VICE PRESIDENT—

Ken Hudson, KL2HF

I try to provide educational and fun presentations.

Please contact me with your ideas or suggestions for presentations at radiohamming@gmail.com

I am also the MARA club lead VE.

**OFFICERS
REPORTS**



SECRETARY—

Shelia Olson, KL3SRO

Meeting note taker, MARA Club Event Planner (help with planning club events is welcomed), and the Newsletter Editor.

If you want to provide info to share with readers, please contact me at okfam@hotmail.com.

TREASURER—

John Carrington, KL1XM

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.

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 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 FCC.



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.

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.

JOTA-JOTI (JAMBOREE ON THE AIR/INTERNET)

Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet is the world's largest digital Scout event taking place online and over the air. This 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. To register and gain more information go to website <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

MARA ARES will provide the local scouts with hands-on communication experience on October 19, 2024, at Scout Camp Gorsuch at Mirror Lake, 22700 Camp Gorsuch Rd, Chugiak. Attendees will set up "go-kits" and other types of portable stations at 0900, making contacts on HF, DMR, possibly D-star, and packet with other portable stations in their vehicles, tents, campers and inside the building, then clean up at 1600.

Those interested in participating with setting up go-kits, making the contacts, helping scouts earn their patch, and help with clean up, should contact Don Bush, at kl7jft@gmail.com.

Hope to see you all there!!



Alaska QSL Bureau
P.O. Box 520343
BigLake, 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 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

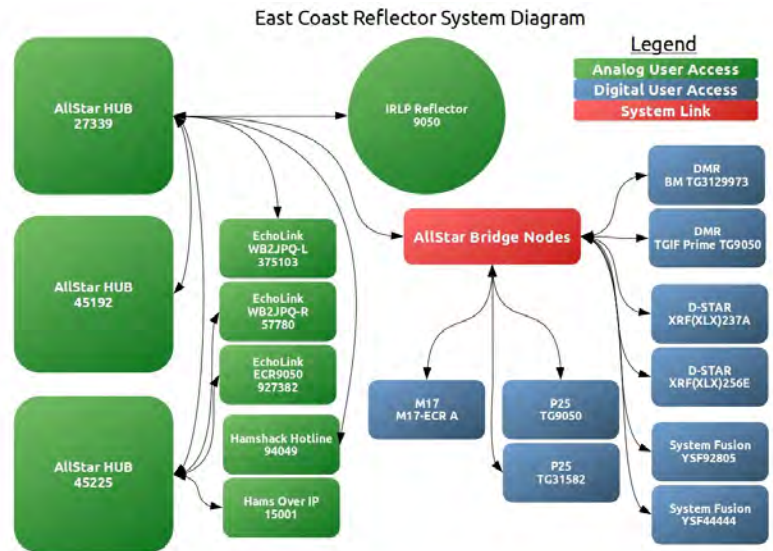
Node News is Good News—

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.

You can contact Rich at 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 to sign up for local training and involvement in the program.



SKYWARN
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



“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 to sign up.

**NEED EQUIPMENT OR WANT TO
SELL SOME AND MISSED THE
HAMFEST??**

**CHECK OUT THE SWAP AND
SHOP ON THE CLUB WEBPAGE**

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

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)
Anytime another 2 meter net is in progress. Connect to "valley" 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, KL7XZ (Some Nodes have BBS on -1)

Anytime 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud Eagle packet has changed to Digital and mailbox system

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.



2024 MARA HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Nominee: _____

Call sign: _____

Due date: **December 15, 2024**

How long has your nominee been a Ham? _____

What makes this Ham your nomination for Ham of the Year? What has he or she done that makes MARA and our hobby better? (Attach separate sheet if necessary)

Name of person making nomination: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Call sign: _____

Print and Submit nomination for receipt not later than ****12/15/2024**** to:

MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSN (MARA)
Attn: Shelia Olson/KL3SRO
PO Box 873131
Wasilla, AK 99687

or deliver in person to Shelia or email okfam@hotmail.com or deliver in person to Ken or email radiohamming@gmail.com



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