



MAARS Club Meeting Minutes

12 January 2024

Officers in Attendance:

President – Dave Mills – **KD0AZG**

Vice Pres. – Matt Hale – **KF0ISO**

Treasurer – Suzanne Asbury – **W0MMA**

Secretary – Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**

~~M.A.A.R.S. VE ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Jim Foster – **KS0VO**~~

14 in Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 18:30 hrs. by Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** Cub President

Meeting began with introductions

Officer Reports:

President Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** Began meeting with introductions.

Treasurer Report – Suzanne Asbury – **W0MMA** reviewed the December 2023 Treasurer's Report as published 31 December. Forecasted expenditure; Club P.O. Box annual fee in March 24. The cost of the P.O. Box will increase in cost from 2023 however the new annual fee is unknown at this time. Vice Pres. – Matt Hale – **KF0ISO** as per Constitution has reviewed books and 2023 Year End Report and looks to be in order and in good standing. Matt praised Suzanne and thanks her for her service to the club and attention to detail in keeping our club financial records in order.

Old Business:

M.A.A.R.S. NET Control position is still available for the first Tuesday of the month weekly nets. Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** is temporarily filling the position until filled.

Dave Mills – **KDOAZG** to Jon Klimek – **KEOMHK** discontinue pursuing the Manhattan Public Library as a meeting location.

Jon Klimek – **KEOMHK** advises that the S-COM 7330 has been discontinued, no longer in production and is not producing newer models. Jon has emailed and phoned the company to inquire about service and repair of the controller with no response. There was discussion to continue trying to contact the company for an update at the next meeting.

Jason Johnson – **KBOEOD** made statements that the Motorola Quantar Machine in the Ka-Comm Inc. site, a multi million dollar facility should not have a “Baofeng style” or inferior or questionable build quality piece of equipment installed or coupled with the Motorola Quantar Machine compromising the communications of the statewide emergency management and mutual aid systems. If a controller is to be installed, we need to purchase and install a Plug n’ Play controller compatible with or a Motorola controller. Jeff Rhoads – **KD0KKD** subject matter expert in emergency communications and but not limited to Motorola radio equipment validates Jason’s concerns. Jeff will inquire with colleges in the communications field in order to locate a Motorola Voice Management Module which will provide Scripted Voice Announcements, i.e. Voice announcement of KS0MAN repeater, Manhattan, Kansas etc.

Mike Asbury – **W9MPA** agrees with statements above and suggests to “Junk” the S-COM 7330 controller.

Jon Klimek – **KEOMHK** defended the S-COM 7330 as an American Made and a quality piece of equipment when it was “gifted” to M.A.A.R.S.

Jason Johnson – **KBOEOD** made statements that rather than attempting to repair the S-COM 7330 rather use the \$200. for bench time, repair parts and round-trip shipping, putting the monies towards the purchase of a Plug n’ Play controller compatible with or a Motorola controller.

Vote –

(4) FOR spending time to continue to research and look towards repairing the S-COM 7330.

(7) AGAINST “Chunk-it”

Mike Asbury – **W9MPA** question asked “What is a Controller useful for”

Jon Klimek – **KE0MHK** explains that it will allow for Voice Alerts. Pre-Scripted messages to include upcoming event reminders, meeting reminders, as well as link up to 3 additional repeaters i.e. current repeater to the future 440/70cm repeater at the Shurle Sign location.

Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** Backup Motorola Quantar Machine with failed Onan™ power supply update.

Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**, Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** has the replacement power supply made in Mexico, not a problematic prone to failure Onan™ branded one. It will now be replaced bench tested and programming and configurations verified.

Mike Asbury – **W9MPA** asks the question “How the power supply is replaced/installed.” Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**, one top and one bottom screw securing the server rack configuration. It then slides out and the new one slides in a cardslot with the contacts connecting in the back.

Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** has reserved the Senior Center for the first Friday of the month for remainder of the year. There is no fee to utilize the facility but has a few housekeeping and rules. No alcohol or smoking in the building or on the groups. Smoking is allowed on the public sidewalk. Dave did pay \$25.00 in the Clubs’ M.A.A.R.S. name not requiring reimbursement, but as a donation to the club. The membership adds M.A.A.R.S. to the Senior Center’s website giving the club more visibility. The Senior Center is willing to help with the opportunity to host Amateur Radio presentations to help the public better understand who M.A.A.R.S. is and what we offer and are about.

All members and guests in attendance were agreeable that they were satisfied with the new location. The Senior Center is a handicapped accessible (parking, ramps, handrails, bathrooms, pushbutton to open doors), well light, with many amenities, AV equipment to include large format TVs, PA system for classes and presentations, kitchen area, plenty of large round table and comfortable padded seat and seat back chairs.

Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** asks about the location choice of the Christmas Party gathering held at Pizza Ranch. No comments.

New Business:

Matt Hale – **KF0ISO** Winter Field Day, Matt passed out a “Draft” flyer outlining the 5Ws of the event. FT8 is welcomed to be used at the event however it is not a “recognized score-able mode” Matt requests the permission to utilize the KS0MAN callsign for the event.

Johnson – **KB0EOD**, Submission of a request for the Keats Park building from Riley County if the desire is to utilize the location sooner than later as it is first come-first serve.

Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** Did the club want to pursue Keats Park or an alternate location. Yes

Matt Hale – **KF0ISO** Differing from Field Day 2023 with only (1) station more than (1) station and mode will be welcomed being mindful of band of each separating one another utilizing internal frequency deconfliction as not to flood RF into another operators “radio front end” i.e. JS8 Call, RTTY, Voice, CW. Operations would be conducted from inside vehicles or running coax under doors or out of windows from i.e. Keats Park. Matt asked the members in attendance if there was a desire to participate from an indoor vs, outdoor location. There was no concern about not operating from a hardened location. Fairmont Park as illustrated in the flyer would be the location beginning 1200(L) until Darkness.

<https://winterfieldday.org/>

Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**, Motion to approve Matt Hale – **KF0ISO** request to utilize the KS0MAN callsign for the event. Approved

Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**, Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** has the INOP Yaseu 440/70cm repeater that Farren Constable – **KB0AZJ** took out of service. Updates will be presented at future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 19:16 hrs

Nothing Follows

Mike Stewart – **N0KSU** utilized the Senior Centers’ provided large TV monitor and lectern to present a well rehearsed and prepared 10 meter Amateur Band presentation.

Links Mentioned in 10m Repeater Presentation

DX Heat - Propagation Indicators, Band Activity

<https://dxheat.com/dxc/>

Sporadic E Map

<https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Frec=MUF&Lan=E&Map=NA>

QRZ

<https://www.qrz.com/>

RepeaterBook - Search by Country and Band, e.g. "US and Canada", "10m"
(Also, this webpage has link to their FREE official RepeaterBook phone app.)

<https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/NationSearch.php>

Jon Klimek – **KEOMHK** streamed the Official Business portion of the M.A.A.R.S. meeting and
Mike Stewart – **NOKSU** 10 meter Amateur Band presentation with an average of (4) and as high
as (7) virtually attending via Skype™.

Nothing Follows

Manhattan Area Amateur Radio Society (MAARS)

Winter Field Day

January 27th & 28th 2024

CQ, CQ, CQ...

During Winter Field Day you can:

- * Set up a remote station & antenna
- * Operate outdoors, in a trailer, or at home
- * Operate cw, digital or SSB
- * Participate in POTA at the same time.
- * Earn bonus points for setting up outdoors, using alternative power or setting up field antennas.

More details, resources and the PDF field packet is available on our website.

For more information visit
www.winterfieldday.org

Local Information:

Everyone is welcome. Come join us and see HAM Radio in action!

WHERE:
Fairmont Park Manhattan, KS
GPS Coordinates:
39.1796, -96.5483

WHEN:
Saturday, January 27th
1200hrs-dark

Questions?
Contact: Matt, KF0ISO
matthew.hale0341@gmail.com

Participate and
download our
unique certificate





DEC 2.6°

created using <https://www.map.army>
and OpenStreetMap background map