



MAARS Club Meeting Minutes

11 AUG 2023

Officers in Attendance:

President – Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ**

Vice Pres. – Craig Moore – **WN0KS**

Treasurer – Suzanne Asbury – **W0MMA**

Secretary – Jason Johnson – **KB0EOD**

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

19 in Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 18:32 hrs by Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** Club President

Meeting began with introductions

Officer Reports:

President and Vice President – NSTR

Treasurer Report – Suzanne Asbury – **W0MMA** read the July 2023 Treasurer's Report as published 01AUG23.

Old Business: NSTR

New Business:

Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** distributed copies of the **The Glen Rubash Memorial M.A.A.R.S. Member of the Year** nomination sheets in August as per the award rules, to be reviewed in September.

Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** Similar to the 2m beam and 20m wire antenna builds, Ryan introduced a proposed Antenna Build Project consisting of a Wolf River Coil type build consisting of 3D printed parts and up to a 102” stainless steel whip antenna to be used in confined spaces such as apartment balconies, Parks of the Air (POTA) with or without a removable capacitance hat. The tapped HF antenna coil is easy to use, easy to install, easy to maintain and easily changes operating frequency, allowing a single antenna for multi-band operation. It is similar to the popular screwdriver antenna. A length of wire in a tree could be used in lieu of a whip antenna. Club members fielded questions and commented on the project showing interest. Antenna Build Night would be a separate date not to be combined with a monthly meeting. Build Night could be at the Keats Park or the Manhattan Public Library.

A back brief on the Hutchison, Kansas Hamfest was given.

Dave Mills – **KD0AZG** asked if the old Scomm controller should be rebuilt or purchase new equipment for the new repeater site when the time arrives. Mike Asbury – **W9MPA** suggests that when the time arrives to purchase new equipment vs. using older equipment. Discussion will be revisited when it gets closer to the installation of hardware. The progress of the Riley County Emergency Management (RCEM.) M.A.A.R.S. 2m repeater on the (Drake Tower) is still at The Riley County Councilors’ Office, preparing legal documents for future review between RCEM and M.A.A.R.S. Current forecast is mid 2024 completion date.

Question was asked as to the progress of the Pico Balloon Project. Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** answered the A&A.

Mini Field Day was discussed by the participants in attendance at POT#2 Lake. 5 Amateur Radio operators made contacts on 15, 40 and 20 meters using CW, Phone, and VARA. VARA, is a type of radio modem that is used for transmitting and receiving data over amateur radio networks. Suzanne Asbury – **W0MMA** provided cinnamon rolls.

Ryan Benteman – **AD0TZ** re-welcomed first time attendees, Josh and Lynette Bayless which again introduced themselves to the club and expressed their interest in amateur radio, M.A.A.R.S., the use of amateur radio in this region and what brought them to our meeting tonight. Discussions continued with such events as Field Day, Winter Field Day and The Kansas QSO Party.

Meeting adjourned at 19:23 hrs **Nothing Follows**