

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2024 April 22

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2024 April meeting was held as a combination of an in-person meeting at the United Steel Workers Union Hall, 339 South Hall Rd., Alcoa, TN, and a Zoom Video Conference. Announcements for the meeting were made during the KK4XA Morning Net and throughout the day by computerized voice on the W4OLB SMARC repeater.

- The SMARC April meeting was called to order at 1902 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL - *ed.*]
- Thirty nine (39) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with eleven (11) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Andrew expressed thanks to Steve [W4SDS] for the use of his “hot spot” and cellphone connection and to the United Steel Workers Union for the use of the Union Hall .
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the March SMARC meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2024 March Club meeting are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes will be available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org> – *ed.*]
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club. All quantities refer to sums as the meeting date of the club:

1) Operating Fund	\$3,427.61
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,930.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$12,305.61

The sum of the funds, \$18,663.22, is split between two accounts: \$10,418.04 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$8,245.18 in a Certificate of Deposit account with Oak Ridge National Laboratory Federal Credit Union (ORNL FCU).

The membership of the Club increased by three (3). The new members are: James [KQ4PGB – General Class]; James [KW4SSN – Technician Class]; and Linda [KJ4TZZ – Technician Class]. Please join the officers in welcoming these new members to SMARC.

- Charles [K4BAL] gave the Health and Welfare report. Brian [KM4JCH] was in the hospital. Bill [KI4FZT], who was a regular on the KK4XA Morning Net until recently, has become a SK [Silent Key – *ed.*].
- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager for the Club, said the average number of check-ins for Thursday Evening Net is once again twenty five (25) over the last four (4) weeks. The Club could use a few more Net Control Stations (NCS) for the Thursday Evening Net and the KK4XA Morning Net. If you are interested, please contact Mike at his email address on qrz.com. [If that K9JU lid from Chicago can lead the Morning Net, anyone can do it – *ed.*]
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the report for the Training and Education Committee. Bob told the membership that there are plans for one day classes to end with license exams. Both Technician

and General Class license sessions are being considered. Bob still wants the membership to send to him a list of what topics would be of interest to the Club to increase knowledge of Amateur Radio.

- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the Repeater Upgrade Project Phase II, the 146.655-MHz New Repeater (hardware), has been installed at the Reservoir Hill site. A sheet with operating instructions is available for the members. Assisting Kurt in the installation were Bob [KK4XA] and Kelley [KR4FK]. Jordan [NA4WX] and Jonathan [KC8CPW] installed a WinLink node. The present hardware will be reserved off site as back up equipment. Thank you, Kurt, for all of the hard work you put into this project. Thanks to those who were at the site for the long hours of the hardware installation.
- Bob [KK4XA], sans Jordan [NA4WX] at this meeting, reported for the Field Day Committee. He said all of the “station master” positions have been filled. Tentatively the Club will enter in the 4A category with stations as follows: 1) 80M/40M SSB; 20M/15M SSB; Digital (all bands); and, CW (all bands). The GOTA, “Get On The Air,” station will be W4W by the SkyWarn personnel.
- Jeff [N4POD], as the Public Information Officer, was not present for any report. Jeff is the editor of a Club Newsletter. If any member has a story to be put into writing for the benefit of the Club, please consider composing one. Don’t worry about your grammar, as it may be corrected, just give us an idea what you are up to with respect to Amateur Radio. Did you buy a new radio, antenna or accessory. Let us know as someone may be thinking along the same lines. [Yeah, and how many members really want to read about the Chicago Redneck Yankee writing about DX-this and DX-that. Sheesh! - *ed*]
- Jordan [NA4WX] was not present to report on the new Club website. The old URL, <http://w4olb.org/>, now works for the new site.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave a description of “Steam Days” at the Chandler Farm on Alfred McCammon Rd. Bob would like for the Club to have Special Event Station on the air from the event and has secured permission from the owner. The date is Saturday, May 04. Please contact Bob if you are interested in participating.

There was no other old business. The following are new business items for the Club.

- Andrew proposed that the Club might purchase a “hot spot” connected to the internet via cellular phone service. T-Mobile has a plan that would run \$10.00/month. Mike [VP - K4MJF] will donate a hot spot, with 30-GB of storage, for use at Club meetings. This allows those members unable to travel to the meetings to participate as with the present hot spot and service provided by Steve [W4SDS]. David [N1ESK] made a motion to further investigate the T-Mobile deal; the motion to seconded by Mike [K4MJF]. There were no objections. Therefore, the motion to further investigate the T-Mobile hot spot plan is passed.
- Andrew asked if the Club would authorize the purchase of a decal for the ARES trailer depicting the logo of SMARC. The cost would be \$55 of two (2) 8” diameter decals, one (1) for each side of the trailer. Dave [N9KMY] made the motion to purchase two (2) 8” diameter SMARC logo decals for the ARES trailer; Bill [KY4KB] seconded the motion. After a short discussion, the vote had no deserting votes. The motion to purchase two (2) 8” diameter SMARC logo decals for the ARES trailer was passed. [By the way, the ARES trailer was

formerly owned by SMARC – *ed.*]

- David [N1ESK] asked about publishing the member roster of the Club. If approved, the list would contain only the last name, first name and call of each member; no other information, e.g., address or phone number, would be available. Should the list be added to the Club's website or private mailing (smarc@groups.io)? Dave [N9KMY], as former Treasurer, quarterly sent the abbreviated list to the members as an email attachment. After this discussion, Bob [KK4XA] made a motion to generate the roster and determine a method by which to distribute it to the membership and to maintain the privacy of members; the motion was seconded by Bill [KY4KB]. Since a discussion had already occurred, the motion to generate a roster of members and determine a method by which to distribute it to the membership and to maintain the privacy of members was passed unanimously by those present.
- In the past, the Club has held a tailgate and picnic event in April. In lieu of the event, Dave [N9KMY] proposed a picnic at one of the four (4) parks in the Maryville/Alcoa area. Mike [K4MJF] mentioned it could be thought of as a “meet and greet” affair similar to that of the Sevierville club did earlier this year. The date, location and time are to be determined but will most likely occur in the Fall.
- Andrew asked for any other new business. There being none voiced by the membership, the business portion of the SMARC 2024 April 22 meeting was closed. A ten (10) minute break ensued at 1955 ET and ended at 2005 ET.
- Tim Berry [WB4GBI], who has assembled and maintains many repeaters in the area, ham, business and GMRS, gave a video presentation on “The Reconstruction of the Top Of The World Tower.” This very interesting talk commenced at 2010 ET and lasted until 2108 ET. Thank you so very much, Tim, for your detailed description of what happened after the high wind damage and how the tower and the site were vastly improved

The 2024 April 22 meeting of SMARC ended at 2110 ET. Thank you to all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by SMARC Secretary,

Bob Loving [K9JU]

P.S.: Don't forget the KK4XA Morning Net, Monday through Thursday at 9:00 AM (0900) ET, and the SMARC Weekly Thursday Evening Net at 7:00 PM (1900) ET. Both nets are held on the W4OLB/R linked repeater system with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.