

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 August 25

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 August 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 Club 2025 August 25 meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*] Andrew welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- Paul Maine [KI5MIV] gave the announced presentation on “SDR: Software Defined Radio(s).” Thanks to Paul for a very interesting subject matter and supplying the door prize, an RTL-SDR dongle kit.
- Following a break from 2000 to 2023 ET, Andrew welcomed all in attendance and extended gratitude to the United Steel Workers Union 309 for the use of the Union Hall for the meeting and use of their internet access port to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur.
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club:

The club has 159 active members, including 37 new members so far this year which includes 3 since the July meeting.

Fund balances as of 2025 August 25 are as follows:

Operating Fund \$1,519.73

Repeater Maintenance Fund \$2,525.00

Reserve Fund \$15,057.08

PayPal \$0.00

The sum of the funds, \$19,101.81, is split between three accounts: \$250.00 in a Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC) checking account; \$14,000 in a Schwab fixed income account; and \$4,851.81 in a Schwab cash account.

- Bob [KK4XA] has taken over the Health and Welfare reporting for Charles [K4BAL-SK]. Bob read a list of members and spouses of members needing thoughts and prayers due to various and sundry health related problems: Tim [KI4NPG] and Bob [K9JU – the Chicago lid - *ed.*] will have surgical procedures the following week; Melvin’s [WB5KSM] brother-in-law has problems; Stuart’s [KD4PRJ] wife, Doris, was in the hospital; Kevin’s [W4KAM] wife, Stacey, has finished chemotherapy but it was rough; Dennis’ [N9DPP] girlfriend, Deb, has finished chemo plus the two of them are mourning a loss in the family.
- Bob [KK4XA], reporting for the Training and Education Committee told the audience that there will be a Fall Technician Class. The class will commence in October, the 7th to be exact, with all classes held via Zoom at 1900 ET.
- Mike [K4MJF] reporting as Net Manager said that the average number of check-ins for the

SMARC Weekly Thursday Night Net was 25. [Hey, guys and gals, with over 150 members, there should be more checking into the net at 1900 Eastern Time. How about grabbing the microphone and at least saying “Hi, y’all” to everyone! Even that big lid from Chicago mouths off on Thursday Nights so tune in for the Solar Report and other tantalizing tidbits of Amateur Radio operations, if you can stand that Yankee accent for more than a couple of minutes. - *ed*]

- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the repeaters are operating as expected. Kurt suggested that to increase net participation, we might consider asking questions from the license manuals (Technician and General) or even trivia [Tim, KI4NPG, is very good at trivia – *ed*].
- Andrew made mention of the TNQP, the Tennessee QSO Party which will take place the first full weekend of September.
- Greg [K4HSM] told the audience the SKYWARN group will setup at the Middlesettlements Methodist Church’s “Filed of Dreams” for the TNQP.
- Andrew asked for any further old business. He then announced that there is an Election Committee to draw up a list of possible candidates for the four offices of the Club, viz., President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Bob [K9JU – you know, the big Yankee lid -*ed*.] announced he would continue in the role of Secretary if no one else wants the post. [Good grief, you mean we will have to put up with late postings of the meeting minutes for another two years? - *ed*.] Bob [KK4XA] volunteered to be the chairman of the committee. He will be assisted by Kelley [KR4FK].
- Bob [K9JU – ugh! - *ed*] asked about a member roll-call. Andrew asked if we should have one. The audience grimaced and there was a mixture of groans and crickets! So, there was no roll-call this meeting.
- After a prompt from Secretary Bob [K9JU – yeah *him* again – *ed*], Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 July Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 July Club meeting are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes are available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org> under “Files” and “Minutes” – *ed*.]
- It was announced to the audience that Carroll [W4PCA] would hold a Club sponsored licensing test session in September.
- Andrew noted that he had spent \$149.10 for the annual fee to use Zoom. David [N1ESK] made a motion to expend \$149.10 for the Zoom annual contract renewal; the motion was seconded by Mike [K4MJF]. After a very brief discussion, the motion to expend \$149.10 to renew the Zoom annual contract was approved by the majority of those in attendance and on Zoom.
- Mike [K4MJF] asked if the Christmas Party this year should follow the format of the 2024 Party. There was a resounding “YES” in answer. Therefore the 2025 Christmas Party, will be held at the same venue (St. Andrews Church), if Carroll [W4PCA] can secure the location, and catering by Cracker Barrel. The possible date for the Party would be Saturday, December 13. The time of the Party was not determined.
- Andrew asked if there was any other new business. There being none, Andrew adjourned the 2025 August 25 meeting of the SMARC at 2050 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Paul [KI5MIV] for his presentation.

Respectfully submitted by SMARC Secretary,

Bob Loving [K9JU]

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