

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 February 24

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 February 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 February meeting was called to order at 1900 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*]
- The meeting launched immediately into the presentation by Alex, KB4LX, on “Remote Station Operation.” Thank you very much, Alex, for an interesting subject matter. [We might get rid of the Chicago Yankee if he remote operates his home station from the boat! - *ed.*]
- Following a break from 2025 to 2042 ET, Andrew extended gratitude to the United Steel Workers Union 309 for the use of the union hall for the meeting and to Steve [W4SDS] for the use of his hotspot and cell service to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur.
- Twenty six (26) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with twenty one (21) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 January Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 January 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.*]
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club. Membership currently stands at 168 (minus 36 active members who haven’t yet paid for 2025). We have 17 new members so far this year; thank you to Bill [KY4KB] for becoming a Life Member of SMARC.

Fund balances as of 2025 February 20, are as follows:

1) Operating Fund	\$2,387.08
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,525.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$14,691.53

The sum of the funds, \$19,603.61, is split between two accounts: \$887.08 in a checking account with the CBBC bank; and, \$14,000.00 in fixed income and \$4,716.53 in a money market account, both with Schwab.

- Andrew extended congratulations to the new members of SMARC and to the newly licensed hams who completed the Technician Class course taught by Bob, KK4XA.
- Josh [AA4WX] made a motion to waive dues for Kelley [KR4FK] and Jordan [NA4WX] in appreciation for what they do for the Club. The motion was seconded by David [N1ESK]. After little discussion, the motion to waive dues for Kelley and Jordan was passed by the majority of those in attendance and on Zoom.

- The 2025 Field Day (“FD”) site has been chosen; it is the “Field of Dreams” at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church on Peppermint Rd near Sevierville Rd.
- An ad hoc committee for the FD 2025 operations has formed. Members are Andrew, Bob [KK4XA], David [N4AER], Kurt [KC4NX], Kelley [KR4FK] and Geoffery [KM6TVJ].
- Speaking of FD, there is a need for a grill to cook food. How much food is needed? There was a lot left over at the end of FD 2024 so, a wee bit less this year!
- David [N4AER], who recently retired from Kroger, said that Kroger will donate bottled water for the 2025 FD event.
- Andrew told the Club that there will be no business meeting in April. This will mark the return of the tailgating cookout. Stayed tuned for details.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL] who was absent. Charles [K4BAL] was scheduled for surgery to remove a tumor from his bladder; Millie, the wife of Bill [KY4KB], had a pacemaker implanted; Roger [KD4STR], Cindy Mills [XYL of K1VX] and Kathy [XYL of N9KMY] all are recovering from shoulder surgeries; the wife of Kevin [W4KAM] will begin treatment for breast cancer. Let’s keep all of these members and spouses in you thoughts and prayers.
- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the repeaters are operating as expected. Kurt then mentioned that in the past, during the KK4XA Morning Net, questions from the General Class license pool were asked and the answers were discussed. Should that start again?
- Andrew asked if there was any other old business There being none, new business was addressed.
- Greg [K4HSM] said that the SKYWARN Net will activate during any threatening weather. No Weather Spotter classes are scheduled for Blount County. Remember that the first Sunday of each month is the SKYWARN Net. Time is 2000 ET on the Tim Berry WB4GBI repeater, 146.940 MHz, 118.8 Hz tone and -600 kHz offset.
- Craig [NW1A] told the Club that the Sevierville Hamfest is on Saturday March 15. Will SMARC have a table? Who is interested in manning the table?
- With no other new business, Andrew adjourned the 2025 February 24 meeting of the SMARC at 2114 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Alex, KB4LX, for the presentation on remote operation of home stations.

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.