

SMOKY MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (SMARC)

FCC Call Sign: W4OLB

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC) was called to order on January 26, 2026, by President Geoffrey Mark, KM6TVJ, via Zoom. The meeting was held entirely online.

2. Officers Present

- President: Geoffrey Mark, KM6TVJ
- Vice President: Tim Morey, KI4NPG
- Treasurer (outgoing): David N1ESK, VE/E

Officer Absent

- Secretary: Bob Loving, K9JU (absent due to illness)

Minutes prepared from Zoom transcript.

3. Attendance

Members present included (Name and Callsign):

Geoffrey Mark, KM6TVJ

Tim Morey, KI4NPG

Josh Marler, AA4WX

David N1ESK, VE/E

Bob "BobBob", KK4XA

Kevin Feeney, WB2EMS

Kurt, KC4NX

Greg Williams, K4HSM

Andrew, N2AL

Steve, K4DXV

Rich, KC2ROQ

Larry Andersen, AL4B

Jim, W7FKI

Kelley, KR4FK

Vince Rainwater

Additional members and guests attended via Zoom.

4. Program Presentation

President Mark introduced the evening's presenter, Josh Marler, AA4WX, who delivered a technical presentation on the ICOM IC-7300 Mark II HF transceiver.

Presentation Summary:

- Overview of new features and improvements in the IC-7300 Mark II
- Discussion of digital operating modes (USB-D, digital vs. analog operation)
- Explanation of VFO operation and band navigation
- Demonstration of menu navigation and on-screen indicators
- Practical operating tips for new and intermediate HF operators

Q&A Highlights:

- Clarification of USB-D versus standard USB (upper sideband)
- Explanation of VFO A/B usage and dual VFO operation
- Discussion of digital mode configuration and operating practices

The club thanked Mr. Marler for an informative and engaging presentation.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented.

There being no corrections or objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David N1ESK, VE/E presented the Treasurer's Report, including:

- End-of-year financial report
- Current balances as of January 26, 2026
- Total club funds of approximately \$21,000
- Review of income sources, including dues, donations, and interest
- Review of expenses including insurance, meeting space rental, and event costs

The Treasurer also reported:

- Five new members since the November meeting
- Current membership total of approximately 165 members

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

7. Committee Reports

Reports and discussion included:

- Building and facility maintenance updates, including roof and heating repairs
- Discussion of future exterior maintenance and possible siding replacement
- Repeater operations and technical considerations

8. Old Business

No unfinished business from previous meetings was reported.

9. New Business

2026 Budget Discussion

- Review of the proposed 2026 operating budget
- Discussion of Field Day expenses and anticipated cost increases
- Clarification that the budget serves as a guideline and may be revised as needed
- Emphasis on responsible use of reserves for outreach and club activities

Field Day

- Discussion of potential Field Day site costs
- Confirmation of prior donation/rental arrangements
- Further planning to continue under future agenda items

Outreach and Club Activities

- Proposal for additional informal outreach events (cookouts / "non-meeting meetings")
- Discussion of antenna build days and technical workshops
- Interest in organizing fox hunts and related training activities

Volunteers expressed interest in participating on planning committees for these activities.

10. Election of Treasurer

President Mark announced the resignation of Treasurer John Boblitz and opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer for the term ending December 31, 2027.

- Tammy Berry, KB4TQO was nominated.
- No additional nominations were offered.

Tammy Berry, KB4TQO was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

President Mark noted that this marked a historic moment for the club, with Ms. Berry becoming the first female elected officer of SMARC.

11. Announcements

- Congratulations were extended to Tammy Berry, KB4TQO on her election
- Appreciation was expressed to outgoing Treasurer David N1ESK, VE/E for his service
- Members were encouraged to participate in committees and upcoming events

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes prepared from Zoom transcript