

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 July 28

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 July 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 July meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by Vice President Michael Foley [K4MJF] filling in for President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Mike" are to Michael Foley, K4MJF – *ed.*] Mike welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- Mike asked for the Club Roll Call. Twenty four (24) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with twelve (12) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Mike then asked if there were any announcements that would be of interest to the Club.
- Bob [KK4XA], the lead for the ad hoc Field Day Committee, gave the announced presentation on the results of the Club’s Field Day 2025, “Field Day 2025: What we did right and what we did wrong.” The 2025 Field Day (“FD”) site was the “Field of Dreams” (#2) at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church at 1614 Peppermint Rd near Sevierville Rd. The main outcome of the presentation and discussion was the interference between the 20M SSB and 20M digital stations. The digital consistently interfered with the SSB station. Maybe the two stations could set schedules to alternate between 15M and 20M to relieve the interference. Also, the consensus was that Field of Dreams #2 was a great location and the Club will attempt to secure the location for 2026. Thanks to all who participated whether as operators or as support.
- Following the presentation, Bob [KK4XA] made a proposal to make a \$200 donation to the Lebanon Baptist Church as appreciation for the use of the site. This was tabled until the business portion of the meeting.
- Following a break from 2013 to 2025 ET, Mike 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.
- Mike asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 May Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 May 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:

The club has 156 active members, including 34 new members so far this year which includes 9 since the May meeting .

Fund balances as of 2025 May 25, are as follows:

Operating Fund \$1,794.02  
Repeater Maintenance Fund \$2,525.00  
Reserve Fund \$15,017.11  
PayPal \$0.00

The sum of the funds, \$19336.13, is split between two accounts: \$294.02 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$14,000 in fixed income with Schwab; \$5,042.11 cash (a money market account with Schwab).

- 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.
- Bob [KK4XA], reporting for the Training and Education Committee told the audience that consideration is being made for a Fall Technician Class. The class would probably commence in September.
- Mike reporting as Net Manager said that the average number of check-ins for the SMARC Weekly Thursday Night Net was 27. [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 “Howdy” 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 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 then implored the members to use the 443.075-MHz Fusion/analog Club repeater. The input is +5-MHz and the tone for analog operation is 100.0-Hz.
- Mike told the audience that the presentation for the August meeting would be on SDR (Software Defined Radio) by “The SDR Guy,”our own Paul Maine, KI5MIV.
- There was a proposal to start Field Day planning for 2026. The proposal was tabled.
- Mike announced that there should be 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 moron from Chicago -*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.
- There was a short discussion of the 2025 Christmas Party. It was decided that the same venue (St. Andrews Church), if Carroll [W4PCA] can secure the location, and catering by Cracker Barrel were desired.
- Hal [WB4E] made a motion to donate \$200 to the Lebanon Baptist Church as a gesture of appreciation for the use of their “Field of Dreams” for Field day; the motion was seconded by David [N4AER]. After a short discussion, the motion to donate \$200 to the Lebanon Baptist Church was passed unanimously by those in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom teleconference.
- Mike asked if there was any other new business There being none, Mike adjourned the 2025 July 28 meeting of the SMARC at 2056 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Bob [KK4XA] 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.