

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2024 March 25

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2024 March 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 March meeting was called to order at 1900 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson [N2AL] - *ed.*]
- Thirty six (36) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with eleven (11) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Andrew expressed thanks to the United Steel Workers Union for the use of the Union Hall and to Steve [W4SDS] for the use of his “hot spot” and cellphone connection.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the February SMARC meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2024 February Club meeting are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes may be available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org/minutes> – *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	\$3,307.61
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,930.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$12,274.53

The sum of the funds, \$18,512.14, is split between two accounts: \$10,268.04 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$8,214.10 in a Certificate of Deposit account with Oak Ridge National Laboratory Federal Credit Union (ORNL).

- Charles [K4BAL] was not present to give the Health and Welfare report.
- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager for the Club, said the average number of check-ins for Thursday Evening Net is about 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 assembled and is undergoing “burn-in” testing before

installation at the Reservoir Hill site. The projected time frame to switch over to the new hardware is in April; stay tuned. The present hardware will be reserved off site as back up equipment. Thank you, Kurt.

- Jordan [NA4WX] gave an overview of the new Club website. There is a Field Day signup “radio button” to take you to a form to add your name/call to the FD group.
- Bob [KK4XA] as the part of the Field Day Committee described Field for those not familiar with the annual summer activity. Bob needs “station masters” who will oversee equipment, operators, etc. for each of the stations. 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. Note that Jeff has assumed the role of 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 want to read about the Chicago Redneck Yankee writing about DX-this and DX-that! - *ed*]

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

- Bob [KK4XA] and Steve [W4SDS] installed an Alpha-Delta fan dipole at the QTH of Bill [KY4KB]. Thank you, guys.
- The Club has been able to provide Zoom access to Club meetings through the use of a “hot spot” connected to the internet via cellular phone service courtesy of Steve [W4SDS]. The Club is considering the purchasing of a “hot spot” for use at Club meetings. This allows those members unable to travel to the meetings to participate. Which cellular service should be considered? What bandwidth is necessary to provide the coverage we are used to with Steve’s device?
- Andrew asked Kelley [KR4FK] and Carroll [W4PCA], as an *ad hoc* committee, if there were any likely candidates for position of Vice-President. Kelley announced that the committee asked Mike [K4MJF] if he would volunteer for the position and he accepted. Andrew asked if anyone in attendance would wish to accept a nomination for the position. No one raised a hand. Therefore, Mike was elected by acclamation as the succeeding Vice President of SMARC. Congratulations and thank you, Mike!
- Bob [KK4XA] gave a precis on the video, “Space Communications During the Apollo Project,” that would follow a break. The break commenced at 1939 ET and ended at 1953 ET.
- As mentioned in the previous bullet point, the video presentation was a DVD recorded by Bob [KK4XA] of Dennis Sparks [WB4NBE - SK], former member of SMARC and an engineer on the Apollo moon landing project of the 1960s. The video explained the evolution of the communications between ground and the space vehicles starting with the Mercury one man capsule launches to the Gemini two man capsule launches and ending with the three man Apollo Moon launches. The culmination was the dream of President John F. Kennedy to put an American on the surface of the Moon and return the person safely to Earth by the end of decade (1960s). Despite a very tight schedule, the first Man on the Moon occurred on 1969 July 20.

The 2024 March 25 meeting of SMARC ended at 2107 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 repeater with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.