

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 March 24

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 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 Club 2025 March meeting was called to order at 1904 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*] Andrew welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- The meeting launched immediately into the presentation by “Doc” Brown, WB0RXQ, of Blue Ridge Ham Radio, on “The Truth About Antenna Tuners: A mathematical proof of how antenna tuners work.” Thank you very much, David [N1ESK], for recording this interesting subject matter.
- Following a break from 1959 to 2024 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.
- Thirty one (31) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with an “x-number” (xx) of others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 February Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 February 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:

Operating Fund \$2,387.0
Repeater Maintenance Fund \$2,525.00
Reserve Fund \$14,691.53
PayPal \$0.00

The sum of the funds, \$19,603.61, is split between two accounts: \$887.08 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$14,000 in fixed income with Schwab; \$4,716.53 cash.

- David [N1ESK] announced that, as of tonight’s meeting, 20 new members joined SMARC; there was a round of welcoming applause for those members. David also announced that the Club Roster was now available on the Club website. There are two sorting criteria, one being by call and another by last name. This is the roster generated from those who wished to “opt in” so if your call and name do not appear on the roster and you wish to have them listed, please

contact David at treasurer@w4olb.org. Thanks to Mike [K4MJF] for assisting in the posting of the roster and the suggestion to list by call and last name.

- Andrew asked if there was any unfinished business. The subject of Field Day came up with the suggestion of holding a Zoom teleconference on April 01 at 8:00 PM ET to discuss plans for the Field day exercise. Chris [K1AY] said he has a mobile HF installation that can be used to check for noise at the site; Dave [N9KMY] suggested checking both day and night as lighting at the site may generate noise that would interfere with HF communications.
- By the way, the 2025 Field Day (“FD”) site has been chosen; it is the “Field of Dreams” (#2) at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church on Peppermint Rd near Sevierville Rd.
- The moniker of “TRADIO” for the April meeting was generated by Mike [K4MJF] to emphasize the meeting will be an open trunk radio sale/trade function. Food will be provided by the Club. Josh [AA4WX] made a motion to spend up to \$200 of Club funds on food; the motion was seconded by Craig [NW1A]. After a short discussion, the motion to spend up to \$200 on food for the 2025 April “TRADIO” meeting was passed by the majority of the members present at the Union Hall and on Zoom.
- Bob [KK4XA] asked the Club about the ARRL Ham Radio books special purchase for the local library. Dave [N9KMY] is working with a representative from the library on which books have been signed out and which ones should be replaced with newer versions.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL] who was absent. Charles [K4BAL] was in hospice care at home; he was given approximately two weeks until he becomes a Silent Key (“SK”). Prayers and thoughts go out to our close friend. Others that should be lifted up include: Millie, the wife of Bill [KY4KB], had a pacemaker implanted; Roger [KD4STR], Michael [KO4TGD], Cindy [XYL of K1VX] and Kathy [XYL of N9KMY] all are recovering from shoulder surgeries; the wives of Kevin [W4KAM] and mother-in-law of Brian [KD4??] are undergoing chemotherapy; sisters of Andrew, Kelley [KR4FK] and Mike [KY4SW], and the wives of Bob [W4ZTV] and Bill [K9FOP] with various ailments; father of Steve [KJ4FAE] is back in the hospital; Scott [N0EDV] was hospitalized with an “abdominal issue.” Let’s keep all of these members and spouses in you thoughts and prayers. On a positive note, Larry [W4NOE] received a thumbs up passing report from his neurologist after a stroke he suffered last September.
- Bob [KK4XA] told the audience that five (5) students passed their Technician license exams after attending the Tech class taught by Bob. One of the students is studying for the General Class exam.
- Josh [AA4WX] said that since the passing of Willard [W4HZD], there will be no exams in the near future.
- 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 [K4MJF] gave the report as the Net Manager. The check-ins have averaged 25 for the Thursday Night Net. [Hey, guys, with ~130 members, some of you haven’t keyed up your radios and checked in. How about next Thursday and the following Thursdays? Time is 1900 (7:00 PM) Eastern Time -ed.]

- Andrew asked if there was any other new business There being none, Andrew adjourned the 2025 March 24 meeting of the SMARC at 2055 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Doc, WB0RXQ, for the presentation on tuner operation for maximum efficiency.

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.