

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 May 26

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 May 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 May meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*] Andrew welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- Twenty four (24) members and guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with seventeen (17) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- The meeting launched immediately into an impromptu presentation by Josh Marler, AA4WX, on “The New Stuff at the Dayton (Zenia, OH) Hamvention” Thank you very much, Josh. The 500-Watts Flex radio is interesting if not expensive!
- Bob [KK4XA], the lead for the ad hoc Field Day Committee, gave the announced presentation on the Club’s plans for Field Day 2025. By the way, the 2025 Field Day (“FD”) site is the “Field of Dreams” (#2) at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church at 1614 Peppermint Rd near Sevierville Rd.
- Following a break from 2000 to 2021 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.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 March Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 March 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 127 active members, including 25 new members so far this year.

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

Operating Fund \$2,364.80  
Repeater Maintenance Fund \$2,525.00  
Reserve Fund \$14,939.37  
PayPal \$0.00

The sum of the funds, \$19,829.17, is split between two accounts: \$864.80 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$14,000 in fixed income with Schwab; \$4,964.37 cash.

- Andrew asked if there was any unfinished business from the March meeting. There was none.
- The subject of ARRL books for the local Blount County Library was brought up. There is a

special purchase price of \$250 for eleven (11) books on Amateur Radio related subjects. A motion was made by David [N1ESK] to spend \$250 to purchase the books for distribution to the Library; the motion was seconded by Josh [AA4WX]. After a short discussion, the motion to spend \$250 on the set of ARRL books for the Blount County Library was passed by the majority of the members present at the Union Hall and on Zoom.

- Dave [N9KMY] proposed replenishing outdated ARRL publications on an annual basis. David [N1ESK] “heartily” backed the proposal!
- Again with respect to Field Day, Bob [KK4XA] mentioned the expense for the outing to come from Club funds. David [N1ESK] made a motion to spend up to \$600 for Field Day 2025; the motion was seconded by David [N4AER]. After a short discussion, the motion to spend \$600 on the Club’s 2025 Field Day effort was passed by the majority of the members present at the Union Hall and on Zoom.
- Bob [KK4XA] will take over the Health and Welfare reporting for Charles [K4BAL-SK]. Bob read a list of members and spouses of members needing thoughts and prayers. Bob then read a note of appreciation from the Ballard family thanking the Club for support and the flowers at Charles’ funeral.
- Bob [KK4XA], reporting for the Training and Education Committee told the audience that consideration is being made for a Fall Technician Class. Carroll [W4PCA] announced that the next Club sponsored VE testing session would be on 2025 June 09, 1900 (7:00 PM) Eastern Time at the Parish Hall of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 314 West Broadway Avenue, Maryville, TN. Please contact Carroll to register for the testing session.
- Mike [K4MJF]. Vice President and Net Manager gave the status of the Club Thursday Night Net; check ins have again averaged 25. [Hey, I’ll repeat myself but, guys, with ~130 members, some of you haven’t keyed up your radios and checked in to the net. How about next Thursday and the following Thursdays? Time is 1900 (7:00 PM) Eastern Time -ed.] Mike then gave a plug for the KK4XA Morning Net on the Club linked repeater system, 0900 (9:00 AM) ET Monday through Thursday.
- 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.
- The de facto Public Information Officer for the Field Day outing, Geoff [KM6TVJ], told the audience that he will be contacting various city and county officials and inviting them to visit the Field Day site. He produced a very good short video from previous Field Day exercises and will distribute to TV stations; a written description of FD will be distributed to radio stations and newspapers.
- Greg [K4HSM] spoke about the SKYWARN training nets that occur the first Sunday at 2000 (8:00 PM) Eastern Time on the WB4GBI 146.940-MHz repeater (tone is 118.8-Hz). Check the website ETSKYWARN.com for further information. A Q&A session followed Greg’s comments.
- Andrew asked if there was any other new business There being none, Andrew adjourned the 2025 May 26 meeting of the SMARC at 2115 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Josh, [AA4WX] and Bob [KK4XA] for their presentations.

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.