



Kathy [Kaun, N9NKJ] will have joint surgery the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Charles is having his bout of problems but hanging in there. Please keep these folks, and any others in the Club with medical afflictions, in your thoughts and prayers.

- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager for the Club, noted a drop in the average number of check-ins for Thursday Evening Net. [If the big lid from Chicago would keep his blabbering to 10-minutes, it might give others a chance to check-in and not scare them away! Got that 'JU? AP wants to know. - *ed*] The average is only about twenty six (26). 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. [I've said it before, if K9JU 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 the Technician Class license sessions have begun. Sessions are on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM (1900) ET on Zoom. Use the “Join Zoom” link at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org/>. There were twenty two (22) attendees on Tuesday, 11/19, including a few already licensed members and one student from NC. The latter's reason? The floods that occurred after Hurricane Helene.
- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the repeaters are operating as expected. Kurt emphasized that any new user calling on the repeater should be answered and welcomed to the area and the SMARC repeater.
- The report from the Public Information Officer, who was absent, was to listen to the “This Week In Ham Radio” podcast.
- Andrew asked if there was any other old business There being none, new business was addressed.
- The annual Club Christmas party venue has changed from Regal Towers to St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 314 West Broadway, Maryville, TN. The party will occur on December 14 with socializing beginning at 5:00 PM (1700) ET and a catered dinner starting at 6:00PM (1800) ET. The Cracker Barrel will provide the catered meal which includes turkey with dressing, ham and two (2) sides to be determined. Rolls and/or cornbread is also included in the meal; drinks and deserts are not part of the menu. The Club asks those attending to bring drinks or deserts to share with the other attendees. The cost is \$10.00 per person and any extra cost will be covered by the Club. Sign up by 11:59:59 PM on November 30 is required. See the Club website.

Note that the quote from Cracker Barrel was \$15.70 per plate (person). At a charge of \$10.00 per person means the Club will pick up the extra \$5.70.

- Craig [NM1A] made a motion to allocate \$1200 to the meal purchases from Cracker Barrel. An amendment to Craig's motion was made by David [N1ESK] to allocate monies, without a cap, the required monies to purchase the Christmas Party dinners from Cracker Barrel. Monies collected from attendees will reimburse the Treasury of the Club. The second to the motion to allocate, without cap, monies from the Club Treasury to pay Cracker Barrel was made by Scott [KE0TEN]. After little further discussion, the motion to allocate, without cap, monies from the Club Treasury to pay Cracker Barrel was passed by the majority of those in attendance and on Zoom.

- Bob [KK4XA] announced to the audience the “10M Dipole Project.” The idea is to expose the Technician Class operators in the Club to the fun of HF (3 to 30 MHz) by assembling 10M center fed  $1/2\lambda$  dipole antennas. The Club will provide the materials for the antennas; those building the antennas must provide their own feedline which could be RG-6/U 75Ω cable TV line. Adapters for type-F to PL-259 are readily available from online websites for ~\$5.00 a piece. [You will need two (2) adapters if you wish to use a previously made cable; one for the antenna end and the other for the radio end – *ed*.] The date of the “antenna party” is 024 December 07, the time is 10:00 AM ET, and the location is the garage of Bob [K9JU], 4023 Walland Gap Drive, Maryville, TN. [The location is across Tuckaleechee Pike from the student parking lot of Heritage High School. Please bring a chair and if you need food or drink, you must provide your own. – *ed*]
- In response to the 10M Dipole Project, Melvin [WB5KSM] asked if there might be interest in a 10M on air Net. There was no followup discussion although this might be a good idea
- Also happening on 2024 December 07 [“Pearl Harbor Day” – *ed*] is National SKYWARN Recognition Day. On air operations will commence Friday, December 06 at 7:00 PM ET, and run until Saturday, December 07 at 7:00 PM ET.
- The subject of honoring the 501(c)(3) status of the Club brought up the subject of introducing Amateur Radio to STEM classes in the area’s schools. The best targets are students in Junior High / Middle Schools as suggested by Steve [K4DXV]. However, after a round of discussion, one limitation faces all such endeavors, “Liability” with a capital “L.” [Yup, the very litigious American society of today is a wet blanket to these reach-out projects – *ed*.]
- Another course of action, proposed by Dave [N9KMY], instead of that discussed in the previous bullet point would be to advertise Amateur Radio for the 2025 Field Day exercise. This might pique the interest of STEM students and Boy Scouts working on Merit Badges. The Club is lucky to have a new member, Geoff [KM6xxx], who worked in TV and film with CGI in California before relocating to east TN. Geoff and Bob [KK4XA] will cooperate to produce a Public Service Announcement about SMARC and Field Day to air before next year’s Field Day operations. Thank you, guys.
- Dave [N9KMY] answered the question of having a WIRES-X connection to the 443.075-MHz Club repeater at the repeater site. The only problem with that, Dave explained, is the Fusion repeater then operates as a digital only machine. That is not desired by the membership of the Club as several members do not have Fusion capable radios. Ed [K4EDD] does provide a remote WIRES-X access point at his home station location.
- Josh [AA4WX] told the audience that he is working on a presentation about the Club and it was able to lower dues for 2025 plus the activities of the Club. This will appear sometime in the future on “This Week In Amateur Radio.”
- Due to the late hour, the presentation for the evening, “Digital Communication Modes,” by Dave [N9KMY] will occur at a future Club meeting.
- Andrew declared the SMARC 2024 November 25 meeting adjourned at 2057 ET. A weary crowd filed out of the union hall!

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 linked repeater system with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.