

SMARC MEETING NOTES - 2025, November 24

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 November meeting was held as a combination in-person at the United Steelworkers Union Hall, 339 South Hall Road, Alcoa, Tennessee and a ZOOM Video Conference. Announcements for the meeting were made during the KK4XA Morning Net and throughout the day by computerized voice announcements on the W4OLB SMARC repeater system.

- The Club November meeting was called to order at 1903 hours by President Andrew Lawson {N2AL} (All references to “Andrew” are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed*)
- Andrew extended gratitude to the United Steelworkers Union 309 for the use of the Union Hall for the meeting and in building Wi-Fi service to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur.
- Thirty-eight (38) members were in attendance at the Union Hall, with 12 members attending on Zoom Video Conference.
- There was no presentation at this months meeting due to the number of items that needed to be addressed this month
- Treasurer David Andrews, N1ESK, gave his report on the finances of the Club. David announced that the Club membership is now 163, with 40 new members so far this year. Please join me in welcoming the new members into the Club.

All quantities refer to the November 24 meeting date of the Club:

1) Operating Fund	\$4,077.00
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,815.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$15,312.69

David then said that there were 3 motions to come before the membership:

- 1) 2026 dues waivers for Kelley Gunter, KR4FK, Steve Sharp, W4SDS and Jordan Webb, NA4WX. Steve Sharp said he didn’t want to be included, although he does do quite a bit for the Club and its members. A short discussion followed by a vote to approve by those present. Motion made by Bob, KK4XA, seconded by Josh, AA4WX, passed by unanimous vote.
- 2) Authorize expenditure of \$500 for the continued use of the Steelworkers Union Hall for 2026. Andrew relayed that in the past, the Union Hall had let us have use of their facility for free, but since they have started upgrades this year, they would be charging us a fee of \$25 a month (\$300 a year) to use the facility. Andrew said it would a be a heartfelt decision to pay the Union Hall \$500 for the use of the facility for 2026. A motion was made by Bob, KK4XA, seconded by Josh, AA4WX and was passed by the membership present.

- 3) To authorize the Repeater Committee, with approval of the SMARC Officers, to expend Repeater Fund monies without the approval of the membership. A motion was made by David, N1ESK and seconded by Josh, AA4WX. Kurt, KC4NX, explained what needed to be addressed at the repeater site. One was that was the heater needed to be replaced and secondly, a new roof needed to be put on the building. Kurt also stated that the building needed to be repainted, although that would be done sometime in 2026. A discussion followed and Hal, WB4E, suggested that a cap of \$1500 be placed on any expenditures. Greg, K4HSM was concerned about transparency for the expenditures as was Josh, AA4WX and Craig, NW1A. So a motion was made by Josh, AA4WX and seconded by David, N1ESK to make an amendment to authorize the Repeater Committee, with approval of the SMARC Officers, to expend Repeater Fund monies up to \$1500 without approval of the membership. A vote was taken and passed by those present.

Financial Committee to review records of the Club Treasurer – Andrew, N2AL, asked those present if anyone would like to be on the committee to review the financial records and give a report. Kelley, KR4FK, Hal, WB4E and Josh, AA4WX stated that they would be on the committee. (Thank you, gentlemen!)

GROUP DISCUSSION – Does the membership have any recommendations for the next group of SMARC Officers regarding the budget for 2026? The only thing that was added to the 2026 budget was a line item for the payment to the Steelworkers Union for the use of the Union Hall for our meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SMARC Christmas Party – to be held at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 314 West Broadway Avenue, Maryville, Tennessee. A motion was made by Bob, KK4XA and seconded by Craig, NW1A, that once again, Cracker Barrel will cater our event (2 meats, 2 sides) with the Club paying for the meal, not to exceed \$1500. We are asking those that come pay \$10 to \$20 per person to help offset the cost to the Club. A vote was taken and passed by those present. Andrew, N2AL was going to send out an email with a link to a sign-up sheet to the membership using the SMARC email portal so everyone can sign up. Max, KQ4GSE will be bringing a portable PA system and will be providing music during the event. We'll gather together at St. Andrews at 5 pm and have time to socialize, then dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

We all know Tim Berry, WB4GBI, who has been a SMARC Club member for many, many years, and noting of his help to other members, as well as his contribution to the amateur radio community in our area. Andrew, N2AL made a motion to offer Tim a Life Membership to the Club. This motion was quickly seconded by Josh, AA4WX and Greg, K4HSM. After a short discussion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Congratulations Tim!!!

Bob, KK4XA, reported on Training and Education, said that the Technician Class study sessions that he's been having on Zoom Video Conference every Tuesday night has been going well and that he hopes they should be ready to test on December 10, 2026.

Bob, KK4XA also gave a Health and Welfare Report. They are: Bob, K9JU, in Life Care, Louisville
Joe, WB9VVH, HCA West
Doris, wife of Stuart, KD4PRJ
Andrew, N2AL's sister
Wayne, WV4TN

Logan, Son of KQ4NDO
Deb, wife of N9DPP, Dennis
Judy, sister of Kelley, KR4FK
Stacy, wife of Kevin, W4KAM

We ALL wish these folks a speedy recovery. Please lift these folks up in prayer, send them a card, note or give them a phone call.

REPEATER COMMITTEE

Kurt, KC4NX gave a quick report and said everything was operational with the repeaters, although he did say that the repeater building did need some repair work, which is scheduled.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Andrew, N2AL asked for a report from the Nomination Committee. Bob, KK4XA thanked the outgoing Officers for the outstanding job they did over the past 2 years. Bob then introduced those who were nominated for the vacant positions in the Club.

They are: President – Geoffery Mark, KM6TVJ

Vice President – Tim Morey, KI4NPG

Treasurer – John Bublitz, AA4OL

Andrew, N2AL asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. Since there were no other nominees, those candidates were elected by acclamation. Congratulations to our newly elected Officers. Please note that the position of Secretary is being retained by Bob, K9JU.

Andrew called for any new business. There being none, Andrew thanked everyone who attended the meeting. And with that, the 2025 November 24 meeting of SMARC was adjourned at 2010 ET.

Respectfully submitted by SMARC Vice President, filling in for our Secretary,

Michael J. Foley, K4MJF

PS – Don't forget the KK4XA Morning Net, Monday through Thursday at 9 am (0900) ET, and the SMARC Weekly Thursday Night Net at 7 pm (1900) ET. Both are held on the W4OLB linked repeater system with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.