

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 October 27

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 October 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 October meeting was called to order at 1902 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*]
- Andrew extended gratitude to the United Steel Workers Union 309 for the use of the union hall for the meeting and in building WiFi service to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur. Congratulations to the “Yankee” (Bob - K9JU) on achieving the ARRL DX Trident Award (a minimum of 100 Countries/Entities each worked and confirmed using CW, Phone and Digital modes)
- Seventeen (17) members and no (0) guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with sixteen (16) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Per the newer protocol adopted at the beginning of the year, the presentation came first with the, less attended business meeting, after a 15-20 minute break for munchies and eyeball QSOs. A very interesting demonstration with slide show of “Weather Balloons” by Kevin Duplantis, W4KEV, followed. [As a sidebar, several members have gotten into the fascination of tracking the balloons from launch near Nashville, TN to landing in our general region. – *ed*] The presentation lasted until 2017 ET. The break extended from then until 2032 ET.
- Andrew thanked all for attending the meeting both in person and on Zoom. He noted the Club received a thank you note from the Blount County Library for the donation of the ARRL books about Amateur Radio.
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club. David announced the Club membership is now one hundred sixty one (161) including 39 new members this year. Welcome to all of the new members.

All quantities refer to sums as of the October 27 meeting date of the Club:

1) Operating Fund	\$1519.00
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,525.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$15,273.67

The sum of the funds, \$19,317.67, is split among three accounts: \$249.27 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); \$14,000 in a Schwab fixed income fund; and \$5,068.40 in a Schwab cash account.

- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the September Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 September 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.*]

- Mike [K4MJF] sent a letter to St. Andrews Church inquiring into the use of the church facilities for the annual SMARC Christmas Party. He has not yet received a replay. On a concurrent note, Cracker Barrel has not set their holiday catering prices; that will occur in November.
- Mike also gave the Net Manager's report for the previous month. The Club is showing consistently low numbers, 17 - 25 per weekly Thursday Night Net, especially considering the sheer numbers of members of the Club (~160). [OK, OK, if 'JU, the big lid from Chicago, would hold down his blabbering to 10-minutes, it might give others a chance to check-in and not scare them away! But there is so much information to be distributed and so little time in which to do it - *ed*]
- Roger [KD4STR] mentioned that maybe a change of date of the week might work better for others who plan to check-in but are caught among other nets or family affairs.
- Back on the Christmas Party theme, Andrew mentioned that The Central Baptist Church might be considered for a location.
- Mike has also been keeping the Club Website up-to-date. Thank you, Mike.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the Health and Welfare report. Many members and spouses of members are with health problems. Please keep these folks in you thoughts and prayers.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the report for the Training and Education Committee. Bob told the membership the Technician Class license sessions continue with three (3) students. 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/>.
- 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.
- Andrew asked if there was any other old business.
- Dave [N9KMY] told the audience that Scout Camporee was the last weekend with over 1000 scouts attending. There was a station setup that ran WinLink.
- Andrew called for any new business. There being none, Andrew thanked the crowd for attending the meeting, thanked Kevin {W4KEV} for the very interesting presentation and, with that, the 2025 October 27 meeting of SMARC was adjourned at 2104 ET.

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.