

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2025 September 22

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2025 September 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 September 22 meeting was called to order at 1900 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL – *ed.*] Andrew welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- Kenny Witt [KC4OJS] gave the announced presentation on “APRS.” Thanks to Kenny for a very interesting subject matter.
- Following a break from 2027 to 2049 ET, Andrew welcomed all in attendance and extended gratitude to the United Steel Workers Union 309 for the use of the Union Hall for the meeting and use of their internet access port to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur.
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club:

The club has 160 active members, including 38 new members so far this year which includes 1 since the August meeting.

Fund balances as of 2025 September 22 are as follows:

Operating Fund \$1,538.84
Repeater Maintenance Fund \$2,525.00
Reserve Fund \$15,235.11

The sum of the funds, \$19,298.95, is split between four accounts: \$250.00 in a Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC) checking account; \$14,000 in a Schwab fixed income account; \$5,029.84 in a Schwab cash account, and \$19.11 with PayPal.

- Bob [KK4XA] gave the Health and Welfare report. Bob read a list of members and spouses of members needing thoughts and prayers due to various and sundry health related problems: Wayne [WV4TN] is at home recuperating from being hospitalized with an infection from a procedure; Kevin’s [W4KAM] wife, Stacey, has finished chemotherapy but it was rough; Dennis’ [N9DPP] girlfriend, Deb, has finished chemo; and Kurt’s [KC4NX] wife is recuperating.
- Bob [KK4XA], reporting for the Training and Education Committee told the audience that there will be a Fall Technician Class. The class will commence in October, the 14th (changed from the original date of October 7) to be exact, with all classes held via Zoom beginning at 1900 ET.
- Bob [KK4XA] told the audience that, weather permitting, SMARC would hold a POTA event at the Look Rock Picnic Area on Saturday, September 27 from 1000 to 1600 ET. Bring your own meat to cook as a grill will be provided, and your rig if you wish to activate the park. Or use a rig that someone else will provide.

- Mike [K4MJF] reporting as Net Manager said that the average number of check-ins for the SMARC Weekly Thursday Night Net has been dwindling in recent weeks. [Hey, guys and gals, with over 150 members, there should be more checking into the net at 1900 Eastern Time. How about grabbing the microphone and at least saying “Hi, y’all” to everyone! Even that big lid from Chicago mouths off on Thursday Nights so tune in for the Solar Report and other tantalizing tidbits of Amateur Radio operations, if you can stand that Yankee accent for more than a couple of minutes. - *ed*] [Come to think of it, maybe the yakkety-yak of the Chicago Yankee is chasing folks away. Should he cease and desist with the report? Let Mike know. - *ed*] Mike also said that the Club website is up-to-date and is being kept that way. Thank you, Mike, for your dedication and hard work.
- Greg [K4HMS] told the audience that the SKYWARN group that operated the TN QSO Party is hopeful they may have won the state with their operation from Middlesettlements “Field of Dreams” location.
- Andrew said that for old business is the labeling of the books (labels provided by Andrew) to be donated to the Blount County Library is being done by Bob [KK4XA]. When finished, Dave [N9KMY] will deliver the books to the Library.
- Even though there was no call for any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the 2025 July Club meeting, it is assumed there were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2025 July 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] said that he contacted the Cracker Barrel about catering the 2025 SMARC Christmas Party. The store told him to speak with them after Halloween when they will have a better idea on pricing. Also an email will be generated to those who have signed up for @groups.io announcements asking if the caterer should be Cracker Barrel or, as suggested by Kurt [KC4NX] at a “Leadership Meeting,” Gondolier Italian Restaurant.
- Andrew asked if there was any other new business.
- Dave [N9KMY] told the audience about requests from the ARRL to flood our representatives in DC with letters supporting equality for hams living in HOA restricted neighborhoods with regards to outdoor antennas. Dave then deferred to Greg [K4HMS] who said that the letters may arrive after the voting on the equity bill has occurred. Better than the form letter that may be filled filled out at the aRRL website, is to compose one of your own to give a personal touch.
- Further new business was Dave [N9KMY] thanking all who purchased equipment from the estate of Nick [KK4TID].
- There being no other new business, Andrew adjourned the 2025 September 22 meeting of the SMARC at 2112 ET. Thank you to all in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom, and to Kenny [KC4OJS] for his APRS presentation.

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.