

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 March 27

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (“SMARC”) 2023 March meeting was held as a combination of an in-person meeting at the United Steel Workers Union Hall in Alcoa, TN, and a Zoom video conference. An announcement for the meeting was made during the KK4XA Morning Net on the W4OLB SMARC repeater.

- The SMARC March meeting was called to order at 1913 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA]. (All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*)
- A total of 34 members and 2 visitors were in attendance at the union hall with 13 others joining via Zoom video conference.
- Bob asked the visitors, Hernan [KB2URT], accompanied by his sister, and Skip [KQ4FSH] to introduce themselves. Bob then read the list of new members: Charles [KF5VRM]; Donald [KA8WUA] and wife Missy [KQ4GBD]; Charles [KD4VLH]; Hernan [KB2URT]; Evelyn [KE4HPN – wife of KR4FK]; Jim [KQ4GYS]; Michael [KQ4DSM]; John [N6VEG] and wife Annmarie [KF0IZU]; Phillip [KO4JRJ]; and, Todd [KQ4BHV]. Welcome all to the SMARC family.
- Bob announced he is planning a POTA (Parks On The Air) adventure tentatively for May. It will be a camping experience with a Fox Hunt included. Stay tuned for further details.
- Bob started the “Ham Rollcall” with each member stating name and Amateur Radio call sign.
- Carroll [W4PCA], a Volunteer Examiner (VE) representative for SMARC, announced a new VE for SMARC, Craig [NW1A]. Craig was presented with a VE Certificate. On behalf of the Club, thank you and congratulations, Craig.
- Bob announced the 2023 Field Day site will be the Smoky View Baptist Church, Maryville, TN. This was the site for the last two Field Day outings. Once again, Paul [W4LSM] will be the FD coordinator. If you are interested in being a band/station leader, please contact Paul.
- In the absence of Health and Welfare chairman, Charles [K4BAL], Bob gave the report: Randy [K4RDJ], former SMARC President, has required a foot amputation; Charles [K4BAL] is undergoing dialysis treatments; Reese [N5LXP] unfortunately became a “Silent Key” (SK); and, the wife of Scott [N0EDV], Michelle, is receiving chemotherapy treatments. Please keep all of them in your thoughts and prayers.
- Bob asked for acceptance of the notes/minutes for the 2023 February meeting. A motion to accept was made by Joe [KN4YED] and seconded by Mike [KQ4DSM]. The motion to accept the 2023 February meeting minutes was passed by the majority vote of those in attendance. [The majority includes those on the Zoom video conference – *ed.*]

- A motion by Sam [KV4XY] was made to add Bob Wilson [KK4XA] to the ORNL Credit Union account. This is the account with the Certificates of Deposit for SMARC. Mike [K4MJF] seconded the motion. After a short discussion (a/k/a, crickets – *ed.*), the motion to accept the addition of Bob Wilson to the Club ORNL CU account was passed by the majority vote of those in attendance.
- Dave [N9KMY] explained the financial summary sheet as the Treasurer’s Report. Details of the summary sheet and a spreadsheet may be found at the SMARC website, <https://w4olb.org/>, in the Members’ Section under Member Documents. The total of all accounts as of 2023 March 27 is \$15,016.22. Bob asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report which was made by Mike [KQ4DSM] and seconded by Joe [KN4YED]. The motion to accept the 2023 March Treasurer’s Report was passed by the majority vote of those in attendance.
- Bob told the assembly that the April meeting will be the annual “Trunkfest” for the club. Members may bring articles to sell. This meeting will commence at 6:00 PM ET and will include a hot dogs and buns “eatfest” starting about 7 PM ET. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes to make a picnic of the event. [Please do not bring any ants! - *ed*]
- David [N1ESK - on Zoom] told the Club that a letter was received from the Federal Internal Revenue Service with questions concerning the change of organization status to 501(c)(3) from 501(c)(7). Answers were provided by David. The official conversion should take less than 9-months and may occur as soon as Memorial Day, 2023.
- Paul [W4LSM] extended thank you’s to Kurt [KC4NX] for SSB and Carroll [W4PCA] for CW during the recent activation of W1AW/4 VOTA (Volunteers On The Air) by SMARC.
- SMARC Net Manager, Mike [K4MJF], reported the average number of stations checking into the Thursday Evening Net was 28 for the last 13-weeks. Mike also thanked Melvin [WB5KSM] for his years as the Net Manager. [The Thursday Evening Net meets at 1900 ET on the W4OLB VHF repeater – *ed.*]
- Kurt [KC4NX] told the audience both of the SMARC repeaters were performing as expected. There is a “Wires-X” connection through the 443.075-MHz Fusion repeater via a node at the residence of Ed [K4EDD]. Thank you, Ed.
- The “DXnoxious” Secretary, Bob [K9JU], mentioned the CY0S Sable Island DXpedition would end soon (March 30) and the chances of another trip to the island in the near future will probably be slim. Work ‘em now!
- There was a break from 2012 to 2039 ET for snacks and eyeball QSOs. Bob said the planned presentation by the TN State Guard had to be canceled as the presenter had fallen ill. Bob gave us his “Hints, Kinks and Hacks” on the proper method of taping coaxial cable connectors to prevent water intrusion and rope knots that are useful for suspending antennas in trees and guying mast supports.

The 2023 March 27 meeting of SMARC ended at 2119 ET. Thank you to all in attendance.

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 on the W4OLB/R repeater.