

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 November 27

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2023 November 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 SMARC November meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA] on Zoom. [All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*]
- Twenty seven (27) members were in attendance at the union hall with twenty (20) others joining via Zoom Video Conference. Both Bob and SMARC Secretary, Bob Loving [K9JU], were on Zoom.
- Bob asked for the roll call when each member announced call and name. Bob read the calls and names of those on Zoom.
- Bob extended thank yous to Steve [W4SDS] for the use of his hot spot at the meetings to provide Zoom access for those of us at home, and to the United Steel Workers Union for the use of the Union Hall for meetings of SMARC.
- Bob said the CW (Morse Code) classes taught by Rick [W8KO], are going well. Anyone interested may join the classes on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (1900) ET.
- There was no report of activity for the Club Thursday Evening Net. If you are interested in becoming a Net Control Station (NCS), please contact the Net Manager, Mike, K4MJF.
- Bob gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL], who was not available. He told the membership of problems facing members or immediate family thereof: Randy [K4RDJ]; Charles [K4BAL]; Mary Kay, the wife of Jim [W7FKI]; and, Michelle, the wife of Scott [N0EDV]. The Club wishes all of you the best and speedy recoveries.
- Bob asked for acceptance of the Secretary minutes for the October SMARC meeting. Bill [KY4KB] made the motion; Mike [KQ4DSM] seconded the motion. The minutes therefore are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes are available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org/minutes> – *ed.*]
- On behalf of the Club, Bob thanked Josh [AA4WX, *nee* WX4KXT], for assuming the role of editor of a Club Newsletter. The second edition, “Fall 2023 Newsletter,” is posted at the Club website <https://w4olb.org/documents>.
- Greg [K4HSM] announced that SKYWRN Recognition Day would occur on Saturday (0000 to 2359 UTC) 2023 December 02.
- As announced at previous meetings, Josh [AA4WX] and Jordan [NA4WX, *nee* K4AVG] will head the 2024 SMARC Field Day Committee. They wish members would begin thinking about what equipment, etc., will be required. The venue is the Middlesettlements United Methodist Church’s “Field of Dreams.”
- In the absence of Dave [N9KMY], Bob showed the Treasurer’s report. The total of all monies

in SMARC accounts, as of 2023 November 07, is \$12,137.52. Details of the summary sheet may be found at the SMARC website in the Members Section under Member Documents, <https://w4olb.org/info/docs>. [Finalized data will be provided by the Treasurer later in December - *ed.*] The report is accepted per the By-Laws of the Club.

- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the Repeater Upgrade Project Phase I, the replacement of the 146.655-MHz W4OLB/R antenna system [the “NAS” reference in the September meeting minutes – *ed.*] was complete. The original Phase II has been split into Phase II, the New Repeater (hardware), and Phase III, the improved and expanded Backup Battery System.
- Kurt also reported the Club’s UHF Repeater has lost the Power Amplifier and running only on the 25-Watts Yaesu Repeater. [Kurt and the Chicago Redneck Yankee (oh, lord!) will attempt to repair the PA – *ed.*]
- Josh [AA4WX] described the “Elgato Stream Deck MK2 – Studio Controller” that would facilitate the operation of the Audio/Visual presentations for Club Meetings. With a “Black Friday Special” discount of \$30.00, the Club could purchase the device for \$119.95 (less tax and shipping). A motion was made to purchase the Studio Controller by Bob [K9JU, the big lid Yankee!- *ed.*] and seconded by Jordan [NA4WX]. The motion to purchase an “Elgato Stream Deck MK2 – Studio Controller” was passed by the majority of those both in attendance and on Zoom. [Josh will make the purchase and will be reimbursed by the Club – *ed.*]
- Matt [KO4IYW]. A guest on Zoom announced that the Cleveland, TN club, CARC, will hold a Fox Hunt with six (6) transmitters on Saturday, 2023 December 02. All members of the Club are invited to attend. Fox hunting equipment will be provided to those needing same. An email will be sent to Club members via the “smarc@groups.io” account.
- Per the By-Laws of the Club, elections take place in November of even numbered years for two (2) year terms in office. The Nominating Committee, Carroll [W4PCA] and Kelley [KR4FK], were asked for nominations:
  1. Carroll nominated Joshua (“Josh”) Marler [AA4WX] for President. There were no other nominations from the Club members in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom. Therefore, Josh is elected President by affirmation.
  2. Carroll nominated Andrew Lawson [N2AL] for Vice President. There were no other nominations from the Club members in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom. Therefore, Andrew is elected Vice President by affirmation.
  3. Carroll nominated Bob Loving [K9JU] for Secretary. There were no other nominations from the Club members in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom. Therefore, Bob is elected Secretary by affirmation. [You gotta be kidding! - *ed.*]
  4. Carroll nominated David Andrews [N1ESK] for Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the Club members in attendance at the Union Hall and on Zoom. Therefore, David is elected Treasurer by affirmation.
- Jordan [NA4WX] suggested appointing Bob to the stature of President Emeritus. The announcements of the appointment and a dues free for life status for Bob will be addressed at the 2024 January meeting when Josh takes the gavel and title of President of SMARC. Thank

you, Bob, for eight (8) years of honorable service to the Club.

- Bob thanked the Nominating Committee for their work of recommending the candidates.
- Bob announced that the SMARC Annual Christmas Party will take place on 2023 December 09 at the Regal Towers in Maryville, TN [same as last year, near the Blount County Library – *ed*]. The Club will cover the \$100.00 fee imposed by Regal Towers and the meat. Mike [K4MJF] made a motion to authorize up to \$300.00 for the Club's expense for the party. Josh [AA4WX] seconded the motion. The motion to authorize up to \$300.00 for the SMARC 2023 Annual Christmas Party was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- With regards to the 2023 Christmas Party, Andrew [N2AL] made a motion to reimburse David Andrews [N1ESK] his \$100.00 out-of-pocket fee to Regal Towers. The motion was seconded by Kelley [KR4FK]. The motion to reimburse \$100.00 to David Andrews for his payment to Regal Towers for SMARC 2023 Annual Christmas Party was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- Bob announced the need to pay the \$35.00 annual fee to the South East Repeater Association (SERA), the group that coordinates all Amateur Radio repeaters in the southeast United States of America. A motion was made by Josh [AA4WX] to pay the \$35.00 annual dues to SERA and the motion was seconded by Kelley [KR4FK]. The motion to pay the \$35.00 annual dues to SERA was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- Bob asked for Hal [WB4E], Joel [N4JHS} and Kelley [KR4FK] to serve on the 2023 Finance Review Committee for the Club.
- Bob clarified details for the 2023 Christmas party including the where and when. [see above – *ed*]. The Club needs volunteers to set up and clean up at Regal Towers. Anybody?
- Brian [KM4JCH] said his church is selling raffle tickets for \$10.00 each. See Brian for details.
- Josh [AA4WX] announced an Amateur Radio Exam Session for 2023 November 28. The next test session hosted by SMARC will be on Monday, 2023 December 11; contact Carroll [W4PCA] for details.
- Congratulations are in order to Club members Mike [K4MJF] and Mike [KK6OKU] for upgrading to Amateur Extra Class status. Welcome to full Amateur Radio privileges, gentlemen.
- A motion to end the business portion of the meeting was made by Mike [KK4MG] and seconded by John [N6VEG]. The motion to end the business portion of the 2023 November meeting was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- There was a break from 2015 to 2028 ET.
- David [N1ESK] gave a very interesting and informative presentation on "Death, Taxes and Amateur Radio." We can't escape the first two but we can do something about the third before the Grim Reaper comes knocking. Thank you, David, for an excellent presentation on a subject none of us wants to face. [Some of us are a LOT closer to facing the inevitable than others, namely, the chatterbox Redneck Yankee from Chicago – *ed*.]

The 2023 November 27 meeting of SMARC ended at 2055 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, and the SMARC Weekly Thursday Evening Net at 7:00 PM (1900) ET. Both nets are held on the W4OLB/R repeater with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.