**Draft Minutes of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club meeting of January 22, 2024**

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC) regular monthly meeting was held on January 22, 2024, online only via a Zoom video conference. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to icy conditions in the parking lot of the United Steelworkers Union Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 local by President Josh Marler, AA4WX. Other officers present were Vice-President Andrew Lawson, N2AL, Secretary Bob Loving, KJ9A, and Treasurer David Andrews, N1ESK.

A total of 57 individuals were present on Zoom. Josh welcomed our new members who introduced themselves. They were John Walker KN4NYU(E), Brian Ipock KI4GNY(G), Bob Antion ND4P(E), Roger Rowen KD4STR(E), and visitor Lee Johnson N4WYE(E) from Marietta, GA.

Josh extended the club’s appreciation to Steve Sharp W4SDS for providing internet services at our physical meetings which allows Zoom access. Also, our thanks to the United Steelworkers Local 309 for allowing SMARC access to their meeting room for our meetings.

Josh reminded all interested parties to sign up to the [smarc@groups.io](mailto:smarc@groups.io) page to receive updates of club activities.

The minutes of the November 2023 meeting were distributed in advance. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer David Andrews N1ESK provided a list of 13 new members of SMARC so far for 2024 along with a breakdown of membership renewals to date. The club has 84 members who have renewed so far for 2023.

David then presented the Treasurer’s Report for January 2024. The report will be posted on the SMARC website. The total of all liquid assets as of January 20, 2024, stood at $25,516.20.

David made a motion to realign the finances of SMARC by making the following four changes:

1. Rename the Estate Fund the Reserve Fund
2. Move the $750 Life Member payment into the Reserve Fund, and allocate any future life membership payments to the Reserve Fund
3. Annually, at the beginning of each year, transfer any remaining Operating Fund balance to the Reserve Fund
4. Authorize the Treasurer, after concurrence of the other officers, to prudently invest the reserve funds.

The motion was seconded by Bill KY4KB. After discussion, the motion was adopted by a show of hands.

Bob Wilson KK4XA presented the Health and Welfare Committee report.

Net Manager Mike Foley K4MJF presented the Net Committee report.

Bob Wilson KK4XA presented the Training and Education Committee report.

David Andrews N1ESK presented the Repeater Fundraising Committee report. Multiple anonymous donations were received totaling $12,000 for the replacement of the VHF repeater system. It was stipulated by a donor that funds exceeding the required amount would be placed in the club’s reserve account.

David made a motion to expend the $12,000 raised by the Repeater Fundraising Committee as follows:

Motion #1:

* $4,647.00 to Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX for the following equipment.
  + ***New Repeater Equipment List***:
  + $1705.00 Kenwood 25W VHF Repeater NXR-710 (new)
  + $1844.00 Crescend 100W PA w/RF bypass P10-20DE1-C5-BP1 (new)
  + $ 523.00  S-Com Controller 7330 (new)
  + $ 400.00  Motorola UHF link and control radios CDM1250 (2 @ $200) (used)
  + $ 175.00  Control system tray, hardware, relays, cable assemblies (n.o.s.)
* An amount not to exceed $400.00 to Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX, for the materials and labor to build a battery storage container.

Motion #1 was seconded by Kelley Gunter KR4FK. After discussion, the motion was carried by a show of hands.

Motion #2:

* $2,840.00 to ETRA for (2) SFK-300 HP 300 AH 4.0 KW self-heating Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries with heat switch, data port, insulated jacket, and a pair of 250-amp bus bars.
* $759.05 to ETRA for a Victron Energy Skylla intelligent battery charger.

During the discussion of the motion, Bob Wilson KK4XA, stated for the record:

*"Just for the record, we appreciate ETRA stepping to the plate and making the purchase. I know there is some discussion the other night about as to why SMARC didn’t do that, but SMARC, SMARC wasn't notified. If we were notified, we could have made the purchase. I'm sure I'm pretty confident of that I've been told that, but we appreciate David stepping up and making the purchase in our absence and knowledge."*

Motion #2 was seconded by Craig Lynch NW1A. After discussion, the motion was carried by a show of hands.

Motion #3:

* $2,235.50 to replenish the Repeater Fund back to a level of $2500, sufficient for future maintenance needs.
* $1118.45 to the Reserve Fund.

Motion #3 was seconded by David Kaun N9KMY. After discussion, the motion was carried by a show of hands.

Josh then dissolved the Repeater Fundraising Committee.

Kurt Meltzer KC4NX presented the Repeater Committee report. Kurt spoke about the VHF repeater replacement project as well as the status of the failure and repairs underway at the UHF repeater.

Kurt made the motion to expend an amount not to exceed $200 for repairs to the UHF repeater. The motion was seconded by David Kaun N9KMY. After discussion, the motion was carried by a show of hands.

The Field Day Committee leadership has changed. Josh has stepped down and has been replaced by Bob Wilson KK4XA, who will co-chair with Jordan Webb, NA4WX. Jordan provided an update on preparations to date.

The Public Information Officer leadership has changed. Josh is stepping down from this position. More information will follow later in the meeting.

Webmaster Jordan Webb, NA4WX spoke about the efforts to date to update the club’s website [www.w4olb.org](http://www.w4olb.org). The effort is ongoing.

The Financial Review Committee, consisting of Hal Weeden WB4E, Kelley Gunter KR4FK, and Joel Searfoss N4JHS presented its report to Josh on January 21. Josh accepted the report, noted no irregularities, and acknowledged the recommendations given by the committee. The Financial Review Committee was then dissolved, and the club thanked the committee for their work.

In unfinished business, David Andrews N1ESK, made a motion that we close as uncompleted the motion approved in July 2023 to purchase a complete set of ARRL books at the discounted price, as the ARRL no longer offers the book sets. John Kyriazis N6VEG seconded the motion, which was approved by a show of hands.

Under new business, David Andrews N1ESK presented the draft operating budget for 2024. After preliminary discussions, a motion was made by David Andrews N1ESK, seconded by Bill Seal KY4KB to adopt the proposed budget. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

A motion was made by David Andrews N1ESK, seconded by Dave Kaun N9KMY, to waive the 2024 dues for Jordan Webb NA4WX in consideration of website hosting costs. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

A motion was made by David Andrews N1ESK, seconded by Bill Seal KY4KB to waive the dues for Kelley Gunter KR4FK in consideration of his coordinating the Union Hall for our meetings. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

Josh announced the title of the Public Information Officer will be changed to Public Information Coordinator.

Josh led a short discussion on the concept of changing the meeting format. The idea is to give the presentation first, followed by the business meeting. This will begin with the February meeting, when the Skywarn training will be held. With no objections during the conversation, Josh will make the decisions moving forward.

Josh announced the following appointments for committees and chairpersons:

* 1. Public Information Coordinator - Jeff Buffington, N4POD
  2. Repeater Committee

Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX - Chairman

Bob Wilson, KK4XA

Jordan Webb, NA4WX

Andrew Lawson, N2AL

* 1. Club License Trustee

Carroll Peabody, W4PCA thru Renewal (July 2024)

Jordan Webb, NA4WX Post Renewal

* 1. Net Manager - Mike Foley, K4MJF
  2. Health and Welfare - Charles Ballard, K4BAL
  3. Training and Education Committee

Bob Wilson, KK4XA - Chairman

Carroll Peabody, W4PCA

Josh Marler, AA4WX

David Kaun, N9KMY

* 1. Webmaster - Jordan Webb, NA4WX
  2. Field Day 2024

Jordan Webb, NA4WX – Chairman

Bob Wilson, KK4XA - Chairman

Josh appointed Bob Wilson, KK4XA to serve as President Emeritus. The President Emeritus will serve as a trusted advisor to the officers of SMARC. He will assist the club officers with meeting planning and club planning. The position is both advisory and honorary in nature, however the position is not considered an officer of the club and does not include any rights or privileges of an elected officer of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club. The term of the appointment is life. Bob Wilson KK4XA accepted the position.

Nomination for Honorary Life Membership: Josh made the following motion:

***I, Josh Marler, President of Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, by the power vested in me by the by-laws of Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, hereby nominate Bob Wilson, KK4XA for Honorary Life Membership to Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club. In recognition of his 8 years of dedicated service as President of SMARC, as well as the use of the KK4XA linked DMR System, I further move that Bob Wilson, KK4XA be accepted as an honorary life member of the club and be exempt from paying annual dues for the rest of his natural life.***

The motion was seconded by Jordan Webb, NA4WX. After much acclaim, the motion was overwhelmingly passed by a show of hands.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 21:13 local.

Following a brief break, Andrews Lawson N2AL led a group discussion on 2024 SMARC Goals and Plans.

Submitted by David Andrews, N1ESK substituting for Bob Loving, K9JU