

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2024 February 26

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2024 February meeting was held as a combination of an in-person meeting at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 429 Sandy Springs Rd., Maryville, TN, and a Zoom Video Conference. [Floor work at the normal venue, United Steel Workers Union Hall, 339 South Hall Rd., Alcoa, TN, prevented holding the meeting there – *ed.*] Announcements for the meeting were made during the KK4XA Morning Net and throughout the day by computerized voice on the W4OLB SMARC repeater.

- Due to the special nature of the meeting, the SMARC February meeting was called to order at 1801 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson [N2AL] - *ed.*]
- Fifty four (54) members and guests were in attendance at the church with sixteen (16) others joining via Zoom Video Conference. SMARC Secretary, Bob Loving [K9JU], was on Zoom.
- The “special nature of the meeting” references a SkyWarn Spotter Training Session presented by Jeremy Buckles of the National Weather Service (“NWS”). Those who registered for the course will receive accreditation as a SkyWarn Weather Spotter. The excellent commentary and slide show by Jeremy lasted until 1916 ET. The Club extends a hearty “thank you” to Jeremy, the NWS and present and newly trained SkyWarn Spotters. [NOTE: During severe weather, tune to the WB4GBI 146.940-MHz repeater for up to date spotter information – *ed.*]
- After a break following the presentation, the formal business meeting commenced at 1934 ET with old business.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the January SMARC meeting. Due to the medical absence of the SMARC Secretary, Bob [K9JU – probably having another frontal lobotomy - *ed.*] during the period, the minutes were produced and posted by David [N1ESK - Thank you, David de K9JU.] There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2024 January Club meeting are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes are available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org/minutes> – *ed.*]
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club. All quantities refer to sums as the meeting date of the club:

1) Operating Fund	\$2861.80
2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2930.00
3) Reserve Fund	\$12,245.55

The sum of the funds, \$18,037.35, is split between two accounts: \$9852.23 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$8185.12 in a Certificate of Deposit account with Oak Ridge National Laboratory Federal Credit Union (ORNL).

As of 2024 March 02, the financial report has not been posted in the Members Only Section of the Club website, <https://w4olb.org/>.

- An oversight had occurred at the end of last year in that the annual dues for 2024 had not been determined. Since late last year, a *de facto* \$30 per year has been collected from many

members. Josh [AA4WX] made a motion to set the dues of the Club for 2024 at \$30; Ken [KQ4DIJ] seconded the motion. After a brief discussion a vote was called. With one objection, the motion to set the 2024 Club dues at \$30 was passed by the majority of those both in attendance and on Zoom.

- Charles [K4BAL] gave the Health and Welfare report. Brian [KM4JCH] will be undergoing lung surgery on Thursday, February 29. The Club wishes Brian the best and a speedy recovery.
- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager for the Club, said the average number of check-ins for Thursday Evening Net is about twenty seven (27) over a six (6) week period.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the report for the Training and Education Committee. Bob asked if the Club should hold a one day “crash course” for the amateur Radio Technician Class license. Answer to be determined. Bob wants the membership to send to him a list of what topics would be of interest to the Club to increase knowledge of Amateur Radio.
- Kurt [KC4NX] reported the Club’s UHF Analog/Fusion Repeater is back although running only on the 25-Watts exciter. For a few months, an earlier version of the Yaesu repeater was used that was on loan to the Club from David [N1ESK – thank you, David.]. An added circuit will allow remotely resetting the repeater should a power interruption put the repeater in analog only mode. Kurt told the Club members that the Repeater Upgrade Project Phase II, the 146.655-MHz New Repeater (hardware), is being assembled and will undergo testing before installation at the Reservoir Hill site.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the report for the Field Day Committee. As previously reported, the venue will be the “Field of Dreams” of the Middlesettlements United Methodist Church. Bob needs “station masters” who will oversee equipment, operators, etc. for each of the stations. The GOTA, “Get On The Air,” station will be W4W by the SkyWarn personnel.
- On behalf of the Club, Andrew thanked Jeff [N4POD], for assuming the role of editor of a Club Newsletter. The next edition, “Spring 2024 Newsletter,” hopefully will be posted by the end of March or beginning of April at the Club website. See <https://w4olb.org/documents>.

There was no other old business. The following are new business items for the Club.

- The subject of a donation to Saint Paul Lutheran Church for the use of the facilities for the February Club meeting was posited. Bob [KK4XA] made a motion to donate \$100 to the church; Mike [K4MJF] seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion to donate \$100 to Saint Paul Lutheran Church for use of the facilities was passed by the majority of those both in attendance and on Zoom. Also, thank you to Dave [N9KMY] for securing the venue for the February Club meeting.
- The Club has been able to provide Zoom access to Club meetings through the use of a “hot spot” connected to the internet via cellular phone service. The cost of the service has been borne by Steve [W4SDS] for many years. As a thank you to Steve from the Club, a motion to waive the annual dues for W4SDS was made by Mike [K4MJF]. The motion was seconded by Bill [KY4KB]. After a brief discussion, the motion to waive the annual dues for Steve [W4SDS] was passed by the majority of those both in attendance and on Zoom.
- Speaking of Bill [KY4KB], he is in need of help to raise an HF antenna or two sometime in the spring. As of this writing, no date has been set. Keep an ear tuned to the Club repeater

(146.655-MHz) when the time draws nigh.

- Andrew announced he has accepted the resignation as President of the Club from Josh [AA4WX]. With the elevation to President of Vice President (VP) Andrew, per the By-Laws of the club, the position of VP cannot remain vacant. Andrew asked Kelley [KR4FK] and Carroll [W4PCA], as an *ad hoc* committee, to search for likely candidates. Per the By-Laws of the Club, this business item requires a vote. Bill [KY4KB] made the motion to form the nominating committee; the motion was seconded by Dave [N9KMY]. After a brief discussion, the motion to form a nominating committee to find possible candidates to fill the office of Vice President of the Club was passed by the majority of those both in attendance and on Zoom. Please consider filling this important position for the Club.
- Andrew asked Carroll [W4PCA] when the next VE testing by the Club would occur. The date is Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM EDT. The location is the Parrish House of St. Andrew's Church, 314 West Broadway Avenue, Maryville, TN. Please see the Club website <https://w4olb.org/> for important information concerning the testing requirements. [The section is approximately one quarter of way from the top of the opening window – *ed.*]
- Dave [N9KMY] announced he is composing a white paper on the digital communication modes DMR and Fusion. Dave also told the members that RT Systems, makers of great programming software and interface cables, now has the capabilities for some DMR radios.

The 2024 February 26 meeting of SMARC ended at 2015 ET. Thank you to all in attendance.

Don't forget to "spring ahead" on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 AM EST as Daylight Saving Time returns to the United States of America.

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.

P.S.S.: It is sad news to report 2024 the February 28 passing of Bob Heil [K9EID]. Bob was a leader in the field of sound and microphone development. RIP K9EID – SK.