

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2024 July 22

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2024 July 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 July meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Andrew Lawson [N2AL]. [All references to "Andrew" are to Andrew Lawson, N2AL - *ed.*]
- Twenty two (22) members and two (2) guests were in attendance at the Union Hall with fifteen (15) others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Andrew asked if there were any visitors. The guests were Karen Farnsworth [K2KAR] and Lucas Lawson, the “second harmonic” of Andrew. Welcome to the Club.
- Andrew extended gratitude to the United Steel Workers Union 309 for the use of the union hall for the meeting and to Steve [W4SDS] for the use of his hotspot and cell service to allow the Zoom Video Conference to occur.
- Andrew asked if there were any corrections to the Secretary minutes for the May Club meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2024 May Club meeting are approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club. [The minutes will be available at the Club website, <https://w4olb.org> under “Files” and “Minutes” – *ed.*]
- Treasurer David Andrews [N1ESK] gave his report on the finances of the Club. This report includes June and July. David announced the Club membership is now one hundred forty (140), increased by six (6) new members: Robert [W1IZT], Philip [K9UC], Edward [N6XA], Larry [KO4ZVO], Steve [K4DXV] and Paul [KC2MZC] Welcome to all of the new members.

All quantities refer to sums as of the July 22 meeting date of the Club:

1) Operating Fund	\$3010.32
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The difference from 2024 May of \$ 3,360.64 came from expenditures in June of \$20.00 for T-mobile hot spot monthly charge [which has been canceled due to insufficient coverage at the union hall – *ed.*], \$35.00 payment to FCC for renewal of the Club W4OLB license and \$557.09 payment for Field Day food from Kroger [David [N4AER] used his employee discount to save the Club 10% - thank you David – *ed.*]. There was income in June from Dues and Donations of \$220.00. In July the sole expenditure came from \$28.23 to Bob [KB2ENJ] for generator fuel for Field Day; Dues and Donations totaled \$60.00. Please note that even though \$800.00 was allocated in the 2024 budget of the Club for the 2024 ARRL Field Day, only \$585.32 was spent.

2) Repeater Maintenance Fund	\$2,530.00
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There were no expenditures in either month.

3) Reserve Fund	\$12,397.55
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The increase from the May balance of \$12,335.81 is related to the interest earned on the ORNL Certificates of Deposit and the CBBC checking account.

The sum of the funds, \$17,877.87, is split between two accounts: \$9,540.75 in a checking account with the Citizens Bank of Blount County (CBBC); and, \$8,337.12 in a Certificate of Deposit account with Oak Ridge National Laboratory Federal Credit Union (ORNL FCU). There is also \$60.00 on hand.

- A motion was requested to donate \$150.00 to the Middlesettlements United Methodist Church for use of their Field of Dreams for the Club Field Day operation. The motion was made by Jordan [NA4WX] and seconded by Hal [WB4E]. After little discussion the motion to donate \$150.00 to the Middlesettlements United Methodist Church was passed by the majority of those present and on Zoom.
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL] who was absent. The sister-in-law of Jordan [NA4WX] and the sister of Sam [W4SLW], Natalie, was involved in a head-on crash with a deer was still in critical condition although improving.
- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager for the Club, noted a drop in the average number of check-ins for Thursday Evening Net. [If the big lid from Chicago would keep his blabbering to 10-minutes, it might give others a chance to check-in and not scare them away! - *ed*] The average is only eighteen (18) over the last seven (7) weeks. The Club could use a few more Net Control Stations (NCS) for the Thursday Evening Net and the KK4XA Morning Net. If you are interested, please contact Mike at his email address on qrz.com. [I've said it before, if that K9JU lid from Chicago can lead the Morning Net, anyone can do it – *ed*.]
- Bob [KK4XA] gave the report for the Training and Education Committee. Bob told the membership there is nothing new to report. The plans for one day classes which would end with license exams are being hashed out. Both Technician and General Class license sessions are being considered. Bob still 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] told the Club members that the repeaters are operating as expected. The link between the repeaters of the Club is operational during the nets on the 146.655-MHz repeater. Kurt said the 2M 100-Watts Power Amplifier was fixed and returned from Crescend and installed at the repeater site after testing. The repeater is now back to full power. The 443.075-MHz repeater is still on exciter power of 20-Watts due to failure of the TPL UHF 100-Watts power amplifier. At this point in time, repair of the amplifier is not possible due to total lack of documentation on the design. A possible very low cost [essentially zero – *ed*.] has been proposed.
- The W4OLB license was renewed as shown in the Treasurer Report.
- Bob [KK4XA] and Jordan [NA4WX] gave a summary of the 5A category effort of the Club for the 2024 Field Day exercise. Thanks go out to all who participated even if they did not operate. A special thanks to Roger [KD4STR] for his "Johnny on the Spot" participation in the event.
- Jordan [NA4WX] told the group that the website needs someone to keep it up to date. He will help that someone come up to speed. Scott [N0EDV] suggested a calendar to show meetings, nets and operating events during the month.

- Andrew addressed the problem with the T-mobile hot spot coverage at the union hall and suggested discontinuing the service as it is not a binding contract. A motion was made by Jordan [NA4WX] and seconded by Mike [K4MJF] to suspend the T-mobile hot spot service due to poor coverage. After little discussion the motion to donate suspend T-mobile hot spot service was passed by the majority of those present and on Zoom.
- Andrew asked for any other old business. Brian [KM4JCH] spoke about the proposal to post only names and calls of members to the Club website. He noted one can find many websites where limited personal information is available. [qrz.com is a great example of searches by call or name and you get a lot more information than what is proposed for the Club website – *ed.*]

There was no other old business and, it turned out, no new business items for the Club.

- Andrew declared the business portion of the SMARC 2024 July 22 meeting adjourned at 1952 ET.

The 2024 May 27 meeting of SMARC ended at 2017 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 linked repeater system with Zoom Video Conference accompaniment.