

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 February 27

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (“SMARC”) 2023 February 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. Announcements for the meeting were made during the KK4XA Morning Net on the W4OLB SMARC repeater.

- The SMARC February meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA]. (All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*)
- A total of 23 members and 2 visitors (one was the speaker for the night, Lou [WB3JKQ]) were in attendance at the union hall with 19 others joining via Zoom video conference.
- Bob asked the visitor, Dwayne, N5XUL, to introduce himself. Bob then read the list of new members: Charles [KE5YRM], Charles [KD4VLH], Mike [KQ4DSM], John [N6VEG], Annmarie [KF0OZU - John’s wife] and Scott [N0EDV - Scott has been in the area for several months but is a new member as of 2023 - *ed.*].
- Bob asked for acceptance of the notes/minutes for the 2023 January meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ron [KO4RUZ] and seconded by Joe [KN4YED]. The motion to accept the 2023 January meeting minutes was passed by the majority vote of those in attendance. [The majority includes those on the Zoom video conference – *ed.*]
- Dave [N9KMY] showed 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 February 27 is \$13,785.22. Bob asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report which was made by Craig [NW1A] and seconded by Joe [KN4YED]. The motion to accept the 2023 February Treasurer’s Report was passed by the majority vote of those in attendance.
- David [N1ESK - on Zoom] told the Club that all paperwork has been completed and submitted to the State of Tennessee and the Federal Internal Revenue Service [oxymoron? - *ed.*] for the change of organization status to 501 (c) (3) from 501 (c) (7). The IRS fee of \$600 has been paid. The Club now can sit back and watch the wheels of government turn ever so slowly for the 501 (c) (3) approval.
- Bob gave a big “thank you” to Melvin [WB5KSM] for his years as the Net Manager for the Thursday evening Club net. [The net meets at 1900 ET on the W4OLB VHF repeater - *ed.*] Bob then welcomed Mike [K4MJF] as the new Net Manager.
- Bob told the audience that Mike [K4MJF] has been sending welcoming letters and information about SMARC for many months to any new users of the W4OLB repeater. Within his power as President of SMARC, Bob appointed Mike as the

first Public Relations Officer (PRO) of SMARC. [Thank you, Mike, for your selfless initiative as an unofficial PRO - *ed.*]

- Kurt [KC4NX] explained why some transmissions of users transmitting on 146.055-MHz (W4OLB input frequency) are covered up by the 443.075-MHz UHF link CW ID. The link presently uses RF; future plans are to move the link radio to the Reservoir Hill location to co-locate with the W4OLB repeater and use direct interconnections.
- Bob mentioned the KK4XA DMR repeater on 444.075-MHz, Brandmeister talk group 314742. This repeater is linked to the W4OLB VHF repeater 24/7-365. You must access the KK4XA repeater via DMR.
- Carroll [W4PCA], the Volunteer Examiner (VE) representative for SMARC, announced the next testing session will be on Monday, 2023 March 13. See the SMARC website for details.
- Bob asked the audience for their preference in a Field Day site: the United Methodist Church's "Field of Dreams"; or, the Smoky View Baptist Church pavilion used the last two years. The majority of vocal votes was for the Baptist Church pavilion. Kurt [KC4NX] said he has numerous 4' fiberglass mast sections that can be used to support dipole antennas during the event.
- Bob asked if there was interest in a substitute for the April meeting in the form of a tailgate flea market followed by a cookout of hotdogs and buns provided by the club. [You betcha! - *ed.*] Members are asked to bring side dishes of chips, potato salad, etc.
- There was a break from 2000 to 2010 ET for snacks and eyeball QSOs. At 2015 ET, Lou [WB3JKQ] presented a slideshow program on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Thank you, Lou, for the program.

The 2023 February 27 meeting of SMARC ended at 2101 ET. Thank you to all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by SMARC Secretary,

Bob Loving [K9JU]