

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 July 24

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as the “Club”) 2023 July 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. An announcement for the meeting was made during the KK4XA Morning Net on the W4OLB SMARC repeater.

- The SMARC July meeting was called to order at 1900 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA]. (All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*)
- Thirty one members and 1 visitor [latter is not on the attendance Log sheet – *ed.*] were in attendance at the union hall with 16 others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Bob announced the Club has 119 members. Bob then asked for the Ham Rollcall at which time each member announced name and call sign; Bob read the names and calls of those on Zoom.
- Charles [K4BAL], Health and Welfare told the membership of problems facing members or immediate family thereof: Randy [K4RDJ] had a foot removed and is recovering at home; Charles, himself, is going through dialysis treatments; and, Michelle, the wife of Scott [N0EDV], has finished chemotherapy and is awaiting surgery in August. We wish all you the best from the Club.
- Joe [KN4YED] made a motion to accept the May Club meeting minutes (available at the Club website, <http://w4olb.org/> – *ed.*); the motion was seconded by Mike [KK4MG]. The minutes of the May meeting are therefor approved.
- Dave [N9KMY] explained the financial summary sheet as the Treasurer’s Report. The total of all accounts as of 2023 July 24 is \$14,999.99 [corrected total, the original was \$19,999.99 - *ed.*]. The only expense since the previous report was Field Day at \$591.50. Details of the summary sheet may be found at the SMARC website, <https://w4olb.org/>, in the Members’ Section under Member Documents. Bob asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report which was made by Jordan [K4AVG] and seconded by Josh [WX4KXT]. Acceptance of the 2023 July Treasurer’s Report therefore passed.
- A discussion on the amount of donation to the Smoky View Baptist Church for use of the church pavillion and property ensued. Joe [KN4YED] suggested \$200. Rick [W8KO] made a motion to amend the 2023 budget to include the \$200 donation to the Church; the motion was seconded by Josh [WX4KXT]. The motion, as stated in this paragraph, was passed by the majority of the those in attendance.
- Bob asked for a “thank you” round of applause for Paul [W4LSM-not present at the meeting] for his leadership as chair of the Field Day Committee in past years. Thank you, Paul. The 2024 Field Day co-chairs will be Jordan [K4AVG] and Josh [WX4KXT].
- Speaking of Field Day, Bob also thanked Mrs. Karen Foley, wife of K4MJF, for her assistance with Field Day by ensuring all were well fed and hydrated. Thank you, Karen.
- Mike [K4MJF], Net Manager, said the average check-ins is 32 for the Club Thursday Evening Net over the last 4-weeks. He extended his thanks to the former Net Manager, Melvin [WB5KSM], for handling the early check-ins and to all of the Net Control Stations (NCS) for

their participation. [If you are interested in becoming an NCS, please contact Mike K4MJF – *ed.*]

- Ned [K1GU] brought an antenna for giveaway to some deserving member of the Club. The antenna is a B&W Tilted Terminated Folded Dipole (TTFD) and was discussed in an email from Dave [N9KMY] on antennas for HOA restricted locations. [The old Chicago Yankee will reserve comments on the TTFD antenna except to remind all who attended Field Day as to which antenna “talked.” It was a simple, center fed, 40M/20M (fan) dipole. As one member has stated on many occasions, “nothing beats a half wavelength, resonant dipole for an effective yet simple wire antenna – *ed.*]
- Bill [KY4KB] needs help with an antenna project. Contact Bob for further details.
- David [N1ESK], on behalf of the East Tennessee Repeater Association, a 501 (c) (3) organization, has applied for grants [original stated “*has* block grants... ” - *ed.*] for new equipment so several clubs and sites [neither yet determined - *ed.*] can form a linked Fusion repeater network in the Tri-county area. Kurt [KC4NX], the Club Repeater Committee Chair, said the Club Fusion UHF repeater, on 443.075-MHz might be a good candidate for this proposed system.
- Bob provided a short “What Is It” on the Open Spot 4 Pro Hot Spot to link to the KK4XA 444.075-MHz DMR repeater when traveling using Brandmeister Talk Group 314742.
- Bob appointed Josh [WX4KXT] as Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Club.
- Bob and Mike [K4MJF] visited Go-Teez on the subject of Club polo shirts with the new logo emblazoned on upper left front side of the shirt. The font was not compatible with shrinking down to a ~3” diameter. Also, the logo has a light blue ring around the perimeter that will fade into the color of the shirt if we remain with the light blue of the T-shirts and sweatshirts for the 75th anniversary in 2022. Therefore, it was proposed to use gray. The motion to change the color of the polo shirts to gray was made by Rick [W4KO] and seconded by Mike [K4MJF]. The motion, as stated in this paragraph, was passed by the majority of the those in attendance.
- The subject of the design of the new logo surfaced. A “heated discussion” followed pertaining to the owner of the intellectual property of the logo. [Don’t ask me as I am only the messenger – *ed.*] In the end, Josh [WX4KXT], who designed the logo, and Jordan [K4AVG] agreed to draft a document to transfer intellectual property rights for the new logo to the Club.
- Bob said he wanted to purchase the three Amateur Radio class license study guides to add to the Club library. [Don’t ask me where the physical library is located – *ed.*] David [N1ESK] told the members that the ARRL has a bundle of the study guides plus the ARRL Handbook For Radio Communications (a/k/a, the “Handbook” for us codgers – *ed.*) and the ARRL Antenna Handbook for \$200. The motion to make the bundle purchase from the ARRL (as described above) for the Club library and to have Dave [N9KMY], the Club Treasurer, add the expense to the “Admin” line of the 2023 budget was made by Chuck [KD4VLH] and seconded by Bill [KY4KB]. The motion, as stated in this paragraph, was passed by the majority of the those in attendance.
- A motion to close the business portion of the Club meeting was made by Josh [WX4KXT] and seconded by Mike [KK4MG]. Thankfully it passed by all (still) in attendance.

- Mike [KK6OKU] gave a short and interesting presentation about the Amateur Radio Emergency System (ARES). Thank you, Mike.
- There was a break from 2055 to 2106 ET for snacks and eyeball QSOs.
- Dave [N9KMY] showed photos from the 2023 Club Field Day site. The pictures are available at the Club website.

The 2023 July 24 meeting of SMARC ended at 2123 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 on the W4OLB/R repeater.