

SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 September 25

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club (SMARC, hereafter referred to as “Club”) 2023 September 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 September meeting was called to order at 1900 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA]. [All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*]
- Twenty seven members and 4 visitors were in attendance at the union hall with 17 others joining via Zoom Video Conference.
- Bob introduced two new hams, who are also visitors, Scott [KQ54LFV] and Tony [KQ4KZP].
- There was an impromptu demonstration of the capabilities of DMR using the Internet with a conversation between two Club members, Deb [KD9FXO] in Cade’s Cove and Dennis [N9DPP] in Valparaiso, IN.
- Bob asked for the Ham Roll Call at which time each member announced name and call sign. Bob then read the names and calls of those on Zoom.
- Bob asked that every member, and any others interested in receiving information about the Club and both of the Nets (KK4XA Morning Net and the SMARC Thursday Evening Net), to please sign up for the Club “groups.io” email account that is available at the Club website, <http://w4olb.org/>.
- Net Manager, Mike [K4MJF], said the average check-ins for the Club Thursday Evening Net over the last 7 weeks is 28, with a high of 34 and a low of 25. If you are interested in becoming a Net Control Station (NCS), please contact Mike, K4MJF.
- Bob mentioned the popular KK4XA Morning Net held on W4OLB repeater at 0900 ET every Monday through Thursday. He also begged members to reply to any calls on the repeater, especially from unknown or new Amateur Radio operators and travelers through the region.
- Kurt [KC4NX] will head a crew to replace the 146.655-MHz W4OLB/R antenna system [the “NAS” reference in the last meeting minutes – *ed.*]. Kurt wishes to complete work before the end of October 2023.
- Bob gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL], who was not available at the time for the report. He toldg the membership of problems facing members or immediate family thereof: Randy [K4RDJ]; Charles [K4BAL]; Mary Kay, the wife of Jim [W7FKI]; Michelle, the wife of Scott [N0EDV]; Joe [KN4YED]; and Melvin [WB5KSM]. We wish all of you the best from the Club.
- Bob announced a Technician Class License class, only on Zoom, planned for Tuesdays at 1930 (7:30 PM) ET commencing October 03. The class will be taught by Bob [KK4XA] and other volunteer instructors.
- Ric [W8KO] will hold informal Morse Code (CW) classes, only on Zoom, planned for Wednesdays at 1900 (7:00 PM) ET commencing October 03. One hour sessions will be broken

into to two segments: the first half hour will be aimed at beginners with limited or no knowledge of code; the second half hour will be aimed at proficiency in copying code.

- Bob tasked Doug [KN4RYB] with announcing “celestial events” on the Club 146.655-MHz repeater. Thank you, Doug (and Robin, the Capeless Wonder).
- Bob told the group about the website for the new tower system erected by Time [WB4GBI], et. al., that includes the 146.625-MHz repeater. This is the repeater used by ARES for their 2100 ET Thursday Evening Net.
- Bill [KY4KB] made a motion to accept the August Club meeting minutes [available at the Club website, <http://w4olb.org/> – *ed*]; the motion was seconded by Mike [KQ4DSM]. The minutes of the August meeting are therefore approved.
- Dave [N9KMY] explained the financial summary sheet as the Treasurer’s Report. The total of all accounts as of 2023 September 2 is \$14,859.03. Details of the summary sheet may be found at the SMARC website [see <https://w4olb.org/>, in the Members Section under Member Documents - *ed*].
- Bob asked for a motion to reimburse himself \$164.51 for the Club Zoom account. The motion was made by Josh [AA4WX] and seconded by Greg [K4HSM]. The motion to reimburse KK4XA \$164.51 for the Club Zoom account was approved by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- Jordan [NA4WX, nee K4AVG] will activate from FL on 20M SSB sometime in the near future. Stay tuned to the Club “groups.io” email server.
- Bob said the Club could activate a Special Event Station to celebrate “Steam Days” from the pavilion at the Chandler Farms on Alfred McCammon Road. Again, stay tuned to W4OLB repeater for further details as they become available.
- A motion to end the business portion of the September SMARC meeting was made by Bob [K9JU - you know, the Chicago Yankee who was vaccinated with a phonograph needle -*ed*]; the motion was seconded by Mike [KQ4DSM]. The motion to end the business portion of the September SMARC meeting was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
- There was a break for munchies from 2006 to 2024 ET.
- Greg [K4HSM], with assistance from Josh [AA4WX], presented an interesting and informative overview of the Skywarn System. Thank you, Greg and Josh.

The 2023 September 25 meeting of SMARC ended at 2120 ET. Thank you to all in attendance.

After the meeting, Dave [N9KMY] reported SMARC gained 4 new members and 1 renewal. The new members are: Dwayne [N5XUL]; Ken [KQ4DJI]; Tony [KQ4KZP]; and, Scott [KQ4LFV]. Welcome to SMARC, gentlemen. Thank you to the renewal, too.

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.