

## SMARC MEETING NOTES 2023 October 23

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

- The SMARC October meeting was called to order at 1901 ET by President Bob Wilson [KK4XA] on Zoom. [All references to "Bob" are to Bob Wilson [KK4XA] - *ed.*]
- Twenty two members were in attendance at the union hall with 25 others joining via Zoom Video Conference. Both Bob and SMARC Secretary, Bob Loving [K9JU], were 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/>. He also told the Club that both Technician Class FCC License and CW (Morse Code) classes are in session.
- 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 gave the Health and Welfare report for Charles [K4BAL], who was not available at the time for the report. He told the membership of problems facing members or immediate family thereof: Randy [K4RDJ]; Charles [K4BAL]; Mary Kay, the wife of Jim [W7FKI]; and, Michelle, the wife of Scott [N0EDV]. Melvin [WB5KSM] said he has healed and is well. We wish all of you the best from the Club.
- Kurt [KC4NX] told the Club members that the work to replace the 146.655-MHz W4OLB/R antenna system [the “NAS” reference in the last meeting minutes – *ed*] was complete. The Club thanks Kurt, Bob, Steve [W4SDS] and Kelley [KR4FK] for their efforts in the NAS endeavor. Also, a big thank you to the tower crew of Tim [N4TLM] and David [KF4DKW].
- Vice President Mike [K4MJF] made a motion to accept the September Club meeting minutes [available at the Club website, <http://w4olb.org/> – *ed*]; the motion was seconded by Josh [AA4WX]. The minutes of the September meeting are therefore approved.
- Public Information Officer (PIO), Josh [AA4WX], updated the Club on the following:
  1. Josh, as editor of the SMARC newsletter is looking for articles for the next issue. Have you bought a new radio and what do you think of it? Did you install a new or unusual antenna and how does it work? Did you head out into the field for a recent operation for POTA, VOTA or SOTA and how did come off? Don't worry about grammar as Josh will correct any mistakes. Please submit articles by the end of October.
  2. Skywarn on air training is held the fourth weekend of each month on the WB4GBI repeater, 146.940-MHz.
  3. The SMARC FaceBook page has 1015 followers.

4. The 2024 ARRL Field Day exercise will be held at the Untied Methodist Church Middlesettlements “Field of Dreams.”
- Dennis [N9DPP] announced that the first weekend in ~~November~~ December is Skywarn Recognition.
  - Dave [N9KMY], gave the Treasurer’s report:
    1. The Club added a new member, Tony Boring, KQ4KZP, bringing the total to 127. Welcome, Tony, to SMARC.
    2. There were no expenses to date; the total of all monies in SMARC accounts, as of 2023 October 23, is \$14,909.20. Details of the summary sheet may be found at the SMARC website [see <https://w4olb.org/>, in the Members Section under Member Documents - *ed*].
  - Dave [N9KMY] made a motion to authorize payment for the expenses of the New Antenna System (NAS). NOTE: Of the \$3086.40 in the Repeater Fund, only \$2851.90 was spent on the NAS; the expenses were \$2451.90 for the antenna and new Heliax® feedline and \$400 for the tower crew. The Repeater Fund is left with \$234.50. The motion was seconded by Bill [KY4KB]. The motion to authorize \$2851.90 for payment of the NAS was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
  - Dave [N9KMY] made a motion to reimburse Dan [KO4YLB] \$9.98 for coffee grounds. The motion was seconded by Mike [KQ4DSM]. The motion to authorize payment of \$9.98 for coffee grounds was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
  - Dave [N9KMY] made a motion to authorize up to \$700 for payment of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Insurance which covers liability and equipment. [At this point in time, the exact amount for insurance has not been determined. The coverage was \$580 last year. - *ed*] Mike [K4MJF] seconded the motion. The motion to authorize payment of up to \$700 for Club insurance from ARRL was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
  - Bob asked Kurt [KC4NX] to describe the upgrades to the 146.655-MHz SMARC VHF repeater. Already accomplished is the NAS discussed above.
    1. The new replacement equipment is estimated to cost upwards of \$10,000.00.
    2. David [N1ESK] will be chairman for fund raising from the members for the monies for the equipment. [We are nearing the end of the 2023 tax season. Those of us who must make a Required Minimum Distribution from Individual Retirement Accounts may save on taxes and increases in your Medicare premiums by making a Qualified Charitable Donation from your IRA; this is not possible from 401-k type accounts. Keep in mind that a QCD must be in the hands of the Club Treasurer and deposited before 11:59:59 PM ET on 2023 December 31. - *ed*]
    3. Paul [W4LSM] will assist David [N1ESK].
  - Bob mentioned that November is election month per the By-Laws of the Club. He asked Carroll [W4PCA] to explain the offices that must be filled. Carroll and Kelley [KR4FK] are the nominating committee.

1. The Club needs both President and Vice President (VP) as Bob and VP Mike [K4MJF] are stepping back. The office of Treasurer is also being vacated by Dave [N9KMY] who will retire soon as he and his wife, Kathy [N9NKJ], have other obligations. Please consider filling one of these important positions in the Club. Bob, Mike and Dave will provide assistance in the transitions.
  2. Bob [K9JU - the Chicago Yankee who is “motor mouth, yackety-yack” -*ed*] will remain as Secretary unless someone else is interested in the position.
  3. Paul [W4LSM] may be interested in becoming the Treasurer.
- Bob asked for a motion to end the business portion of the October SMARC meeting and was made by Dan [KO4YDB] and seconded by Mike [K4MJF]. The motion to end the business portion of the October SMARC meeting was passed by the majority of those in attendance both in person and on Zoom.
  - There was a break from 1940 to 1952 ET.
  - Dave [N9KMY] presented a very interesting and informative overview on batteries for use as short term emergency backup for our Amateur Radio stations. He discussed the pros and cons of Absorptive Glass Mat (AGM) lead acid and Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub> or, simply, “LFP”) batteries. Thank you, Dave. The presentation may be found on the Club website under “Files” then “Documents” on the drop down menu.

The 2023 October 23 meeting of SMARC ended at 2103 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 repeater.