

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Monday, March 23, 2026.**

Minutes submitted by Steve Carpenter, K4DXV for Bob Loving, K9JU, Secretary

The 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. All officers were present either in-person or via Zoom. 23 members attended in-person and 14 more on zoom.

7:00 p.m.

President Geoffrey Mark, KM6TVJ, called the meeting to order, made his opening comments, and introduced the evening's presenter Dave Kaun, N9KMY, who gave his presentation on Ham Station and Antenna Grounding.

8:10 p.m. Presentation concluded. Break until 8:20 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship.

8:24 p.m. Meeting resumed.

President Mark recognized visitors and new a member, John Blair, KR4IVC.

President also thanked USW Local 309 for the use of the facility.

President Mark asked if there were any corrections to the minutes for the 2026 February Club Meeting. There were no corrections to be made; therefore, the minutes of the 2026 February Club meeting were approved without vote per the By-Laws of the Club

Treasurer's Report: presented by Tammy Berry, KB4TQO.

March 20, 2026

Operating Fund:	\$3,393.34	CBBC Bank:	\$2,239.76
Repeater Maint:	\$2,641.15	Cash:	\$5,220.86
Reserve Fund:	<u>\$15,426.13</u>	Fixed Income:	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
	\$21,460.62		\$21,460.62

Dave Kaun reported on the final dispensation of Nick Hanson's, KK4TID SK, estate.

Unfinished business: None

New Business:

The monthly meeting on Monday, April 27 will be the club's annual Trunkfest. The club will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. President Mark asked for volunteers to grill in which no one did. Therefore, an email will be sent out. Meeting time will be 6:00 p.m. instead of the regular 7:00 p.m. start time.

Standing Committee Reports:

Build Committee and Fox Hunt Committee:

Bob Wilson, KK4XA, discussed building tape measure Yagi antennas and asked for someone to suggest a location to do the build of kits. Mike Bridge, W9ACB, offered his garage and tools. Date for build to be determined.

Field Day Committee:

Bob Wilson reported that the club will once again hold ARRL Field Day activities at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and stated the need to get proof of insurance letter. Tammy Berry will handle that. Mark calendars for Friday June 26 to do setup for Field Day.

President's comments:

President Mark wants to start a bereavement fund of up to \$50 to be donated to a charity designated by survivor(s) whenever a club member becomes a Silent Key.

President Mark also intends to begin having a moment of gratitude during the monthly meetings and opened the floor for anyone who wished to make a statement of gratitude. Tammy Berry expressed gratitude for David Andrews, N1ESK, for all of his work on finances during his tenure as past club treasurer and for helping her transition into that position.

Health & Welfare Committee:

Bob Wilson, KK4XA, reported on several club members and/or family members' health issues and current status.

Net Report:

Mike Foley, K4MJF, reported that the regular Thursday night net is recently averaging about 22 check-ins. Foley asked for suggestions for ways to bring participation up and expressed appreciation for all who do check in. He also reminded everyone that club polo shirts are still available and will send email out on how to order.

Education:

Bob Wilson, KK4XA, will start another Technician license class in the near future, but the date is still to be determined. Wilson recognized graduates of the previous class.

Repeater Committee:

Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX, reported that the roof of the structure housing the club's 2-meter repeater will hopefully be completed on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

The 70-centimeter repeater has only been running at exciter power level, but an amplifier is available. Meltzer states that the asking price of \$1,000.00 is fair. Additionally, about \$300 worth of ancillary equipment would be needed to make amp compatible with existing equipment.

President Mark made a motion that the club approve \$1,300.00 to fund the project. The motion was seconded by Mike Foley, and passed unanimously.

Public information:

President Mark stated that he had reached out to Jeff Buffington and that Andrew Lawson, N2AL, will be replacing him as the club's Public Information Officer. Scott Littfin, N0EDV, on Zoom, asked about the club newsletter. Steve Carpenter, K4DXV, former newsletter editor, addressed both the problems and possibilities of a club newsletter and stated that he would volunteer to do the job if new PIO was unable or did not want to. He further stated that input from members would be necessary to create a useful newsletter similar to that of other organizations that does not simply rehash information already available to members by electronic means.

Webmaster:

President Mark announced that club vice-president Tim Morey, KI4NPG, is now webmaster and encouraged members to take a look at the revised web site.

9:09 p.m.

There being no further business, President Mark adjourned the meeting.