

MINUTES OF THE MAY 2017 SMARC MEETING

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 05/22/17 at the USW Union Hall with SMARC President Kurt, KC4NX presiding.

There were 28 members and 3 visitors present.

The visitors were: Lou Dreinhofer, WB3JKQ representing the RACK club of Knoxville, Brian Negele, KM4JCH and Susan Negele

Introductions were made as usual. Lou, WB3JKQ reminded everyone about the upcoming RACK Hamfest in June on the 17th.

Carroll read the treasurer's report which is \$4124.93 in the club account. \$1498.00 of the amount in the bank is dedicated as the SMARC Repeater fund.

Kurt reminded everyone about the SMARC weekly net held on Thursdays at 7:00pm local time on the club repeater frequency, 146.655/.055 MHz.

Kurt also reminded about the Friday breakfast gathering of members at the Cracker Barrel located near Hunters Crossing shopping area in Alcoa. The gathering time is 9:00 AM

Kurt reminded everyone that the Field Day replaces the June club meeting.

Kurt announced the upcoming VE testing which will be held June 12th at St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall. Candidates for a new license need to bring a photo I.D. along with the \$10 fee. Candidates for an upgrade also need to bring a copy of their existing valid license.

Kurt said the main purpose of the meeting was to tell of the plans for SMARC participation in this year's Field Day. SMARC will be operating at the same site this year called "Field of Dreams" which is a property off Middle Settlements Road owned by a church. The address is 2508 Middle Settlements Road.

He asked for a show of hands as to those who plan on participating in the FD activities. He passed around a sign up sheet for members to put their name on and indicated what they could bring in the way of equipment and operating preference. Kurt mentioned that so far there were five stations planned, two CW stations, two SSB stations and a VHF station. He asked if anyone would like to operate a digital (PSK) station. Steve, K4DXV volunteered to set up to operate PSK. Kurt also said that this year the club would set up a GOTA station to allow visitors, new hams or non hams to make contacts under the control of Carl, KI5SF who would be the station manager and control operator. The GOTA station would operate under Carl's call sign

The breakdown of the other stations is as follows: Jim W7FKI will operate CW on 80/20 and 10M. Pete WM4U and Carroll W4PCA will operate 40 and 15M CW. Kurt will set up to operate 80 and 40M SSB. Bob, KK4XA said he would set up to operate 20/15 SSB. Melvin WB5KSM said he would operate his 2M solar powered station which will give extra points if he can get at least 5 contacts.

Kurt said he would check with Bob Polk, WB2ENJ about being the "gas man" as in previous FD years.

Kurt invited all present to come out to the FD site, operate a station and stay for the hot dog cookout held on Saturday afternoon Kurt reminded everyone that is planning in coming to Field Day to bring some kind of food to share, the club will be providing the remaining food and drinks. Members attending need to bring any extra food items they would prefer.

The program for the evening was presented by Ned Swartz, K1GU. Ned's program topic was Contesting. He gave tips on how to operate when participating in contest operations to get the best results (score) He asked the members to participate in a "mock contest" after he passed out pencils and a contest log sheet to each member. As soon as Ned said "GO" members we to go around and get the name, call sign and state of origin from other members in a set time period. Ned two methods of making contacts, one was called "running" in which you stay put on a frequency and call CQ to get others to come to you and the other was called "search and pounce" in which you go looking for contacts.

Following the program, members enjoyed some cookies, coffee and soft drinks

The 50/50 drawing was held with Ralph, WB4CTW the winner.

Meeting closed at 8:45 PM