

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2018 SMARC MEETING

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 01/22/18 at the USW Union Hall with Bob, KK4XA presiding.

There were 30 members and 4 visitors present.

The visitors were: Ray Endsley, KM4ZPC; Wayne Houser, WV4TN; Brad Forester, KE4GBW; Juan Lopez, AC6ZM

Bob asked those present to introduce themselves, taking turns going around the room. Bob mentioned that the annual SMARC membership dues are due and payable to the club treasurer. Several members renewed for 2018.

Randy, K4RDJ gave the treasurer's report. The club account at Capital Bank stands at \$3151.09 Approx \$1500 of that amount is in the repeater fund. A question was asked about the club purchasing the repeater equipment presently installed and owned by Kurt, KC4NX. Kurt stated that the old repeater system was sold for \$1300 and the club could pay the balance on the new equipment which amounts to \$1700.

Bob announced the next SMARC VE session will be held on March 12, 7:00 pm at the St. Andrew's Church parish hall. He also reminded everyone about participating in the weekly SMARC net on the club repeater frequency of 146.655 with an alternate frequency of 146.625.

Bob reminded everyone that anyone with ideas for programs for the February and March meetings would be appreciated and to get with a staff person with an idea for a meeting program

Don, K9UQN told about the Friends of The Smokies organization is instituting a campaign for funds to support the National Park Service for an emergency communications system. The need for such a system became apparent in the recent fires that devastated areas around Gatlinburg. A discussion about what the club could do to support this effort will be held at the February meeting.

Steve Carpenter, K4DXV who is the club newsletter editor told that he had emailed the first issue for this year. He mentioned that some members were not able to open it on their computer due to not having MsWord. He said that in the future, the newsletter would be available on the club web site in PDF format.

A short break was taken for some coffee, soft drinks and cookies at this time. Following the break, the program for the evening was presented by Jordan Webb K4AVG. His program theme was called Ham Radio MESH was consisted of using 2.4 Ghz communication equipment to set up a network free of the internet to link stations together for sharing data among the stations on the network. He had some equipment for demo and used the club screen and projector along with his personal PC to show some slides of how the system is set up.

After the program, members enjoyed some "eyeball" QSO's. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Sam, KV4XY

The meeting closed at 8:25 PM.