

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2018 SMARC MEETING

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 08/27/18 at the USW Union Hall with Bob, KK4XA presiding.

There were 29 members and 2 visitors present. There were about 15 Scouts present that were invited to attend the meeting. The scouts were from troop 316 and a few cub scouts from pack 366. Three of the boy scouts were also members of Steve Carpenter's Wm Blount radio Club.

Bob recognized visitors who were: Tip Cady and Jack Wood, KN6ANG

Bob asked those present to state their name and call sign, going around the room.

Bob mentioned upcoming events for the club;

- Friday AM breakfast gathering at I-Hop at 9:00 am for all who would like to attend.
- The club net on the club repeater frequency, 146.655- which is every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm local time.
- The upcoming VE testing session to be held at the St. Andrew's Church fellowship Hall. The time is 7:00 PM and the date is 9/10/18
- The annual SMARC BBQ and parking lot tailgate to take place on 9/24/18 which takes the place of the monthly club meeting.

Randy read the treasurer's report with \$2178.19 in the club account after setting aside the club liability insurance fee and the SERA membership renewal fee. He also mentioned that according to his records there are a few members who have not paid club dues for 2018.

Hal, WB4E asked for an explanation on the club insurance as to coverage. Carroll read from the recent policy forms received as to liability coverage.

Steve, K4DXV told about the upcoming TN QSO party and asked that members participate in getting on the air to make contacts.

The program for the evening was presented by Andy, KU4XR. His subject concerned his equipment and operations on VLF (Very Low Frequency) amateur bands recently approved for amateur operation by the FCC. The frequencies are 630 meters and 2200 meters. There is a short segment in those frequency ranges where amateur operation is permitted at a low power of 5 watts ERP. Andy brought a small circuit board containing the components needed to provide power on the 630 meter band. He told of his experiences and what is needed to provide useful operation on VLF. He suggested anyone interested could obtain more information on a web site the address of which is www.njdtechnologies.net

Tip Cady who was at the meeting as a visitor told the members that he is working on taking care of disposition of some electronic equipment including some ham gear that belongs to his brother-in-law. He had a few pictures on his smart phone to show anyone interested. It was suggested to him to bring a few of the ham radio items to the September tailgate.

After Andy's program and a break for refreshments, Carroll had a short video Titled "Ham Radio, Ancestors of the Internet." The video was appropriate for the young scouts as it informed them of some of the history of ham radio showing pictures of early vintage radio gear and operations.

The meeting closed at 8:20 PM