

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2018 SMARC MEETING

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 10/22/18 at the USW Union Hall with Bob, KK4XA presiding.

Bob welcomed everyone and asked if any visitors present.

One Visitor was present, Cliff Zipnick, KE4FGA

Bob asked the members present to introduce themselves by name and call sign, taking turns going around the room.

Carroll reminded everyone about the VE testing session to be held Dec.10 at St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall. Exam time is 7:00 PM. Persons coming to take a test need to have an I.D. and the \$10.00 exam fee. Anyone for upgrade would also need to bring a copy of their existing license.

The annual club Christmas Party will be held 12/11/18. The time is 6:15 PM. The party will be held at St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, located at 400 W. Broadway in Maryville. As in the past, members planning on attending are to bring some type of dish of food to share. The club will provide meat, rolls and beverages. A show of hands will be asked at the November meeting to determine how many plan on attending.

Bob reminded the members that the club net meets on the club repeater frequency, 146.655 every Thursday at 7:00 pm local time.

Bob told that the Friday breakfast sessions at I-Hop near Home Depot. Breakfast time is 9:00 AM

Randy read the treasurer's report. The club account stands at \$2146.44

Bob mentioned that the program for the November meeting would be presented by Ed Prior, W2XAM. The subject would some history of the DMR technology that has become popular with many hams.

Continuing on the subject of DMR operating, a few club members who are into DMR told of the contacts they have made using the local repeaters that have DMR capabilities including Bob's KK4XA UHF repeater recently installed at the club repeater site.

Randy brought up the subject of the antenna that is being used for Bob's repeater being only a unity gain ground plane and does not provide adequate coverage. He proposed the club set up a "Fund Me" program where members who use or plan to use DMR radios could contribute money for a better antenna to put up on the tower. A motion was made and approved to set up such a fund that would be separate from the existing club account.

After a short break for cookies and beverages, the scheduled program for the evening was presented by Dave Kaun, N9KMY. Dave's program covered some of the history of wireless communications technology beginning with 2G up to the present plans for 5G Technology. Dave has a power point presentation showing some of the ways antennas are being implemented to provide better coverage for the higher speed systems.

The meeting closed at 8:40 PM