



The President's Key

Happy New Year, everyone!

2016 was a good year for SMARC. We had continued strong attendance at our monthly meetings, as well as at the weekly Friday morning breakfasts at Cracker Barrel. We enjoyed several interesting Show & Tell presentations by members, and participation in our weekly Thursday evening 2-meter net remains high. We had plenty of fun at Field Day, achieving high scores as usual. The tailgate swap meets, hot dog cookouts and Christmas Party were terrific. All these things were made possible by you, the interested and engaged members, and I sincerely thank each of you for your hard work and collaboration. This is what makes our club enjoyable for existing members, and it attracts new folks, too.

Welcome to new volunteer staff members Steve Carpenter, K4DXV, and Melvin Turner, WB5KSM. Steve has taken on the task of newsletter editor and Melvin has assumed responsibility as net manager. They have hit the ground running and we appreciate them for taking on these important roles.

For 2017, I would like to encourage continued participation in the Show & Tell presentations by members at meetings. Remember, SMARC is primarily a social organization, and meetings are just informal get-togethers of friends with a common interest, so don't be shy. No previous experience as a presenter is needed. Hams greatly enjoy seeing and hearing about the stations and activities of fellow hams. So bring in a piece of gear you have bought, built, or modified and tell us about it. Or show pictures of your station.

Presentations need not be highly technical or complex. For example, pictures and descriptions of how you have arranged and configured the gear in your shack - we hams love that stuff! Or bring in pictures of an antenna project, mobile rig installation, a vacation trip involving ham radio, operating events you have participated in, a story of how you got started in the hobby. The list goes on. These simple presentations make our meetings interesting, so start thinking about a topic you would

like to share. Everybody has something to contribute and your fellow members will appreciate you for it.

There will also be some SMARC hidden transmitter hunts in 2017. Several of you previously expressed interest in this, so get those fox-hunting rigs ready, because we will be starting soon. Anyone else interested, please let me know. It's great fun and simple direction-finding gear is easy and inexpensive to homebrew. We'll show you how! Everyone is welcome to participate, either as a hunter, or as an observer and navigator.

Thanks again to each of you for making SMARC a thriving radio club. Here's looking forward to another great year of enjoyment and fellowship.

73...

Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX
SMARC President



Happy Birthday to Us!

Founded in the fall of 1947 in a Maryville radio service shop by a handful of local hams, the club had a rocky beginning and may even have fallen apart briefly in the early 1950's. But, the 1947 birth date is firm, making 2017 the 70th anniversary of our club.

The officers and staff are planning activities to mark this auspicious year. Seventy years is quite a milestone for a club to achieve. Come out, get involved, and help us celebrate, as we point the way forward for the next generation of hams and the next seventy years for our club!



2-Meter Net News

The SMARC weekly net meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. EST on the club's 2-meter repeater. (146.655 MHz; Offset: -600; Tone: 100.0 Hz)

Be sure to join in for updates, health and welfare information about club members, announcements for the membership, and sometimes just a general discussion on whatever topic comes up.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the net, or if you would like to serve as a net control station (NCS), contact net manager Melvin Turner, WB5KSM.

February 2017 NCS

FEBRUARY 2	WA4GSR	ED MARTIN
FEBRUARY 9	KK4XA	BOB WILSON
FEBRUARY 16	AL4B	LARRY ANDERSON
FEBRUARY 23	WB5KSM	MELVIN TURNER

Friday Morning Club Breakfast



Meet up with fellow SMARC members on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. EST at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store restaurant located at 771 Louisville Road in Alcoa at Hamilton Crossing across from Anderson Lumber Company. Great food, great friends, and great times!



VE Testing Information

EXAM DATES FOR 2017:

Monday	March	13
Monday	June	12
Monday	September	11
Monday	December	11



November, 2016

Submitted by: Carroll Peabody, W4PCA, Secretary-Treasurer

7:00 PM, 11/28/16 at the USW Union Hall with Kurt KC4NX presiding.

26 members and 1 visitor present. Visitor was Evan Griffith, son of Jeff Griffith KK4SNA.

Kurt called the meeting to order and Carroll read the Treasurer's Report. The club account is \$2395.11. Carroll mentioned some of the expenditures incurred since the last meeting.

Kurt reminded everyone about VE testing session to be held Dec. 12 at St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall. Exam time: 7:00 PM. Persons coming to take a test need to have an I.D. and the \$10.00 exam fee. Anyone upgrading would also need to bring a copy of their existing license.

Also the annual club Christmas Party coming up on 12/13/16 at 6:00 PM. Party will be held at St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, located at 400 W. Broadway in Maryville. As in the past, members planning to attend are to bring some type of dish to share. The club will provide meat, rolls and beverages. Kurt asked for a show of hands by those planning on attending.

Carroll told about the Tarheel Mobile Antenna he brought to the meeting. The antenna was bought by the club in 2009 for use on the club trailer. Over the years it was found that other portable antennas were set up rather than using the Tarheel antenna. It was decided by the staff that the Tarheel antenna which was in new condition be offered for sale to anyone who could use it. Ned, K1GU purchased the antenna and took it with him after the meeting.

Kurt asked for nominations for the offices of Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President for 2017. Tom Jenkinson motioned that the existing club officers be retained. Motion seconded by Bill Woods and a vote was taken to accept the motion as stated. Therefore, Carroll, W4PCA was nominated and elected as Secretary/Treasurer, Kurt, KC4NX was nominated and elected as President. Tom Jenkinson, WB7TLW volunteered to serve in two roles, as Vice President and Public Information Officer.

Kurt mentioned that the club should once again have a newsletter, sent out via email to members and posted on the club web site as well. Some paper copies could be printed up and brought to the meeting for those members not having email. Steve Carpenter K4DXV volunteered to give that a try, seeking input from club members for content.

Kurt mentioned that Carroll would be retiring as secretary/treasurer January 2018. Kurt encouraged someone to volunteer to spend some time with Carroll to learn what the duties entail and be ready to take over when Carroll retires after his over 20 years in the position.

Tom, WB7TLW mentioned that George, W3GLR asked to be relieved as club net manager. After some discussion, Melvin WB5KSM volunteered to take the position for 2017. Kurt requested more club members to consider volunteering to take the net as a NCS on occasion. Carroll said he could serve as a NCS during the summer months of June, July and August. Nick, KK4TID also volunteered.

Kurt said the program for the evening would be a presentation by Hal Weeden WB4E, a Blount County Sheriff's deputy. His talk was about the Tennessee laws regarding handgun carry and permits. Hal responded to many questions regarding this issue.

After the program, a break was taken for some refreshments of donuts coffee or soft drinks. After the break, the 50/50 drawing was held and Melvin, WB5KSM had the winning ticket.

The meeting closed at 8:33 PM.



Contesting Update

Contesting season is in full swing. Are you involved? It isn't too late since many major contests are still on the calendar. Here are a few upcoming:

CQ 160-meter CW	2200, Jan 27 - 2200, Jan 29
Montana QSO Party	0000 - 2400, Jan 28
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200, Jan 28 - 1200, Jan 29
UBA DX, SSB	1300, Jan 28 - 1300, Jan 29
Winter Field Day	1900, Jan 28 - 1900, Jan 29
YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400, Feb 3 - 0200, Feb 5
Vermont QSO Party	0000, Feb 4 - 2400, Feb 5
10-10 Intl. Winter SSB	0001, Feb 4 - 2359, Feb 5
Minnesota QSO Party	1400 - 2400, Feb 4
North American Sprint CW	0000 - 0400, Feb 5
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300, Feb 13 - 2359, Feb 17
ARRL Intl. DX, CW	0000, Feb 18 - 2400, Feb 19
CQ 160-meter SSB	2200, Feb 24 - 2200, Feb 26
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300, Feb 25 - 1300, Feb 26
North American QSO Party RTTY	1800, Feb 25 - 0559, Feb 26
North Carolina QSO Party	1500, Feb 26 - 0059, Feb 27

Not enough action to suit you? Then, point your browser to Bruce Horn WA7BNM's Contest Calendar web site at www.hornucopica.com/contestcal/. It's the go-to source for testers in the know.

LIFE IS SIMPLE



News from the DX World

Information courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletin ARLD003

MALTA, 9H. Special event station 9H2017EU is QRV until June 2017 to mark the 2017 Maltese European Union Presidency. QSL direct to 9H1SP.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Rich, PA0RRS is QRV as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, until the end of January 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, RTTY, JT65, JT9 and some SSB. QSL to home call.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Jean-Pierre, F6ITD is QRV as TO7D and FG/F6ITD from La Desirade Island, IOTA NA-102, until March 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Special event station OM42KYSUCE is QRV until the end of June 2017 during the context of the 42nd ARDF Kysuca Cup that will be held on June 16 to 18. QSL via OM3CND.

IVORY COAST, TU. Operators Bertrand, DF3FS, Norbert, DJ7JC, Emil, DL8JJ and Heye, DJ9RR will be QRV as TU5MH from January 22 to February 2. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DJ5BWD.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Dave, VP8CLE and Carol, VP8DKW are QRV from Bleaker Island, IOTA SA-002, from January 23 to 30. Activity will be mainly on 160 and 80 meters, as well as the higher bands depending on conditions, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct to G1OCN.

DX News, cont'd.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Hugolin, XT2HB has been QRV on 20 meters from around 0750 to 0830z. QSL contacts made beginning January 1, 2017 via F5MVB.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Stan, K5GO will be QRV as ZF9CW from January 22 to February 23. Activity will be mainly on 160 meters, with a focus on the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW and ARRL DX CW contests. QSL direct to home call.



Editorial: In Case You Haven't Heard...

Hams who have been around a while are very familiar with the Dayton Hamvention, often referred to as just "Dayton." For anyone new to the hobby, if you haven't heard of Dayton, you have now, and you will likely read and hear it referred to often. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) of Dayton, Ohio, since 1952, this annual gathering has become a sort of Mecca for the amateur radio community, drawing 25,000 hams or more from all 50 states and over 60 foreign countries. It is where the major manufacturers introduce their new products. It is also home to the world's largest outdoor ham radio flea market, and the indoor booths number in the hundreds. The site also hosts instructional seminars and discussion forums on virtually any topic imaginable related to ham radio. In downtown Dayton, and around the area, there are also numerous formal and informal gatherings, seminars, and awards banquets for all kinds of specialty groups from DXers to testers to QRP operators to VHFers and more.

Dayton Hamvention gets its name from DARA. Since 1964, though, the actual site has been in the nearby town of Trotwood at Hara Arena. Although very large, Hara is quite old and dilapidated and has been the object of scorn among hams for years. Suffering from serious financial difficulties as far back as 2010, Hara eventually closed its doors for good in July, 2016, forcing DARA to either find a new home or call an end to the event.

With an estimated economic impact of \$15 to \$17 million, Hamvention was an attractive event for any venue large enough to handle it and willing to take on the task. DARA's event organizers, well aware of Hara's problems, were already working on a backup plan even before Hara's closing became official.

Dayton, cont'd.

Almost within days, DARA announced that Hamvention would be moving from Trotwood, west of downtown Dayton, east to the nearby town of Xenia and the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Although a few miles farther away from downtown Dayton than Trotwood, the slight difference shouldn't matter to most attendees who often inhabit hotels along I-75 from just outside of Cincinnati to as far north as Piqua.

The main concern being voiced by hams seems to be that the new location will be in several buildings – even though they are closely spaced – instead of all under one roof. But, the buildings are at least modern, clean, and safe. Not something that could be said of Hara.

If you would like to take a look at the new home of Hamvention, go to YouTube and in the search field type “2017 Hamvention Site Preview.” Look for the one dated October 5, 2016. There are several others there, and you can find additional videos on the DX Engineering web site. At the top of the page, click on “Tech Info & News.” When you get to that page, look under “Video Library” and click on “DX Engineering Interviews.”

After 52 years in the same location, will there be glitches at the new site? Certainly. Will there be unexpected and unforeseen problems? Most likely. Will some people be unhappy? Does a bear... Well, you know. However, I think the folks at DARA were smart to be one step ahead of the game and have preliminary negotiations already handled before Hara actually closed. I also think it is quite a courageous move on their part to go ahead and hold Hamvention 2017 with less than a year of preparation time.

Many hams, myself included, are going to miss Hara Arena. Old, sick, ugly, and maddeningly complex (it literally took me three years to figure out how to get from one area to another without getting lost), it nonetheless sort of got in your blood. But, I have a positive outlook for the new location.

And, DARA is top notch at doing this; if anybody can pull this off, they can. This is not some little local flea market hamfest. DARA either already has in their membership, or they recruit, the smartest and best people to insure a professional event from start to end.

If you've never been, by all means put it on your ham radio bucket list. If you're an old hand, I look forward to seeing you there!

The dates for this year's Hamvention are May 19 – 21. Visit Hamvention.org for ticket sales and information



Call for Material

We need your stories for the newsletter!

Well, I managed to fill up this first newsletter of the year. However, my vision for the future is to have more of a focus on the membership. Some general information is okay, sometimes even desirable. But, I would much rather write stories about what our members are doing – at least one in every issue. At least.

Kurt mentioned in his President's Key message about presenting that you don't have to be technical, complex, or professional. The same is true here. You don't even need to be a writer. If you are, that's great. Write something up and send it to me and I'll make it fit. If you're not a writer, I am. I have extensive experience as an interviewer, reporter, and editor, and all you have to do is tell me your idea and I can find a way to get it into words.

The list of possible topics is virtually endless. For a start, see Kurt's list in his message on page one. Don't forget: We always have new hams around. It's easy for us oldsters to think that everybody knows how to attach a PL-259 to coax, or that, surely, everybody understands that you can minimize noise by reducing the RF gain. They might, but I'm willing to bet someone doesn't.

If you have ideas for future newsletters, email me at k4dxv@aol.com and let's talk.

Until next month, 73 to all!

