

# Smoky Mountain Signals

## Newsletter of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club

September, 2017

Vol. XXVII, No. 9

### From the Editor:

As I sit here putting together a very late edition of the newsletter, Dee and I have just returned from SEDCO/W4DXCC, and once again it was a tremendous experience. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the gathering, and I have been to all of them except one, including the first one back in 2005. In those early days, the conference room we are using now was closed into two parts by an accordion wall and we only occupied one side...and there were plenty of empty seats. Most attendees went to the Ten-Tec hamfest in the morning and SEDCO started at noon. After only about four or five years, attendance grew to the point that the accordion wall had to be opened and an evening banquet was added, I think, that same year. At about the same time, corporate vendors were invited to show off their wares. Today, Icom, Yaesu, Elecraft, Vibroplex, FlexRadio and others are all a reliable presence with representatives to give demonstrations and answer questions. There is also now a full day of presentations and prize drawings. Three years ago, Ham Radio Boot Camp was added as an all-day event on Friday, and it has grown each year. Banquet seating is always at full capacity, and the keynote speaker this year was Martin F. Jue, founder of MFJ Enterprises.

It has been an honor and a privilege to watch the evolution of this event from an afternoon of fun and fellowship into one of the nation's finest, if not *the* finest, contesting and DX conventions. And, for those who did not know, it was founded by our own Lynn Lamb, W4NL, wife Rosie, KA4S, and George Dominick, W4UW. If you have never been, you owe it to yourself to make the trip to Pigeon Forge next year.

Oh, and by the way...the big takeaway from this year's conference? Every speaker – bar none – had this to say: “**Get on the digital modes!**” If there is to be any salvation from the sunspot minimum, as well as a predicted very weak cycle 25, digital – particularly JT-65 and FT8 – are going to provide it.

### From the President:

Greetings, fellow SMARC hams!

We had a good turnout at the August meeting and it was a pleasure meeting several visitors. Many thanks to Dave Parker, K4PDS for an interesting and informative presentation on his station and antennas.

The September meeting (Monday, 9-25, 6:30 pm) will feature a tailgate swap meet in the parking lot and barbeque dinner. We do this twice annually (April and September) and it's always a lot of fun. Be sure to bring your appetite, as well as any gear you would like to sell or trade.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone September 25th at the union hall.

73...

Kurt Meltzer, KC4NX  
SMARC President

## **From the Secretary/Treasurer:**

### **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2017 SMARC MEETING**

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 08/28/17 at the USW Union Hall with Kurt, KC4NX presiding.

There were 31 members and 3 visitors present.

Kurt recognized visitors who were: Barry Dykes, WD0VTN; Jerry Ferguson, K4WKD and Marion Loper.

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

Carroll read the treasurer's report. The club account stands at \$3341.20. Carroll mentioned paying the expense of the renewal fee for the club liability and equipment insurance which was \$564.00 for the coming year, 2018. Carroll mentioned paying the \$150 to the Middlesettlements Church for Field Day site. Kurt asked Carroll to contact the representative of the church to reserve the site for 2018.

Kurt mentioned the upcoming SMARC activities:

SMARC 2 meter net every Thursday at 7:00pm on the club repeater frequency, 146.655

Kurt asked members to consider serving as a net control for the net.

Breakfast at Cracker Barrel around 9:00 am, open to all.

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> VE session at St. Andrew's Church Fellowship Hall.

Sept. 25th SMARC club meeting and annual BBQ supper and parking lot tailgate session.

Oct. 23th Regular SMARC meeting

Steve, K4SXV told about the upcoming TN QSO party and asked that members participate in getting on the air to make contacts.

Kurt reminded everyone that elections for club officers are coming up at the November meeting and members should keep in mind possible candidates to fill the positions.

Kurt mentioned that he was asked if the club would consider having a page on Facebook. Some discussion followed and Carl, KI5SF said he would look into it.

Kent, KI4ZIZ told about his plans on erecting a 50 ft. tower at his QTH and could use some assistance with that as well as needing some testing on a roll of coax cable he is going to use. He wants to make sure the cable is good as he is going to pull it into a buried conduit.

The program for the evening was presented by Dave, K4PDS. His subject concerned his station including his equipment and his antennas. He had pictures (jpg) on his laptop PC which he projected on the screen as he described his equipment and antennas. He also told about getting more into the digital modes and provided some details on the software and his contacts.

After the program, many enjoyed refreshments and the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting closed at 8:45 PM