

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2011 SMARC MEETING

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 PM, 10/24/11 at the USW Union Hall with Randy, K4RDJ presiding.

There were 28 members and two visitors present.

The visitors were: Carl Dewitt, KI5SF and his XYL Elissa

Randy welcomed everyone present and asked for introductions.

After introductions, Bob Wilson, KK4XA presented the program for the evening. Bob's program topic was the SMARC Repeater system. Bob, along with Jack, KE4GBV made several trips up to the repeater site to troubleshoot a transmitter problem with the repeater. Eventually the PA chassis was replaced with a working unit donated by a friend of the club who wished to remain anonymous.

Regarding Bob's program, Bob had a Power Point presentation showing the details of the GE Mastr II VHF repeater system used by the club. As he went through the slides, he explained the specifics of the equipment involved, pointing out some trouble spots that historically have been noted. Following the Power Point portion, Bob showed a short video made on one of the trips up to the site. It could be seen that much construction had taken place with a lot of dirt being moved around to make room for upgrading the City of Alcoa reservoir system.

After the program, a break was taken for coffee, cold drinks and Birthday Cake or donut holes.

After the Break, Randy told about his purchase of two get well cards to be signed by the members, one to be sent to Lynn, W4NL and Ed. KB4GH, both of whom are recovering at home from health issues.

Lisa, KB4LT told the birthdays for October: Susan Wilson, N4VPQ; Pete Toppel, KB4PT and Jim Miller, KO4Y.

Randy mentioned that the Thursday SMARC net back-up repeater to use in case the club repeater is down would be the 146.625 repeater instead of the 146.94 repeater since the 94 machine is heavily used. Note that the 625 repeater has an access tone of 118.8. Also note that since the club repeater has experienced some QRN (noise encroachment) that the committee has put a 100Hz tone on the club repeater. Members need to program the tone in their rigs to allow access.

Randy mentioned that Jack, KE4GBV and George, W3GLR have been added to the existing repeater committee consisting of Sparky, WB4NBE and Carroll, W4PCA.

Carroll reported on the recent VE testing session. One person came to test, former State Senator Ray Finney passed the Technician exam.

Carroll gave the treasurers report, \$1431.76 in the club account with \$211.00 of that being in the Frances Bell Telephone account made up of donations from club members to offset phone charges she has at the Colonial Hills Nursing Center.

Carroll announced the annual club Christmas Party and Awards Banquet to be held on 12/13 at St. Andrew's Church in the Great Hall. Time for the banquet would be 6:15 PM and the banquet will be "pot Luck" as in past years with the club providing beverages, rolls and chicken for the meat. Those desiring to attend should bring a dish of some kind to share, such as a casserole, salad, veggie dish or a dessert.

The SMARC VE team will hold the next exam session on Dec. 12 at 7PM at the St. Andrew's Church Parish House.

The door prize drawing was held with Jim Hamlin, W7FKI winning the \$15 check, which he later donated to the Frances Bell Phone Account.

Meeting closed at 8:38 PM