**The February Meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. held at Armstrong’s Restaurant.**

The Membership meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. was called to order at 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, 2023, by Norman D’Allura, KN4YFI, president. Twenty seven members and six guests attended.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s report was read by John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, and was approved. New members last reading: KQ4FFC Kristen Donnelly, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, Bruce Newlen KQ4EWN 1st reading Scott Holland KF4DRH Also a former VARA legacy renewing their membership Terri Henderson KT4UO

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was previously submitted to the membership via email. The secretary received no additions or corrections to the draft minutes. The minutes, as presented, were accepted.

**ARES Report**

David Tanks AD4TJ, announced that the Augusta County ARES net would be held on February 9 at 8 p.m. Frequency will be 147.045 (Elliot Knob Repeater, 131.8 tone). John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, will be net control. There was a discussion on the role of ARES and the requirement that every active member of ARES have a task book. It was thought that the last time ARES was activated was December 1999 for Y2K. It was thought that ARES was activated in the Winter of 1985.

There was also mention that there was a possibility that there would be another presentation about Wikilink.

**Contests and Special Events**

There were no contests to report about in the near future. The membership’s attention was drawn to the Dxpedition on Bouvet Island from February 6 until February 22.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

The President stated that there is still a need for speakers for the association’s October and November meetings. He reminded the membership that good web sites to obtain information about amateur radio, locally, were Valley Hams, MARA, and VARA.

Two future events were discussed. The Elkton Mini Hamfest will be held at the VFW building on February 18. The Greenville Hamfest will be held on April 22.

The President asked for volunteers to become members of the Field Day Planning Committee. Three members volunteered. The volunteers are John Lasher N3GLZ, Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, and Dave Beebe K4UEK.

He also asked the membership whether the practice of attending membership meetings via Zoom should be continued. A consensus of the membership was that the practice should be discontinued.

Pat Morgan, AK4VQ, a volunteer examiner, reminded the membership that the dates and location of the MARA/VARA license test had been changed. The tests will now be conducted on the second Saturday of the month, quarterly and the tests will be conducted at the Hose Company #4 Fire Department on Port Republic Road in Rockingham County.

The 50/50 drawing was held, and one prize was awarded. The prize was donated back to the association.

After the business portion of the meeting was over, Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, gave a presentation on Morse code keys and bugs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary

**REMINDER:** The next amateur radio license test session will be conducted at 9 a.m., March 11 at Hose Company #4 Fire Department, 2654 Port Republic Road Rockingham, VA 22801.