**The March 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, March 7, 2023, by Norman D’Allura, KN4YFI, president. Twenty-two members and six guests attended.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s report was read by John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, and was approved. The memberships of Kristen Donnell KQ4FFC, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, Bruce Newlen KQ4EWN and Terri Henderson KT4UO were confirmed. Also, the second reading and acceptance of Scott Holland’s KF4DRH membership application was made.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was previously submitted to the membership via email. The secretary received three additions or corrections to the draft minutes. The first reconciled the treasurer’s report and secretary’s report concerning membership applications. The second added the names of the volunteers to the Field Day Committee. The third added that the last time ARES was activated was in December 1999. The minutes, as amended, were accepted.

**ARES Report**

Emergency Coordinator, David Tanks, AD4TJ, announced that the Augusta County ARES net would be held on March 9 at 8 p.m. Frequency will be 146.490 (simplex). John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, will be net control. There was a discussion on what was needed for ARES membership and how one could apply to become an ARES member. The coordinator stated that the application form could be found at the VARA website ([ARES-Registration-Aug-Co-7-6-2022.pdf (varava.club)](https://varava.club/varawp/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ARES-Registration-Aug-Co-7-6-2022.pdf)). He also reminded the membership that each ARES member must have a copy of ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book either on hand or downloaded to a computer.

There are six schools in the County that serve as emergency shelters. Each has a dual-band antenna. While the coordinator had equipment to test the antennas on the 2 meter band, he did not have equipment to test the antennas on the 70 cm band. He has bought the equipment necessary to do so and is trying to schedule time at each school to test the radios and antennas to make sure they will work in time of emergency.

**Contests and Special Events**

The Virginia QSO Party will be held on Saturday, 18 March, 1400 UTC - Sunday, 19 March, 0400 UTC and Sunday, 19 March, 1200 UTC - 2400 UTC.

The CQ DX SSB contest will be held from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 25 until 2359 UTC Sunday, March 26.

Between March 6 and 12, 2023, WW0WWV will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of standard frequency broadcasts from station WWV, which began in March, 1923.

**Old Business**

The President stated that there is still a need for a speaker for the association’s November meeting. Ralph Parker, KE8OEM, volunteered to speak on Amplifiers at that meeting. The Field Day Committee met and has made a few changes to the locations of stations that will be operated during the event. The planning meeting went so well, it was decided not to meet in April.

**New Business**

The President informed the membership that the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps is reactivating the MRC HAM Radio Team and will be holding an interest meeting for existing HAM Radio Team Volunteers as well as prospective new volunteers that already have a HAM radio license and may be interested in joining the team. He had previously sent the membership an email with a link to register interest in participating on the MRC Ham Radio Team.

The 50/50 drawing was held, and one prize was awarded.

After the business portion of the meeting was over, Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ, gave a presentation on knots.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary

**REMINDER:** The Greenville Hamfest will be held on April 22.