**The April 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, April 4, 2023, by Norman D’Allura, KN4YFI, president. Sixteen members and six guests attended.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s report was read by John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, and was approved. The first reading of Burly Gill’s KO4RLJ membership application was made.

**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**

Emergency Coordinator, David Tanks, AD4TJ, announced that the Augusta County ARES net would be held on April 13 at 8 p.m. Frequency will be 145.290 (131.8). John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, will be net control. The coordinator also mentioned that there is a new preamble to begin the net. The preamble can be found on the VARA website [Repeaters, ARES® and Emergency Communications Info – Valley Amateur Radio Association (varava.club)](https://varava.club/communications/).

The coordinator discussed the three most recent occasions that ARES had been activated. The first occasion was on December 31, 1999, the Y2K activation. There were 35 check-ins. The Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta EOCs were manned. As were the Verona, Churchville, Weyers Cave, and Fishersville fire stations. The Stuarts Draft and Waynesboro rescue stations were manned, and so was the Riverheads High School.

The second occasion was during Hurricane Isabel, September 18, 2003. Thirty-three amateurs participated. All three EOCs were manned, as were four Augusta County school emergency shelters, and four fire stations.

The third occasion was the ice storm of February 13 and 14 of 2007. Fourteen amateurs participated. All three EOCs and the Augusta County Sheriff’s Office were manned.

**Contests and Special Events**

There were no contests or special events to report.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

The President informed the membership that on April 13, there would be a Winlink conference with Augusta Health Hospital concerning reactivating the MRC HAM Radio Team.

The President also mentioned that on April 29th and 30th, W9GFZ, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory ARC, would be on the air for a special event celebrating the anniversary of the birth of radio astronomy.

Patrick Morgan, AK4VQ, suggested that the association consider establishing a service award to be named after SK David Fordham, KD9LA. He suggested that a committee be appointed to recommend criteria for the award and to recommend a nomination procedure for it. The President suggested that the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association and the Page County Amateur Radio Association be contacted to see if they would be interested in participating in the award program. Bob Moore, KN3Y, volunteered to serve on the committee.

**Secretary’s Note:** Both MARA and PCARA were contacted via email. The MARA President said he would bring it up at his association’s next meeting. There has been no further response.

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

After the business portion of the meeting was over, David Tanks, AD4TJ, gave a presentation moonbeam radio.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary

**REMINDER:** The VARA picnic will be held at Shelter #2, Natural Chimneys Park, on Saturday, August 5, Noon until 8 pm, at the latest.