**The May 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, May 2, 2023, by Norman D’Allura, KN4YFI, president. Twenty-three members attended in person, three members attended via Zoom, and three guests attended.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s report was read by John Lasher, N3GLZ, and was approved. The second reading of Burly Gill’s KO4RLJ membership application was made. His membership application was approved.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was previously submitted to the membership via email. The secretary received one correction to the draft minutes concerning the date of the VARA Picnic. The minutes, as corrected, were accepted.

**ARES Report**

Emergency Coordinator, David Tanks, AD4TJ, announced that the Augusta County ARES net would be held on May 11 at 8 p.m. The frequency is to be determined. Martin Krupinski, KE4KEW, will be net control.

The Coordinator was able to visit three schools that are designated emergency shelters to test the amateur radio antennas on site. An antenna analyzer indicated that the antennas were good on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. The analyzer tests were followed-up with actual voice communication which were successful. There are three more schools that need to be visited.

The Waynesboro ECC is now equipped with a transceiver and antenna. But the antenna has not been installed yet.

The Augusta ECC antenna has not yet been installed on the tower the county would like to use as the tower has not been certified safe for use yet.

**Contests and Special Events**

The European PSK Club will be holding a contest for users of PKS 63. The contest begins at 12:00 UTC May 20 and ends 12:00 UTC May 21.

On May 10 and May 13, W7G will be on the air celebrating the 154th anniversary of the driving of the golden spike that completed the transcontinental railroad.

On May 13, K4RC will be on the air celebrating the 416th anniversary of the landing of settlers at Jamestown.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

The President discussed some of the rule changes for Field Day, 2023. He also discussed some of the changes that will be made for the various transmitting stations that will be at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.

It was announced that the Christmas Party will be held at Golden Coral on December 5, starting at 5:30 pm.

The 50/50 drawing was held, and two prizes were awarded. Thirty-eight dollars were collected for the cash drawing. Mark Purington, KO4OLJ, won the cash prize which he donated back to the association. The second prize, a donated set of indoor/outdoor speakers was won by Bruce Newlan, W4IHQ.

After the business portion of the meeting was over, Tim Duffy, Owner of DX Engineering, made a presentation on contesting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary

**REMINDERS:**

There will be no membership meeting of VARA in July.

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