**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 5, 2024, by Norman D’Allura, KN4YFI, president.  Twenty-four members and five guests attended.  The usual round of introductions was completed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s February report was read by John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ, and 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, that Gordon Batey’s, WA4FJC, name had been misspelled in the ARES report section.  The minutes, as corrected, were accepted.

**ARES Report**

David Tanks, AD4TJ, ARES coordinator, delivered the ARES report.  He reminded the membership that Daylight Savings Time was scheduled to begin the weekend of the 10th.  The ARES Net will be held on Thursday, 14 at 8 p.m.  The frequency will be 146.850.  He said he might throw some new things into future nets to insure readiness for emergency communications.   He also discussed problems that may arise when a feed line runs up vertical antennas with metal masts and solutions to the problems.  And he asked the membership to consider what they would do in the event of a power failure.

**Contests and Special Events**

The Virginia QSO Party is scheduled for March 16th and 17th this year.  The Virginia Tech ARA will be celebrating the club’s 100th year in existence.  Members should look for their station during the QSO Party.

No special events were noted.

**Old Business**

At the February meeting, the possibility of finding a new location for the VARA annual picnic was discussed.  The association president and treasurer visited two possible park locations in Grottoes, Grand Caverns Park and John Painter Park.   Both had shelters that could serve the association.  The possibility of returning to Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton was suggested.  After a short discussion, the membership voted to try to return to Gypsy Hill Park, and if that was not feasible, then to either of the parks in Grottoes ass aa second choice.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

The 50/50 drawing was held, and one prize was awarded to Fred Castello, KF4FC, and he donated the prize back to the association.

After the business portion of the meeting was completed, David Beebe, K4UEK and John Porter, KK4JP, made a presentation on Our Neighbors to the East, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Morgan

Secretary