

August 14th VCARC Monthly Club Meeting Minutes

VENTURA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Founded in 1938

P.O. Box 2103, Oxnard California 93034

We are organization dedicated to promoting science, education, and advancing the interest in ham radio.

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League

August 14th VCARC Monthly Club Meeting Minutes

MEETING ADDRESS: Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA 93003, USA

ATTENDANCE: Listed on Roll Check-In Sheet

Start time 19:02

Clement Alberts KM6OKZ opened the meeting

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of officers and board members, welcomed Guests, Members and Zoom participants. Mentioned that we need someone to volunteer as our club Secretary, as Alan AK6MF resigned and Robert is temporarily both VP and Secretary. Also mentioned the location of badges and sign-in clip board.
- Thanked those who brought food: Jeremy, popcorn, Linda brownies and lemon squares, Ben donut holes, Lloyd, snacks.

Mentioned the next upcoming portable operation's activity on September 19th; amateur radio licensing exam beginning at 8:30 and portable operations at 11, which is also the start of our club picnic with details to be announced at our September 11th meeting and in Groups.io beforehand.

Mentioned another upcoming club or County activity (Wings over Camarillo, **tomorrow**, Saturday, August 15, 2026 through Sunday, August 16, 2026, contact Avi avi@carmi.us 18056162636 to volunteer).

Announced that Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY ARRL's Director of Publications and Editorial, sent us a thank you email for submitting the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club's website last year to ARRL's Year of the Club Website Contest. She was pleased to inform us that our club's website K6MEP.org, has won **Third Place out of eighty submissions**. The judges admired the clean, consistent layout as well as the personal touch of using historical club photos as the background image. In terms of content, the judges liked that the net information "was clearly written by somebody who actually runs nets," including not only all the basic information, but also a practical note about tuning 5 kHz up and down if you don't hear anybody. The judges also mentioned that it was helpful to have the Upcoming Events panel on every page, "so whatever page a visitor lands on, they can see what this club is doing next." Contest winners will be awarded certificates at Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama on August 22 and 23. Since we don't

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have anyone attending, the award will be sent to our club president, Clement. Winners will also be announced in *QST* magazine and various newsletters.

The website design changed over the years; the current design was based on input by several members including Denney, Robert, Mark Swaney, Pedro, Burt, Bruce, Keith B, Sean Branagan, Andy, Larry Gray and Dave Schmidt. Dave is our webmaster and might have a few words to add; (ask him if he would like to speak). Dave stated that the committee was important to help develop the requirements for the website.

Introduction and background for John Kitchens NS6X:

John was first licensed in 1966 as WN6UYJ through the Robert E Peary Junior High School's TRXster radio club, WA6VUA, taught by electric shop teacher Don Ulrey, WA6TRX. John built a 5-watt transistor radio (not tubes;-transistors were new) from a schematic in a book, he thinks titled "Weekend Solid State Projects". It worked. That was about 1967.

Licensed as KZ5JS in the Panama Canal Zone, 1975-76 while in the USAF. Became an amateur extra about 1983 for those extra 25 KCs for CW contesting. Has been Section Manager for about 10 years. Member of K6MEP since 1981. Also, member of CVARC, Simi Settlers, Central Coast, VCARS, Satellite ARC, QRP-ARCI, 4 States QRP Group and more. Enjoys contesting, POTA, SOTA, all usually QRP.

He also tries to catch a fish now and then out of the surf and in trout streams. He tries to be creative, making little trees and plants look big by developing bonsai plants. Since becoming a widower, he has enjoyed doing a bit of traveling, driving cross country five times in four years, recently activating parks along the way. John is now the ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director.

Start time19:12

John talked about his history of the club and what he learned contesting and learning about the technology. Steve Knoll was using a laser and one of the members used cigar smoke to show the laser light.

He talked about the ARRL; his grandmother bought him a life membership when he was 12-13 years old. He mentioned that he was SB section manager and now the Southwestern Division Vice-Director. \$71,000 was spent for a board meeting at the ARRL. Dues increase lost the automatic delivery of the printed QST. Cost is \$30 per year and we pay \$59 per year. The second quarter 2026 return on investments was \$3.7 million or 8.8%, and the first half return on investments was \$3.2 million or 7.5%. The value of the ARRL investment portfolio as of June 30, 2026, was \$45,759,652. The amount of unrestricted and board endowed funds, as reported in the ARRL 2025 Audited Financial Report, was \$22.6 million, up from \$19.5 million in 2024. In the past two years, the ARRL investment portfolio has contributed a total of \$3.4 million to operations and has still increased by approximately \$10 million. \$22 million is earmarked for programs. \$33.4 million was removed to pay for general expenses for the last two years. All officers and directors are paid to go to all ham major events. ARRL helps protect our bands and modes. IARU (international) is in Connecticut and joins the board meetings along with Canada. HOA anti-antenna bill is being worked. John

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is always available for questions; contact him. He spoke about the national traffic system and how the relays worked. A lot of advancement has occurred in ham radio; 142 different hobbies you can do. ARRL has an insurance program for \$200 per year. Membership is down; are ¾ of a million licensees, only 120,000 members in ARRL. Average age is in the 50s.

Questions? What is the hacking status? Log Book of the World running on an old computer and was hacked. FCC is still looking for a full-time security manager. 50/50 investment returns and dues. They spend about \$3.4 million for salaries. POTA program is now self-governing program. DXCC is also questionable; honor roll, 330 countries in the world as far as communications and contacts. 15 directors and 15 vice-directors at a meeting with a \$71,000 cost. Why not move the meeting to Zoom? The board controls the budget and has a president, who tells the CEO what to do. Need new directors needed to have new ideas.

Social/Refreshment Break for about 15 mins Started 20:05 Ended 20:22

Second half: Keith Elliott W6KME Presentation on local Santa Barbara section activities

Keith is an active local ham, a member of VCARC as well as several other local clubs. He's most involved with getting hams together to operate away from home, whether that be the Bored Net's Micro Field Day, SOTA, or ARRL Field Day. He's in the first year of his term as Santa Barbara Section Manager.

Keith has over fifteen million confirmed QSOs and owns two of every radio ever built; one to break and one to brag about. He has Scottish ancestry but has considered converting to French. He was born with webbed feet and does not believe in tortoises. He prefers to avoid public speaking but will make exceptions when Linda's brownies are involved.

Start time 20:24

Keith tried to determine when CVARC was founded since in 1970 and became an affiliated club in 1968 and special services club after that. Unfortunately the club historian moved away and recycled all of the history information. He joined the ARRL one month before being licensed. The league serves all hams not just members. Insurance, legal support, contests, FCC help, clubs. It takes 51% to be affiliated; however, there are many benefits. For example, there's a \$2 million club insurance policy. ARRL also helps keep our hobby alive. Club commission renewal can get \$5 or \$20 to get a new member to join. Trying to be put online for membership dues. Look for letters; click a box. Will go to \$10 if you are a member. Education and licensing classes. VE sessions are part of the package. Cal Poly offers a yearly ham training class and CVARC has an education team who holds classes. Zak N6PK held licensing classes. They have a term membership for president. 14 people are on the board. Was a touring a musician (trombone) for many years, but COVID stopped his career. He started Bored Net. 30 people check in daily. He wants to encourage clubs in High Schools and Colleges. Two clubs at Cal State Channel Islands. Student club two years ago. Faculty club also exists. Micro Expo October 3rd. CVARC has the Thousand Oaks emergency communication's trailer and are rebuilding the radio complement. Electronics expediter will be attending.

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Questions?

End time 20:47

Clement made comments about ham radio and how times were many years ago, as well as the magic of ham radio.

Old Business

Status on our Charity Issues: Clement mentions Dave's and Robert's work on our bookkeeping.

New Business None

Wrap Up

Our next club meeting is September 11th and our Presenter is Tim Duffy K3LR from DX Engineering Topic: Contesting and Contest University.

Next dates for VE session and club picnic and portable operations/help session: Saturday, September 19th at Grace Lutheran Church. Additional details will be announced via our groups.io and at our September 11th meeting.

- Weekly nets: Monday 2m and Wednesday 40m. Remind everyone that we need volunteers.
- Special net and/or other activities: Wings over Camarillo, Saturday, August 15, 2026 through Sunday, August 16, 2026, contact Avi avi@carmi.us 18056162636 to volunteer)

Reminded everyone that many of us meet at Toppers for Pizza, etc., after the club meeting.

Asked for a Motion to Adjourn: Clement KM6OKZ

Asked for a 2nd to the Motion to Adjourn: Lloyd KE6BBP

All were in favor.

End Time 20:54

OFFICER ATTENDEES

OFFICE	LAST	FIRST	CALL SIGN	PRESENT
PRESIDENT	Alberts	Clement	KM6OKZ	Y
VP	Shank	Robert	KM6RSS	Y
SECRETARY	Shank	Robert	KM6RSS	Y
TREASURER	Schmidt	Dave	AI6VX	Y

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BOARD	Climer	Jeremy	KN6JMD	Y
BOARD	Auerbach	Burt	KA6BJA	Y
BOARD	Tenopir	Tim	KN6JGB	No