

## **September 11<sup>th</sup> VCARC Monthly Club Meeting Minutes (cont.)**

### **VENTURA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

Founded in 1938

P.O. Box 2103, Oxnard California 93034

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

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League

## **September 11<sup>th</sup> 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 19:00**

Clement Alberts KM6OKZ opened the meeting and asked Jeremy to start Zoom and record meeting.

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Brief Introduction of officers and board members, welcome guests, members and Zoom participants.

Introduction of Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering. His topic is Contesting and the Mini Contest University.

Tim has been an active amateur radio operator for over 54 years, starting as WN3SZX in 1972. He has hosted over 200 different ham radio operators from around the world as part of the K3LR multi-operator multi-transmitter radio sport contest efforts and youth outreach projects since 1992. K3LR has built a 14-tower station with 11 operating positions. He was the ARRL Atlantic Division Technical Achievement award winner in 1998. Tim has been the moderator of the Hamvention Antenna forum for 42 years.

K3LR serves as chairman of Contest University (19 years) and the Dayton Contest Dinner (32 years), as well as chairman of the Top Band Dinner and co-coordinator of the Contest Super Suite (39 years) in Dayton during the yearly Dayton Hamvention. He is founder and moderator of the popular RFI Reflector (RFI@contesting.com) since 1999. K3LR serves on the WRTC2026 Advisory Board.

Tim also serves on the board of directors of the World-Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) as Chairman and is President Emeritus of the Radio Club of America (RCA). Tim is multiyear President of the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club (W3LIF/W3JTV). K3LR is Vice President of the North Coast Contesters. Tim serves on the electrical engineering advisory board for Grove City College.

Tim was elected to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 2006. He was honored with the prestigious Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio Service award by the RCA in 2010, and received the YASME Excellence award in 2016. K3LR was named Hamvention Amateur of the Year in 2015 by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, and was inducted

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into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2024. Tim was recognized as a leader in wireless communications with the RCA Edgar F. Johnson Pioneer Citation in 2025.

Tim is the Chief Executive Officer of DX Engineering and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University.

**Start time 19:09**

**Questions? None on first half, Contesting.**

**Then Tim began Mini Contest University presentation.**

**Questions?** Robert asked Tim about the location of the free Contest University text; he said that it was on <https://www.contestuniversity.com/files/> broken up into each presenter's topics.

**Social/Refreshment Break for 15 mins. Start 19:40 End 19:51**

### **Old Business**

- Thank those who brought food
- Update on volunteers for open position. Also mention the location of badges and sign-in clip board and picnic sign-up.
- Status update on our Charity Issues. No response yet.
- Show the Third-Place award plaque and explain the background for the award. Dave is our webmaster and might have a few words to add; (ask him if he would like to speak).
- Upcoming activities on Saturday, September 19th: amateur radio licensing exam beginning at 8:30 am, portable operations beginning at 11:00 am, and the club picnic starting at 11:00 am as well (details to be announced on groups.io). Asked Dave to comment about protein and pot-luck items.
- Robert circulated the Monday Net Sign-up sheet to members.
- Mentioned any other upcoming club or County activity. Keith wasn't in attendance to talk about the Micro Field Day (Keith W6KME) CSUCI location. October 3rd

**Start time 20:00**

**Second half:** Dave AI6VX presented “**Adventures with AI and Microcontrollers**”. He showed several projects based on ESP32 Arduinos that he programmed using various AI tools. He found CoPilot to be not trustworthy for programming and after switching to Claude, was able to make tremendous progress. Though Claude has a free tier, it is very limited and Dave had to subscribe to the \$20/month plan. “It has been the best \$20 I have ever spent!” said Dave. The 3 projects were completed quickly, with projects 2 and 3 only taking a couple of days total. 1 – A freeway route time estimator to help with his commute. 2- a status dashboard showing date, time, weather at his house, charge condition of his batteries, and stock and world news. 3- A ham radio status device that showed his callsign, grid square, band conditions, solar conditions, a day/night terminator map, and sun, lunar and tidal information. All 3 projects were based on the ESP32 ‘Cheap Yellow Display’ which required zero soldering. Using Claude, the 3 projects required zero programming by Dave, though he does know C++ and electronics.

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**Questions?** Tom asked about how to interface with Claude and how to get the code into the Arduino. Linda asked- is Claude learning from you? Dave doesn't know. Tom wanted to know about the chat output. Dave showed his chat history with Claude. To show how easy it is to work with Claude, Dave asked the audience for a project idea. Chester – asked “how about a device to tell you where your QRM is coming from?” Dave entered the question into Claude and it gave several options. Dave picked on and after a few minutes, Claude presented a solution, complete with wiring pinout, a flowchart, bill of materials, and the Arduino code. Dave reviewed the response from Claude. Phil asked if Dave gives it codes to help it solve problems – yes he has. Clement asked if Claude is learning from Dave – Dave wasn't sure.

**End time 21:20**

### **New Business**

- **Youth Committee (Tim KN6JGB) Scouts on the Air in third weekend in October. Not discussed.**
- **ACS/ARES Chair (Burt KA6BJA) not present, no events; there's a new digipeater for VARA FM 440 MHz.**

### **Wrap Up**

Our next club meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup> and our presenter is Dr. David Pepper, WA6TWA, with the topic “Un-Twinkling Starlight”

- Next dates for VE session and club picnic and portable operations/help session: Saturday, September 19th at Grace Lutheran Church.
- Weekly nets: Monday 2m and Wednesday 40m. Remind everyone that we need volunteers.
- Special net and/or other activities: Ask if there are any

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

Ask for a Motion to Adjourn: Duane KO6ACO.

Ask for a 2nd to the Motion to Adjourn Mark Leach KN6FWH. All members were in favor.

**End Time 21:21**

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### 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       |
| BOARD     | Climer   | Jeremy  | KN6JMD    | Y       |
| BOARD     | Auerbach | Burt    | KA6BJA    | N       |
| BOARD     | Tenopir  | Tim     | KN6JGB    | Y       |