

**KARO-ECHO Board Meeting
02/04/2026
via Zoom**

Attendees:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Tom Fattaruso	AA6BY
Annette McCoubry	KJ6SWK
Marilyn Sterling	KO6GUA
Don Simon	NI6A
Dan Genova	KO6HWU

Potential Board Agenda Items

Call to order/logistics

- **Approval of minutes and agenda, suggestion of additional items**
- **Treasurer report**

New business

- **Brainstorm recognition of longstanding members who have put a lot of work into the club**
- **SET planning for March 28th**
- **BEACON April 30th**
- **Consider proposal to allow multi-year membership pre-payment**
- **Winter Field Day follow-up**

Old business

- **Patch box survey/document**
- **Fire Dept coordination,**
 - **Kensington station (55) furniture/equipment reinstall**
 - **Arlington station (52) radio check update after visit**
- **Strategic Planning committee**
 - **relaunch meeting time being planned**
- **Training workgroup - recruit more members**
- **Newsletter items**
- **Outreach**

Topics discussed:

- **Board composition.**

Dan will be co-chairing the Outreach Committee with Jim. Dan is now a board member at large.

- **Dues**

Howdy relayed a question from Treasurer Jim Marks, KN6VTC, who was not present, about whether or not members can pay for more than one year at a time. The general response from the board was that this would unnecessarily complicate our bookkeeping.

- **Appreciation of past club contributors**

- The board would like to share their appreciation for people who have made significant contributions to the club.
- The board shared their appreciation for outgoing board member Hal Graboske, KK6NDF. Annette and Don explained how Hal's leadership and commitment was instrumental in creating today's strong club and the board expressed their gratitude and respect for Hal's years of service.

- **SET planning March 28, 2026**

The SET (Simulated Earthquake Training) will be March 28 2026. The board discussed what they would like to see included at this SET. Topics included:

- Welfare messages. Neighborhood residents could be encouraged to provide welfare messages, which could be sent during the SET, both as an exercise in sending them and as a demonstration to residents of the value of KARO-ECHO in an emergency.
- Other agencies. We could ask other local agencies, such as the Red Cross and local hospitals if they would like to participate with us.
- Patchbox use. The SET is an opportunity to use the boxes that have been newly installed or patch(box)ed up. We should practice using them so we will know how. Patch boxes at fire stations 52 and 55 will be working and this will give us a chance to use them with the fire station personnel in

attendance.

- Frans will provide training to members in how to use the KCC patchbox at our next membership meeting at the KCC on February 9 2026.
- Net control switches. Three is an appropriate number of net controls to have during the set according to Frans. There is a balance between having the set go smoothly, which might involve some planning and simulating a real emergency in which things might be chaotic.

- **BEACON exercise follow up ((Building Emergency Area Communications, Operations & Networks) April 30, 2026**

The board continued their discussion of the BEACON exercise from last month.

- Dan is very involved with planning for the exercise. He is the KAROECHO representative for it, the liaison between the Club and other groups, and active with the overall BEACON planning for West Contra Costa County.
- Richmond CERT and city staff will be involved. It has not yet been determined exactly where KAROECHO will plug into the exercise since at this point the El Cerrito EOC is not involved. However, the exercise is almost two months away and Dan is working on filling out the details with Jennifer Canon, senior emergency planning coordinator at the Contra Costa County Emergency Services.
- The exercise will take place during working hours because many will participate in a professional role as part of their job. There will be an HF segment to the exercise. There was a discussion about repeater use that will reach Martinez. Dan will request permission from the 4Cs to use their repeater, although it does not reach Martinez.
- Dan will present information about the BEACON exercise at the next Thursday night net.

- **Outreach and Strategic Planning Committees**

- Jim Marks and Dan Genova will co-chair the Outreach Committee.

- The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting. They will provide guidance to the Outreach Committee in how to translate the Club's mission into outreach and membership goals.
- There was a general discussion about our membership. Members have different reasons for joining and levels of technical knowledge. We want involvement with the club be fun, stimulating, and worthwhile for all members.

