

KARO-ECHO Board Meeting

**12/05/24
via Zoom**

Attendees:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Jim Marks	KN6VTY
Tom Fattaruso	AA6BY
Annette McCoubrey	KJ6SWK
Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP
Don Simon	NI6A
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Swanson	KJ6AAT

Potential Board discussion items:

- Officer election (nomination committee report)
- Training workgroup
- Newsletter items
- Outreach to CERT class about radio, follow-up?
- Lessons from Tsunami notifications and uneven action
- Plan for future meetings
 - December: Officer elections
- Other ideas and main meeting agenda items?

Topics discussed:

Coordination with the Fire Department

- After several conversations between Howdy KE6BEE and Chief Saylor it appears that an El Cerrito evacuation plan may have the highest priority at this time and coordination with ham radio is not a high priority.
- If the fire department has any financial concerns about the process of coordinating with KARO-ECHO, it shouldn't be about the cost of radio equipment since no new equipment would be needed. It is more likely that any issue would be about the expense of staff time.
- The El Cerrito city government may have assigned specific persons to be responsible for certain functions in an emergency but we don't know who has been assigned what function.
- In our KE radio exercises we have been focusing on communication from the ham operators to the Fire Department, such as requests for help, but there would probably also be communication in the opposite direction, from the Fire Department to the ham operators.
- In the event that the El Cerrito City Hall is damaged in an earthquake it might not be able to be the location for an EOC. There is also the possibility that even if City Hall is not damaged, there may be no one there to open the building so it could be used for an EOC.

Humboldt County 12/5 Earthquake

- Emergency notices were sent out to many people but the warnings were vague and did not explain the risk in specific areas.
- There seemed to be a general lack of preparation in El Cerrito.
- The realization after the lack of accurate and consistent information about the earthquake and possible tsunami in the warning system on 12/5 is that inaccurate information could possibly lead to panic.
- An additional source of information in a situation like this could be broadcast news radio stations such as KCBS.

Thursday net training sessions

- There has been no response to the request for suggestions for training subjects that would be of interest to members.

Officer elections for next year

- There have been no nominations for club officers for next year.
- A method used in previous years was to send an email to all members asking for nominations. We don't have enough time remaining to do this this year but should use this method next year.
- The question of whether the voting for officers should be private was discussed.

EI Cerrito CERT training classes

- Tom AA6BY made a presentation to the just completed CERT class describing the use of ham, GMRS, and FRS two way radios in an emergency.
- FRS radios were used in the final session class exercise simulating triaging of houses.
- Traviss Crumpacker, who was given the task of organizing the CERT classes, would like to have this same presentation in future CERT classes.

Planning for ham operators in Kensington

- The Kensington Fire Emergency Preparedness Committee requested an estimate of how many ham operators might be needed to provide communication in Kensington in the event of an emergency.
- Considering the teams that might be needed and estimating 3 shifts per day, Annette KJ6SWK gave an estimate of about 40 radio operators.