

KARO-ECHO Board Meeting

11/05/25

via Zoom

Attendees:

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| Howdy Goudey | KE6BEE |
| Frans Kuypers | KJ6IUV |
| Jim Markes | KN6VTC |
| Tom Fattaruso | AA6BY |
| Don Simon | NI6A |
| Annette McCoubry | KJ6SWK |
| Mayilyn Sterling | KO6GUA |

Potential Board discussion items:

- Call to order/logistics
 - Approval of minutes and agenda, suggestion of additional items
 - Treasurer report
- New business
 - Additional agenda items for general meeting
 - Discussion of continuity options/outreach for West Contra Costa Emergency Radio Group (WCCERG) 1st Wed. nets GMRS/ham (11am)
 - Oct. 25th SET takeaways for discussion at general meeting
 - Nomination committee report at general meeting
- Old business
 - Outreach to community groups and businesses
 - Fire Dept coordination,
 - Kensington station (55) furniture/equipment reinstall
 - Arlington station (52) radio check
 - Reconnect on Standard Operating Guide (SOG)
 - Follow-up on additional patch boxes
 - Strategic Planning committee
 - schedule time to resume further committee meetings
 - Training workgroup
 - Newsletter items
 - Outreach
 - Future training and agenda items

Topics discussed:

Meshtastic node devices

- There is renewed interest in getting back to experimenting with the Meshtastic node devices again because more people in our area are now using them.

Treasurer's report

- The treasurer's report for this month shows that we now have 50 paid members.

Nominations for next year's officers

- At the Monday membership meeting we will make another attempt to interest members in taking a turn as a club officer next year.
- The current officers will provide assistance to anyone who is interested in taking on one of the positions.

Fall SET review

- The rain was a problem for some operators who set up outdoors but rain is always a realistic possibility in a real emergency. Some of us found that a canopy does not provide shelter from rain and wind so other methods need to be practised such as operating from inside a car with a mag-mount antenna.
- Bleed-over of voices on nearby frequencies was a problem to be looked into. Transmissions at high power can make the problem worse so we should attempt to use the lowest power that still provides clear communication.
- Jim KN6VTC hosted a high school student, Lucy (passed technician exam but is still waiting for her callsign), who is learning about ham radio for her senior project.
- Frans KJ6IUV and Tom AA6BY noticed a tone or "whine" in the background of their transmissions when their radios (both Icom IC-2730) were powered by a battery. This is likely related to the radio's fan but the reason and a fix is still unknown.

First Wednesday FRS/GMRS/ham exercise

- Karen KK6ZPM will step down from organizing and operating the First Wednesday exercise after December. If someone in the Richmond area can volunteer to take on this task the exercise can continue.

Old Business items not acted on yet

- Setting up VHF/UHF antennas and patchboxes at park clubhouses and fire stations have been discussed several times but not acted on yet. Frans KJ6IUV volunteered to head up this action.
- We need to confirm whether Kensington fire stations 52 and 55 personnel approve of radio equipment being installed in the fire stations or even whether having a radio installed in a fire station would be practical for actual use in an emergency. An alternative could be to install patchboxes outside the buildings to enable connection to the roof antennas.
- The Kensington Community Center has a roof antenna and VHL/UHF radio inside the building but needs a patchbox installed outside to enable an operator outside the building to use the roof antenna.
- Don NI6A would like to have a go-cart, currently stored in his garage, stored in some other location, possibly the shed on the UU Church grounds.