

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

December 9, 2024

Hybrid In Person and Zoom

Attendees

In Person:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	Kj6IUV
Tom Fattaruso	AA6BY
Jim Marks	KN6VTC
Don Simon	NI6A
Nancy Coombs	KN6GTR
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Karen Fenton	KK6ZPM
Ross Talarico	W6OGX

via Zoom:

Annette McCoubry	KJ6SWK
Lorraine Schnurr	KN6CRT
John Evans	KO6FCY
Marylyn Sterling	KO6GUA
Robin Mitchell	KN6CRP
Tim Eisler	KO6EMS

Agenda

- Call to order/logistics
 - Introductions
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Treasurer's report

- New business
 - Nomination Committee report and 2025 KARO ECHO Officer Elections
 - Membership renewals in January
 - Local 2024 Field Day contest standings
 - Lessons/discussion regarding Dec. 5th Tsunami warning
 - Old business
 - Thanks to Tom AA6BY for radio demo to CERT class
 - Past logistics follow-up
 - Outreach/PR/web
 - Report from Outreach workgroup
 - Tech./Infrastructure
 - Tech corner, adjustable angle drive-on and hitch masts, Jay KJ6WSS
 - Elmering
 - Neighborhood nets and Comm. hubs
 - Training and Operations
 - Members share past year experiences and/or future year goals/plans/interests
 - Adjourn
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Meeting called to order.

Logistics

- November membership meeting minutes approved
- Agenda approved
- The treasurer's report is in the newsletter.
 - We have 43 paid members this year.
 - Dues for 2025 can be paid starting now.
 - A report for 2024 will be presented at the January membership meeting.

Business session

Election of Officers for Next Year

- No nominations for club officers for next year were received.
- The four 2024 officers have agreed to serve again for 2025.
- A motion was made and approved to reelect Howdy KE6BEE, president; Frans KJ6IUV, vice president; Jim KN6VTC, treasurer; and Tom AA6BY, secretary for the coming year.
- A suggestion was made to limit the number of terms for officers to try to encourage other members to volunteer to be officers, but it was noted that there would probably still not be any other volunteers.
- A suggestion was made to discuss ideas for encouraging other members to volunteer to become officers at other times than just December.
- If any members are apprehensive about volunteering because they don't know what is involved, they may observe a board meeting via Zoom at any time.

Summer Field Day Points Standings

- KARO-ECHO was 4th out of 31 East Bay groups in the final standings for Field Day even though we used fewer transmitter stations than some other clubs.

Outreach Committee

- Blake KN6CMP is not able to continue as the outreach committee head so another volunteer is needed to replace him.
- Endalee KN6VTY no longer has time to be a member of the outreach committee so more volunteers are needed for additional committee members.
- Jim KN6VTC volunteered to lead the outreach committee if no one else can.

Strategic Planning Committee

- An idea that has been brought up from time to time is whether it might be beneficial for KARO-ECHO and EBARC and/or the Four C's club to merge.
- EBARC members were asked and the consensus was that they are not interested in doing so.
- The main focus for KARO-ECHO is emergency communication and that may not be the main focus of other clubs.
- A Strategic Planning Committee was formed to continue looking into ideas for the future and the "big picture" for KARO-ECHO. Members who are interested in discussing this are Howdy KE6BEE, Frans KJ6IUV, Ross W6OGX, Jim KN6VYC, Annette KJ6SWK, and Don NI6A.

Elmering

- KARO-ECHO Elmering is working well when a new member is proactive about asking for assistance but we need to follow up more consistently with new members who are not so proactive.

Humboldt County Earthquake

- On Dec. 5 a magnitude 7.0 earthquake occurred off the coast of Humboldt County.
- Several lessons were learned as a result of sending out a warning, one of which was that the tsunami warning turned out to be inaccurate which in some cases could have led to panic.
- We had several check-ins to an ad hoc KARO-ECHO net soon after the earthquake.

Introducing Emergency Radio Communication to the El Cerrito CERT Training Class

- Tom AA6BY, an attendee of the October/November El Cerrito CERT training classes, gave a presentation on the final class day explaining the use of FRS, GMRS or ham two-way radio communication during an emergency.
- After the presentation FRS radios were used in the final CERT class exercise.
- Traviss Crumpacker, who is currently organizing the CERT classes, would like to have this presentation repeated in future CERT classes.

Technical

- Jay KJ6WSS demonstrated his most recent version design of a drive-on antenna mast.
- A parking place where a drive-on antenna mast is used might not be level so the new design now allows adjustment of the mast angle enabling the mast to be adjusted to be vertical even if the ground is not level.
- Bolts that hold the mast in position after adjustment have a T handle welded onto them so a wrench is not needed to tighten them.

Meeting adjourned.