

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

May 8, 2023

Hybrid In Person and Zoom

Attendees

In Person:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Annette McCoubry	KJ6SWK
Tom Fattaruso	KN6BUY
Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Curt Smith	KM6HFT

via Zoom:

Don Simon	NI6A
Rob McNicholas	K6RJM
Jerry Michaels	K6KOP
Karen Leong Fenton	KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP
Michael Gold	AJ6RZ
Lorraine Schnurr	KN6CRT
Todd Teachout	W8BIK
Rob Johnson	KK6JN1
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Naisuler	KN6BVF
Rhys Hiltner	AK6BA

Agenda:

Call to order/logistics

- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Approval of Agenda
- Treasurer's report

New business

- Vote on opt-in option for sharing contact info with other members
- Update on website "join" form changes
- Preliminary Field Day planning
- Announcement of Fenton's Radio Friends Open House
- Complying with FCC rule on RF exposure evaluation
- Update on Fire Dept. and CERT discussion
 - potential exercise
 - drafting Standard Operating Guide (SOG)

Old business

Outreach/PR/web

Tech./Infrastructure

Elmering

Neighborhood nets and Comm. hubs

Training and Operations

- Post event discussion of spring SET held April 22, 2023

Adjourn

Meeting called to order.

The April membership meeting minutes was approved

The meeting agenda was approved

Treasurer's report: 1 new paid member this month

Business session

Sharing of members' contact information

- Members' contact information can be useful for communication between KE members but some members may not want their contact information to be openly available.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to add an opt-in checkbox in the "join" or roster/profile database to allow that member's contact information to be available to other members. For current members an email will be sent asking if they agree to sharing their contact information. If a member agrees to sharing their contact information, both email address and phone number will be available to other members.

Website “join” form

- Rob K6RJM will be editing the KE website “join” form to simplify it. When it is ready he will send a link to board members for review.

May 27 open house in-person social event

- Jay KJ6WSS and Karen KK6ZPM have invited members and others interested in radio to an open house social event at Jay’s shop on May 27.
- Technical talks and radio tests will be provided.
- An RSVP is requested.

Field Day

- Should we join with EBARC again this year for Field Day? EBARC will probably be setting up at the UUCB this year which is a good propagation location but space and parking may be limited due to a church event. It may be simpler for us to operate by ourselves this year.
- A location option might be the KCC grass field. There may be foot traffic there for PR opportunities. Hal KK6NDF will ask for approval to use the field.
- Another possible location is Cerrito Vista Park but it could be expensive to rent the space.
- In the last two years EBARC has operated a GOTA station. If EBARC doesn’t do that this year Don NI6A volunteered to provide and operate a GOTA station.

RF exposure

- We all need to be aware of the revised FCC RF exposure requirements.
- An article about RF exposure is in the KE newsletter this month.
- RF exposure assessment is for self-assessment, the results do not need to be submitted anywhere but the results should be documented.
- A calculator is available from the ARRL. Explanatory videos are also available on the internet.

Fire Department, MOU or SOG

- The new fire department chief has now become more amenable to arranging meetings with Howdy KE6BEE to discuss our relationship with the fire department.
- CERT training may be reinstated sometime soon. The possibility of a city-wide emergency exercise with our radio participation has been mentioned.
- An SOG should be set down on paper to define how we will interact with the fire department in an emergency and how the fire department might “activate” us when we are needed.

Training

Spring SET review

- Appreciation was expressed for all who participated in the spring SET.
- Many practice messages were successfully passed using both voice and digital modes. More welfare messages were practiced this time, some using a radio connection and winlink to send an email, simulating sending an email when there is no local internet access.
- The practice for moving off the net frequency to an alternate frequency to pass a message worked well. A routine has now been instituted in which the operator who will be receiving the message contacts the message sender on the net frequency initially to confirm moving to the alternate frequency.
- The two different time fields on the modified ICS213 form were discussed to clarify the difference. The message body time field is meant to be entered by the person who originally generated the message. The time field in the header is meant to be entered by the radio operator when the message is sent via radio.
- Who determines the precedence of a message was discussed.
- When using a digital mode, if the digital communication does not work for some reason it is better to immediately pass the message using voice rather than taking time to try to troubleshoot the problem.

Meeting adjourned.