

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

October 13, 2025

Hybrid In Person and Zoom

Attendees

In Person:

Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Tom Fattaruso	AA6BY
Jim Marks	KN6VTC
Robin Mitchell	KN6CRP
Marty West	KO6JJE
Annette McCoubrey	KJ6SWK

via Zoom:

Don Simon	NI6A
Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Jerry Michaels	K6KOP
Lorraine Schnurr	KN6CRT
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Karen Fenton	KK6ZPM
Ed Sheldon	KO6IDJ
Rob Johnson	KK6JNI
Marilyn Sterling	KO6GUA

Agenda

- Call to order (5 min)
 - Introductions, as needed
- Training and Operations (60 min)
 - October 25th Simulated Emergency Test (SET) training and preparation
- Hybrid discussion items (30 min)
 - Establish a nomination committee for club officer elections in December
 - Report on Oct. 11 Kensington tabling event opportunity Red Flag Ready Fest
 - Report on Mt Diablo Challenge service event
 - Report on California QSO party

- Anyone welcome to share highlights from Pacificon
 - Other feedback/comments/questions/future agenda items
 - Adjourn hybrid meeting
 - Continue with in-person radio discussions and social exchange (30 min)
 - Bring your questions and/or equipment for sharing, testing, etc. Or, just chat, observe and learn.
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Meeting called to order.

Logistics

- Introductions
- Agenda, September membership meeting minutes approved

Training

SET (simulated emergency test) Planning

- The scenario will be the same as previous SETs, an earthquake on the Hayward Fault.
- A link to a sign-up page for participating in the SET is available.
- Radio equipment is available to be borrowed for the SET.
- We will be using tactical call-signs but our FCC call-signs need to be announced at the required time interval as well.
- If multiple operators are stationed at one location they should all use the same tactical call-sign.
- A statement such as “this is just a drill” should be announced along with any emergency message.
- In a real emergency the net control operator could be the first operator on the net, assuming they are familiar with the procedure.
- The NC operator may be located anywhere. If possible it is desirable for the NC to be at a location with a good antenna from where reception of most other net participants is reasonably good, and a location where other activities are not happening.
- Since our members are spread out over an area greater than Kensington and El Cerrito and simplex operation may not always allow clear communication between all participants we need to be practiced in relaying messages.
- In our SETs the initial check-ins begin at 10:00AM. At that time we can record which other operators we can hear, but that wouldn’t be realistic for a real emergency when check-ins to the net would more likely be at random times.

- In a real emergency an emergency message might be sent at any time, possibly before all check-ins are completed.
- For this SET we won't schedule the times when practice messages are to be sent as we have done in the past. Operators are requested to have practice messages ready to send whenever they would like to keep the net busy.
- Currently we do not have a clear procedure to contact the El Cerrito Fire Department or Contra Costa County emergency services so our practice will be to send mutual aid messages between members of our group.
- Messages may be addressed to a specific location or they can be a request for help or general announcement. A message of any kind should be written before being sent.
- Some operators will have equipment to send and receive digital messages so digital modes such as Fldigi and Winlink will be practiced in addition to voice messages.

Business

Kensington Fire Station 55 radio equipment

- Jerry K6KOP asked about returning the removed radio equipment and furniture back to Fire Station 55.

Officer nominations

- We will need nominations by December for club officers for next year
- Volunteers are needed for the nomination committee. Lorraine KN6CRT tentatively volunteered contingent on someone else also volunteering.

Kensington Red Flag ReadyFest

- Annette KJ6SWK organized the KARO-ECHO presence at the "ReadyFest" on Oct. 11, Tom AA6BY assisted at the KARO-ECHO table for the morning hour.
- 19 attendees signed in requesting more information.

Mt. Diablo Challenge bike race event

- Howdy KE6BEE, Frans KJ6IUV, Nancy KN6GTR, and Todd W8BIK provided radio communication support for the Mt. Diablo Challenge bike race on Oct. 5.

California QSO Party

- Howdy KE6BEE, Don NI6A, and Jim KN6VTC participated in the California QSO Party contest Oct. 4-5.

Pacificon report

- Howdy KE6BEE, Jay KJ6WSS, Marty KO6JJE, and Lorraine KN6CRT attended the Pacificon ARRL convention Oct. 10-12. Lorraine made contact with an African ham radio club.

Meeting adjourned.