

MIRO Newsletter for May 2017

Charlie Kaminski KC7NDQ SK

Charlie Kaminski KC7NDQ passed away on Saturday, April 22nd as a result of falling on stairs at his home. A memorial service for Charlie will be held on 11:00 AM Monday, June 12th at St. Monica's Church on Mercer Island. I will circulate Charlie's obituary when it is ready. Charlie has been an active member of MIRO for just 20 years. I found his first MIRO Net check-in in May 1997. He has managed to avoid cameras over the years. The attached picture captured him at the June 2014 field day as he helped connect the HF antenna. This is the Charlie that we've all known and loved. He will be sorely missed by many and in particular, The Mercer Island Radio Operators. We all extend our sympathy and condolences to his spouse, Lisa, and his family.



EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, May 11th, 7:00 PM

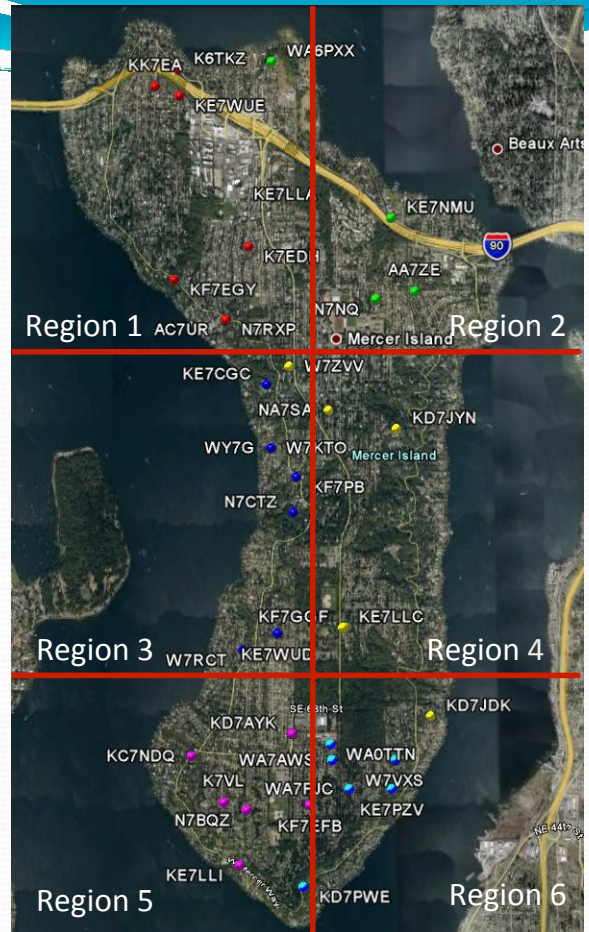
John Banbury AG7N - NET CONTROL

The net will start on the VHF MIRO repeater frequency of 147.160 MHz + offset, with a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz for business and check-ins. It will then shift to the UHF repeater on frequency 440.150 MHz + offset with a CTCSS tone of 103.5 Hz. In the event of a repeater failure, the net will switch to the simplex frequency of 147.440 MHz.

Courtesy when checking into a Active Net is to listen long enough so that you know what is taking place. Most net scripts and MIRO's, in particular, ask for "Late or Missed Check-ins" as the final call before proceeding with any announcements. There is some confusion as to the Regions that Mercer Island Hams are assigned to. There are two easy places to check on the MIRO website: <http://miro.cmivolunteers.org/>. Go to your profile or one of the rosters under Member Information page. Both have the your region indicated. Here is a map that shows how the regions are allocated. The listing of MIRO members is old so you may not find your call sign. I need someone to show me how to remake this map!

Region Assignments

- Six region assignments based on home address
- MIRO members can generally expect to work in or near their region, unless directed for specific duties elsewhere



Mercer Island Radio Operators (MIRO)

MIRO MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, MAY 18TH, 7 PM at the North Fire Station

This meeting starts promptly at 7 PM and features John Banbury AG7N on the subject of HF operations, radios and antennas. He will review how HF fits into the community emergency preparedness as well as his HF hobby interests. The ability to extend your capability to include HF is a great reason to upgrade your license to General. For example, WINLINK's cousin WINMOR is the way to send email over HF. John is one of the founding members of MIRO and has been an active DXer over the years. Every summer John and Eva return to Eva's home in Germany and John just strings up his G5RV antenna and maintains his contacts.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. April 20th MIRO Meeting : Chaired by Michael Roessler KG7DFG the meeting focused on the scope of MIRO's support during Rotary's Half Marathon on March 19th, 2017. We reviewed MIRO's role as the nexus of communications connecting: 1) an island-wide amateur radio net, 2) commercial radios for a team of Rotary officials, and 3) emergency 800mhz radios for situational awareness and aid dispatch. We presented some of the equipment we used, along with lessons we learned from operating GPS location beacons for traffic control.

2. April 22-23 Communications Academy at South Seattle College: MIRO Members Michael Hansen KG7MX, Mike Hansen AC7UR, Tom Norris KI7DTL, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO and Bob Welsh KI7ELH attended Comm Academy. Bob Tykulsker reported that there were three key themes for him:

1. All radio communications are vulnerable to jamming and there is an increasing concern that we will see more of it, not only on ham bands but also on commercial and first responder frequencies. Radio Direction Finding experience would help us serve our constituents if we experience jamming, particularly in emergency situations.

2. Out of the Cascadia Rising 2016 exercise we learned that while WINLINK is an excellent resource, we can quickly saturate the local gateways. An answer to that saturation is to fall back to WINMOR and other HF digital capabilities to get away from the saturation.

3. There is an increasing interest in the HAMWAN to provide connectivity. Presented by a member of the Redmond, WA emergency preparedness management, there is discussion about putting a HAMWAN node on top of Lincoln Square in Bellevue. This move grew out of Redmond's participation in the MIRO Field Day at Luther Burbank Park and the use of HAMWAN for our event connectivity.

The consensus report was that CommAcademy was a worthwhile event.

3. May 6th Wide Area Search and Rescue Training: Joel Ohringer KF7SIB and his MI Search & Rescue team will be participating in a training day on May 6th. The topic will be an Exterior & Wide Area Search (e.g. searching for a lost child.) Joel would like to integrate MIRO hams into the exercise/drill component to practice radio communications back to the EOC. If you are interested please contact Joel ASAP so he can fit you into the teams. Email: joelohringer@outlook.com phone: (206) 910-5363.

4. June 18th MIRO Meeting: This regular monthly meeting is the preparation for the annual ARRL Field Day, June 24th & 25th. We would like to determine how we can attract as many MIRO members as possible to participate in Field Day. What activities and experiences would bring you out for part or all of the event. By separate email we will send a questionnaire to get your input. May 18th MIRO meeting will also provide an opportunity to pose questions and suggestions.

5. New Badges: You will receive a separate email from me giving specific instructions for getting your new badge. These badges will be recognized by other jurisdictions for participation in emergencies. **The major change for all of us is that we need to take the ICS 100 & 700 courses** and provide Officer Jennifer Franklin with proof of passing those courses. If you have already taken the courses, you should go to the FEMA website with your FEMA Student ID (SID) and get your passing certificate. More in a letter from Jennifer that I will forward shortly. **We will be set up to take your pictures in the new required format at our May 18th MIRO meeting. Picture taking will take place between 6 and 7 PM. Come early please.**

Here is the link to get your FEMA Student ID (SID): <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>
Link to ICS 100 & 700 tests: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>

2017 PROJECTS REPORT:

- 1) Coordinate MIRO Radio room capability with MIRO station inside the new Permanent MI EOC –
- 2) Provide needed support to the Mercer Island High School Ham Club.
- 3) Recruit and train more members
- 4) Qualify new Basic Winlink Capability Operators
- 5) Establish a MIRO training and qualification program starting with Net Control Operators and Radio Room Procedures.

MIRO March Activity Report:

During March 2017, 36 MIRO members put in a total of 184 hours of volunteer time in support of 4 public service events, and 1 net. They drove 304 miles.

73, Woody Howse – K7EDH, MIRO Volunteer Chairman
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