



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for May 2019

EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, May 9th, 7:00 PM

Jon Conradt N7OOB - 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, first try the other repeater; if that has failed, shift to the Mercer Island Simplex 147.440.

If Net Control loses contact with the Net, the MIRO member who is prepared and steps in to substitute until Net Control is able to solve the problem and return to the net, will receive 10 chances on the BaoFeng radio. You need to have been keeping a log of members on the net, recognize that something has happened, and make a trial call to determine if Net Control is still on the frequency, and take charge if they don't return the call. If the VHF repeater is down, you'll have to check on UHF or Simplex.

PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY ON THE NET! Information being sent over the net is recorded by hand in the Radio Room. Practice Prepares!

MIRO MEETING at the North Fire Station, FD91

Thursday, May 16th, promptly at 7:00 PM: We welcome Commander Dave Jokinen Mercer Island Police Department (MIPD) as our guest speaker this evening. The Police Department is divided into the Police Operations unit (Commander Jokinen's responsibility) and the Administrative Services unit. Police Operations includes the Marine Patrol and the Patrol Section. Administrative Services includes the Criminal Investigations Section (Detectives), the Services Section (Dispatch, Records, and Evidence Room), and a Training and Personnel Sergeant. Mercer Island Emergency Preparedness reports to Services.

The following are some of the MIPD Operations services:

- Routine patrol, including enforcement of criminal and traffic laws
- Answering calls for service and taking appropriate police action
- Follow-up investigations of criminal cases
- Bicycle patrol of the Central Business District and the I-90 Right of Way
- Marine Patrol in the waters of Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Renton
- Community-oriented Policing and Emergency Management Programs

MIRO is organized under the City Emergency Management Plan and reports to the city Emergency Preparedness Officer. MIRO provides one of the communication links during emergency conditions. This meeting is an important one for all of us. Please attend.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. MIRO Meeting, April 18th featuring Deputy Chief Mike Mandella of the Mercer Island Fire Department. Chief Mandella and Andrew Johnson W7ALJ, Norcom IT manager, presented to 21 MIRO Members. They covered MI Fire Department organization and NORCOM 911 organization and how both operate in an emergency. A lot of excellent questions were asked, and the most interesting answer was about the potential for having Volunteer Firemen to support the Fire Department when they have been called off the island to support other fire departments. Chief Mandella's answer was that although there are no volunteer firemen opportunities, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) is very valuable during an emergency because such trained personnel could be able to pick up Search and Rescue and building evaluation jobs that the First Responders aren't available to handle. Such assignments would be made by the MI EOC. This was a very worthwhile meeting and presentation.

2. MIRO Meeting, June 20th: This is the final meeting before MIRO Emergency Preparedness Day and ARRL Field Day, June 22nd. Our final planning and assignments will be made at the meeting. Emergency Preparedness Day will again take place at Luther Burbank in the field at the North End, the same place that we met last year. We will set up antennas Friday afternoon for several HF Stations and tables and chairs for presentations by several different groups. Officer Jennifer Franklin will be manning one table to educate the public on the Mercer Island Emergency Plan. Several other MI volunteer committees plan to have information tables, also. We will need a number of our members to volunteer for service as well as to man the radios. I will send an email shortly for people to sign up for 'shifts.'

4. Driving Distracted: Recently a relatively new ham asked us how to set a handheld scanner to monitor the various repeaters in eastern Washington while driving east so he could find somebody to chat with. Here is the very pertinent answer that he received from MIRO's Radio Officer and Emergency Coordinator, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO:

*Anything that has the potential to take your eyes off the road is a **risk to you and others**. Yes, as Amateur Radio Operators, we do have the right to operate radios for emergency communications purposes while driving, at least in Washington State. But just because we have a legal right, doesn't mean that it's a good idea to exercise that right. Operating a radio in direct support of an emergency operation while driving is an acceptable risk. Operating a radio, in an unfamiliar mode, for recreational purposes while driving is not an acceptable risk. For clarity: the Washington State exception for ham radio use does not provide that you can be distracted while using the radio even in an emergency. If you are showing distracted driving, you will be ticketed regardless of the permission to use a ham radio while driving.*

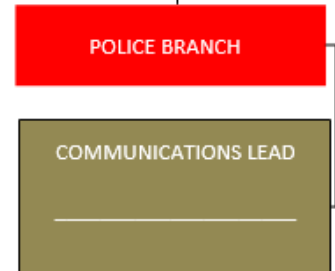
5. MIRO Members Action in Emergency: The following information has been excerpted from The Mercer Island Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (available at: <http://www.mercergov.org/files/2018MercerIslandCEMPFinal.pdf>). Page 695 in the plan defines the actions to be taken by MIRO members in the event of an emergency.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Supporting POLICE Branch

The role of the Communications/HAM Radio Team is to support the City of Mercer Island, the Police Department and the Fire Department. This team assists with communications for City personnel and for volunteers. The leader of the team is the ham that assumes the Net Control Station (NCS).

Additionally, this team is responsible for assisting the city PIO as well as operating the HS radio station for emergency messaging.



PREPARATION:

- Refer to MIRO Net Control Manual in Ham Radio Room.

ACTIVATION:

- After a disaster strikes, conduct your personal inspection of family, house and neighborhood. Then check in on the MIRO Emergency Net on the VHF repeater (back up is the UHF repeater). The first ham checking in to the net should activate the net and serve as Net Control Operator until able to pass the responsibility on to a more qualified ham.
- The Ham operator who activates the repeater should log all check-ins listing each ham's condition, radio status and mobility. Briefly accept a neighborhood report and if the ham hasn't made a neighborhood inspection, request that it be done and reported. Emergency conditions should be reported upon discovery.
- Net Control should dispatch qualified hams as quickly as possible to the Radio Room at City Hall for service in relaying community needs to the Mercer Island Emergency Operations Center. Several hams are needed to effectively expedite the communications between hams in the field and the MI EOC Manager.
- MIRO Volunteers report to City Hall and complete all registration documents. Collect vests and badges.
- MIRO Volunteers working at field sites must complete and submit a 214-activity log at the end of each shift.
- As the MI EOC Manager requests hams to accompany action teams, the Net Control Operator should dispatch a capable ham nearest to the location of the of the expected action to serve in such a responsibility.
- It is likely that the MIRO Emergency Net will be activated before being requested by a City or EOC official. The Emergency Net becomes a key source of information as people gather at the Mercer Island EOC to take charge in dispatching assistance of all types. Information is delivered from the field by voice radio or in WINLINK or FLDIGI formats. WINLINK should be addressed to W7MIR and MIEOC@mercergov.org. Net Control Operator operating from home is unlikely to be able to receive WINLINK or FLDIGI while managing the net if solo.
- As soon as possible determine who Net Control Relief will be so that person is ready to monitor activity, able to serve as a backup and ready to relieve when necessary.

PIO ASSISTANCE – this volunteer will work with the city communications manager in the EOC/JIC and will assist with duties assigned by the communications manager.

THE HS RADIO STATION OPERATOR will also work with the communications manager to push out

6. Honda Voluntary recall:



American Honda has announced a voluntary recall of some 200,000 portable generators sold in the US, due to a potential fire and burn hazard. The recall includes the EU2200i, EU2200i Companion, and EB2200i generators. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says the affected portable generators can leak gasoline from the fuel valve. Users should stop operating the recalled generator and contact an authorized Honda dealer for a free repair. Honda is also contacting users directly. For more information visit:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/american-honda-recalls-portable-generators-due-to-fire-and-burn-hazards> A similar recall has been issued in Canada.

7. MFJ Antenna Analyzer: MIRO has purchased a Model MFJ-269C Antenna Analyzer for use by members. If you need to use it, you may check it out from Bob Tykulsker rtykulsker@gmail.com.

8. Earning raffle chances on the 2019 BaoFeng radio:

- 1 chance for each CEMNET operator service
- 1 chance for each pre-Emergency Net WINLINK message to W7MIR & KM6SO
- 1 additional chance if that pre-Emergency Net message uses form ICS-213
- 1 chance for a reasonably complete, accurate Net Log emailed to rtykulsker@gmail.com
- 1 additional chance if the emailed Net Log is a "100% solid copy" Net Log
- 2 chances for submitting the net log by WINLINK to KM6SO@winlink.org
- 1 additional chance if the Winlink net log is 100% solid copy
- 1 additional chance if the Winlink net log uses the ICS-213 format
- 1 additional chance if the log is a .csv or .xlsx attachment to the ICS-213 format
- 1 additional chance for each hour of participation in June 22nd Emergency Prep. Day

(2019) PROJECTS:

- 1) Increase MIRO use of Winlink.
- 2) Continue MIRO training and qualification program starting with Net Control Operators, Radio Room Procedures, Winlink, CEMNET and WEB EOC.
- 3) Technician License exam classes

MIRO March Activity Report:

During March 2019, 30 MIRO members, driving 448 miles, gave 220 hours of volunteer time in support of 2 public service events and 8 drills, meetings and exercises. The key event this month was the Mercer Island Half Marathon, where 18 MIRO Members spent a total of 126 man hours.

73, Woody Howse K7EDH – MIRO Volunteer Chair

Email: whowse@me.com Phone: 206-849-5370

MIRO Current Schedule 2019

Date	Topic
May 9	Emergency Net NCS – Jon Conradt N7OOB
May 16	MIRO Mtg - Cdr. Dave Jokinen MIPD
May 28	Last Tuesday
Jun 13	Emergency Net NCS – Harlan Feinstein W7HIZ
Jun 20	MIRO Mtg Preps for MI Emergency Preparedness Day
Jun 22	MI Emergency Preparedness Day & ARRL Field Day – Luther Burbank Park
Jun 25	Last Tuesday
Jun 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC ??
Jul 11	Emergency Net NCS – Toni Okada KI7UZL
Jul 18	MIRO Mtg – Radio Training, chaired by Bob Tykulsker & Pat Hackett
Jul 30	Last Tuesday
Aug 8	Emergency Net NCS – Eva Banbury W7EVA
Aug 15	MIRO Social Mtg and BaoFeng raffle
Aug 27	Last Tuesday
Aug 31	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Sep 12	Emergency Net NCS - ??
Sep 19	MIRO Mtg John V. Mertel WA7IR, Founder & CEO STEPPIR Comm Systems
Sep 24	Last Tuesday
Oct 10	Emergency Net NCS - ??
Oct 17	MIRO Mtg ??
Oct 29	Last Tuesday
Nov 14	Emergency Net NCS - ??
Nov 21	MIRO Mtg ??
Nov 26	Last Tuesday
Nov 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Dec 12	Emergency Net NCS - ??
Dec 19	MIRO Mtg ??

Prospective Topics:

- WINLINK
- Optimizing HT radios – Introduction of Tiger Tails counterpoise.
- Hands-on soldering
- Antennas
- Packet Radio FLDigi
- “*Summits On The Air: An Overview*” by guest presenter Tim Nair KG7EJT.
<https://www.wta.org/news/signpost/meet-the-trail-community-ham-radio-operator>