



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for September 2019

EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, September 12th, 7:00 PM

Ron Parrish K7RFP - NET CONTROL, Laurent Lathieyre K2BRC scribe

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 for a roll call of the participants on the VHF repeater. In the event of a repeater failure, first try the other repeater; if that has failed, shift to the Mercer Island Simplex 147.440.

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

After completion of the Emergency Net, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO will play an FLDIGI message first on the UHF repeater and then on the VHF repeater. If you have a computer with FLDIGI installed, you should be able to decode the message, just using your computer's built-in microphone and sound card.

The following file provides great practice to insure your setup is working.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1r19PCfhiGhHyUdnonalAltJ1xJHgaa10>

If you need help in installing FLDIGI on your computer, reach out to Bob Tykulsker, KM6SO, rtykulsker@gmail.com, phone (206) 605-6214; and he will try to help get you set up for this test.

FLDIGI is a powerful way to communicate in your neighborhood and on the island using ham radio frequencies. This will be a MIRO focus until we are facile.

MIRO MEETING at the North Fire Station, FD91

Thursday, September 19th, promptly at 7:00 PM: Our primary topic for the evening is the SteppIR Ham Antenna family. Our speaker is Jeff Woelherth N7CID, SteppIR Sales Director. This is the opportunity to learn about HF antennas that have variable band capability. Also, bring your laptop so that we can work on FLDIGI. It would be helpful if you've already downloaded FLDIGI to your laptop. For FLDIGI assistance before the meeting, contact Bob Tykulsker or Woody Howse.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The August 15th MIRO Social Meeting. We had 20 MIRO members, 8 spouses and an amazing selection of desserts. The highlight of the evening was each person speaking briefly about their interests or experience in the ham world. Toni Okada KI7UZL was recognized for her amazing volunteer work, both for Jennifer Franklin's volunteer cadre and for MIRO. She received a HamTestOnline kit to study for her General license. We also had a surprise visit from Elliot Matteson KI7QGM, who, at the end of the meeting, left Mercer Island to live on Bainbridge Island. Elliot has been an amazing participant in

MIRO since he received his Technician license in October 2017 and upgraded to General in May 2018. MIRO will miss Elliot's enthusiastic participation.

The BaoFeng Raffle had six prizes in addition to the UV5R handheld. Each winner was able to select from the prize pot. The First Raffle Winner was Darrell Scattergood N7HWY and, surprise, surprise, he selected the UV5R. The remaining items had been donated by Bob Tykulsker KM6SO (thank you, Bob) and included two multimeters and two Arduino kits and two HT stub antennas. There was a total of 454 raffle chances earned.

2. Thursday, October 17th, MIRO Meeting: The meeting will be held at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) and feature Greg Parkinson, an experienced "lineman" from Puget Sound Energy. Greg last visited MIRO 6 years ago with a valuable presentation on safety and appropriate response around problems with the electric distribution system. Guests will be welcome. This will be a very interesting and useful presentation.

4. New Callsign, address or phone number? Please notify Woody Howse, whowse@me.com so I can reflect the changes on the Roster and website.

4. CERT Training: CERT classes have been scheduled for 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the Mercer Island Emergency Operations Center. Classes are being led by Dave Uhler W7DDU and Kendra Uhler KG7MFR. CERT-qualified MIRO members can attend for refresher purposes (if space is available); and those that are not qualified should consider registering to join the trained cadre on the island. To register or sign up for space available, contact Officer Jennifer Franklin MIPD at jennifer.franklin@mercergov.org. The class schedule is:

Monday Sept. 9	CERT Unit 1 Disaster Prep/Unit 8 Terrorism
Monday Sept. 16	CERT Unit 2 Fire Safety
Monday Sept. 23	CERT Unit 3 Disaster Medical – Part 1
Monday Sept. 30	CERT Unit 4 Disaster Medical – Part 2
Monday Oct. 7	CERT Unit 5 Search & Rescue / Comms
Monday Oct. 14	CERT Unit 6 & 7 CERT Org & Disaster Psych
Monday Oct. 21	CERT Review & Test

3. DEAR BOB: (This is a sporadic continuation of questions asked of MIRO's Radio Officer and ARES Emergency Coordinator, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO.)

Ron Parrish K7RFP – "Regarding MIRO Net Control qualifications and the ARES Position Task Book - At Level 1, what would be your expectations of me, both day-to-day and during an emergency? How does that differ from being an active MIRO member?"

Bob – Hi Ron, great questions!

In general, my expectations for active MIRO members don't depend on whether or not they are ARES level 1, 2, 3 or choose not to be part of ARES. For day-to-day, ("blue sky", "steady state conditions"), my expectations for all include participating in:

- monthly nets and monthly meetings
- public service events like the Mercer Island Half Marathon and Mercer Island Emergency Preparedness Day (Field Day)
- weekly CEMNET (not every week, of course)
- quarterly EOC-EOC exercises, etc.

I estimate that averages to **two to three hours per month**. For incidents, emergencies, disaster, ("gray sky" / "operational state") are much harder to define.

First and foremost, I don't expect **any** MIRO member or ARES member to deploy off Mercer Island. Unless they really, Really, REALLY, **REALLY** want to. Most incidents are not communications incidents. We might not even be aware of our EOC being activated. Even when the EOC is activated, our initial response should be the same: reporting **situational awareness** on the MI Emergency Net when you check in:

- assert you and your family are safe
- report your neighbors' conditions
- assess and report neighborhood status
- stand by

DO NOT self-deploy to the MI EOC. DO NOT self-deploy to the MI City Hall. Check in on the Net and the Net will decide who, if anybody, needs to activate the Radio Room.

When (not if) our repeaters fail, we'll start to organize simplex nets and/or ad-hoc cross-band repeaters. Yes, this is something I worry and think about and occasionally plan for. If our Emergency Manager (EM) has communications or other technical requests for us, we'll be notified. If we're requested to activate, "we" will work our Emergency Net to figure out how we can meet those needs. We don't have any formal plans in this area, because the City's Emergency Plan is to use hams (ARES or not) for situational awareness only.

Say, hypothetically, the "really big one" hits, the bridges are down, and Mercer Island has to shelter all the drivers on I-90. Plans include opening a shelter at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC). Suppose that **all** landline, cell, and Internet service is down, too. Ideally, I'd like to be able to staff both the Radio Room and MICEC each with three MIRO members: Net Control Operator, a scribe and a runner to take and deliver messages. I'd prefer to have folks work only 8-hour shifts.

Do I think that we can shelter **all** I-90 drivers, plus Mercer Island residents or visitors who needs sheltering at MICEC? Of course not. Do I think we can deploy 18 hams for 5 days to run emergency communications between our EOC and shelter? Probably **not**. We might have to go to 12-hour shifts, use non-hams as runners, etc. I'm picking 5 days because we're supposed to get "out-of-area relief" after 3 days. Yeah, right. In reality, we won't get relief that soon; and we'll get tired of volunteering and want to attend to our families, etc. Human nature. But again, this is the most catastrophic scenario.

So, what if you want to deploy as a Radio Operator off Mercer Island (the really, Really, REALLY, **REALLY** from above)? Be prepared to work 12-hour shifts for 14 to 21 days.

A couple of ways to go:

(1) Get yourself hooked into a FEMA Incident Management Team as a Communications Unit Leader (COML), Communications Technician (COMT), Technical Specialist (TS). Good luck, as these tend to be professionals deploying through their agency. Other “professional” alternatives include FEMA Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) or Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams.

(2) Get yourself on an ARES Mutual Assistance Team, ARESMAT. Go through ARES levels 1, 2, and 3 training.

Finally, a reason for all this training. Get your local ARES Emergency Coordinator (me), to sign off on your Position Task Book (PTB). At that point, you'll have the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) to find the nearest ARESMAT. When you do, please do let me know, because I haven't found it yet! However, when I deployed to Florida for Hurricane Michael through the American Red Cross, I did work with two ARESMAT volunteers, who were serving our shelter 24/7. Their service was **needed**, since cell phone communication was spotty and we were averaging about three 911 calls/day (shelters attract a lot of folks in poor health). Alas, their service was never **used**.

To summarize:

- MIRO? ARES? It's all the same to me. We're volunteers to our served agencies.
- Blue sky? 3 hours/month minimum. Lots of opportunity to increase your Knowledge, Skills and Abilities through training, exercises, practice, etc.
- Gray sky? Get on the radio. Listen.
- Black sky? Do whatever we are asked to do to help.
- Wanna play radio off-island? Hard but not impossible. Train up now

Ron, thanks for your interest and the questions. 73, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO

(2019) PROJECTS:

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

MIRO July Activity Report:

During July 2019, 22 MIRO members, driving 176 miles, gave 88 hours of volunteer time in support of 2 public service events and 9 drills, meetings and exercises.

73, Woody Howse K7EDH – MIRO Volunteer Chair
Email: whowse@me.com Phone: 206-849-5370

MIRO Current Schedule 2019/2020

Date	Topic
Sep 12	Emergency Net NCS – Ron Parrish K7RFP
Sep 19	MIRO Mtg – Jeff Woehlert, N7CID, Sales leader for STEPPIR Antennas
Sep 24	Last Tuesday
Oct 5	WHX Faux Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC and SET (from 8.31.19) &
Oct 10	Emergency Net NCS – Mike Post KJ7FIF
Oct 17	MIRO Mtg. Greg Parkinson, PSE Line safety and consideration @ MICEC
Oct 29	Last Tuesday
Nov 14	Emergency Net NCS – Mike Hansen AC7UR, N. Michael Hansen KG7MX
Nov 21	MIRO Mtg Mike Sedgwick K7PI – RFI – What it is and what’s its impact
Nov 26	Last Tuesday
Dec 7	Faux Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Dec 12	Emergency Net NCS – Bob Tykulsker KM6SO (from home)
Dec 19	MIRO Mtg Year end review
2020 Leap Yr.	
Jan 9	Emergency Net NCS
Jan 16	MIRO Mtg ??
Jan 28	Last Tuesday
Feb 13	Emergency Net NCS
Feb 20	MIRO Mtg ??
Feb 25	Last Tuesday
Feb 29	Faux Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Mar 12	Emergency Net NCS
Mar 19	MIRO Mtg ??
Mar 29	MI HALF
Mar 31	Last Tuesday
Apr 9	Emergency Net NCS
Apr 16	MIRO Mtg - Lt. Stephen Mair MIFD CPR Training
Apr 25&26	Comm Academy
Apr 28	Last Tuesday
May 14	Emergency Net NCS
May 21	MIRO Mtg Daniel Liefer, MD BioTerrorism
May 26	Last Tuesday
May 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
June 11	Emergency Net NCS
June 18	MIRO Mtg Preparations for Emergency Preparedness Day and ARRL Field Day
June 27	MI Emergency Preparedness Day and ARRL Field Day

Unassigned Topics:

- Optimizing HT radios – Introduction of Tiger Tails counterpoise.
- Hands on soldering
- Antennas
- “*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>
- **WHX** = Woody out of town