



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for November 2019

EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, November 14th, 7:00 PM

Michael Hansen KG7MX - NET CONTROL, Mike Hansen AC7UR 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, anybody interested in practicing FLDIGI is welcome to stay on the UHF repeater and practice. If you are interested, say so on Check-in.

MIRO MEETING at the North Fire Station – FD91

Thursday, November 21st, starting promptly at 7 PM: MIRO Member Mike Sedgwick K7PI will be presenting the topic of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), its causes and ways to ameliorate the problems. It used to be that ham radio operators caused RFI havoc with neighbors' radio, phones and TV as well as other audio devices. Today it's more likely that hams experience RFI noise more often than the neighbors. At the moment, MIRO member Alex Banbury, who is a senior at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and lives in a dormitory, has experienced too much RFI to be able to use his radio at all. It comes from many sources so cannot be eliminated. This will be an interesting meeting for all of us.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. October 17th MIRO meeting: Meeting at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), nineteen MIRO members and guests had a superior presentation by Greg Parkinson of Puget Sound Energy on the subject of safety in the presence of electricity. Greg's model of a local section of power lines delivering power to homes and shops was impressive. Just as the three top high voltage distribution lines in your neighborhood are carrying 7,000 volts, his model's distribution lines were carrying the same. He showed the effect of a tree coming into contact with the wires, grounding the wire and starting to smoke from the heat. He simulated a downed wire and carefully nudged a figurine of a person near the wire. The arc was impressive. You should not go closer than 35 feet from such a downed line. If you are nearer such a hazard, shuffle more than 35 feet away. Don't run. If you end up with both feet on the ground at the same time while running, you will experience a voltage across your heart that could kill you. Greg showed this PSE video: <https://www.pse.com/pages/downed-power-lines>. There were also other videos that were even more dramatic and true. The most vivid was

a naked man climbing a pole and turning to toast when he accidentally got too close to a high voltage line. Another lesson is to have PSE trace all underground utility services before starting any excavation – Call 811. Emphasizing this example, a figurine worker hit an underground power source with a shovel and also turned to toast.

2. October 5th EOC-EOC exercise: Four MIRO members executed this exercise from the W7MIR Radio Room. Led by Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, Ron Parrish K7RFP, Laurent Lathieyre K2BRC and Toni Okada KJ7UZL swapped around to all the positions in the Radio Room submitting the standard resource request ICS213RR form through WINLINK. The positions were (1) Role-playing Jennifer Franklin making a request, (2) Typing the request on the Winlink Computer, and (3) Quality Control check of the filled in form before it's submission either over Telnet or a W7MIR RMS gateway. Another position was to monitor the radios responding to voice calls from other EOCs. The group consensus was that it was a worthwhile exercise.

3. CERT Graduation: CERT classes were completed on October 21st and graduated 17 people. Three of them, Scott McMurray N7SSM, Ron Parrish K7RFP and Dan Witmer W6DRW, are MIRO Members. Three of the non-ham graduates have indicated a desire to get their Technician licenses.

4. October 27th MYFS Pumpkin Walk Support: On October 27th five MIRO Members supported the Youth and Family Services Pumpkin Walk and Food Drive at Luther Burbank. The group was led by Jon Conradt N7OOB, and included Pat Hackett K7PTH, Toni Okada KJ7UZL, Armando Lemus KJ7FIG and Bob Tykulsker KM6SO. They could have used at least four more hams. The event was incredibly well attended, and the Park was beautifully set up with a number of donated carved pumpkins and other decorations. An amazing amount of food was collected for the food bank. Parking was a big issue with a lot of people parking up at the MICEC parking lots and walking down. One suggestion was that there should have been hams at each parking lot to let drivers know when spaces were available in the lots, thus eliminating a frustrating drive through the lot. This can become another annual support event for MIRO, resulting in even more community visibility than we have with the Mercer Island Half Marathon.

6. Friday, December 6th, Holiday Tree lighting and MI Fire Department Munch: As a result of private citizens' donations, the Mercerdale Tree will be lighted for the holidays. The ceremonial lighting will take place on Friday, December 6th followed by the Chili Munch at the North Fire Station funded by the Mercer Island Firemen's Union. As in the past, MIRO will be supporting the occasion providing the soft drinks; and MIRO members will pour those drinks. In addition, we have a new opportunity to raise the visibility of MIRO to the community. In past years, Santa Claus has arrived at the Munch. Regretfully, so many kids and parents have lined up to see Santa that there is serious crowding. With a fixed termination time, there are always those who do not get to see Santa. This year Santa won't arrive BUT, MIRO will have a Radio for the kids to have a quick hello from the North Pole and a chance to ask for one item. The current thought is to run the kids by in groups of three or four. Clearly, we have planning to do and will need a number of our members to assist. This will also be fun and a chance to give parents

and other adults a one-pager about MIRO. Joy Matsuura, Bob Tykulsker's spouse, gets the credit for coming up with this idea. Thank you, Joy!

6. Thursday, December 19th, MIRO Meeting at North Fire FD91: This meeting, starting promptly at 7 PM, will be a MIRO Round Table. We will sit in a rectangle around the meeting room, facing each other, for a brief review of our 2019 activities and the planned 2020 activities and calendar. Then we will open up the meeting for each member to have the opportunity to make relevant observations about MIRO and its plans. Suggestions for alternatives, volunteers to set up activities and any other topic of interest to MIRO members are welcome. This will be the best time to speak up for the good of the group.

7. Thursday, February 20, 2020, MIRO Meeting – STOP-THE-BLEED! We will meet at MICEC for a special course in emergency actions to be taken when encountering someone who is bleeding profusely. Such bleeding, if not stopped, can lead to death within several minutes and possibly before First Responders can arrive. This program was initiated by Lenworth Jacobs MD, head trauma surgeon at Hartford Hospital, in Connecticut after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in 2012. The goal of the program is to train members of the public to identify and treat life-threatening bleeding on the spot. Just as CPR became a standard for public response to heart attacks, Stop the Bleed is the next method being taught. Following is the link to an article that describes this history:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/04/08/turning-bystanders-into-first-responders>

This meeting will REQUIRE reservations from participants because we are limited to 8 trainees per nurse instructor. We will start the reservation list (first come – first served) at the beginning of December. At the moment, we expect 4 trained nurses, which means 32 participants. Currently, this training is open to just MIRO members, who may bring one family member guest. We are still working to recruit several more medical people to send through training. If you know a nurse or doctor who would be willing to take the training, please refer them to Pat Hackett, phone: (206) 972-2724 or email: pat@pathackett.com. Pat has taken the course and urged MIRO to sponsor a session. MIRO Foundation will be making a donation to the group that runs the training. Interestingly, the two nurses who run the program have their ham licenses.

(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 WebEOC.

MIRO September Activity Report:

During September 2019, 27 MIRO members, driving 199 miles, gave 116 hours of volunteer time in support of 2 public service events and 9 drills, meetings and exercises.

73, Woody Howse K7EDH – MIRO Volunteer Chair

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MIRO Current Schedule 2019/2020

Date	Topic
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 19	Alternative Last Tuesday at Howse House
Dec 6	Holiday Tree Lighting and MIFD Munch
Dec 7	Faux Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (replaces November 30 th Thanksgiving Saturday)
Dec 12	Emergency Net NCS – Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, scribe Laurent Lathieyre K2BRC
Dec 19	MIRO Mtg Year-end review
2020	LEAP YEAR
Jan 9	Emergency Net NCS – Laurent Lathieyre K2BRC, scribe VadIm Volk N7PIX
Jan 16	MIRO Mtg Officer Jennifer Franklin MIPD
Jan 21	Alternative Last Tuesday at Howse House
Feb 13	Emergency Net NCS – Vadim Volk N7PIX, scribe Pat Hackett K7PTH
Feb 20	MIRO Mtg - STOP THE BLEED!
Feb 25	Last Tuesday
Feb 29	Faux Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Mar 12	Emergency Net NCS
Mar 19	MIRO Mtg MI Half Marathon final planning
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/ARRL Field Day
June 27	MI Emergency Preparedness Day and ARRL Field Day
July 9	Emergency Net NCS
July 16	MIRO Mtg
July 28	Last Tuesday
Aug 13	Emergency Net NCS
Aug 20	MIRO Summer Social Meeting

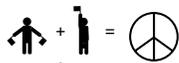
Unassigned Topics:

- WINMOR on HF, VARA
- WEBEOC training
- Optimizing HT radios – Introduction of Tiger Tails counterpoise.
- Hands on soldering
- “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

phonetic alphabet

A alpha	B bravo	C charlie
D delta	E echo	F foxtrot
G golf	H hotel	
I india	J juliett	K kilo
L lima	M mike	
N november	O oscar	P papa
Q quebec	R romeo	
S sierra	T tango	U uniform
V victor	W whiskey	
X xray	Y yankee	Z zulu

With this NATO alphabet chart you will no longer use “M as in Mancy” during a support call with your mom, or while defusing a bomb.



semaphore

Pre-electronic flag letter signals for naval communication represented in a circle. The peace sign was created by combining the letters N (Nuclear) and D (Disarmament).



international morse code

The world's first digital code. The length of each letter's code corresponds to the frequency of that letter's usage in Morristown, New Jersey's newspaper in 1837.



international code of signals

These maritime flags are used to visually communicate letters and messages while maintaining radio silence.