



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for FEBRUARY 2020

### EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, February 13th, 7:00 PM

**Mike Post KI7FIF - Net Control, Scribes: Toni Okada KI7UZL, Dan Witmer W6DRW**

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!*

### MIRO meeting at MICEC reservation only: Stop The Bleed

Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, starting promptly at **6:30 PM, doors open at 6:00 PM:**

We have 40 reservations booked for the program and a wait list has been started. Doors will open at 6 PM, the hour-long class will go from 6:30 – 7:30 and the hands-on training (on dummies) will go from 7:30 – 8:30. There will be some videos of tragic events that could be disturbing. They are part of the training. To cancel a reservation or join the wait list, Contact Pat Hackett email: [pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com); phone: (206) 972-2724. Please, oh please, cancel if you have a reservation and are not going to make the event. Do it in enough time so we can pull someone in from the waiting list. For those who are interested in reviewing what this program is:

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

### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**1. January 21<sup>st</sup> MIRO meeting:** Officer Jennifer Franklin MIPD, Mercer Island Emergency Preparedness Officer, was a very interesting and outstanding presenter to the 21 MIRO members and 1 guest who attended the meeting. Besides giving an overview of the MI Police Department hierarchy, she spent most of her time on the functioning of the EOC in times of emergency. There were a lot of questions asked and answered. As expected, it was a very worthwhile meeting.

**2. February 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>, Amateur Radio Technician Licensing Class:** David Okrent W7DAO, world-class Ham Radio License Instructor, will be teaching at the Mercer Island North Fire Station. On Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, license exams will be administered at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4001 Island Crest Way. Currently we have thirteen students but have the capacity for seven more. If you or a friend is interested, don't wait. Contact Pat Hackett email: [pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com). Flyer attached on page 4.

### **3. February 22-23, Oregon ACES classes in 2020:**

The next Oregon Aces (<http://www.oregonaces.org/>) class is scheduled for:

- Kirkland, February 22 and 23, 2020

This is an excellent opportunity for you to improve your skills as an EmComm team member. There is a fee of \$25. MIRO Foundation will reimburse the fee when your ARES Taskbook for Level 2 is signed off. The ACES class can be used to substitute for the ARRL/ARES EC001 (<http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>) course as a requirement for ARES Level 2 certification. Space is limited; so if you are interested, I'd suggest that you sign up soon. Bob Tykulsker has signed up for the Kirkland class and hopes to see some of you there. Questions? – email Bob at [rtykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com).

### **4. March 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM:** Annual Mike & Key Hamfest at the PAVILION EXHIBITION HALL, WASHINGTON STATE FAIRGROUNDS, 9th Ave SE. & Meridian ST S., PUYALLUP, WA 98372

The Mike & Key Electronics Show & Swap Meet is one of the largest annual Amateur Radio events in the Pacific Northwest. It will be held on the Washington State Fairgrounds March 7, 2020. Up to 3,000 Hams and non-Hams alike are drawn to a modern, 40,000-square-foot facility located on two floors of the Exhibition Hall with room for over 300 tables set up for selling radios, computers, and general electronics equipment. Lots of radio and computer related items are available for sale and/or trade.

**5. March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>, Amateur Radio General Licensing Class:** David Okrent W7DAO, world-class Ham Radio License Instructor, will be teaching at the Mercer Island North Fire Station. On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, license exams will be administered at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 4001 Island Crest Way. We currently have nine students signed up for the class and can accommodate up to eleven more. Flyer attached on page 5.

**6. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mercer Island Half Marathon:** Dave Uhler W7DDU will be leading MIRO's support for the Annual Rotary MI Half Marathon. Our March 19<sup>th</sup> MIRO meeting will be the final organizational effort. As in the past, we will need 15 – 20 hams to support the operation. Besides serving as communicators on the race route around the island, members have the opportunity to serve as Net Controls and scribes. Please let me know (email: [whowse@me.com](mailto:whowse@me.com)) if you are interested in participating. We do need some new participants, as several of our past volunteers are no longer active or are taking the General licensing class that weekend. This event is one of our best for practicing the kind of communications we may need in an emergency. And we work 'hand in glove' with the Mercer Island Police Department.

**7. FLDIGI:** For those interested in becoming more facile in FLDIGI, we will return to having FLDIGI sessions following some of our regular emergency nets. You can also join the 8 PM, Monday evening FLDIGI practice-group on [444.500 MHz + 141.3](https://www.w1hkj.com/444.500MHz+141.3). Have your apps ready to go to receive the FLDIG messages. You do not have to check in for reception. But these hams are very helpful Elmers; it's worth checking in. Useful information: <http://www.w1hkj.com/beginners.html#toc1>

**8. CEMNET:** CEMNET organizer, Conner Webster KG7SAW, reports that in 2019 we had:

- A. 96% Successful Check-in Rate with State EOC (51/53 weeks)
  - B. Toni Okada (KI7UZL) was our Power Operator with 10 check-ins
  - C. 4 new Operators received training and were certified (Thank you, Pat!)
  - D. The 4 new Operators (Parrish, K7RFP / Post, KJ7FIF / Lemus, KJ7FIG / McMurray, N7SSM) logged 16 successful check-ins
- Thank you, Conner, for keeping this program performing beautifully. 73

## **9 On the air**

If you have questions about how to get started in ham radio, *On the Air* has the answers.



*On the Air*, ARRL's new bimonthly magazine for beginner and intermediate hams, is here! All ARRL members can access the digital edition through the new ARRL Magazines app (see details below).

In the first issue of *On the Air* January/February 2020, you'll get:

- A guide to buying your first handheld radio
- Step-by-step instructions for building simple antennas for VHF and HF
- A full-page infographic that explains how the ionosphere makes long distance radio communication possible
- An "Up Close" Q & A with Jeremy Hong, KD8TUO, who reveals his favorite resources for new hams.

...and much more!

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### **Download the NEW ARRL Magazines App!**

The perfect companion for members on the go! The new **ARRL Magazines** app replaces the QST app. Use the app to access current and back issues of *On the Air* magazine and QST, ARRL's monthly membership journal. The ARRL Magazines App is available free for download in Apple's [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#), or visit [www.arrl.org/ota](http://www.arrl.org/ota) for more info. **If your device is setup to update apps automatically, the ARRL Magazines app will replace the QST app.**

### **(2020) PROJECTS:**

- 1) Increase MIRO use of Winlink and FLDIGI
- 2) Increase number of licensed General Hams in MIRO
- 3) Commence training and qualification for HF and VARA for Winlink
- 4) Continue MIRO training and qualification program starting with Net Control

### **MIRO December Activity Report:**

During December 2019, 24 MIRO members, driving 142 miles, gave 83 hours of volunteer time in support of 2 public service events and 8 drills, meetings and exercises.

**73, Woody Howse K7EDH – MIRO Volunteer Chair**

**Email: [whowse@me.com](mailto:whowse@me.com) Phone: 206-849-5370**

Sponsored by the  
**Mercer Island Radio Operators**

### Announcing a new **Amateur Radio Technician Licensing Class** (No Morse Code Requirement)

The Technician license is your entry to the world of amateur radio giving you access to VHF and UHF communications that spans local to satellite communications, from voice to digital modes, and to meeting new people and supporting your community in times of need.

**Dates:**

Friday, February 7, 2020 : 6:00PM – 9:00 PM  
Saturday, February 8, 2020: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Sunday, February 9, 2020: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Class Location:**

Mercer Island North Fire Station  
3030 78<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
(parking in the back of the station)

**Licensing Test and Location:**

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:00 AM  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
4001 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Alternate test dates, times, and locations available

**Cost:** \$15 examination fee, no fee for class

**Textbook:**

Recommended: The ARRL Ham Radio Licensing Manual, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual/>. Please purchase the book when you register and begin working with it prior to class. You are not obligated to use this book, but if you select another resource make sure it has the current questions pool.

**Registration or Questions:**

email [pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com)

**Special Offer:** The first 10 people to sign up and attend the Technician Class will receive a FREE voucher for Ham Test Online, a \$20 value.

Sponsored by the  
**Mercer Island Radio Operators**

Announcing a new  
**Amateur Radio General Licensing Class**

Now is a great time to upgrade and get access to more of what amateur radio has to offer.

**Dates:**

Friday, March 20, 2020 : 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Saturday, March 21, 2020: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Sunday, March 22, 2020: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Class Location:**

Mercer Island North Fire Station  
3030 78<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
(parking in the back of the station)

**Licensing Test and Location:**

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 10:00 AM  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
4001 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Alternate test dates, times, and locations available

**Cost:** \$15 examination fee, no fee for class

**Textbook:**

Recommended: The ARRL General Class Licensing Manual, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-General-Class-License-Manual-9th-Edition/>. Please purchase the book when you register and begin reading it prior to class. You are not obligated to use this book, but if you select another resource make sure it has the current questions pool.

**Registration or Questions:**

email [pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com)

## MIRO Current Schedule 2020

Date	Topic
Feb 7, 8, 9, 15	Technician License classes and exam
Feb 13	Emergency Net NCS –
Feb 20	MIRO Mtg - <b>STOP THE BLEED!</b>
Feb 18	<b>Alternate Last Tuesday Meeting at Howse House</b>
Feb 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (to participate contact B. Tykulsker ( <a href="mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com">rtykulsker@gmail.com</a> ))
Mar 7	Mike & Key Electronics Show and Swap Meet – WA State Fairgrounds, Puyallup
Mar 12	<b>WHX</b> Emergency Net NCS
Mar 19	MIRO Mtg MI Half Marathon final planning
Mar 22	MI HALF
Mar 20,21,22,28	General License classes and exam
Mar 31	Last Tuesday
Apr 9	Emergency Net NCS
Apr 16	<b>WHX</b> MIRO Mtg - Lt. Stephen Mair MIFD – CPR Training
Apr 25&26	Comm Academy
Apr 28	Last Tuesday
May 14	Emergency Net NCS
May 21	<b>WHX</b> MIRO Mtg - <b>Daniel Liefer, MD BioTerrorism</b>
May 26	Last Tuesday
May 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (to participate contact B. Tykulsker ( <a href="mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com">rtykulsker@gmail.com</a> ))
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 – Jim Pearman, FEMA & Mercer Island
July 28	Last Tuesday
Aug 13	<b>WHX</b> Emergency Net NCS
Aug 20	MIRO Summer Social Meeting – Howse House 3621 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE, MI
Aug 25	Last Tuesday
Aug 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-ECO (to participate contact B. Tykulsker ( <a href="mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com">rtykulsker@gmail.com</a> ))
Sep 10	Emergency Net NCS
Sep 17	MIRO Mtg
Sep 24	Last Tuesday
Oct 8	Emergency Net NCS
Oct 15	MIRO Mtg
Oct 27	Last Tuesday
Oct 31	Fifth Saturday EOC-ECO (to participate contact B. Tykulsker ( <a href="mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com">rtykulsker@gmail.com</a> ))

### Unassigned Topics:

- WINMOR on HF, VARA
- WEBEOC training
- Optimizing HT radios – Introduction of Tiger Tails counterpoise.
- “Summits On The Air: An Overview” by guest presenter Tim Nair KG7EJT.
- **WHX** = Woody out of town