



Mercer Island Radio Operators



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MIRO Newsletter for NOVEMBER 2020

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA: BOB TYKULSKER KM6SO NAMED CHAIR OF MIRO.

On October 27th, 2020, Officer Jennifer Franklin MIPD, Mercer Island Emergency Preparedness Officer named Bob Tykulsker as the Chair of Mercer Island Radio Operators. Bob will be supported by Vice-Chair Pat Hackett K7PTH and Chair-Emeritus Woody Howse K7EDH as well as the team of hardworking members including (but not limited to) Digital Sysop Mike Sedgwick K7PI, Repeater Officer Vadim Volkov N7PIX, WebMaster Harlan Feinstein W7HIZ, and CEMNET Coordinator Conner Webster KG7SAW.

TRAFFIC NET

Thursday, November 5th, 7:00 PM - Traffic Net

Led by Vadim Volkov N7PIX, this MIRO Traffic Net will focus on the use of cross-band repeaters. Instead of using our regular UHF and VHF repeaters we will use one band (eg. 2M) for transmissions and another band (eg. 70CM) to listen. Members using should set up a channel that will transmit on 147.160 MHz and receive on 440.150 MHz, NO tones and NO offsets. This is the first of experimentation to determine what can be done in the event that an emergency completely destroys the water tower and our W7MIR repeaters and the Winlink Gateways. To support the radio portions of this event, we will also convene on MIRO's Zoom for instructions and discussion. Active at 6:50 PM the Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7491866297?pwd=UVRxUXIzZTgzTEJVTjlGNnA4S2RIQT09>

Meeting ID: 749 186 6297

Passcode: 147160

EMERGENCY PRACTICE NET

Thursday, November 12th, 7:00 PM

Toni Okada KI7UZZ - Net Control, remotely scribed by Pat Hackett K7PTH

We will be using a new script requesting check-ins by suffix, not region. 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. We plan to have Simplex tests on each of the bands. The submitted ICS309 logs will be the source used to map Simplex connectivity between stations on the island.

All participants should submit ICS-309 logs of the significant activity (check-ins, messages, simplex transmissions heard, etc.) after the net: by Winlink to KM6SO and N7PIX or by email to rtykulsker@gmail.com and vvolkov@gmail.com.

MIRO MEETING on ZOOM –Invite by email will be sent separately.

Thursday, November 19th, starting promptly at 7:00 PM: The Zoom Link will be operating no later than 6:50 PM so people can get checked in and we can start on time. Our speakers on the subject of HF Antennas and their usability for short range communications when the repeaters are down are John Banbury AG7N and Mike Sedgwick K7PI. The second presentation will concern the use of Echolink for access to our UHF and VHF and other repeaters. This is a system that Vadim Volkov has set up for you to use your mobile phone to talk and listen on the repeater. The following information will assist you in preparing for the presentation:

Vadim's demo: https://youtu.be/Gdx_M5Vgt3A

Bob's demo: <https://youtu.be/XIYH6sRtLJI>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7491866297?pwd=UVRxUXIzZTgzTEJVTjlGNnA4S2RIQT09>

Meeting ID: 749 186 6297

Passcode: 147160

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,7491866297# US

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. October 15th MIRO meeting: 24 MIRO members joined the 7 PM Zoom call to hear Dr. Hal Quinn K7HCQ discuss the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Mercer Island. Hal started with a summary of the COVID-19 history and finished with a discussion concerning the current efforts to create treatments and vaccines. He also summarized his views as to the actions that individuals on Mercer Island should implement; the bottom line, of which, is: mask, socially distance and wash your hands. The presentation kept the participating members captivated for 45 minutes. Thank you, Dr. Quinn.

2. CEMNET and ARES Liaison Radio Room process: We have multiple MIRO members who are qualified for CEMNET and ARES. When you access the W7MIR radio room, it is imperative that you log your presence in the Radio Room Log – the black notebook. The alternative, initiating individually assigned access codes, is painful, complicated and will restrict the number of members who have access.

Radio room actions required of the CEMNET operator:

1. Log presence and comments in the Radio Room Log (black notebook).
2. Log activity and roll call results on the CEMNET binder log sheet.
3. Turn off the any radios you've used and the Astron power supply, in that order.
4. Disinfect items touched.
5. Turn off lights.
6. After departure, send a brief email with your results to conner.webster@gmail.com so he can update the website, copy to rtykulsker@gmail.com for BaoFeng Radio Raffle Credit. Reporting via email is a requirement during the pandemic to avoid extra people at W7MIR. Yes, you can wait until you get home; you do not need to send the email from W7MIR.
7. Notify KM6SO, K7PTH and K7EDH of any problems found in the radio room.

Radio room actions required of the ARES liaison on arrival and before departing:

1. Log presence in the radio room and any comments in the Radio Room Log (black notebook).
2. Turn off the radios and the Astron power supply, in that order.
3. Disinfect items touched.
4. Turn off lights.
5. After departure, submit ICS309 call log to KM6SO, K7PTH and K7EDH.
6. Notify KM6SO, K7PTH and K7EDH of any problems found in the radio room.

3. FCC proposes charges for all Ham Radio Licenses:

ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal!

ARRL will file comments in firm opposition to an FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees. With the **November 16 comment deadline** fast approaching, ARRL urges members to add their voices to ARRL's by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of *The Federal Register* and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed. ARRL has prepared a [Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC](#) (This guide is included at the end of this Newsletter after the calendar) which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. File comments on MD Docket 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System.

Under this new proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain

a printed copy of a license. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

4. Private social media site for MIRO members interaction: At Laurent Lathieyre's suggestion we are going to try a private social media website limited to MIRO members who choose to participate. For many of us, me included, it will take some using to understand the opportunity of getting questions posted and reacted to by our colleagues. The name is MIRO@groups.io. When you receive an invitation to join, that's what it is, none have gone out as of October 30th. Laurent is the administrator of this site. This is Work-In-Process to create a way to get questions answered and projects completed. The digital world is just enlarging for us.

5. ARRL Learning Network: The ARRL has created a number of new approaches to providing ham radio education. An easy one to access with interesting programs is the <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>. At this link you will find links to a *Schedule of Upcoming Webinars* and *Previously Recorded Presentations*. Both of these are worth perusing. In addition you can download podcasts from these links: <http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-podcast> and <http://www.arrl.org/eclectic> for the Eclectic Tech podcast. Yes, you have to be a member to get these benefits. There is virtually unlimited availability of useful information from the ARRL and they are making significant headway with member-friendly delivery.

6. Radio Practice: What better way is there to improve our radio capability than by participating in available nets easily found in the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Guide? Following is a list of available opportunities. I highly recommend to our new hams to actively participate.

- Daily: 0900; 146.960; - 103.5; PSRG Nine O'clock net
- Daily: 2100; 146.960; - 103.5; PSRG Nine O'clock net
- MON: 1200; 441.550; + 103.5; Informal Social Net
- MON: 1900; 146.960; - 103.5; Seattle ACS
- MON: 2000; 444.550; + 141.3; Puget Sound Digital Hams Practice Net- Fldigi
- TUE: 2000; 441.550; + 103.5; Red Cross Weekly net
- WED: 1730; 146.820; - 103.5; Mike and Key Technical Net

MIRO September 2020 Activity Report:

During September 2020, 25 MIRO members, driving 33 miles, gave 89 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 9 drills, meetings and exercises.

73, Bob Tykulsker KM6SO– MIRO Chair

Email: rtykulsker@gmail.com Phone: 206-605-6214

MIRO Current Schedule

2020/2021

Date	Topic
Nov 5	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi, Cross-over repeater test?
Nov 12	Emergency Net NCS - Toni Okada KI7UZL
Nov 16	DEADLINE FOR FILING COMMENTS WITH THE FCC REGARDING FEES
Nov 19	MIRO Mtg
Nov 24	Last Tuesday
Dec 3	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Dec 10	Emergency Net NCS – Mike Post KI7FIF
Dec 17	MIRO Mtg
Dec 22	Last Tuesday
2021	
Jan 7	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Jan 14	Emergency Net NCS
Jan 21	MIRO Mtg
Jan 26	Last Tuesday
Jan 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (Bob Tykulsker rtykulsker@gmail.com)
Feb 4	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Feb 11	Emergency Net NCS
Feb 18	MIRO Mtg
Feb 23	Last Tuesday
Mar 4	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Mar 11	Emergency Net NCS
Mar 18	MIRO Mtg
Mar 30	Last Tuesday
Apr 1	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Apr 8	Emergency Net NCS
Apr 15	MIRO Mtg
Apr 27	Last Tuesday
May 6	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
May 13	Emergency Net NCS
May 20	MIRO Mtg
May 25	Last Tuesday
May 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (Bob Tykulsker rtykulsker@gmail.com)
Jun 4	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Jun 10	Emergency Net NCS
Jun 17	MIRO Mtg
Jun 29	Last Tuesday
Jul 1	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi

Unassigned Topics:

- 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.

ARRL's Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC

Opposing \$50 Amateur Radio Licensing Fee

Preparing Your Written Comments (See second page for **Steps to Submit an Online Filing**)

ARRL will file comments with the FCC opposing their proposal to adopt a \$50 fee for each Amateur Radio License application. The fee would apply to applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests.

ARRL members are urged to file individual comments. The deadline to make your voice heard is November 16, 2020. The reply comment deadline — that is, the deadline for comments on comments already filed — is November 30. **Use this guide to help you prepare and submit your written comments to the FCC.** Remember to include your name and address within the document and save it with a filename and location on your computer where you can find it. When you are ready to file your comments with the FCC, use the step-by-step instructions on the second page of this guide.

For further information, visit <http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>.

Here are some points that can be used when preparing your written comments opposing the FCC proposal.

Public Service

Amateurs contribute to the public good. In many areas they provide an emergency communications backbone capability at no taxpayer cost. Consistently we have witnessed storms and natural disasters completely wipe out internet, cellular, and other means of communication. Radio amateurs often fill that void on an unmatched, flexible basis when needed. Recent examples of Amateur Radio Service readiness and response include the California wildfires and Gulf Coast hurricanes.

A Voluntary, Non-Commercial National Resource

Unlike operators in other FCC licensed services, Amateur Radio Service operators by law — domestic and international — must not use their license for any pecuniary interest. Radio amateurs are prohibited from earning or charging any money for any communications activity. The expenses for their equipment, training, and other activities come out of their own pockets, with no opportunity for reimbursement or payment of any kind.

Technology

Amateur radio is a source of significant technological innovation that should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Youth and Education

The United States is experiencing a severe lack of RF engineers and expertise at the very time it is needed by the rapidly growing wireless industries. Amateur radio is helping to meet the deficit, but much more is needed and youngsters (High School and College-aged) are least able to afford licensing fees. RF knowledge and related digital expertise is needed to maintain US leadership in wireless industries. At a minimum, young people (below the age of 26) should be exempt from the proposed license fees.

Self-Regulating

Amateur radio is self-regulating: (a) Amateur examinations are written and administered by radio amateur volunteers. (b) Examination results and paperwork most often are submitted electronically to the FCC. Electronic submission could be required if there would be a cost savings to the Commission. (c) Amateur radio educational classes are conducted by volunteers who by and large do not charge fees or tuition for teaching. (d) The Amateur Service, in cooperation with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has a volunteer corps that monitors the amateur airwaves and has programs that work to prevent their misuse before FCC involvement might be needed. These amateurs also observe non-amateur signals both within amateur spectrum and outside it, and report unusual or suspicious signals.

Additional Suggestions

- Focus on the positive aspects and value that the Amateur Radio Service offers our nation.
- Avoid arguing that the fee will "kill" amateur radio. Rather, make pertinent arguments on why the fees would impair the public benefits of the Amateur Radio Service.
- Avoid ham jargon (QSO, worked, ticket, bird) in your comments, which will not be understood by FCC personnel administering this proposal. The fee proposals cover every FCC license and service across the board and the consideration was directed by Congress.

ARRL's Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC

Opposing \$50 Amateur Radio Licensing Fee

Steps to Submit an Online Filing (See first page for **Preparing Your Written Comments**)

- 1** Prepare a document (PDF is strongly recommended, but the system will accept doc, docx, and some other file formats). Include your name and address within the document and save it with a filename and location on your computer where you can find it. When you're ready to file your comments, go to the FCC filings form from an internet browser on a computer or other online device:
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>
Or, use the FCC Express Comment form to file short, typed-in comments (no document upload) at:
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>
- 2** Select the first text box labeled **Proceeding(s)**. Type in **20-270**. This is the filing number. Be sure the pop-up box displays the title of the correct proceeding, and select it or press the ENTER (or Return) key. Once you've done this, 20-270 will be highlighted in yellow.
- 3** Select the box labeled **Name(s) of Filer(s)**. Type your full name and then press the ENTER key. You will need to press ENTER after you've typed it in. Once you've done this, your name will be highlighted in yellow.
- 4** Skip the boxes labeled "Law Firm" and "Attorney" (unless applicable). Select the box labeled **Primary Contact Email** and type your email address. This box will NOT get highlighted. The filer's email address will not be made public by inserting it here. However, any information you include in your comments, including an email address, will be made public.
- 5** Select the box labeled **Type of Filing** and select "Comment" from the dropdown items. It is the first item.
- 6** Skip the boxes labeled "Report Number," "Bureau ID," and "File Number."
- 7** Move down the list of boxes to **Address of** and select "Filer" from the dropdown items, as you are the filer of this comment. Then, type your address in the boxes labeled **Address, City, State** (select from dropdown), and **ZIP**.
- 8** Move to the **Upload Documents** box to upload your pre-written comments. By clicking on the hyperlink inside the box, you will be prompted to upload the document you saved with your comments. Go to the file folder and select the document. Then hit "Open" to upload the document into the FCC system. If you've done it correctly, it should now show the name of the document in blue below the Upload Documents area.
- 9** Click on the small **Email Confirmation** checkbox so that you'll get a confirmation of your submission. Then click on the blue **Continue to review screen**. This will allow you to review all the submitted information before you hit the Submit button. If you are satisfied with your entries, select the **Submit** button. If not, use the BACK button on your browser to return to the entry page and make any corrections or changes, then continue again to the review screen and submit.
- 10** There is a delay before your comments will appear on the FCC website. However, if you receive the email confirmation — usually within minutes — the comment has been successfully filed.
Congratulations! You're done and can exit from the web page.