



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for December, 2020

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Thank you, Woody!

I wish to personally thank Woody Howse, K7EDH for his 8-plus years of service to the Mercer Island community as the Chairman of MIRO. Woody's genuine passion, generosity and knowledge have been key factors in making and keeping MIRO the most active of all of the volunteer teams in our City's Department of Emergency Management.

Fortunately for all (especially me), Woody will continue to serve Mercer Island as MIRO Chair Emeritus. Together with Pat Hackett, K7PTH, we'll speak as one. We'll be sharing some of our plans for MIRO in next newsletter.

Upcoming MIRO Activities

Traffic Net, Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00 PM

Bob Tykulsker, KM6SO, Net Control

The net will start on the VHF MIRO repeater frequency of 147.160 MHz, positive offset, with a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz. The **focus** of the Net will be using the "Load" and "Save" buttons on Winlink forms. This a great method to save "boilerplate" data fields when using Winlink forms.

Our exercise will be organized around the theme of a Christmas/Holiday party. Each participant is urged to prepare an [abbreviated WA ICS-213-RR](#) request, **before the Net**,

consisting **ONLY** of boxes 5a through 5e. During the Net, you'll be directed to pass your message to another participant, using voice.

After the Net concludes, each participant will **first** use the "Load WA ICS213 RR data" button at the top center to load the template data for the exercise. That template data will be:

- included with the email that transmits this newsletter
- transmitted using Fldigi at the start of the net
- [available on the web here](#)

After loading the saved template data, enter the message that you copied into boxes 5a-5e, post to your Winlink outbox, and transmit to KM6SO@winlink.org, Rtykulsker@gmail.com, plus all other participants.

I'd also like all participants to open the ICS/ICS-213 form, complete boxes 1, 3, and 8 and then use the "Save ICS213 INITIAL Data" button on the bottom of the form. Then please email me your saved, INITIAL data.

As always, all participants should submit ICS-309 logs of the significant activity (check-ins, messages, etc.) after the net, either by Winlink to KM6SO or by email to rtykulsker@gmail.com

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, December 10th, 7:00 PM

Mike Post, KI7FIF, Net Control

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.

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

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, December 17th, 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 presentation will concern the use of Echolink for access to our MIRO VHF and UHF repeaters as well as many other repeaters. This is a system that Vadim Volk has set up that allows 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>

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7491866297?pwd=UVRxUXlzZTgzTEJVTjlGNnA4S2RIQT09>

Meeting ID: 749 186 6297

Passcode: 147160

One-tap mobile

+12532158782,,7491866297# US

MIRO Working Meeting on ZOOM Tuesday, December 29th, starting promptly at 7:00 PM

The purpose of this ongoing meeting is to get stuff done: solicit volunteers for Traffic and Practice Net Control, CEMNET and ARES liaison; solicit volunteers for other MIRO/City/Other opportunities; solicit volunteers for other ongoing roles, such as Web Master. We also review progress on ongoing projects, like upgrading our Winlink infrastructure to support VARA, etc.

Everyone is welcome; but if you do show up, don't be surprised if we ask for your help!

Also, this is a great opportunity for you to express ideas that you'd like to see MIRO work on. If you have material to distribute, you can forward it to me, and I'll relay it on to all.

News and Announcements

Help Wanted

Harlan Feinstein, W7HIZ, has been serving as our webmaster for a few years now. However, he would like to transfer that responsibility to another member. One of the perks is that you'd play a **major role** in the redesign and implementation of the web site. If interested, contact Bob.

Donations Wanted

MIRO does not and will not charge dues. However, we do have expenses, such as building out our infrastructure; paying for Technician training classes, especially for youth; and supporting community activities. A list of needed equipment is currently being compiled.

If you'd like to make a monetary contribution, you can do so through the MIRO Foundation. Contact Woody for details.

And if you happen to have a relatively modern laptop computer (64 bit, 8 Gbyte RAM, SSD) that's just gathering dust, we'd be able to make great use of it. We need a Winlink terminal at our water tower gateway as well as in both of our Radio Rooms. Contact Bob if you can donate one.

Offers and Asks

This is a new feature, where we'll be publishing **individual** offers and asks of goods and services. We'll also post announcements of **individual** projects. Occasional items for sale are allowed, running a commercial enterprise is not. I reserve final editorial right. To kick things off:

- [Vadim](#), N7PIX, is looking for a donation of any piece of 19 inch rack equipment, working or not. He wants to use the case to house the EchoLink components.
- Bob, KM6SO, is offering, **free**, "many" 5 V, 1 A power supplies, with [USB MINI](#) plugs

VARA-FM: new "breaking" version 4.0 available

A new version of VARA-FM has been released. It "break" compatibility with version 3.X, so you'll **have** to upgrade when your favorite RMS gateway upgrades. The latest version of Winlink Express, 1.5.33 will auto-upgrade, but you must download VARA-FM 4.0.X on your own. There are many new features in 4.0 including:

- digipeating
- more robust signal processing – claims to work with even BaoFengs

MIRO October 2020 Activity Report

During October 2020, 32 MIRO members, driving 34 miles, gave 115 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 12 drills, meetings, and exercises. Well done, team!

That's all for this month. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2021.

73!

Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, MIRO Chair, rtykulsker@gmail.com Phone: 206-232-8049
Pat Hackett, K7PTH, MIRO Vice-Chair, pat@pathackett.com Phone: 206-972-2724
Woody Howse, K7EDH, MIRO Chair Emeritus, whowse@me.com Phone: 206-849-5370

MIRO Current Schedule 2020/2021

(all MIRO meetings at 7PM **SHARP** unless otherwise specified)

Date	Topic
Dec 3	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi; KM6SO, Bob
Dec 10	Emergency Net NCS – Mike Post KI7FIF
Dec 17	MIRO M
Dec 22	Last Tuesday:
2021	
Jan 7	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi; K7PTH, Pat
Jan 14	Emergency Net NCS; the Banbury's
Jan 21	MIRO Mtg; KJ7OYD, Grete Porteous – Medical triage
Jan 26	Last Tuesday
Jan 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC (Bob Tykulsker rtykulsker@gmail.com)
Feb 4	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi; K7PI, Mike
Feb 11	Emergency Net NCS; K2BRC, Laurent
Feb 18	MIRO Mtg; Michael Ditmore, K7HUT; What to do during a real Emergency
Feb 23	Last Tuesday
Mar 4	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Mar 11	Emergency Net NCS; K7PI, Mike
Mar 18	MIRO Mtg
Mar 30	Last Tuesday
Apr 1	First Thursday Traffic Net, DYFI & Fldigi
Apr 8	Emergency Net NCS; K7EDH, Woody
Apr 10, 11	Comm Academy
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

Regional Radio Nets

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
- SUN: 2000; 147.080; +110.9; King County ARES/RACES 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