



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for January, 2021

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Upcoming MIRO Activities

Traffic Net

Emergency Practice Net

General Meeting

Working Meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Exercise**

#### New and Announcements

November Activity Report

December Meeting Follow up

VARA-FM: breaking changes status

**EmComm in the News**

#### MIRO Calendar

**Training Links**

Regional Radio Nets

## Upcoming MIRO Activities

### **Fun Traffic Net, Thursday, January 7th, 7:00 PM**

#### **Pat Hackett, K7PTH Net Control**

The net will start on the VHF MIRO repeater frequency of 147.160 MHz, positive offset, CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

This month we're going to do a combo exercise! There's something to do before, during and after the net so we can practice lots of Winlinks, including a reply.

Note: Remember to use an ICS-309 to keep track of the members checking in.

- On the day of the net: complete a personal ICS-214 (daily activity log), tracking your major activities. (See an example of two hours of Bob's exciting life at the [end of this newsletter](#).) ICS-214 is a form that the City uses extensively, so it's good for us to know how to use it.
- BEFORE the net, prepare a message around the theme of a MIRO Christmas Trip, using a WA-ICS-213-RR. Just prepare boxes 5 a,b,c,d, and e. We've done a lot of these.
- AFTER the net, please send your Winlink ICS-214 to everyone who was on the net.
- AFTER the net: Using this "[boilerplate](#)" template file, complete the Winlink WA-ICS-213-RR with the message that was passed to you. Send the completed Winlink message to all Net participants and to [RTykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:RTykulsker@gmail.com)

- After the net: watch your Winlink messages for one from Pat. She'll be sending each of the participants a question using an ICS-213. Your job is to send your reply to both Pat (K7PTH) and Bob (KM6SO).

As always, all participants should submit ICS-309 logs of the significant activity (check-ins, messages, etc.) after the net: by Winlink to KM6SO and by email to [RTykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:RTykulsker@gmail.com)

## **Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, January 14th, 7:00 PM**

### **The Banburys, Net Control**

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: by Winlink to KM6SO and by email to [RTykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:RTykulsker@gmail.com)

## **MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, January 21<sup>th</sup>, 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 featured presentation will come from MIRO member, Dr. Grete Porteous, KJ7OYD. She'll be talking about medical triage.

### **Note that we have a new Zoom address**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8656593928?pwd=TIERIUybDICT2E1Sm1nVUpaK0JZZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928

Passcode: MIRO

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdL9Sm278A>

## **MIRO Working Meeting on ZOOM Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 volunteer opportunities, solicit volunteers for other ongoing roles, such as Web Master, Radio Officer, BaoFeng contest administrator. 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.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Exercise, Saturday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 09:00 – 10:30**

I haven't received any information from the State or County as of this writing, so here's our plan. **Before Saturday**

- find at least one repeater, used by a local EOC, that you can reach from your radio. See the King County Frequencies List on the King County ARES website. Concentrate on the local EOCs in Fire Zone 1 (North/East). This includes Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Eastside Fire & Rescue, etc. If you're having troubles programming your radio, you might want to check that you can reach the "PSRG" repeater, 146.96, which is the primary repeater for the Seattle ACS and is MIRO channel 11.
- Be prepared to verbally transmit a single WA-ICS-213-RR over the radio to another member. Let's reuse the scenario of a "MIRO Ski Trip" as in our Traffic Net. Prepare **only** boxes 5a, b, c, d and e.

On Saturday, Jan 30

- **Before 09:00**; initiate an ICS 214 Activity Log **for yourself only**. You can keep track of your activity in any format you choose, but I'd like you to submit a **Winlink ICS 214** at the completion of the exercise.
- **Before 09:00**, initiate an ICS 309 Communications Log. You can log all communications in any format you choose, but I'd like you to submit a **Winlink ICS-309** at the completion of the exercise.
- **At 09:00**, I will start the Mercer Island Emergency Net on 147.16, +146.2. As I take check-ins, I'll ask each member:
  - If you can participate in Winlink
  - Is there an EOC repeater that you can reach and will be our liaison station
- After check-ins, we'll each pass our prepared WA-ICS-213\_RR request to another member.

- After message passing, we'll **conclude** the Emergency Net and prepare for the next phase of the exercise:
  - I'll continue to monitor our 147.16 frequency. You're welcome to also monitor.
  - Send a Winlink WA-ICS-213-RR message back to the originator, with a CC to KM6SO and Rtykulsker@gmail.com. Use this "boilerplate" file to help complete the message.
  - **Wait until 10:00** and "check in" with the King County ARES/ECC operating on 147.08, +110.9.
    - they may ask for number of participants and messages passed. Consult your ICS-309 log!
  - Wait until 10:00 and make voice contact with your liaison EOC.
  - **Check out** with the King County ARES/ECC
  - Complete your Winlink ICS-309 Communications Log and send to me at the addresses above
  - Complete your Winlink ICS-214 Activity Log and send to me at the addresses above
  - Under Winlink's Message/Generate ICS 309, generate a PDF of your Winlink traffic just for Jan 30, 2021 and email to Rtykulsker@gmail.com (too big to send via Winlink)

## **News and Announcements**

### **November 2020 Activity Report**

Woody reports that During November 2020, 31 MIRO members, driving 62 miles, gave 119 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 14 drills, meetings and exercises.

Thank you, MIRO members!

### **December 2020 meeting follow up**

At our December 17, 2020 meeting, we had a great presentation from Piero, W7MGN on his path to FT-8. I also presented on embedding GPS within projects and showed off an early version of my Winlink Form Viewer desktop application. There are a lot of files, so I've zipped them all up together into a single file, available for download from our website: [https://miro.cmivolunteers.org/?attachment\\_id=4615](https://miro.cmivolunteers.org/?attachment_id=4615)

I believe that our effectiveness as volunteers increases as we learn about, and join some of the **other** Volunteer teams that are part of the City's Emergency Management program: <https://www.mercerisland.gov/emergency-management/page/emergency-preparedness-volunteer-teams>. If any of these teams are of interest to you, please contact our Emergency Manager, Jennifer Franklin at 206-275-7905 or at [jennifer.franklin@mercerisland.gov](mailto:jennifer.franklin@mercerisland.gov)

Thanks to Toni and Woody for updating the Radio Room procedures in our City's Volunteer Operations Manual.

## **VARA-FM: Breaking Changes Coming, sort of**

Well, there is a new, “incompatible” version of [VARA-FM](#) that has been released (version 4.0.4 as of writing). However, the VARA-FM gateways that I connect to, W7ACS-10 in Seattle haven’t upgraded yet, so I’m still running VARA-FM 3.X. I’ll keep checking and let you all know.

## **Emergency Communications in the News**

I’m starting a new, occasional section with links to EmComm, etc.

- [Earthlings and astronauts chat away, via ham radio](#)

Finally, take a look at our Current Schedule – there are still a lot of activities that are looking for someone to take charge: Traffic Nets, Emergency Practice Nets and General Meeting presentations. Let us know if you are interested.

That’s all for this month.

73!

Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, MIRO Chair, [rtykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:rtykulsker@gmail.com) Phone: 206-232-8049

Pat Hackett, K7PTH, MIRO Vice-Chair, [pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com) Phone: 206-972-2724

Woody Howse, K7EDH, MIRO Chair Emeritus, [whowse@me.com](mailto:whowse@me.com) Phone: 206-849-5370

## MIRO Current Schedule 2021

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

Jan 7	First Thursday Traffic Net, NCS: K7PTH, Pat
Jan 14	Emergency Net NCS: the Banbury's
Jan 21	MIRO General Meeting; KJ7OYD, Grete Porteous – Medical triage
Jan 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jan 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Feb 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; K7PI, Mike
Feb 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K2BRC, Laurent
Feb 18	MIRO General Meeting; Bob – VARA, Vadim Echolink
Feb 23	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Mar 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K7PI, Mike
Mar 18	MIRO General Meeting; Woody – Mr Sunspot
Mar 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Apr 1	First Thursday Traffic Net, NCS <b>tbd</b>
Apr 8	Emergency Net NCS: K7EDH, Woody
Apr 10, 11	<a href="#">Comm Academy</a>
Apr 15	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Apr 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 6	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
May 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS <b>tbd</b>
May 20	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
May 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Jun 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Jun 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Jun 17	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jun 29	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 1	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Jul 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Jul 15	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jul 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 31	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Aug 5	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Aug 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Aug 19	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Aug 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Sep 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Sep 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Sep 16	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Sep 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting

## **Training Links**

Below are some links for **ongoing**, third-party training and/or testing

- Not training, per se, but online ham testing when you are ready to upgrade your Technician or General License: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>
- Online CERT training. I'm planning on doing this as a refresher: <https://i.slcc.edu/emergency-prepare/docs/CERT/online-cert-course.pdf>
- FEMA IS-100C. Introduction to the Incident Command System. A requirement for being badged as a City Volunteer:  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>
- FEMA IS-700B. Introduction to the National Incident Management System. Another requirement to be badged:  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b>

## **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 that our new hams 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

## ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

<b>1. Incident Name:</b> A Day In the Life		<b>2. Operational Period:</b> Date From: 12/28/2020 Date To: 12/28/2020 Time From: 13:00 Time To: 15:00	
<b>3. Name:</b> Bob Tykulsker		<b>4. ICS Position:</b> Radio Operator (RADO)	<b>5. Home Agency (and Unit):</b> My Home/Comm Unit
<b>6. Resources Assigned:</b>			
Name		ICS Position	Home Agency (and Unit)
Bob Tykulsker		RADO	My Home/Comm Unit
Winky the Cat		cuddle kitten	My Home/Comm Unit
Teeky the Cat		sleepy cat	My Home/Comm Unit
<b>7. Activity Log:</b>			
Date/Time		Notable Activities	
12/28/20 - 13:00		Teaky the Cat decides that is it nap time	
12/28/20 - 13:00		Bob starts to write MIRO newsletter	
12/28/20 - 13:01		Winky the Cat declares that she needs to be petted and jumps into Bob's lap	
12/28/20 - 13:02		Bob tries to write newsletter using only one hand for typing and one hand for petting	
12/28/20 - 13:32		Bob has completed the updates to the calendar page	
12/28/20 - 13:32		Winky the Cat decides to help Bob type by standing on the keybo_*OUJIU()*(&*IUYKJL:((	
12/28/20 - 13:52		Winky the Cat declares that she is hungry	
12/28/20 - 13:53		Winky the Cat declares that she is hungry	
12/28/20 - 13:54		Winky the Cat declares that she is hungry	
12/28/20 - 13:55		Winky the Cat declares that she is hungry	
12/28/20 - 13:55		Teaky the Cat declares that she too is hungry	
12/28/20 - 13:56		Bob feeds the Cats	
12/28/20 - 13:59		Teaky the Cat decides that is it nap time	
12/28/20 - 13:59		Winky the Cat decides that it is nap time	
12/28/20 - 14:01		Bob start to recover his updates to the calendar page	
12/28/20 - 14:17		Bob completes the recovery of the calendar page; proceeds to the rest of the newsletter	
12/28/20 - 14:41		Winky the Cat declares that she is hungry	
12/28/20 - 14:42		Winky the Cat declares that she needs to be petted and jumps into Bob's lap	
12/28/20 - 14:42		Bob abandons all hope of completing the newsletter; Winky the Cat purrs contentedly in Bob's lap	
		These are the notable/major/significant Activities!	
<b>8. Prepared by:</b> Name: Bob Tykulsker		Position/Title: RADO	Signature:
<b>ICS 214, Page 1</b>		Date/Time: 12/28/20 14:05	