



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for February, 2021

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Upcoming MIRO Activities

Traffic Net, Thursday, February 4th, 7:00 PM

Mike, K7PI Net Control

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

After check-in, Mike will ask for any items of interest/questions/etc. We will then QSY (change frequency) to 147.440 simplex (if busy then 146.600 simplex) and Mike will call each station and give them a signal report. We will then repeat the process on UHF, starting on the MIRO UHF repeater frequency 440.150 MHz followed by simplex calls on either 445.9 MHz simplex or, if busy then 445.925 MHz simplex. Mike will call each station and give a signal report there. We ask that each participant submit a log of the signal report of each station heard on both the VHF and UHF **repeater** and **simplex** frequencies at your QTH (location). Please use the CM-0 to CM-5 signal report scale and the ICS-309 form (if possible). Please send copies of your log to K7PI and KM6SO via WINLINK (if you have WINLINK set up) and/or via email to bipi@comcast.net (K7PI) and RTyklusker@gmail.com (KM6SO). Mike will reply to each email received using VARA-HF via an HF connection to a station outside the area.

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, February 1th, 7:00 PM

K2BRC, Laurent, 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

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, February 18th, 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 presentations will come from MIRO members Vadim, N7PIX on EchoLink and Bob, KM6SO on VARA

Note our Zoom address

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8656593928?pwd=TIIERIUybDICT2E1Sm1nVUpaK0JZZz09>

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/u/kdL9Sm278A>

MIRO Working Meeting on ZOOM

Tuesday, February 22, 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.

News and Announcements

January 2020 Activity Report

Woody reports that during December 2020, 30 MIRO members, driving 20 miles, gave 114 hours of volunteer time in support of 2 public service events and 12 drills, meetings and exercises.

Thank you, MIRO members!

January 2021 meeting follow up

Grete Porteous, K7GHP KJ7OYD gave a great presentation on Mass Casualty Incident Triage. The video is on YouTube and her slides are available from our website.

Be sure to check out the resources she listed and don't forget to watch the "homework video".

CERT classes starting

Mercer Island will be offering CERT training, online, starting on Wednesday April 19th, 2021, from 6 PM to 9 PM.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is designed to educate citizens about disaster preparedness for the hazards where they live. The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. Individuals will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

Completing is one of the requirements for being a "badged" City of Mercer Island volunteer, and being a badged volunteer is a requirement for being a MIRO member. We have been lax about this requirement in the past, but we will be starting to enforce this in the future, so now is a great time to complete this.

Contact Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin at 206-275-7905 or jennifer.franklin@mercergov.org for details

MIRO Tool Exchange

Need to crimp a connector, but don't want to spend \$100 for a crimper tool? Have a stick welder just gathering dust in your garage? Just want to give away that *working* laser printer? Well, thanks to Vadim, N7PIX, we might have a solution. Vadim has put together a spreadsheet with tools to lend, tools wanted, stuff to give away, etc. So check it out at

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nwNiLDE76nnzxXjPcHnHte39NW3gfx0hodF1L4IGlqs/>

This will only work if you add your tool inventory too. If every member would commit to spending just one hour updating the exchange with your offers and asks, we'd be off to a flying start.

If you have questions, please refer them to Vadim, vvolkov@gmail.com. And, please, add your own tools and giveaways!

W7MIR-11 upgrade

On January 10, Mike, K7PI and Bob, KM6SO successfully upgraded our UHF Winlink RMS Gateway, W7MIR-11, 430.825 MHz from PACKET-FM to VARA-FM.

With a good radio, good signal path, good radio/computer interface and VARA-FM, I've experienced speeds of around 20,000 bps versus 600 bps with PACKET-FM

Our VHF RMS Gateway, W7MIR-10, 145.030 MHz will remain as PACKET-FM for the time being. I will be sending out a survey to all members to help formulate our plans on when (if ever) to upgrade W7MIR-10.

I'll be presenting more about VARA at our February meeting.

Grete Porteous to be MIRO Foundation Chair

Grete, K7GHP ~~KJ7OYD~~ has graciously accepted the responsibility of becoming the MIRO Foundation Chair. Grete and Woody, K7EDH will jointly serve as the board of the MIRO Foundation.

For those who don't know, MIRO is affiliated with the City of Mercer Island, but we are not funded by the City. MIRO Foundation is affiliated with the Mercer Island Youth & Family Services Foundation and as such is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit. Grete and Woody will work together with the Treasurer and Director of Mercer Island Youth and Family Services to provide an organization that will accept donations to accomplish the purposes of MIRO Foundation.

We're **always** willing to accept donations. For financial donations, please contact Grete directly, greteporteous@gmail.com. For equipment donations, please contact Woody or myself.

MIRO Membership Survey

I've prepared a on-line survey to help us plan our future activities. It will only take a few minutes of your time and we'll be using your input to shape MIRO. Here's the [link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScknPxFGkG16VG3ehUkBmaKZAbxyKM2hvu8eJkoRoNvcl7Lmg/viewform):
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScknPxFGkG16VG3ehUkBmaKZAbxyKM2hvu8eJkoRoNvcl7Lmg/viewform>

EOC-EOC exercise results

On January 30, we had six participants for our quarterly, "5th Saturday", EOC-EOC exercise. We started with a message passing exercise, then each participant contacted a neighboring EOC. We also participated in a King County-wide simplex exercise and sent a **lot** of Winlink traffic – and our VARA-FM gateway held up just fine. This is a great skill-building exercise and is very close to a "real world scenario". If you are interested in EmComm (and you should be, if you're a MIRO member), then please join us next time, Saturday, May 29th, 0900-1100

FCC to require Email Addresses, starting June 29, 2021

If you haven't already, now is a great time to add your email address to your FCC record.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

You can log into the [ULS License Manager System](#) with your FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday – Friday, 1300 – 2300 UTC) or reset the password on the FCC website.

That's all for this month.

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 2021

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

Feb 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; K7PI, Mike
Feb 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K2BRC, Laurent
Feb 18	MIRO General Meeting; Bob – VARA, N7PIX, Vadim Echolink
Feb 23	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
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 tbd
Apr 8	Emergency Net NCS: K7EDH, Woody
Apr 10, 11	Comm Academy
Apr 15	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
April 19	Mercer Island CERT classes begin
Apr 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 6	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS: tbd
May 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS K7GHP, Grete
May 20	MIRO General Meeting; David, KA7PXX, Vendor “digital” solutions
May 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Jun 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Jun 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS tbd
Jun 17	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jun 29	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 1	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Jul 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS tbd
Jul 15	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jul 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 31	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Aug 5	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Aug 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS tbd
Aug 19	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Aug 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Sep 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Sep 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS tbd
Sep 16	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
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
- WED: 1730; 146.820; - 103.5; Mike and Key Technical Net