

## MIRO Newsletter for July, 2021

# Upcoming MIRO Activities

### **Traffic Net, Thursday, July 1st, 7:00 PM. Grete, K7GHP, Net Control**

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

Grete will be Net Control. The emphasis will be on using our standard [\(ITU\) phonetic alphabet](#). Grete *might* be using the [RRI Training Aid](#) to guide the exercise. I've also included a copy of this training aid at the end of this newsletter.

As a "heads-up," for our August net, I'll be conducting a similar exercise; but instead of ITU phonetics, we'll be using the [APCO](#) phonetics that all first responders (except military) use in Washington State. That will be King Mary Six Sam Ocean – back to newsletter!

### **Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, July 8th, 7:00 PM. Toni, KI7UZL, NCS and Bob, KM6SO scribing from the Radio Room**

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 UHF 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.

No radio? Out of range of our repeaters? Try Echolink, station W7MIR-R. NOTE: this currently works on VHF only.

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, July 15<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 be by MIRO member Carl KC7YYZ, on DIY Emergency Solar Power and Home Automation.

**Note our Zoom address:**

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

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928

Passcode: MIRO

And would somebody please remind me to push the “RECORD” button at the start of the meeting?

## **MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, July 27th, 7:00 PM**

The purpose of this ongoing meeting is to get stuff done: solicit volunteers for Traffic Net Control, Practice Net Control, CEMNET check-ins and ARES liaison; solicit volunteers for other MIRO/City 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! Zoom address above.

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, July 31st, 09:00 – 11:00**

I haven't received any information from the State or County as of this writing, so let's plan on repeating the May exercise plan. Contact me if you'd like to participate.

# **News and Announcements**

## **August 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting – At the Howse House**

Barring circumstances beyond our control, we will be holding our August meeting, **in person** at Woody's [house](#)! 7 PM, SHARP at 3621 80TH AVE SE. Arrivals are welcome after 6:30 to ease the parking and getting settled on the deck. This will be a **social event**, and spouses are welcome. To help us all shed the “COVID-20,” Woody has asked that we refrain from bringing desserts, he will provide beverages and some nibbles.

Woody is **requiring** that all attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

We'll also be holding our raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. Each time you participate in a MIRO event such as our General Meetings, radio nets, CEMNET, KC ARES liaison, etc. you “earn” one chance for each hour of activity. The prize table this year currently has a BaoFeng radio and a USB power bank. If you've got an item that you'd like to donate, **please contact me**, or just bring it along. Time permitting, we will have a variety of handheld and other items for sale or auction.

## **New “Volunteer Lead” for Mercer Island**

Our City's Emergency Manager, MIPD Officer Jennifer Franklin has asked Pat Hackett, K7PTH to step into the role of “Volunteer Lead.” This is great for Mercer Island and great for Pat. Please continue to give Pat your full support as she'll continue to be our MIRO Vice Chair, too!

## MIRO Website updates

Thanks to Grete for leading the effort to re-organize our [website](#). Our home page is now much simpler, and it's easier to find the information you may need. Our [Previous Newsletters](#) page now has all issues available.

We've been focusing on member privacy and security. I am going to try to minimize the use of member last names in this newsletter. I'm also going to stop publishing the links to videos and presentations directly in this newsletter. Instead, you'll have to log into our website via the [Member Information](#) page. After you log in, select the Member Information page **again** to view our Roster, NCS schedules, meeting follow up links, Net logs, etc.

## Roster Updates – Suffix

As a follow up to the discussion at our June General Meeting, I've put the "Call Suffix" column back into our Roster. I've also formatted the roster as an Excel "table," so you can easily print out your personal copy of the roster sorted by Suffix, sorted by Region or however you choose. I know that some members do like to refer to a roster when running our "practice" nets, but I think this a practice we should discourage. Rosters of **only** our members won't be of much use in a "real world emergency." Contact me if you need Excel help.

## Roster Updates – Call Out Order

I've also added another new column, "Call Out Order," so that **anyone** will know whom to contact, and **in what order**, for **any** situation or deployment, whether emergency or non-emergency. Every member now has a call out "score" with values from 1 to 100. Low numbers are called first; high numbers are called last.

I want to be completely objective and transparent about how these scores are computed. The exact details are not important – if you're interested, you can look at the formula in the roster. I can summarize the calculation as follows:

- If you live "off island" or are inactive, you won't be called.
- If you're not "badged" as a City of Mercer Island Volunteer, you won't be called. This is a City rule – all volunteers must be badged.
- If you haven't completed one of the three levels of MIRO "NCS qualification," you'll be called last.
- If you're participate in our Nets and/or Meetings, you'll get called before those who don't.
- If you have a valid Winlink address, you'll get called before those who don't

This is what our call-out looks like:

Call	Miro status	NCS	Badged	Winlink?	Call Out Order
KM6SO	1-Active	M	1	1	1
AG7N	1-Active	M	1	1	1
K7EDH	1-Active	M	1	1	1
K7PI	1-Active	S	1	1	1
K7PTH	1-Active	S	1	1	1
K7GHP	1-Active	B	1	1	2
KI7UZL	1-Active	B	1	1	2
KF7PB	2-Semi Active	M	1	1	2
KE7WUD	1-Active	B	1		14
W7HIZ	2-Semi Active	B	1		15
KI7ELH	1-Active		1	1	26
K2BRC	1-Active		1	1	26
K7RFP	1-Active		1	1	26
N7SSM	1-Active		1	1	26
W4TQH	1-Active		1		38
KG7SAW	1-Active		1		38
N7HWY	1-Active		1		38
KG7MX	1-Active		1		38
K7HCQ	2-Semi Active		1		39
KF7SIB	2-Semi Active		1		39
AC7UR	2-Semi Active		1		39
WA7FJC	2-Semi Active		1		39

This table raises several issues:

- There are only 22 members on the list!
- But it gets worse. In a real-world scenario, Pat will be working as Volunteer Lead, Drs. Hal and Grete will be on medical duty, Dr. Bob will be coordinating efforts at Covenant Shores, I might be pulled off to help with Sheltering or Transportation, Joel and Laurent might be leading Search and Rescue efforts, etc.
- We have a lot of “active” and “semi-active” members who aren’t badged yet. I know that some of you are “all but badged” and I hope that Pat will be able to expedite your badge in July. Remember all MIRO members **must be badged**. Here is a list of members that I show as not badged:
  - :KC7YYZ, W6DRW, W7VXS, W7EVA, N7NQ, KJ7FIF, W7MGN, N7PIX, KJ7FIG, KJ7RZH, KJ7OAK, KG7WET, K7FEE, K7IWI, KI7ZTP, KJ7CVJ, KG7YZS, N3NJA, WA4EJA, K7SN, K7ESP, KJ7FMG, KF7TSX, K7VMO
- We have a lot of “active” and “semi-active” members who we don’t have NCS training records for. Remember, all it takes is a sit-down session with Pat, Woody, or myself to have us “sign off” on your training status. Here’s a list of members that I show as not having any NCS training records:
  - AC7UR, K2BRC, K7ESP, K7FEE, K7HCQ, K7IWI, K7RFP, K7SN, K7VMO, KC7YYZ, KF7SIB, KF7TSX, KG7MX, KG7SAW, KG7WET, KG7YZS, KI7ELH, KI7ZTP, KJ7CVJ, KJ7FIG, KJ7FMG, KJ7OAK, KJ7RZH, N3NJA, N7HWY, N7NQ, N7PIX, N7SSM, W4TQH, W6DRW, W7MGN, WA4EJA, WA7FJC
- We have a lot of “active” and “semi-active” members who don’t have Winlink addresses. Remember that while having a Winlink address is not a requirement for MIRO members, Winlink **is** digital tool of choice and it’s free and easy to get an address. Here’s a list of members that I show as not having a valid Winlink address:
  - AA7ZE, AC7UR, AD7HC, AG7ZT, K6TKZ, K7FEE, K7HCQ, K7IWI, K7JKW, K7SN, K7VMO, KB1DLA, KD7JYN, KE7CGC, KE7NMU, KE7WUD, KF7EGY, KF7SHZ, KF7SIB, KF7TSX, KG7MFR, KG7MX, KG7SAW, KG7VYJ, KG7WET, KG7YZS, KI7LPL, KI7LPQ, KI7UZK, KI7UZP, KI7UZU, KJ7FMG, KJ7RZH, KX7GLH, N3NJA, N7HWY, N7NQ, N7RXP, N7VMO, NA7SA, W4TQH, W7DDU, W7EVA, W7HIZ, W7RAO, W7ZVV, WA4EJA, WA7AWS, WA7FJC

If you’re in one of the above lists, but have a badge or MIRO NCS training, or a Winlink address, please let me know so that I can update our roster.

To summarize, one of my primary duties, as MIRO Chair, is to insure that MIRO has cadre of qualified and trained volunteers who are able to assist Mercer Island and the community when called upon:

- **We need you to get badged.**
- We want you to demonstrate a common level of skills with our NCS training
- We’d like to you have a Winlink address and to stay current with Winlink software and operations

## May 2021 Activity Report

Pat reports that 35 members, driving 117.6000 miles, gave 295.7 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 14 meetings, drills and exercises.

MIRO members continue to be the most active group of City-sponsored volunteers!

## June 2021 meeting follow up

MIRO member Dr. Grete Porteous delivered a presentation on “Performance under Pressure”. Links to the video of meeting, and Grete’s presentation are available here. If you **don’t** see a meeting link, then log in via the Member Information page!

Here's what you'll see if you're **not** logged in ...

## General Meeting Follow Ups

Here's what you'll see if you **are** logged in ...

## General Meeting Follow Ups

Here you'll find follow up notes and links to various MIRO meetings.

[June 17th, 2021 General Meeting Follow Up](#)

## Ham Licenses expiring soon

Each month we will print the names of those members whose call signs will expire soon. You may renew your ham license no sooner than 90 days before its expiration date. If you don't renew it, you have a 2-year grace period to do so after it expires. However, during those 2 years, you do not have radio privileges. After 2 years, your license expires entirely; and you will need to study and re-take the exam if you want to get another license. To renew your existing license, go to the FCC site at [Universal Licensing System | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](https://www.fcc.gov), click on "File Online" and follow the instructions. The next call that will be eligible is:

Name	Call	Expires
Jennifer	KF7SHU	November 11, 2021; eligible to renew on August 13, 2021

That's all for this month. 73!

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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 2021-2022

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

Jul 1	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS Grete – Phonetics exercise
Jul 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Toni/Bob
Jul 15	MIRO General Meeting; KC7YYZ, Carl, DIY Emergency Solar Power and Home Automation
Jul 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 31	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC
Aug 3	First TUESDAY Traffic Net; NCS Bob <a href="#">APCO August!</a>
Aug 10	<b>ADDITIONAL</b> Emergency Net Practice; NCS determined on-air!
Aug 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Grete/Woody
Aug 19	MIRO General Meeting; <b>possible</b> MIRO social get-together at the Howse house
Aug 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Sep 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Sep 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Mike, K7PI
Sep 16	MIRO General Meeting; <b>Nathan Lorange/KCSAR presentation and Comm Van tour</b>
Sep 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 7	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Oct 14	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Laurent, K2BRC
Oct 21	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Oct 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; <b>tbd</b>
Nov 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Nov 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Woody, K7EDH
Nov 18	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Nov 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Dec 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Bob, KM6SO
Dec 16	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Dec 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jan 6	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Jan 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Jan 20	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jan 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; <b>tbd</b>
Feb 3	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Feb 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Feb 17	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Mar 3	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS <b>tbd</b>
Mar 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Mar 17	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>

# Other Resources

## 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: <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

## RATPAC Videos

Great videos the Radio Amateur Training, Planning and Activities Committee:

- Published Format- <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list>
- Menu Format- <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-ss>

## MIRO Tool Exchange

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/>