

MIRO Newsletter for August, 2021

Upcoming MIRO Activities

Traffic Net, Thursday, August 5th, 7:00 PM. Bob, KM6SO, Net Control

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

Bob will be Net Control. The emphasis will be on using the [APCO](#) phonetics that all first responders (except military) use in Washington State. I'm enclosing a copy of the [RRI guide](#) that we used for our July Traffic Net along with a copy of the [APCO alphabet](#) for your reference.

Additional Traffic Net, Tuesday, August 10th, 7:00 PM. NCS to be determined on air

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

By popular demand we have additional Traffic Nets on the second Tuesday of August and April to accommodate additional activity.

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, August 12th, 7:00 PM. Grete, K7GHP, NCS and Woody, K7EDH 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.

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, August 19th, 7:00 PM

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 Yaesu radio, a Windows 10 computer 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.

MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, August 31st, 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!

Note our Zoom address:

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

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928

Passcode: MIRO

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

W7MIR-10 Winlink Gateway converting to VARA-FM

We've decided to convert our 145.030 MHz Packet-FM gateway to VARA-FM. This will benefit all with higher throughput and enhanced reliability. This is scheduled for the afternoon of July 31.

Cascadia 2022 – June 22

The multi-state, multi-state exercise will happen on June 13-16, 2022. We don't know yet how MIRO will be involved but our Emergency Manager says that there will be a "Volunteer" day on Saturday, June 11. There's still plenty of time to get "badged" so you can participate!

New Volunteer Lead – Get to know Pat

Our Emergency Manager, MIPD Officer Jennifer Franklin, wrote the following introduction in the latest issue of the Mercer Island Emergency Management Newsletter:

Pat Hackett was born in Iowa, the eldest of 5 children, which is how she honed her “mom” skills. One of her most vivid memories is of coming home from elementary school and having her mother ask, “And what did you volunteer us for this time, Patty?” And so, it continues today as she takes on the big task of leading our Mercer Island volunteers.

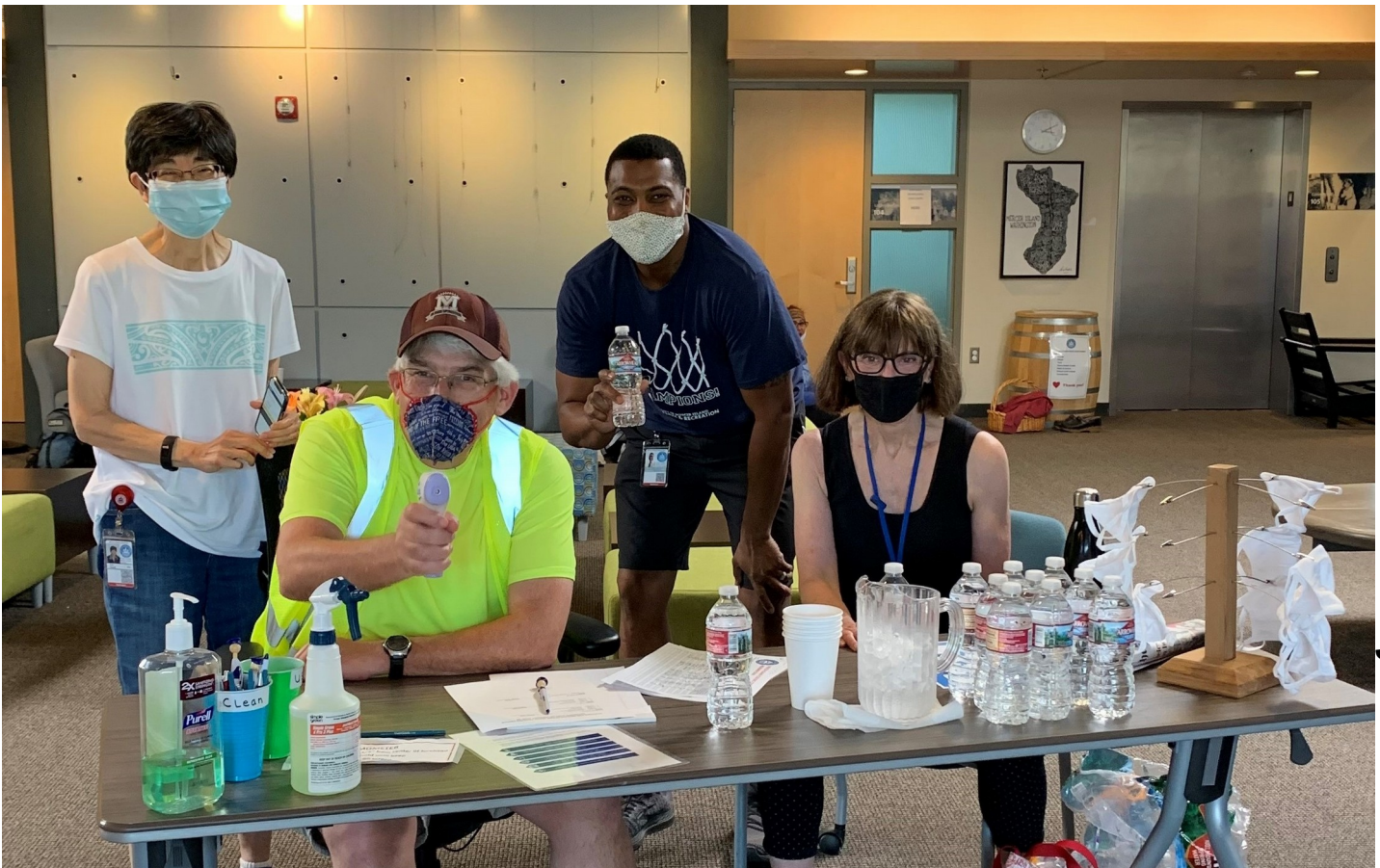
Pat has lived on Mercer Island for the last 28 years. She is the vice-chairman for Training and Recruitment for Mercer Island Radio Operators and is a presenter for our city’s Map Your Neighborhood program. These activities came out of her interest in emergency preparedness after reading a New Yorker article a couple of years ago on [“The Really Big One,”](#) which scared her into action. “My plan was to learn everything I could about the issue, prepare as much as possible, and then relax. Instead, I became more and more involved as a preparedness volunteer.” Pat has mapped her own neighborhood of 50 homes and given presentations to many others on the island.

Pat has a B.S. in Biological Sciences and “half an M.B.A.” She has managed her own commercial art rep business for the last 40 years; and in her spare time, she trains her Golden Retriever; does Olympic weightlifting (currently holding the master’s World Record in her age and weight division); and always has an interesting project going!

Thank you, Pat!

Chillin@MICEC!

MIRO members Toni, Pat and Bob, along with MICEC staff member Kenlyn helped to keep our community safe and cool during the June heat wave. Cool opportunities like this are only available to MIRO members who are **badged!**



June 2021 Activity Report

Pat reports that 25 members, driving 158.8 miles, gave 177.3 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 12 meetings, drills, and exercises.

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

June 2021 meeting follow up

MIRO member Carl delivered a presentation on Emergency Solar Power and Home Automation. MIRO members can find the meeting follow-up page on our “members only” page on the MIRO website. There you can view the entire meeting on YouTube, browse Carl’s slides, etc.

Ham Licenses expiring soon ... gone!

I’m dropping this feature from the newsletter. Each month, I’ll try to send out a **one-time** email to each member whose license will be expiring soon. The email will also contain instructions on how to renew. It is your responsibility to renew your license. I do request that you notify me after your license is renewed, so that I can update our records.

That’s all for this month. 73!

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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 2021-2022

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

Aug 3	First TUESDAY Traffic Net; NCS Bob APCO August!
Aug 10	ADDITIONAL Emergency Net Practice; NCS determined on-air!
Aug 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Grete/Woody
Aug 19	MIRO General Meeting; MIRO social get-together at the Howse house
Aug 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Sep 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Sep 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Mike, K7PI
Sep 16	MIRO General Meeting; Nathan Lorange/KCSAR presentation and Comm Van tour
Sep 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 7	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Oct 14	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Laurent, K2BRC
Oct 21	MIRO General Meeting; Tom, K7VMO, Flight Testing
Oct 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd
Nov 4	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Nov 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Woody, K7EDH
Nov 18	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Nov 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 2	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Dec 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Bob, KM6SO
Dec 16	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Dec 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jan 6	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Jan 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Jan 20	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jan 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd
Feb 3	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Feb 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Feb 17	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Mar 3	First Thursday Traffic Net; NCS tbd
Mar 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Mar 17	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
June 11	Cascadia 2022 – Volunteer Day
June 13-16	Cascadia 2022

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. It's now on our "members-only" page:

MEETING, NET AND OTHER EVENT FOLLOW UPS

[Meeting Follow Ups](#)

[Net Logs](#)

[MIRO Tool Exchange](#)