



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for September 2021

News and Announcements

W7MIR-10 Winlink Gateway converted to VARA-FM

Mike, K7PI, has completed the upgrade of our VHF Winlink gateway from Packet to VARA-FM. This provides Mercer Island and the surrounding communities with increased reliability and bandwidth when using Winlink for digital messaging. Thank you, Mike!

August 2021 meeting follow up

The Howse party was a great success. Woody and Ginger provided the beverages and treats. We had a beautiful summer night to sit around and introduce ourselves and our spouses.

Grete was the winner of the “big” prize in our BaoFeng raffle – a Yaesu FT-65. Each participation in a MIRO “public” event (meetings, nets, CEMNET, etc.) earns you an entry. I’ve already started keeping track of entries for 2022.

Buy/Sell/Trade

Yaesu FT-8800 mobile transceiver. Dual band 2m/70cm. Includes Separation kit, TNC-X, and cables. \$450. Contact Don, 206-550-4148.

If **you** have an item for buy, sell or trade, contact me to place a notice here.

Gifts Acknowledged

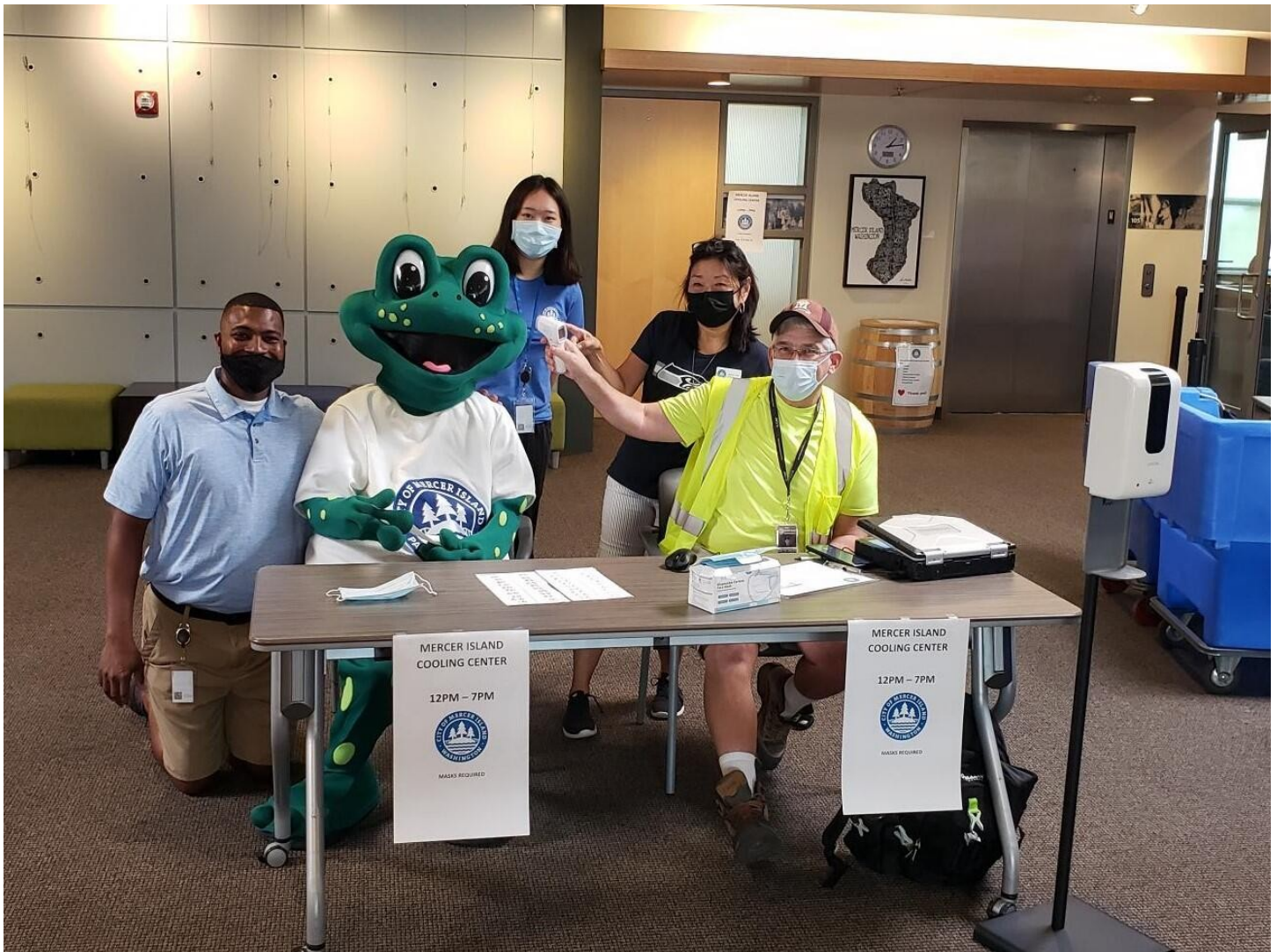
MIRO gratefully acknowledges the gift of a pneumatic antenna-launching system from members Bill Ellis and Don Sandstrom. This launcher has been successfully used at many a Field Day exercise in Luther Burbank and Rotary parks. I’ve listed this on our Tool Exchange page, which is accessible from the members-only page of our MIRO website. If you have any equipment you’d like to donate, please contact me. If you’d like to make a cash donation, please contact Grete. Donations are always welcome, and cash donations are tax-deductible.

New Member

Rob Witmer, W2RDW, has joined MIRO. Rob has already participated in several of our monthly nets. Rob grew up on Mercer Island; and even though he now lives in Seattle, he often returns to Mercer Island to visit his mom and dad (Dan, W6DRW). Welcome, Rob!

More Chillin@MICEC!

During the August heat wave, the City [reopened the cooling center](#) at the Community and Events Center; and MIRO members Toni and Bob were there to help. This was especially notable because the cooling center was opened and staffed without our Emergency Manager Jennifer Franklin or Lead Volunteer Pat Hackett. This shows the resiliency, skills and trust that we've built with the City. Many more volunteer opportunities await for those who are [badged!](#)



Winlink Nets

Can't get enough Winlink practice from our monthly nets? Try any or all of the following:

- The "original" Winlink Wednesday. Once a week, send a text message. Once a month, send a Winlink form. Option to check in via HF Winlink Peer-To-Peer.
- [Winlink Wednesday NTX. Once a week, check in with a Winlink form. Often has a question you need to answer.](#)
- Winlink Thursday. A larger variety of exercises. Forms, attachments, shrinking images, shrinking spreadsheets, nation-wide HF Winlink Peer-To-Peer.

July 2021 Activity Report

Pat reports that 21 members, driving 82 miles, gave 130.5 hours of volunteer time in support of 3 public service events and 13 meetings, drills and exercises.

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

Upcoming MIRO Activities

Traffic Net, Thursday, September 2nd, 7:00 PM. Net Control tbd

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

NCS and plan to be determined.

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, September 9th, 7:00 PM. Mike, K7PI, NCS

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. Also, please submit a Winlink ICS-213 check-in message before the net if possible to K7PI, W7MIR and KM6SO.

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, September 16th, 7:00 PM

Our featured speaker will be Nathan Lorange of the [King County Search and Rescue team](#). The meeting will be Zoom-only.

Note our Zoom address:

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

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928

Passcode: MIRO

MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, September 28th, 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! Use the 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.

That's all for this month. 73!

Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, MIRO Chair, rtykulsker@gmail.com
Pat Hackett, K7PTH, MIRO Vice-Chair, pat@pathackett.com
Woody Howse, K7EDH, MIRO Chair Emeritus, whowse@me.com

Phone: 206-232-8049
Phone: 206-972-2724
Phone: 206-849-537

MIRO Current Schedule 2021-2022

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

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 Rising 2022 – Volunteer Day
June 13-16	Cascadia Rising 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>