



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for May, 2022

News and Announcements

In-person General Meetings have resumed!

Well, at least a hybrid of in-person and virtual via Zoom. See below.

April 2022 net follow-up

Our April 14 net was run by Bob, KM6SO. We had 10 member check-ins, along with 4 Winlink check-ins. The official log is up on our web site if you need to check your personal log. Running our monthly net is great practice for a “real world emergency.” We’re always looking for first-timers to take a turn “in the hot seat.” If you’re interested, please contact Pat.

April 2022 meeting follow-up

The big news was that six of us were able to meet in-person at the North Fire Station, while 11 more member were able to join us via Zoom. MIRO member Mark Feuerstein, N7MMO, gave a presentation on “Durable Battery Power for a QRP Station”. Links to the General Meeting and Mark’s presentation are on our website. If you’d like to make a presentation, or know someone who would, contact me.

April 30 5th Saturday “EOC-EOC” Exercise

Toni and Bob activated both the EOC radio room as well as the backup radio room located at the Community and Event Center. We were joined on the air by Woody when we conducted a pre-exercise radio net. Many voice and Winlink messages were exchanged with the King County ECC and State EOC. These exercises occur every fifth Saturday (the next is Saturday, July 30, 2022), and are a great opportunity to practice your radio and Winlink skills as we would actually use them in a real world event. Contact me if you’re interested in participating.

March 2022 Activity Report

Pat reports that reports 22 members, driving 66.2 miles, gave 77.6 hours in support of 2 public service events and 11 meetings, drills and exercises.

Upcoming MIRO Activities

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, May 12, 7:00 PM. NCS: Carl, K7CGE

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 K7CGE, KM6SO and by email to rtykulsker@gmail.com. Also, please submit a **General/Winlink Check In** message before the net to K7CGE and KM6SO.

Carl will also be the liaison to the King County ARES/RACES net on March 13th. All MIRO members **are still welcome** to check in as "Mercer Island Team" members during the "Kilo through Papa" call. The KC ARES/RACES net happens every Sunday, 20:00 on 147.08 MHz +110.9.

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, May 19, 7:00 PM

We are planning to continue to meet in-person at the North Fire Station. For those who are unable to attend in person, we'll also **try** to broadcast the meeting live, via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8656593928?pwd=TIIRIUybDICT2E1Sm1nVUUpaK0JZZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928, Passcode: MIRO

Our featured speaker will again, be Mark Feuerstein, N7MMO, this time speaking on his complementary project "A Better Portable Generator", because as Mark said, solar panels don't do too well here in the Pacific North West in January. I've seen a preview and it will be of interest to everyone who owns and operates a portable generator!

MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, May 31st, 7:00 PM

The purpose of this ongoing meeting is to get stuff done: solicit volunteers for Net Control, and 5th Saturday exercises; solicit volunteers for other MIRO/City volunteer opportunities; solicit volunteers for other ongoing roles, such as MIRO chair, BaoFeng contest administrator. We also review progress on ongoing projects.

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.

Some folks get it ...

Pat found this article on page 3 of the Seattle Times for Saturday, April 9, 2022. It describes the new building that the Oregon State Treasury had built – I guess because they are responsible for meeting the payroll of Oregon public employees the building really is critical infrastructure. Besides seismic isolators and an advanced air filtration system for protection during wild fires, etc., you can read about the redundancy and resiliency in their communications infrastructure. The last line should resonate with us though: “The worst-case scenario ... is that I’m sending email over ham radio.” So, let’s all keep practicing our Winlink skills!

Quizzed about internet service during a disaster, he mentioned backups: two separate high-speed internet cables that link to a government data center, another connection that goes through a private internet provider, a contract with a company that will provide two mobile trailers with satellite dishes when needed and a bunch of satellite phones in the office.

And if all that does not work? Then there is a backup to the backup to the backup, a spot on the roof reserved for an old-fashioned radio antenna.

“The worst-case scenario,” Williams said, “is that I’m sending email over ham radio.”

Save the date: Thursday, August 18th: Howse House Party

Our regularly scheduled General Meeting will be pre-empted by the annual Howse party. Details to follow ...

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

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MIRO Current Schedule 2022-2023

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

May 2	Mercer Island CERT classes start
May 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Carl, K7CGE
May 19	MIRO General Meeting; Mark, N7MMO, "A Better Portable Generator"
May 31	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jun 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Toni, W7TDO
June 24	Mercer Island Well CPOD training: 11 AM – 12:30 PM
Jun 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 14	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K7PI
Jul 21	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jul 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd
Aug 2	National Night Out: 5 PM to 8 PM
Aug 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: KM6SO
Aug 18	MIRO General Meeting; Howse House party!
Aug 26	City-wide Volunteer Exercise: 9 AM to 12 PM
Sep 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Sep 15	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Sep 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 6	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K7GHP
Oct 13	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Oct 20	Great Shakeout: 10:20 AM (Third Thursday in October)
Oct 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd
Oct 31	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Nov 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Nov 17	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Nov 29	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Dec 15	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Dec 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jan 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Jan 19	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jan 31	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Feb 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Feb 16	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Feb 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Mar 16	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Mar 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Apr 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Apr 20	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Apr 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd
May 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
May 18	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
May 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting

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; [check schedule](#); Puget Sound Digital Hams Net- Fldigi, various modes.
- WED: 1730; 146.820; - 103.5; Mike and Key Technical Net
- SAT: 2000; 146.550; SIMPLEX; See how well your signal is heard and who can hear you

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>

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.
- [ETO Winlink Thursday](#). A larger variety of exercises. Forms, attachments, shrinking images, shrinking spreadsheets, nation-wide HF Winlink Peer-To-Peer.