



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for July, 2022

News and Announcements

June 2022 net follow-up

Our May 19 net was run by Toni, W7TDO. We had 18 member check-ins, along with 6 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.

June 2022 meeting follow-up

We had our third “hybrid” meeting at the North Fire Station, with 4 of us in person and 7 more able to join us via Zoom. The meeting follow-up is on our website.

If you would like to make a presentation to the team, if you know of someone who would like to present (or could have their arms twisted until they agree) or if there’s a topic you’d like to learn more about, let me know.

May 2022 Activity Report

Pat reports that 22 members, driving 61.4 miles, gave 89.8 hours in support of 4 public service events and 13 meetings, drills and exercises.

Upcoming MIRO Activities

EchoLink and the MIRO VHF repeater

EchoLink is a free VOIP application that let’s you use your Internet-connected computer or smart device to interact with many repeaters worldwide, including our MIRO VHF repeater.

However, it takes a bit of time between when you hit the PTT (Push-To-Talk) button on the app to when the signal gets carried across the inter tubes to the hardware interface to a radio in Vadim’s secret dungeon and keys up a local radio that hits our repeater. So we’re modifying our Net Control script to call for EchoLink traffic first, and to wait for up to 20 seconds for each and every EchoLink check in. That small extra time delay will let you and others participate in our nets and use our repeater from anywhere in the world. So, please be patient at the start of our nets.

Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, July 14, 7:00 PM. NCS: Mike, K7PI

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 K7PI, KM6SO and by email to rtykulsker@gmail.com. Also, please submit a **General/Winlink Check In** message before the net to K7PI and KM6SO.

Mike will also be the liaison to the King County ARES/RACES net on July 17. 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, July 21, 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=TIIERIUybDICT2E1Sm1nVUpaK0JZZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928, Passcode: MIRO

We don't have a “featured speaker” yet, so here's your opportunity to step up!

MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, July 26, 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.

Last chances for 2022 BaoFeng Yaesu FT-65 Give Away

We'll be awarding one BaoFeng Give Away **entry** for each of the following “participations

- July 13, MIRO Winlink Wednesday (1 for Winlink Check In, ICS-213 and WA ICS213-RR)
- July 14, On-air Emergency Practice Net
- July 14, sending an ICS-309 net log via Winlink
- July 21, General Meeting
- July 26, Working Meeting
- July 30, **Independent Study Study Party. One entry for every hour of study!**
- August 10, MIRO Winlink Wednesday (1 for Winlink Check In, ICS-213 and WA ICS213-RR)
- August 11, On-air Emergency Practice Net
- August 17, one BaoFeng entry **for every item you post on the MIRO Tool Exchange**. So far, I've posted 20 item and Vadim has posted 32 items.

I reserve the right to change, interpret and modify these rules at will. Don't like those rules? Step up to become the next MIRO Chair and set the rules for 2023!

To be clear; the grand prize this year is indeed a Yaesu FT-65 and not a BaoFeng UV-5R, so get those entries in.

Search for next MIRO chair stalled

Way back in the January 2022 issue of this newsletter, I announced that I'll be stepping down as MIRO chair as of January 1, 2023. I've approached several members, but so far, no one has been willing to commit. There's already lot of work that's being done on a ongoing basis for MIRO – and a great deal of it is being done by other volunteers:

- Pat – training and reporting; organizing our Net Control operators, etc.
- Mike – our Digital Sysop: keeping our RMS gateway and PCs up and running
- Grete – MIRO Foundation finance tracking and Website maintainence
- Vadim – our Radio Officer: repeaters, loaner HTs and our took exchange
- Conner – monthly CEMNET scheduling

There's also a lot of work that I'm handling

- Liaison with City, public, members (2 hour per month)
- Liaison with King County ARES/RACES (2 hours per month)
- Coordinate 5th Saturday exercises (6 hours per quarter; 2 hours per month)
- MIRO Winlink Wednesday (2 hours per month)
- General Meeting: finding speakers, upload to youtube, website update (4 hours per month)
- Newsletter: composing, posting, soliciting comments on drafts, etc. (3 hours per month)
- Email and text announcements, before the Net and General Meeting (1 hour per month)
- Roster maintenance (1 hour per month)
- Tracking member participation for annual BaoFeng give-away (1 hour per month)
- Backup Digital Sysop/Radio Officer (8 hours per month)

In my opinion, the **primary** job responsibility of the MIRO chair is to act as the **liaison** or **single point of contact** between the City of Mercer Island, the general public and the MIRO membership.

Folks, I **need** to step back and I **will** step back. If no one steps up to become the next MIRO chair, I'll continue, but only in the liaison role (answering Jennifer's emails, rustling up volunteers to help with a City event, helping members get set up with Winlink, etc.). I'll also open up the North Fire House for our monthly General Meeting and I'll try to broadcast it live via Zoom, but I won't be recording the meeting, posting the videos on YouTube, finding speakers, etc. I also won't be producing this newsletter, updating the web site, running 5th Saturday, representing Mercer Island every Sunday night on the KC ARES/RACES net, sending out email and text announcements and reminders, etc.

So if you want these services to continue, then someone's gonna have to step up. Either to take the lead or just to take on the tasks. I'll be a resource that the next MIRO chair can draw on, if needed. I might be able to continue in one of the tasks too – that depends on my health. Please feel free to contact me if you're interested in stepping up!

Save the date: Saturday, July 30th: Independent Study – Study Party!

Instead of dragging out the same old plan from the State and sending the same old WA ICS-213-RR messages, we're going to try something new. We're going to meet and watch the training video for the FEMA IS-100 course (and IS-700, time permitting). Jennifer has exempted MIRO members with valid ham licenses from having to complete IS-100 and IS-700; but we all think it would be valuable for all MIRO member to take/re-take these courses. Time and location are not yet fixed, but we think "someplace" at City Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

I'm really looking forward to this. More details will be sent in an upcoming email from Jennifer or myself.

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

Our regularly scheduled General Meeting will be pre-empted by the annual Howse party. Woody is asking that all attendees be vaccinated, boosted and healthy.

In addition to the “grand prize” **Yaesu FT-65** radio, I encourage everyone to bring an **one or more items for the prize table**. What a great opportunity to clean out your shack!

Look for more details in the August newsletter.

That's all for this month.

73!

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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)

Jul 14	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K7PI
Jul 21	MIRO General Meeting; N7PIX; PiHole and Internet Ad Blocking
Jul 30	Independent Study – Study Together party.
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; K7PI; Mobile Grid Chasing and Emergency Operations
Sep 23	Mercer Island Volunteer event
Sep 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: K7CGE
Oct 20	Great Shakeout: 10:20 AM (Third Thursday in October)
Oct 20	MIRO General Meeting: K7PTH; Map Your Neighborhood for MIRO
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
Jun 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Jun 15	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jun 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: tbd
Jul 20	MIRO General Meeting; tbd
Jul 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; tbd

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.