



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for October, 2022

### News and Announcements

#### NEW: Meeting Policy

At the September 15 General Meeting, I announced that all future general meetings would be in-person only, but after listening to the righteous outrage from the membership, I am revising this. Effective October 1, 2022, in-person meetings will be our **primary** and **preferred** way to hold the General and Working meetings, but we will continue to **try** to host live Zoom sessions, upload the recorded meeting to an unlisted YouTube site, and publish the meeting URL on the members-only, password-protected, portion of our web site. These virtual sessions will be done on a “best effort” basis and there might be a few more technical issues than when we were 100% virtual, so if you don’t want to miss the fun, c’mon down!

#### September 2022 net follow-up

Our September 8 net was run by Carl, K7CGE. We had 16 member check-ins, along with 9 Winlink check-ins. Carl also sent out the pre-net email and SMS messages, plus he followed up with both a Winlink message as well as an over-the-air announcement on the Sunday King County ARES/RACES net – well done on all counts!

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 in learning the ropes, please contact Pat.

#### September 2022 General Meeting follow-up

Our September meeting was held at the North Fire Station, with 4 in-person participants and 9 participants joining via Zoom. Rob reviewed his participation in the Seattle ACS support of the Seattle Marathon. Mike did a presentation on Rover Operations and VHF/UHF VUCC/FFMA Awards. Pat gave a preview of her upcoming October 20, 2022 special "Map Your Neighborhood" presentation. The meeting follow-up details are on the web site.

#### September 2022 Farmers Market Support

Bob (Gilbert), Toni, Woody and I were out in support of the City of Mercer Island Emergency Management program by staffing the City’s booth at Mercer Island Farmer’s Market on Sunday, September 11. You, too, can be a part of such future activities if you are a **badged** Mercer Island volunteer. Contact Pat for more details.



## July 2022 Activity Report

Pat reports that 25 members, driving 253.6 miles, gave 182 hours in support of 3 public service events and 9 meetings, drills and exercises.

## Upcoming MIRO Activities

### Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, October 13, 7:00 PM. NCS: Woody, K7EDH

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/or by email to [rykulsker@gmail.com](mailto:rykulsker@gmail.com). Also, please submit a General/Winlink Check In message **before the net** to KM6SO and K7EDH.

## **GREAT SHAKEOUT October 20, 10:20 AM:**

After you've dropped, covered and held, and then checked your own location and possessions, send a WINLINK DYFI (Earthquake Did You Feel It) exercise message. This is a standard Winlink message that should be sent any time you feel an earthquake or anytime you participate in an earthquake drill. Under real circumstances, your next step would be to grab your handheld, check-in on the net or, if you are first, activate the Net. Then take paper and pen and walk your neighborhood, reporting on unusual conditions to MIRO Emergency Net Control.

## **MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, October 20, 7:00 PM**

Our featured presentation will be by Pat, and will be a special "Map Your Neighborhood" event tailored to MIRO members. Due to the nature of her presentation, Pat is **requiring** that members attend in-person. This program will **not** be hosted via Zoom as the material is conducive for a remote presentation. She is also **requiring** an RSVP, because space is limited to 20 persons and so that she can prepare the correct number of handouts for distribution. Members are given first priority for reservations. If there is room, spouses or others may attend; so when you make your reservation, let her know if you have others who would like to be there if space permits. Please make your reservation directly to Pat ([pat@pathackett.com](mailto:pat@pathackett.com)) by Monday, October 17. After confirming the MIRO member count, she'll advise if there is room for your extra guests.

Note: if this meeting sells out, Pat will host another one early next year.

Doors open at 6:30 PM for socializing, radio programming and Winlink tutoring.

## **MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 PM**

Starting with this meeting, we are meeting once again in the Caucus Room, across from our Radio Room at City Hall.

The purpose of this ongoing meeting is to get stuff done: solicit volunteers for Net Control, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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! Our standard Zoom address is below my signature line.

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.

## **State-wide, "EOC-EOC exercise", Saturday, October 29, 9:00 AM**

I haven't received any details yet, so I assume that the official State plan will just be a re-hash of previous plans. If you'd like to coordinate the Mercer Island participation, please contact me.

## **MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, November 17, 7:00 PM**

The focus of this meeting at the North Fire Station will be on how to use [Winlink](#). Winlink is the standard "email over radio" system used by Mercer Island, King County, Washington and the Federal Government. We'll cover [installing](#), registering and using Winlink. Members are **strongly encouraged** to bring a Windows laptop computer (hopefully with Winlink already installed and registered). We'll cover advanced features such as using Forms, Contacts, Group Addresses, GPS, and interfacing to radios. Look for more details in the November newsletter.

Doors open at 6:30 PM for socializing, radio programming and Winlink tutoring.

## Article about the PSRG nets

Woody found the following article about the PSRG nets: <https://www.geekwire.com/2022/you-never-know-whos-on-the-other-side-amateur-radio-enthusiasts-use-old-school-tech-to-connect/>. For those interested in checking in on these nets, the frequency and times can be found at [https://web.psrq.org/net\\_schedule/](https://web.psrq.org/net_schedule/)

## Call for Volunteers – Build a MIRO “go box” project

I'm looking for one or two volunteers who'd like to build up one or more “go boxes”. MIRO has several HF transceivers, VHF/UHF transceivers, computers, etc.; and I'd like to start to put these assets to use. We realize that we may not have all that we need on hand, and we're prepared to spend money to complete these kits. What's in it for you? The opportunity to play with radios, spend other folk's money and build and deploy a mobile station. What's in it for MIRO? Geographically dispersed backup communications packages, ready to be deployed when and where needed. Contact me if interested!

## Life imitates Art

I found this somewhere on the web – its relevancy should be apparent to all!



That's all for this month.

73!

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

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**MIRO Zoom URL:**

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

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928, Passcode: MIRO

# MIRO Current Schedule 2022-2023

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

Oct 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>Woody, K7EDH</b>
Oct 20	Great Shakeout: 10:20 AM (Third Thursday in October)
Oct 20	MIRO General Meeting: <b>K7PTH; Map Your Neighborhood for MIRO</b>
Oct 23	<b>Working Meeting at the Caucus Room</b>
Oct 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; <b>tbd</b>
Nov 2	<b>King County ARES/RACES quarterly meeting 7PM. Virtual</b>
Nov 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Mike, KJ7FIF
Nov 17	MIRO General Meeting; <b>Winlink 101</b>
Nov 29	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Carl, K7CGE
Dec 15	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Dec 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jan 12	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Jan 19	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jan 31	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Feb 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Feb 16	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Feb 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 9	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Mar 16	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Mar 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Apr 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Apr 20	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Apr 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; <b>tbd</b>
May 11	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
May 18	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
May 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jun 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Jun 15	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jun 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 13	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: <b>tbd</b>
Jul 20	MIRO General Meeting; <b>tbd</b>
Jul 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jul 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC; <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; [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.