



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for November, 2022

# News and Announcements

### Membership survey

In the email that distributes this newsletter, you'll find a link to a survey. We're very interested to get your opinions on our newsletter, web site, general meeting and on-air net. Please respond to the survey by Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Thank you for your input

### October 2022 net follow-up

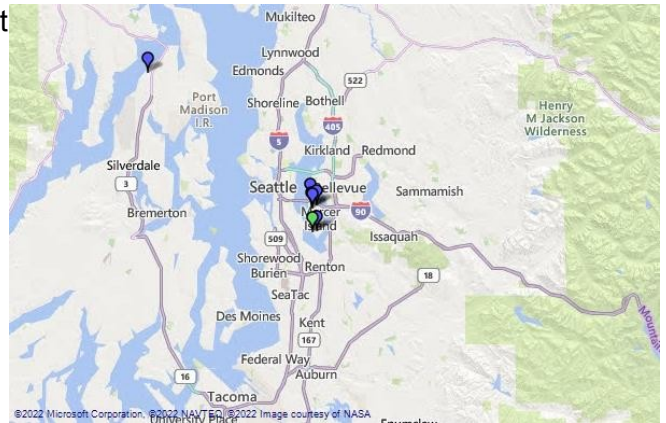
Our October 13 net was run by Woody, K7EDH, with Nathan KG7OXJ scribing. We had 15 member check-ins, along with 7 Winlink check-ins.

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 in learning the ropes, please contact Pat.

### October 2022 General Meeting follow-up

Our October meeting was held at the North Fire Station. Pat gave a special, post Shakeout 2022 version of her "Map Your Neighborhood" presentation. The meeting follow-up details are on the web site.

As mentioned above, October 20 was the date of the Shakeout 2022 event. Seven MIRO members participated by sending a Winlink "Did You Feel It" message to the USGS and to each other. Winlink now has the capability to display generate and display maps, such as this one:



I'll be presenting on Winlink at our November 17 meeting.

### MIRO "go box" project update

Last month, I put out a call for volunteers to build up one or more "go boxes". Carl has stepped up and he's well along with building out the power capabilities. Carl and Pat worked together to secure funding from the City for a portable solar panel, a solar charge controller, a couple of portable batteries, and a battery charger. We don't expect the first station to be able to run 24/7 during our cloudy winter months off of solar, but it will be a big boost.

We're still looking for one or two "modern" Windows laptop computers to run Winlink. If you've got a 64 bit laptop that has (or at least is upgradable to) 8 GB RAM and 128 GB of SSD and are willing to donate to MIRO, please let me know.

## September 2022 Activity Report

Pat reports that 15 members, driving 314.6 miles, gave 111.3 hours in support of 2 public service events and 8 meetings, drills and exercises.

# Upcoming MIRO Activities

## Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, November 10, 7:00 PM. NCS: Mike, KJ7FIF

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 rtykulsker@gmail.com. Also, please submit a General/Winlink Check In message **before the net** to KM6SO and K7EDH.

## 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.

We hope to be on Zoom as well. Our standard Zoom address is below my signature line.

## MIRO Working Meeting, Tuesday, November 29, 7:00 PM

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.

## **Emergency Practice Net, Thursday, December 8, 7:00 PM. NCS: Carl, K7CGE**

Carl wants

“to encourage folks to operate on backup power (if they have it). Could be some interesting learnings wrt reception, battery storage, battery capacity, etc.”

I've just completed the process of making my home “base/mobile” station capable of operating from battery. It's simple in theory and a bit of effort in practice. Our presentations earlier this year from Carl and Mark can help you get started in time to be ready for the December 8<sup>th</sup> Net.

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)

Nov 2	King County ARES/RACES quarterly meeting 7PM. Virtual
Nov 10	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Mike, KJ7FIF
Nov 17	MIRO General Meeting; Winlink 101
Nov 29	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 8	Emergency Net Practice; NCS: Carl, K7CGE
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.