



Mercer Island Radio Operators



MIRO Newsletter for December, 2022

News and Announcements

New MIRO Chair!

At our General Meeting, I announced that Woody Howse, K7EDH, has agreed to take over as the MIRO chair effective January 1, 2023. As you all know, Woody was MIRO chair prior to feisting asking me to take over back in 2020, so he knows what the job entails! I'll be giving Woody my full support and I expect you all to do the same, especially when he taps you on the shoulder to get you to volunteer for some activity. Welcome back, Woody!

New MIRO Winlink Wednesday Lead, Mark, N7MMO

In order to enhance and maintain our Winlink skills, we've been running a series of informal Winlink training exercises each Wednesday before the second Thursday and our "over-the-air" net. The exercises are designed to be fun, educational and serve as the "Winlink Check In" to the net the next day. I've been looking for a volunteer to take over coordinating these exercises and Mark has stepped up! Mark writes:

In an effort to keep folks engaged over the next year, I'd like to encourage folks to move from Telnet for Winlink to consistent use of any radio based Winlink mode. With your mention of the "The Really Big One" in mind, I think a good end point for a notional year long effort might look something like most members being able to use Winlink on a battery powered radio and computer. Over the top bonus points for truly portable use.

If you're **not** already on the "MIRO Winlink Wednesday" email distribution list, send Mark an [email](mailto:mark.g.feuerstein@comcast.net):
mark.g.feuerstein@comcast.net

New ham exam classes

Out training lead, Pat, K7PTH, has arranged for a Technician licensing class, Friday, Jan. 6, 2023: 6pm – 9pm, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023: 9am – 4pm and Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023: 9am – 3:30pm to be held at the American Red Cross chapter building in Seattle, just over the I-90 bridge, [1900 25th Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98144](https://www.aarc.org/locations/1900-25th-ave-s-seattle-wa-98144) (plenty of free, on-site parking). The instructor will be David Okrent, who has taught our classes in the past. I know that virtually all of you already have your Technician's license, but here's an opportunity for your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to attend an in-person training class.

Also, a General licensing class is tentatively set for February 4-6 (dates to be confirmed). We highly recommend that our Technicians take this class in order to be able to operate at more frequencies!

Note that both classes are limited to 25 people. If interested in either class, contact Pat for more details and to get on the class list. These classes are not limited to Mercer Island folks, so they will be full!

Request for Help – New “Getting Started” page(s)

On our web site, we’ve got a new fact sheet and a new “Getting Started” menu page with several bullet points:

- understanding what Ham Radio is all about?
- understanding the licensing process?
- finding appropriate resources to help you learn the material you need to pass your first license?
- finding where to take the licensing exam?
- deciding what equipment to buy?
- getting on the air?
- joining MIRO?

During December I’m going to break each of those bullet points into separate pages and add content for each page, but I could sure use your help on this. If you have any content that you’d think would be appropriate, please forward to me. A link, a list of links, a favorite YouTube video, channel or content creator. Whatever you think might be relevant would be welcome. If you think I’ve missed an important top-level topic, please let me know too. And if anyone would like to take on the “principal author” role, well that might just be the greatest Christmas gift ever!

November 2022 net follow-up

Our November 8 net was run by Mike, KJ7FIF. We had 9 members, no visitors, 3 messages and 5 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.

November 2022 General Meeting follow-up

Our November 17th meeting was held at the North Fire Station. There’s a followup on the member-only portion of our web site.

After the presentation, Woody pointed out that you should include “//WL2K” in the subject line of an outgoing message to a third-party (not on the Winlink system) to insure that their reply back to you will pass through the Winlink “white list”. Bob comments that whenever you send a message to a third-party, that address automatically gets placed on your “white list”. Click [HERE](#) to review what the Winlink folks themselves say about the matter. In other words:

- you can always send **out** to a non-Winlink email address
- non-Winlink addresses that receive an email from your Winlink address can directly reply back to you, since they are **automatically** added to your whitelist.
- non-Winlink addresses that have **never** received a Winlink message from you **must** include //WL2K in their subject

Mark viewed the video and suggests the [DigiRig](#) as another possibility for a modem. I’ve got a DigiRig and I agree, it’s inexpensive, rugged and provided both the “sound card” as well as “rig control” functions. Mark also suggested the [N9TAX roll up antenna](#) as a great addition to your go box. I’ve got one on order and I’ll let you all know.

October 2022 Activity Report

Pat reports that 20 members, driving 117.2 miles, gave 135.9 hours in support of 3 public service events and 7 meetings, drills and exercises.

Upcoming MIRO Activities

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). He says it will be interesting to learn about “reception, battery storage, battery capacity, etc.”

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 for the VHF portion of the net.

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 K7CGE.

MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM

We'll review our 2022 year and membership survey. 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, December 27, 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 5th Saturday exercises; solicit volunteers for other MIRO/City volunteer opportunities, etc. 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.

That's all for this month. 73!

Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, MIRO Chair, rtykulsker@gmail.com

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Pat Hackett, K7PTH, MIRO Vice-Chair, pat@pathackett.com

Phone: 206-972-2724

Woody Howse, K7EDH, MIRO Chair Emeritus, whowse@me.com

Phone: 206-849-5370

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)

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.