



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for February 2024

### News and Announcements

#### From the Chair:

Hello MIRO members and friends!

As I mentioned last month, I am still getting my feet under me in this new role. Bob and Woody have been helping me with learning how to post the Net Logs and the recordings of our third Thursday meetings. I hope to finally catch up with that this month and be able to have links to December, January, and February in the March newsletter.

#### Upcoming events of interest

Getting started in HF Operations

Free, Virtual class on February 20, 2024 from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Taught by David Okrent (excellent, experienced teacher – he taught my General Class)

RSVP to W7DAO @arrrl.net

Quarterly Volunteer Lead Meeting, Thursday, February 22, 2024, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at MICEC

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual MIKE and Key Electronics Show & Swap Meet

March 9, 2024 at the Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Washington State Fairgrounds. This is a very interesting event, and you have the opportunity of picking up ham radio equipment under cost. Here's their website that provides more information:

<https://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php>

Is anyone interested in car-pooling to the Puyallup Fairgrounds on March 9th?

If you haven't connected with MIRO in a while, or if you think your radio skills aren't up to par, let me assure you that you will fit right in with me.

#### January 11, 2024 net follow-up

Mike Sedgwick was Net Control, and he did an excellent job. 10 members and 2 visitors participated; 1 announcement was made; and 7 Winlink messages were received. Carl Erickson (K7CGE) is signed up for Net Control on February 8.

#### January 18, 2023 General Meeting follow-up

We had a great turnout. There were thirteen people present in person and four joining via Zoom. We reviewed the status of CEMNET signups. We are still waiting to get the go-ahead from the City to let a few people get access to the CEMNET radios. For now, that remains to be limited, but we will let Conner (KG7SAW) know as soon as we know of any changes so that he can manage sign ups from a larger group. We talked briefly about the

MIRO Foundation and some ideas for updating the MIRO roster. Maybe this Spring we can make a bigger effort to contact members whom we haven't heard from for a while. I made a short presentation about a simple example of 'the Butterfly Effect.'

Bob (KM6SO) finished things up with another practice session programming handheld radios. Many thanks to Brian Ross (KC7SDW) who provided a very detailed set of instructions on how to program a Bao Feng radio. I think that even I can do it.

## **December 2023 Activity Report**

Pat reports that 16 members, driving 102.4 miles, gave 93.7 hours in support of 2 public service events and 6 meetings, drills, and exercises. Special thanks to all the MIRO members who staffed the Firehouse Munch on December 1<sup>st</sup>!

## **Upcoming MIRO Activities**

### **Emergency Net, Thursday, February 8th, 7:00 PM.**

#### **NCS: Carl Erickson K7CGE**

Carl Erickson (K7CGE) is scheduled to be Net Control. Please complete an ICS309 log and send it to Bob Tykulsker - rtykulsker@gmail.com, Pat Hackett - pat@pathackett.com, and Mike Post – mpost23@outlook.com after the net. PDF format is best. In the past Woody suggested that the fillable word document from the link below works the best. Most Word programs have the choice of saving as a pdf.

Links to download the ICS309 log form:

word: <https://miro.cmivolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ICS-309-Word-document.docx>

pdf: <https://miro.cmivolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ICS-Form-309-fillable-1.pdf>

### **MIRO General Meeting, Thursday, February 15th, 7:00 PM**

The MIRO meeting will be a hybrid meeting, in-person at the LDS Church at 4001 Island Crest Way, MI 98040. Pat Hackett and Mike Sedgwick will do a presentation on the assembly and installation of Pat's tower and SteppIR antenna. I will send out a reminder with more details before February 15.

ZOOM LINK:

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

Meeting ID: 865 659 3928 Passcode: MIRO

## WINLINK CORNER – Mark Feuerstein N7MMO

Where Resiliency and Proficiency Meet

Welcome to Winlink Corner. If you are interested in becoming an active “Winlinker”, or need Winlink help, let me know - mark.g.feuerstein@comcast.net.

### This month’s Winlink summary

The January MIRO Winlink exercise, with six participants, was a self-directed refresh of the Winlink Catalog and introduction to Winlink’s new weather imaging library.

### Summarizing Twelve Months of Winlink Connection Data

Last year, when Bob asked me to contribute to MIRO’s Winlink efforts, I started keeping book on my Winlink connections. Here’s a summary and a thought or two. The book says I made 220 Winlink connections between January 10 and December 28. The median connection distance was 245 miles. 25 connections were on V/UHF. The other 195 connections were on HF, the overwhelming majority via an 80m End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) mounted at about 12+ feet. 40m was used the most, followed by 80m, then 20m and 30m. Of course, the 20m/30m connections were not “NVIS” due to their higher frequencies even though an NVIS antenna was used. Average/median power for all connections was 3.4w, and 1w, respectively. Average power was strongly influenced by consistent use of 5w on V/UHF with a handheld radio. The most common HF power level was ½ watt.

Perhaps the most important observation is the one for which I’ve no data. Unsuccessful connection attempts. As I was using very low RF power levels, there were many failed connection attempts. Unfortunately, I do not know how many failures, but there were a lot. Qualitatively, I believe there were many more failed attempts than logged successes. Enough that KM6SO’s point that real EMCOMM requires best effort, not a QRP exercise (my words), is validated. So why bother?

The many failures to connect at low RF power revealed something of a local (V/UHF) and regional (NVIS HF) ‘connectivity topology’. While highly qualitative due to the many variables not accounted for, over time I believe the many failures, and the lesser number of successes, yielded a sense of ‘where to look’. This sense of ‘where to look’ may have been somewhat masked had I always used all the RF power I could muster. Knowing where to look for ‘good’ gateways saves time and could be handy during poor propagation or in a situation where one is forced to conserve electrical power.

Consider reducing RF power during exercises to better reveal which gateways work for you, and capture those gateways in Winlink Express’ favorites record/log so they will be available to you when you dial up the power for real.

## Preview of next month's exercise

Like any system, Winlink works best with a touch of maintenance. In February we will ensure our individual Winlink Whitelists are current and populated with desired addresses.

If you are not an active "Winlinker" and would like to learn how Winlink can help you and your neighborhood in the absence of internet service, please let me know. Your fellow Winlinkers can help get you started.

Thanks for reading. Mark, N7MMO

Following page has the Favorite Winlink Gateway Results:

Call	Band	Mode	Submitted by	Submit Count
Telnet	na	na	W7TDO	1
AG7NA-10	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
KE7ARH-10	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
KF7ZYF-12	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
KG7WV-10	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
W7EFR-10	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
W7EFR-12	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
W7EFR-14	2m	Packet	K7CGE	1
AI7HH	20m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
AJ7C	20m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
K6SDR	20m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
KL7ZK	20m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
N0DAJ	20m	<u>VARA</u>	KM6SO	1
K6SDR	30m	<u>VARA</u>	KM6SO	1
N7LEW	30m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
KF7RSG	40m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
KG7AV	40m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
N7LEW	40m	<u>VARA</u>	KM6SO;N7MMO;K7CGE	3
N7LOB	40m	<u>VARA</u>	N7MMO	1
VE7RBH	40m	<u>VARA</u>	N7MMO;K7CGE	2
WA7ROY	40m	<u>VARA</u>	K7CGE	1
N7LOB	80m	<u>VARA</u>	KM6SO	1
KM6SO-10	2m	<u>VARA-FM</u>	KM6SO;K7CGE	2
W7MIR-10	2m	<u>VARA-FM</u>	W7VXS;K7CGE	2
K7NWS-10	70cm	<u>VARA-FM</u>	W7VXS;K7CGE	2
KD7WDG	70cm	<u>VARA-FM</u>	N7MMO	1
W7ACS-10	70cm	<u>VARA-FM</u>	W7VXS;K7CGE;W2RDW	3
W7MIR-11	70cm	<u>VARA-FM</u>	N7SSM;K7CGE	2

73,

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## MIRO Current Schedule 2024

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

2024	
Feb 8	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Carl Erickson K7CGE
Feb 15	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Feb 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 14	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Mike Post KJ7FIF
Mar 21	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Mar 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Mar 30	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC: tbd
Apr 11	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Mark Feuerstein N7MMO
Apr 18	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Apr 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 9	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Bob Tykulsker (KM6SO)
May 16	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
May 28	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jun 13	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Toni Okada (W7TDO)
Jun 20	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Jun 25	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Jun 29	Fifth Saturday EOC-EOC: tbd
Jul 11	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Jul 18	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Jul 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Aug 8	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Aug 15	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Aug 27	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Sep 12	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Sep 19	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Sep 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Oct 9	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Oct 16	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Oct 28	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 are some of available opportunities. I highly recommend that our new hams actively participate.

- Daily: 0900: 146.960: - 103.5: PSRG Nine O'clock net
- Daily: 1200: 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: 1900: 146.960: - 103.5: Seattle ACS
- WED: 1930: 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" <https://winlinkwednesday.net/>. Once a week, send a text message. Once a month, send a Winlink form. Option to check in via HF Winlink Peer-To-Peer.