



Mercer Island Radio Operators



## MIRO Newsletter for March 2024

### News and Announcements

#### From the Chair:

Hello MIRO members and friends!

Bob and Woody have been helping me with learning how to post the Net Logs and the recordings of our third Thursday meetings, and I had hoped to finally catch up with that this month and be able to have links to December, January, and February in the March newsletter. Alas, the first week in February I hit a speedbump with some health issues, so it may be another month and some additional re-training before I get everything figured out. Many thanks to Woody and everyone who has stepped in to help me out, and to all of you for your patience with changing our Third Thursday meetings to Zoom only for the near future.

#### Upcoming events of interest

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual MIKE and Key Electronics Show & Swap Meet** – here’s the link:

<https://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php> – March 9, 2024 at the Washington State Fairgrounds Pavilion Exhibition Hall. This is a very interesting event, and you have the opportunity of picking up ham radio equipment under cost. Bob Tykulsker is currently planning to attend. Call him (cell: (206) 605-6214 home: (206) 232-8049) if you would like to car-pool.

#### Training Opportunity

#### **WebEOC – Thursday, March 28th**

## Training Opportunity WebEOC – Thursday, March 28th

- Organized by King County Emergency Management



- Online 10:00 – 11:30



When we have an emergency, WebEOC is used to enter the information about issues that need to be investigated anywhere in the city. One likely scenario is that a MIRO member canvassing their neighborhood after an earthquake finds water pouring from a broken pipe and needs to have MI Utilities respond as quickly as possible. The ham reports the circumstance on the net to the MI EOC Radio Room at MICEC, and someone in the room types the information into WebEOC using the laptop in the radio room. It is then displayed and status updated on the screens in the MI EOC where the key representatives of the various “action” groups (police, fire, utilities, shelter, etc.) are sitting.

MIRO members are, in general, deficient in knowledge about, and the facility of, using WebEOC. This 1.5 hour session on March 28<sup>th</sup> is an opportunity to start changing that condition. Here’s the link: <https://webeoc-2024q1.eventbrite.com> to register and participate.

### Training and Participation Opportunity Eastside Fire & Rescue Fire Corps

- Auxiliary to Eastside Fire & Rescue
- Multiple volunteer opportunities
  - Drone Piloting
  - Firefighter Rehab
  - Backup & Disaster Communications, both at the stations and with COM-181 mobile.
  - Event Medical – Sammamish 4th of July, Tunnel Marathon, Stair Climb for Charity
  - Logistical Support
  - Blood Pressure Clinics
  - Public Education
  - Training and Exercises
- Requires IS-100,200,700,800
- Requires background check and drug tests
- Requires BLS (Basic Life Support) training/certification
- Monthly meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 19:00 in Issaquah)
- Weekly radio nets (Sunday 19:00, 440.250 +123.0)

Eastside Fire & Rescue Fire Corps is a very interesting way to increase your training and skills, all of which are applicable to Mercer Island. For more information send an email to: [firecorpsinfo@esf-r.org](mailto:firecorpsinfo@esf-r.org). Website = <https://www.eastsidefire-rescue.org/>  
For those of you who are not aware, Eastside Fire & Rescue is Mercer Island’s fire department.

## **February 8, 2024 net follow-up**

Bob Tykulsker (KM6SO) was Net Control, and he did his usual superb job. 20 members participated, there were no visitors; 1 announcement was made; and 8 Winlink messages were received. Mike Post (KJ7FIF) is signed up for Net Control on March 14.

## February 15, 2023 General Meeting follow-up

The Zoom Meeting was started on time at 7 PM. We had 20 participants and an excellent presentation by Carl Erickson K7CGE about the radios, power supplies and internet connections at the Water Tower, the nexus of a lot of the radio and Winlink communications initiated by MIRO hams.

Here's a link to the Meeting Follow-up report posted to the MIRO website:

<https://miro.cmivolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/MIRO-Meeting-Follow-up-Feb-15-1.pdf>

## January 2024 Activity Report

Pat reports that 39 members, driving 67.4 miles, gave 68 hours in support of 3 public service events and 8 meetings, drills, and exercises.

## Upcoming MIRO Activities

### Emergency Net, Thursday, March 14th, 7:00 PM.

#### NCS: Mike Post KJ7FIF

Mike Post (KJ7FIF) 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, March 21st, 7:00 PM

The MIRO meeting will be a Zoom only meeting. In April or May, we hope to get back to hybrid meetings by Zoom and in-person at the LDS Church at 4001 Island Crest Way, MI 98040. More details the prior week.

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8656593928?pwd=TIIERIUybDICT2E1Sm1nVUUpaK0JZZz09>

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 February MIRO Winlink exercise, with six participants, was self-directed maintenance of Winlink's Whitelist feature.

### What I (Mark) Learned During Last Month's MIRO Net

While not strictly Winlink related, a simple lesson I relearned during last month's MIRO net is worth sharing. Shortly after I began monitoring our VHF repeater frequency before the net started, I heard Bob, KM6SO, alert stations of an open mic. In the airplane world we called this a stuck mic. I could hear it too, but since I had not touched my microphone, I knew it wasn't me. Well, I was wrong. Shortly after Bob's second call about the open mic, I disconnected my mic. Bob immediately said the problem was fixed.

Huh. Next thing I knew, my radio was also dark, as in unpowered. What's going on I thought? I was happily set to check in on battery power. How hard can this be? I quickly switched to 'shore power' to participate in the net. Afterwards I retrieved my trusty multimeter to start poking around. The battery and its fuses were fine. I attached my 10AWG (fat wire) extension cable to the battery. This cable connects the battery to a fused power pole distribution block organized in a way that makes it easy to switch from shore power to battery. It had continuity. But one of the Anderson Power Pole metal contacts appeared to be almost flat inside its housing at one end of the cable. Flat enough that it was probably only making intermittent contact with its opposite number. It was obvious once I looked. Using a little eye glass screw driver from my desk drawer, I pried/bent the offending contact back into position. Problem solved. I believe my open mic was caused by a faulty power connection that was easy to fix. But I'll have to wait until next month to check in on atomic battery power.

### Preview of next month's exercise

"I Am Safe" message.

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 (Carl Erickson, Pat Hackett, Woody Howse, Mike Sedgwick, and Bob Tykulsker) can help get you started.

Thanks for reading. Mark, N7MMO

73,

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

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Woody Howse, K7EDH, MIRO Chair Emeritus 2023, whowse@me.com

Phone: 206-849-5370

Bob Tykulsker KM6SO, MIRO Chair Emeritus 2022, rtykulsker@gmail.com

Phone: 206-232-8049

## MIRO Current Schedule 2024

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

2024	
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: Ed Fong, Inventor of the tri-bank TBJ-1 antenna
Apr 30	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
May 9	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: Bob Tykulsker (KM6SO)
May 16	MIRO General Meeting: Pat Hackett's Tower saga and MI Emergency Preparedness Day preparations
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
Nov 14	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Nov 21	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Nov 26	Last Tuesday Working Meeting
Dec 12	Emergency Net Practice: NCS: tbd
Dec 19	MIRO General Meeting: tbd
Dec 31	Last Tuesday – HAPPY NEW YEAR (no 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.