

MERCURY NORTHWEST CHAPTER AND CLUB STRUCTURE

- I. As part of its franchise Mercury Northwest (abbreviated MNW) will be the coordinating organization for Chapters and Affiliated Clubs in the Northwest.
 - A. Local organizations may connect with MNW by either of two organizational means: Mercury Northwest Chapter, or Affiliated Club.
 - B. Affiliated Clubs are those organizations which have their own set of bylaws, officers, elections, treasuries, and equipment/insurance programs (if desired). An affiliated club makes its own organizational rules and affiliates with MNW for the purpose of participating in area nets, training programs, or use of network infrastructure owned by Mercury Northwest. Affiliates designate a representative to be the liaison with MNW as a non-voting member of the Executive Board, but govern themselves with their own slate of officers.
 - C. Mercury Northwest Chapters are those entities established and authorized by the MNW Executive Board to use the Mercury Northwest name, logo, website, and other resources as a part of an area-wide organization governed by the Mercury Northwest Bylaws and Executive Board. MNW Chapter members have direct access to MNW resources, voting rights, insurance programs, and other benefits.
- II. Following are the minimum criteria to become and remain a recognized Mercury Northwest Chapter:
 - A. Have at least five Voting Members.
 - B. Operate or directly participate in a local net on amateur radio at least once each month and report net activity to the Mercury Northwest Nets Manager. Local net structures need not coincide exactly with Chapter boundaries, or be led by MNW members to qualify. For example, a local MNW Chapter may utilize an independent net with a philosophy consistent with Mercury Northwest objectives as its communication tool, reporting checkins to that net to meet this requirement. It is permissible for two or more MNW Chapters to consider the same local net as meeting this requirement.
 - C. Have a designated liaison representative check into the prescribed MNW nets at least once each month. Such nets will normally be HF nets but may be substituted for by internet checkins as authorized by resolution of the MNW Executive Board.
 - D. Provide quarterly reports of Chapter activity to MNW via e-mail or formal amateur radio message to the Networks Manager.
 - E. The Voting Members within the Chapter shall elect one of its Voting Members to be the Chapter Representative to the Board. The Executive Board shall have the power to appoint a Chapter member to serve as Chapter Representative should the need arise. The Chapter Representative shall participate as a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

- F. Provide an annual petition to the MNW Executive Board documenting that they meet the criteria outlined above and in the following Chapter Structure.

III. Chapter Structure:

- A. A new Chapter may be created from an existing Chapter by a two-thirds majority vote of Voting Members in the proposed new Chapter boundaries. At least five Voting Members must remain in the previously existing Chapter before a new Chapter can be formed.
- B. Anyone who chooses to participate in Chapter activities is considered a Participating Member. A Voting Member is a Participating Member who is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and is current in their dues to MNW. All Mercury Northwest Officers and Chapter leadership must be Voting Members.
- C. Only Voting Members have voting rights regarding issues that may affect the operation of MNW including (but not limited to) the election of the Chapter Representative or ratification / modification of Bylaws, or approval of major budgets or initiatives as referred for member vote by the Executive Board.
- D. The Chapter organization will be determined by its Voting Members, provided one member is designated the Chapter Director Representative. The Chapter Representative (to MNW) does not necessarily have to be the highest leadership position in the operation of the Chapter.
- E. The primary objective of the Chapter will be to meet often to provide training and opportunities for fellowship between its members.
- F. Up to one half of the dues paid to Mercury Northwest will be made available to the Chapters for local use. The MNW Treasurer will disburse the funds upon receipt of a voucher signed by the Chapter Representative. Chapters may raise additional funds from donations or fund-raising events, but may not assess additional dues as a requirement of membership.
- G. All Chapter funds are to be kept in the Mercury Northwest account. The MNW Treasurer will maintain individual ledger accounts for each Chapter.

This version of the Mercury Northwest Chapter and Club Structure was adopted by Resolution of the Executive Board, in accordance to the Bylaws on January 3, 2009.