

K7LED Relay

Volume 44, Issue 10

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

October 2016

October Begins Prep for Fleamarket

By Gary Bryan KG7KU, President

Early planning is underway for the M&K Flea Market, slated for March 11, 2017. There is need for Members to help Chair various positions, as well as serve as Back-ups. Consider your part in this important event of the Club.

Our November M&K General Membership Meeting will have a temporary – November 19 only—relocation: St Andrews Masonic Lodge in Renton. The Salvation Army Center expresses their sincere apologies for the inconvenience, as they have an event scheduled that same day. Thanks for making this arrangement, Tom Helm AF7ZH! Address: [505 Williams Ave S, Renton, WA 98057](#). This is about a mile South on Williams Ave, from our normal meeting location on Tobin. The December 17th General Membership Meeting location will be at the Salvation Army Center... back to normal.

If you have been curious what the M&K Board Meetings are like, you are invited! Anyone can sit in and observe the order of Business which makes decisions on your behalf. Perhaps a good time to join in is during this year's preparation of the M&K Budget. Meetings are held first Tuesday of each month at the Salvation Army Center in Renton. Next one is November 1, 7:15pm.

Remember to set aside time on your calendars to support the AMICA Seattle Marathon, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016. See you at the October 15th at the General Membership Meeting!...at the Salvation Army Center in Renton

**Crossing the
Columbia
for the
Salmon Run
(2014)**



Celebrate our October Members

By Laura Bendit, KF7ELG, Treasurer

As of October 2016, these folks have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thanks for your participation and service.

Happy Anniversary this month!

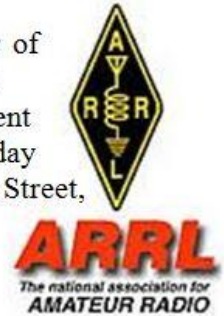
Pete Hedberg	K7WTG	46*
Charles Stroehrer	WA7EBH	46*
Jim Christiansen	K7ND	44*
Prahlad Ayengar	KB7AFS	29*
Diane Dinkelman	KB7DNE	24
Brenda Doss	No Call	20
Rita Danielson	KD7CNU	18
David Mitchell	WA7DTM	16
Greg Pietrucha	W7HRC	16
William Harris	W7KXB	11
Toku Okumura	AD7JA	10
Ted VanTuyl	N7HKL	7
Curtiss E. Hedges	KF7LZG	6
Marshall McKinney	KF7EHA	6
Aaron Täht	N7FSM	5
Kathryn Antonetti	KG7RTR	1
Jill Dawson	KG7VRS	1
Vincent Lascaux	AF7TJ	1

* Life Member, having been with the club 25 years or more

Each of you makes us who we are.



The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. The Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur Radio. The Club meets at 10AM on the third Saturday of each month at the Salvation Army Headquarters, 720 S. Tobin Street, in Renton (near the southeast corner of Renton Airport). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to participate in the Mike & Key ARC and its activities. Annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for families.



Postal Address:
P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

Web Site:
www.mikeandkey.org

Send dues to:
Mike & Key ARC
P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

K7LED Repeaters:
146.82 output / 146.22 input
(PL 103.5)Tiger Mountain

Email:
info @ mikeandkey.org

Send newsletter submissions to:
Michael Dinkelman, *Relay* Editor
n7wa @ arrl.net
253-631-3756

224.120 output / 222.520 input
(PL 103.5)Tiger Mountain

Reflector:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mkarc>

Club Contacts

President	Gary Bryan	KG7KU	kg7ku @ arrl.net	253-279-3949
Vice President	David Smith	KB7PSN	kb7psn @ yahoo.com	425-235-5095
Secretary	Phillip Pia	K7PIA	k7pia@yahoo.com	253-307-4781
Treasurer	Laura Bendit	KF7ELG	lauramikeandkey@outlook.com	206-242-8114
Activity Manager	Steve Cook	KD7IQL	kd7iql@gmail.com	253-236-4205
Radio Officer	Hal Goodell	N7NW	n7nw.hal @ comcast.net	253-549-4178

Trustees

No. 1 –	Jim Monson	K7JGM	jgmonson @ earthlink.net	206-245-8485
No. 2 –	Steve Marth	WB7AAV	marthnet@msn.com	206-915-2205
No. 3 –	David Yarbrough	WA7DY	wa7dy@arrl.net	425-445-2792
No. 4 –	Tom Helm	AF7ZH	thomas.c.helm1051@gmail.com	206-307-6025
No. 5 –	Peter Glaskowsky	K4PNG	png-mk@ideaphile.com	425-615-8700

Committees

VE Testing	Scott Robinson	AG7T	ag7t @ arrl.net	425-788-0452
Membership	Monica Cook	KF7QLX	mikeandkeymembers@gmail.com	
Logo	Jim Aigner	N7MU	jimaigner @ comcast.net	253-630-2752
Club Library	'Toku' Okumura	AD7JA	ad7ja@msn.com	206-772-2450
Webmaster	Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT	kd7bat@arrl.net	425-788-7887
Public Service	Robert Grinnell	KD7WNV	kd7wnv@arrl.net	425-398-1466

Mike & Key Online –The following Club resources are available:

On the Web – The Club's site at www.mikeandkey.org includes extensive information about Club activities and events, such as: VE testing, membership, past editions of the Relay and more.

Reflector – The Club's public message board offers an easy and free way to converse with Club members. To sign up, visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mkarc> .

E-Relay – Help the Club save on printing and postage, send Email to the *Relay* Editor: n7wa @ arrl.net.

Membership Committee Report

by Rita Danielson KD7CNU

The summer is now a bittersweet memory and the Membership Committee is back full swing. We held our September meeting on the 24th at the Martin's home. We discussed the Awards Banquet and Holiday event.

For the Holiday Event, we would like feedback from the membership. Would you rather have a separate event or luncheon following our December meeting? We would also like some more volunteers to help plan this.

As for the Awards Banquet, we are wanting to make it an evening you will totally enjoy. We are going for a theme this year. Reflections. We are planning on having live music and we will be at the Elks Club in Burien again this year. The date we are looking at is Saturday, April 8. That's all we have for now. Intrigued? Please make plans to attend. I know it's a ways off, but good events need a lot of planning. If you would like to help with the banquet, please come to our committee meetings.

We will hold our next Membership Committee meeting at the Renton library following the October 15th general meeting and program. We would like a representative or two from the Awards Committee to join us.

Those attending the September meeting:
Dave Smith--KB7PSN Steve Marth--WB7AAV
Kathy Martin--KB7QMO Ric Danielson--K7RIC
Rita Danielson--KD7CNU Laura Bendit--KF7ELG

M&K Club – October Activities

by Steve Cook, KD7IQL, Activities Manager

We are getting close to the end of the year there are 2 months to get tickets in for the year end drawing. We are very close to getting a Elecraft KX3.

Following this month's October 15th General Membership meeting, we will have a show and tell by Jim Monson (K7JGM). Bring your go bag for the October General Meeting for a "Show and Tell". This is a great opportunity to share ideas. This will provide an overview of go bags and what some people put in their Go Bag.

M&K Club – October Door Prizes

by Steve Cook, KD7IQL, Activities Manager

This month's prizes include the following:

- Staple Gun
- 16 Pc Screwdriver
- Storage container
- V shape hanger
- Jumbo Hook
- Cat 5 crimping Tool
- And other items

Salmon Run JA style

The Salmon Run is popular around the world. Club member Atsushi JR1NKN/W7KN participated in the 2016 Salmon Run from Japan using the JA1YNE Club Station and produced this very nice picture titled **Chasing Salmon**. You can even make out the details of the log.



Atsushi managed 64 contacts with Washington stations which is pretty good considering the state of propagation and the time frames involved which don't favor Japan very much. I know that when I (N7WA) worked him, it was almost a whisper of a signal at times (which is why CW is king).



**New Club Member
John Guinn N5IBU**



**New Club Member
Ron Standley WR7ON**

Harold Reed, K7JGM
By Jim Monson, K7JGM

Callsign history can be fun. I was originally licensed KD7HLJ in 1999 and in 2013 I decided to get a vanity callsign. Anything ending with JGM would have been fine business and all prefixes except K7 were taken so I became K7JGM.

I did a Google search for K7JGM and found it belonged to a Harold (Hal) Reed. He was into RTTY and the Indy 500. Here is a link RTTY image that is associated with him: indy500.pix - RTTY

Open the link with Notepad, it's pretty cool! A few weeks ago I was playing with WSPR, Weak Signal Propagation Report Network, and I received the following email from Bob Satterley, K7POF:



Bob Satterley, K7POF

“Jim: Thanks for the report on WSPR. Here is a picture of a QSL Card that I received Years ago. At that time I was W6BTV. My late wife and I visited Hal one time when we were in the NW.” 73 Bob K7POF/W6BTV



I was very surprised by Bob’s email... small world surprised. Hal’s QSL card is a very “Vintage”, quasi “Art Deco” style card so it appealed to me immediately.

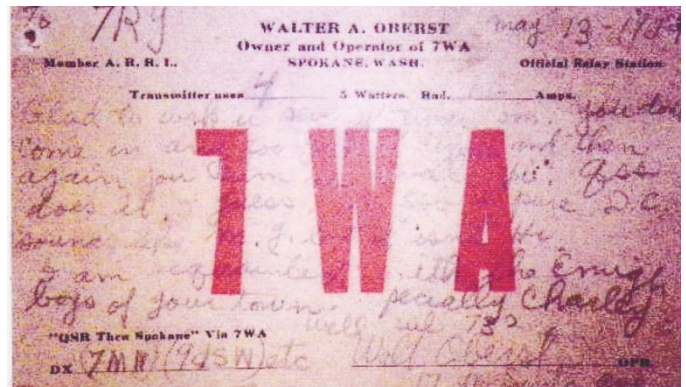
As a tribute to Hal Reed, K7JGM and because I like the card design, I have decided to re do my QSL card:



Mine is still in the works. It does not have the “vintage charm” of Hal’s card but it is getting there.

Vintage N7WA

Jim’s article prompted me to drag out some history of my callsign ... well almost. When I got N7WA, it was a first time issue when the first vanity gate opened up in 1996. So, I'm an original (in a variety of ways). However, Danny K7SS, who collects vintage cards ran across the following a few years ago and sent a scan of it to me, W7WA, and K7WA.

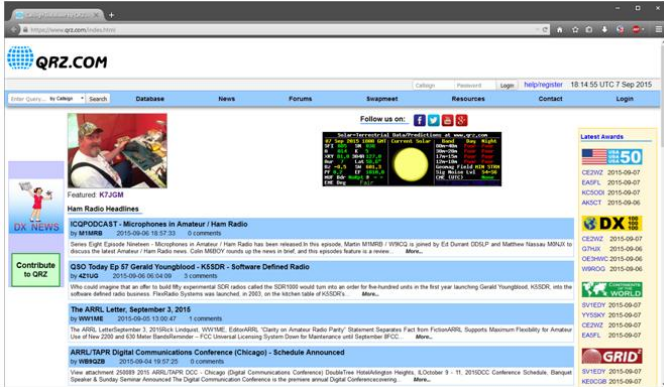


It’s pretty hard to make out, but the call owner was a Walter Oberst in Spokane and he was confirming a QSO with 7RY on May 13th 1927. He was running 45 watts and was a proud member of the ARRL as well as an Official Relay Station. He even listed some of his best DX (9DSW, probably in the mid-west)

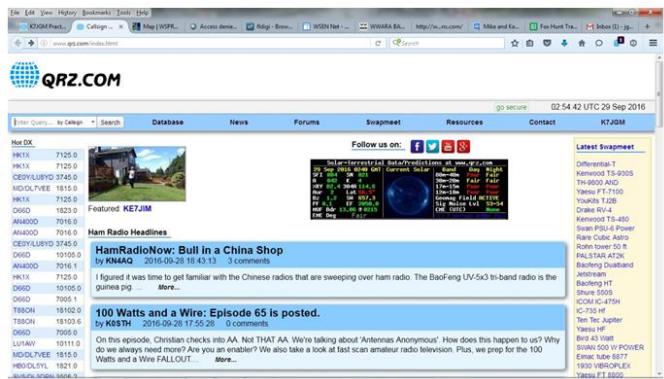
Call sign prefixes went into effect in 1928. US possessions and territories would get **K** and the continental Hams would get **W**. So, most likely, Walter became W7WA sometime in 1928.

Caught on QRZ
Jim, K7JGM

A short while ago my friend Dustin, KF7FK caught me on QRZ:



A few weeks ago I caught Jim, KE7JIM on QRZ:



Might be fun to see who else we can catch! If you do catch a Mike and Key member press the "print screen" key (PC only, no clue on Mac), open "Paint", click on "Paste" on or near the clipboard then save as a .jpg. The bitmap in paint is a HUMONGONGOUS file; converting it to a .jpg makes it more manageable.

Keep an eye out on QRZ for Mike and Key members!

Training
Daniel Stevens KL7WM

All the 36 students in the September Technician class passed and two also pass the General test. That brings the total new hams to 203 this year. With those who passed several test at one session, we have 175 New Technicians, 75 Generals and 22 Extras.

There is a Technician class on November 12th and 19th, 2016 in Ballard and another Technician class on December 3rd and 10th, 2106 in Issaquah.

The Extra training slides have been updated to reflect the new questions, but still need illustrations added to the 140 new questions. An Extra class may be scheduled after the first of the year.

Maria Somma, AB1FM, Chief of ARRLVEC, said that the ham growth is ahead of last year by 6% in the first 4 months. We should see 32,000 new amateurs in 2016.

Three Book Reviews
Michael, N7WA

I don't usually read too many books related to Ham Radio in any given time frame but this summer has seen me go through three. In order...

Contact Sport by Jim George N3BB

This book is about the World Radio Team Championships (WRTC) held in 2014 in Massachusetts. Jim was not a participant but he was a volunteer driver which enabled him to observe several team/sites and get a first-hand look at the behind-the-scenes workings of the WRTC. I have a deep interest in the WRTC (the concept was born in Seattle in 1990) due to being a contesters. These are my peers. I enjoyed the book but it's not an exciting nor fast paced story. (After all, it's about a Ham Radio contest.) It was interesting to read about the issues going on in the background with logistics (like getting lost) and equipment. I probably had higher expectations as a contester but the book has generally received good reviews. I'm not sure a non-Ham would get too much out of it. (three and a half stars out five.) Lots of B/W photos. I would have given this up to the Club Library but I purchased it as a Kindle edition. Maybe it could go on the future purchase list for the Club Library.

200 Meters and Down by Clinton DeSoto

After my trip to the Spark Museum in Bellingham, I was looking for more information on the early days of Ham Radio. We didn't have this book in the Club Library but Toku got one in soon after I had inquired (I was going to buy my own).

This book deals with the history of Ham Radio from the 1900's to the mid-1930's (when it was published). Be forewarned, the style of writing is from that era and I found it was something I had to get used to. It's also written more as a historic treatise than a more informal style and there is a fair amount of repetition. That said, if you want a detailed description of

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what Ham Radio was like in the early years and how the ARRL got its start, it's a worthwhile read. Just don't expect to be too entertained... this is a teaching book. (three stars out of five)

A Year of DX by Bob Locher W9KNI

Old timers will recognize Bob as the author of *The Complete DX'er*, a must-read for any new DX'er. (I read it decades ago.) This book, published in 2010 describes Bob's entry into a year-long competition... the CQ DX Marathon. The goal of this competition is to work the most number of unique DX entities between January 1 and December 31 (UTC). It's a world-wide competition.

Bob now lives in southern Oregon so his issues with propagation match my own. The book is divided into 12 monthly chapters as well as chapters on general topics of interest to DX'ers. The book can be repetitious and, as an old-timer, much of the information is not new to me. Still Bob is a good story teller. I won this (signed) book at the DX Convention so I'll donate it to the Club Library. It won't cost you anything to give it a read. (three and a half stars out of five)

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting – September 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by the President, Gary Bryan KG7KU. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members and Guests were introduced. The Mike & Key ARC is affiliated with the ARRL; members are encouraged to join. Everyone - including visitors - should sign the rosters. Visitors are reminded not to vote on membership matters.

Officer Reports:

President - Gary Bryan KG7KU: Nothing to report.

Secretary - Phillip Pia K7PIA: Ivy WA7IVY is filling in for Phillip this month as secretary, and there is no report.

Treasurer - Laura Bendit KF7ELG: Kathy KB7QMO is filling in for Laura this month. The books are in order.

Activity Manager - Steve Cook KD7IQL: Monica KF7QLX is filling in for Steve this month. There is no program this month.

Vice President – Dave Smith KB7PSN: A quorum is present. Dave presented several longevity certificates: Sam N7RHE 25 years, Scott KC7UOC 5 years. Dave also reported about our new online membership application. Our first submission was made yesterday.

Minutes: Peter K4PNG moved to accept the minutes as published in the Relay; Christopher AE7XQ seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Member candidates, John Guinn N5IBU, Ron Standley WR7ON, were voted into membership.

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Chairman of the Board - David Yarbrough WA7DY: Not present.

Radio Officer - Hal Goodell N7NW: The 220 repeater will be going up on Tiger Mountain probably tomorrow; still having issues with the repeater losing its sensitivity. We still have our gremlin on 2 meters; do not speak to this person – it is illegal for you to talk to him, and you can be fined – and we will shut off the repeater if this occurs. Do not reply on social media. The issues is being worked on by our club and others.

Relay Editor – Mike Dinkelman N7WA: Not present

Webmaster - Jim Etwiler KD7BAT: Not present.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Steve Marth WB7AAV (liaison) / Rita Danielson KD7CNU: The next meeting will be September 24th, at Kathy KB7QMO's house at 1:30 pm. New members are encouraged to attend.

Facilities and Publicity - Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG (liaison) / Daniel KL7WM. The November meeting location will not be at the Salvation Army, and we are working on a new location for that meeting only.

Education and Training - Jim Monson K7JGM: not present.

Public Service - Tom Helm AF7ZH (liaison) / Robert Grinnell KD7WNV: Tom mentioned that we need help with several upcoming public service events.

Technical and Special Interest - David Yarborough WA7DY: Not present.

VE Exams - Scott Robinson AG7T: Six examinees were present at last month's VE session. Three Technician, two General, and one Extra class exams were passed. This month's VE session will be taking place today at the Salvation Army Building at 12:30 pm. Gary thanked those who are VE examiners for the club.

Flea Market - Hal Goodell N7NW/Mike N7WA: The first meeting for next year's Flea Market is in on the second Tuesday in October at 7:15 pm at Mike's home. Dale AC7NP will not be able to be the country store chairperson this year; if you are interested speak to Dale, Hal or Mike.

Field Day - Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY: The VP will be reserving the Wagon Wheel on Monday.

Logo Committee - Jim N7MU: Not present.

Awards Committee – Toku AD7JA, George AE7G, Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report. If you note someone who has gone above and beyond in service of the club, let the committee know.

Summer Picnic - Hal N7NW: not present. We had a great time at last month's picnic. The VP will be making the reservation at the beginning of the year.

Old Business: None

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New Business: None

Alligator Award: Jim K7JGM still retains the award.

For the Good of the Order:

Dave KB7PSN reported that W7DK will be having their 100th anniversary in Tacoma. Everyone is invited. Oct 16, 2pm at the Scottish Rite Temple.

Christopher AE7XQ reports that the Pierce county ARES will be having a SET exercise on October 1st.

Michelle WB7AYU mentioned about what the Salmon Run is and that many of our members are out and about trying to get contacts from each county this weekend.

Closing:

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is on the third Saturday of the month – October 15th at 10:00 am at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

The next Mike and Key Board meeting will be on October 4th at 7:15 pm at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

Jim KE7JIM made a motion to close the meeting and was seconded by Scott AG7T; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Guests: 5; Members: 39; ARRL Members: 35; note: 2 guest became members

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves, WA7IVY, Acting for the Secretary.

**Mike and Key ARC Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 at 7:15 pm
Salvation Army Building, Renton, WA**

Officers:

(X) President	Gary Bryan	KG7KU
(X) Vice President	Dave Smith	KB7PSN
(X) Secretary	Phillip Pia	K7PIA
(X) Treasurer	Laura Bendit	KF7ELG
(X) Activities Manager	Steve Cook	KD7IQL
(X) Radio Officer	Hal Goodell	N7NW

Trustees:

(X) No. 1	Jim Monson	K7JGM
(X) No. 2	Steve Marth	WB7AAV
(X) No. 3	David Yarbrough	WA7DY
(X) No. 4	Tom Helm	AF7ZH
(X) No. 5	Peter Glaskowsky	K4PNG

Editors:

() Relay Editor	Michael Dinkelman	N7WA
() Webmaster	Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT

Visitors:

Michael Hansen KG7MX

Opening:

The Chairman of the Board David Yarbrough WA7DY called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG moved to approve the minutes as published; Jim Monson K7JGM seconded. The motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board - David Yarbrough WA7DY: Nothing to report.

President - Gary Bryan KG7KU: Nothing to report.

Vice President - Dave Smith KB7PSN: One membership application was received: Raymond Montelius KG7WNB. The Board approved the application.

Secretary - Phillip Pia K7PIA: He regrets to inform the Board that he will most likely be working overtime at work, and will not be able to make it to this month's General Meeting. David WA7DY will take his place.

Treasurer - Laura Bendit KF7ELG: The Budget was distributed to Board members today via email. Discussion of the 2017 budget will take place at the November Board Meeting, with final approval coming in December. The yearly ARRL donation was brought up; this will be further discussed next month. The donation to the Lake Chelan Radio Club was confirmed via telephone. The quarterly rental/donation payment for the meeting hall at the Salvation Army will be made this month (\$300 this quarter, as \$50 will go toward November's General Meeting at the Masonic Lodge). In November, the yearly P.O. Box rental will be paid. Next year's insurance premium, WWARA (repeater coordination) membership renewal, and website fees will be paid in December.

Activities Manager - Steve Cook KD7IQL: The last Raffle went well. We are looking at buying an Elecraft KX2 or KX3 for the grand prize drawing; a donated six meter antenna will also be offered. The program for this month - focusing on go-kits - will be presented by Jim K7JGM.

Radio Officer - Hal Goodell N7NW: The 220 repeater is back up and working great. The repeater jammer is still being a problem; the repeater has had to be turned off for long periods of time due to his nuisance. RDF efforts to locate his signal will be taking place in the near future.

Relay Editor - Mike Dinkelman N7WA: Not present.

Webmaster - Jim Etwiler KD7BAT: Not present.

Committee Reports:

Education & Training - Jim Monson K7JGM: Daniel Stevens KL7WM sent out an email report mentioning that 36 new hams were licensed in the September class, with 34 earning the Technician Class license and 2 passing the both Tech and General exams, bringing the new ham total to 203 for this year. Technician classes will be taking place in November (in Ballard) and December (in Issaquah), with an Extra Class in the works.

Membership – Steve Marth WB7AAV: There was a meeting last month on the 24th. Among the items discussed were Christmas party pre-planning (possibly separate from the December meeting this year?), and the new online membership application. Also discussed was the pre-planning for the Awards Banquet next year; topics included the date of the banquet (April 8th), banquet entertainment and

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decorations, door prizes, the possibility of more awards, and whether the dinner format should be buffet-style or a sit-down service. Next meeting will be at the Renton Library after this month's General Meeting.

Technical – David Yarbrough WA7DY: The Technical Net continues on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm on the Club 2m repeater. There has been light attendance the last couple of weeks; if you have any sort of technical question or topic of interest to discuss, then don't hesitate to check in (if even to say "hello").

Public Service - Tom Helm AF7ZH: Be sure to take a look at the Booklet for the latest info on Public Service events and contact information; four events are left on the calendar for this year.

Facilities – Peter K4PNG: There was an inquiry as to the status of the November General Meeting location; Tom Helm AF7ZH reported that it will be held at the St Andrew's Masonic Lodge in Renton, as it has been successfully reserved.

Field Day - Ivy WA7IVY: Not present.

Flea Market - Mike Dinkelman N7WA: Not present; the first meeting for next year's event will be held at his house next week.

Old Business:

- Hal N7NW: He reported that Mike Dinkelman N7WA found a big box of K7LED QSL cards; thus, there is no need to order more cards at this time.

New Business:

- Hal N7NW: He requests permission to borrow the projector this weekend for a conference; the Board approves.

Good of the Order:

- Laura KF7ELG: Coupons from her work (Captain's Supplies in Ballard) were passed out to all interested folks.

Closing:

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday November 1st at 7:15 pm at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

Peter K4PNG moved to adjourn the meeting; Jim K7JGM seconded. The motion passed.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Attested: Phillip E. Pia K7PIA - Secretary.

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November Meeting

Not only will the November meeting be at a different location, it is the meeting where we stuff and label the Flea Market Flyers - 11,000 in all if we can do it.

Come one, come all.

Salmon Run 2016 - N7WA/M

The preparation for this Salmon Run started right after I got home from the 7QP in May. The first thing I did was ask Scott AG7T, the owner of the KX3/KXPA100 I had borrowed, if he was willing to sell. I got a solid no. Then, I had to decide between a KX2 (which had just been announced) and my own KX3. I was still in the throes of making that decision, on the verge of going to SEAPAC to look at one, when a KX3 came up on Eham that was too good a deal to pass up. Alas, the KXPA100 also offered was already sold but I was half way to my goal. I played with the KX3 QRP style until August when I couldn't wait any longer and finally ordered one from Elecraft. (Since then, used ones have popped up all over... sigh!)

Those who read my 7QP article will remember the heat issue I had, so I built a cooling fan for the KXPA100 using two 12V muffin fans I could drive at 6V or 12V (low and high speed). They are very quiet on low speed and sit right on the amp's cooling fins. I also decided it was time to get a separate (sealed) battery and a device to charge it. Finally, the KXPA100 really likes 13.8 volts or higher so I got a boost regulator. I'm really glad I have the Access cab for the Tacoma - I need all that room behind the seats. Completing the setup was a spare bug-catcher antenna to complement my Hi-Q. With two antennas, I figured I would be switching back and forth between 40M and 20M.

Last year, I went solo but Jim, K7ND volunteered to drive again this year. Jim doesn't want to operate and just enjoys the trip. My plan was to activate all 20 counties in eastern Washington. Usually, we have to skip one but I have finally figured out a route that makes it possible. It does involve some backtracking and skipping most of Spokane and Whitman but those are well populated counties anyway. My main concern was propagation - would it be a bust this year?

This test starts at 9AM. We left Kent at 6AM on a wet morning; stopping at Cle Elum for breakfast. We would start just short of the county line at Blewitt pass to activate Kittitas. It didn't start well. After 20 minutes, there were only 6 Q's in the log when we started through Chelan county. Getting out of the hills, things slowly

improved. Still, signals were weak and when a couple Europeans checked in. It was tough in the noisy environment of Wenatchee. As we crossed into Douglas, we had another 20Q's in the log and things continued to improve. Maybe this wouldn't be so bad after all. The trip across Douglas is about an hour but once you are up on the plateau it's a quiet drive. The long stretch allowed me to put in another 40+ Q's but we were now entering Grant County which is problematic on the route I had chosen.

We were going up Banks Lake towards the Grand Coulee dam. This puts us right along the Coulee walls that line the road. My rate dropped to nearly zero until we reached Electric City and boom..., I was talking to people again. We stopped at the Safeway for provisions and then found a quiet location where I could make up some Q's before crossing the river into Okanogan. We headed north to Nespelum on the Colville reservation before turning east again. We only netted 16 Q's in that county.

Ferry County is another long trip through a mountainous pass. Because this was a rainy weekend, we actually ended up in the clouds before dropping down to the Columbia and the Inchelum/Gifford ferry. I always enjoy that crossing and marvel at the difference in the water levels between Spring and Fall. I had been telling Jim K7ND about my near collision with a turkey in Inchelum in 2015. I don't think we had gone more than 5 miles into Stevens County before we nearly had the main course for this year's Thanksgiving dinner. We ended up encountering several turkey flocks as we went through Stevens County. It was hard concentrating on the computer instead of watching the road for wayward fowl.

We continued through to Pend Oreille then finally south towards Spokane. Spokane has been an issue for me in the past. It takes a long time to get through and isn't the rarest of counties. This year, we cut through just the northwest corner of Spokane, backtracking into Stevens, and then dropping into Lincoln for a long drive south towards I-5. It worked out well and we got to spend a fair amount of time in Lincoln as opposed to years in the past. When we hit I-5, we headed west towards a setting sun and a meal and bed in Ritzville. After getting settled at the motel, I left Jim at the room and headed out for a quiet spot to do some 80M work. I would have liked a county line but they were too far away so I just went a couple miles out of town and parked beside the road. It was quiet and it was DARK.

Remember that cooling fan? I had no issues with heat all day. In fact, I was starting to wonder if I even needed that fan. However, out there in the dark, I sort-of forgot to turn it on. I was 10 Q's into the middle of my 80M run when the sending stopped. At first, I thought

I had locked up the computer by being on 80M. I was just about ready to reboot it when I looked over at the radio... HIGH TEMP FAULT. Arghh!!! I turned on the fan, reset the radio, and watched the temperature drop like a rock even on slow speed. When I was done, I had put over 30 Q's on 80M in the log for Adams. I went back to the motel and dropped off to sleep quickly.

The original plan had been to start out Sunday morning about 8:30 and continue working Adams halfway to Whitman. Instead, I decided that we had worked Adams well enough and we should start off on the Whitman line at 9AM. That would make it easier to make our goal of hitting all 20 counties. In the past we would go all the way through Whitman to Asotin before working back westward. It's a long trip for a not-so-rare county. This time we headed straight to Garfield, then to Asotin, then back tracked through Garfield to Columbia County. Garfield is a tougher county to work as the route travels along hills and canyons. When done we had 20 Whitman Q's, 40 in Garfield, over 30 in Asotin, and over 20 in Columbia when we stopped for lunch.

We hit Walla Walla about 1PM local and we only had 4 hours to do the next 5 counties. We stopped in a quiet park in Franklin because you can zip through that county in 15 minutes. Then it was on through Benton, climbing up into the Horse Heaven Hills towards a corner of Klickitat where we sat in a vineyard for 30 minutes. Finally, we headed home through Yakima with only 15 minutes left on the clock.

Everything worked like a charm (except for forgetting to turn on the fan once). Propagation was better than expected and I actually saw rain in eastern Washington for the first time. Europe and Japan (usually Atsushi at JA1YNE) were surprises though usually as ESP QSO's. We had some stations follow us around for dozens of contacts. I tried 15M a number of times but only managed 6 contacts. When I got them on 15M, they were strong. I think there were more possibilities for 15M if others had gotten on. Being able to swap antennas back and forth quickly was a joy.

Salmon Run is a lot of fun at home or on the road. Give it a try someday.

Fleamarket Cometh

The first meeting of the Fleamarket Committee shall be October 11th at 7:15PM at the Dinkelman Household. All are welcome. If you are interested contact me at n7wa@arrl.net or just come. Phone 253 631 3756.

Pacific Northwest Hamfairs & Events

Source: PNW Hamfair webpage at <http://www.n7cfo.com/hamradio/hf/hf.htm>.
(Used with Permission)

Link: [The Pacific Northwest Hamfair and Events Calendar](#)

Also: [Western Washington Amateur Radio Licensing Classes, Training Classes and Examination Sessions](#)

October 7th & 8th. 2016 PNWVHFS conference, Bend, OR Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference.
<http://www.pnwvhfs.org/conference/2016/announcement.html>

October 8. Kitsap County Hamfest <http://www.kcarc.org/>

October 15. Swap-Tober-Fest. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR www.swaptoberfest.net

October 22. Stevensville Hamfest. Stevensville, MT. Contact Argus W8QMD <mailto:ab39013@gmail.com> for information.

November 6. Maple Ridge Swap Meet. Pitt Meadows, BC. <http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php>

November 20. CVRS Antique Radio Swapmeet. Burnaby, BC. <http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php>

Calendar OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 (October) Bigfoot 120 Endurance Race KD7WNV	10	11 2017 Fleamarket Kickoff Meeting 7:15PM	12	13	14	15 <i>10:00-M&K Club Mtg</i> 12:30- M&K Ham Radio Exams Contact: Scott— ag7t@arrl.net [Salvation Army- Renton]
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>CQWW SSB</i>	29 <i>CQWW SSB</i> www.cqww.com/rules.htm
30 <i>CQWW SSB</i>	31 BOO!	1 (November) <i>7PM-M&K Board Mtg</i> [Salvation Army- Renton]	2	3	4	5 Veterans Day Parade Auburn - N7QLT <i>ARRL Sweepstakes, CW</i> http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
6 <i>ARRL Sweepstakes, CW</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>10:00-M&K Club Mtg</i> 12:30- M&K Ham Radio Exams Contact: Scott— ag7t@arrl.net [St Andrews Masonic Hall- Renton] <i>ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB</i> http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Contact: N7QLT, hamsignup@seafairparademarshals.org
 Contact: W7VSF, vickie_fontaine@outlook.com
 Contact: KD7WNV, kd7wnv@arrl.net

Contact: AE7MK, ham_support@kozmafamilly.net
 Contact: KD7NPT, toddkpr@gmail.com
 Contact: N7FWZ, w7aka@comcast.net