



A tale of two weeks — two lousy ones

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

President

Maybe a better headline to this story of woe should be “How *not* to spend your Indian Summer.” But, I get ahead of myself. You can decide as you read.

One of the goals and joys of my summer was procuring a 2-element 40-meter beam to put on top of my tower. With the sunspots winding down, I want some gain on 40M to keep the contesting fun over the next few years.

I got my antenna (used but serviceable) in June and spent a good part of the summer tearing everything off the tower, rebuilding antennas, and laying new coax and control cables. I even dragooned a couple of friends (N7ZG and KA7CSE) into spending a few weekends and a lot of sweat helping tram those antennas down and back up again.

Alas, by September, it was done—the 40M beam going up first to sit at 100 feet and the big tribander sitting just below

All about antennas

For the October meeting, Scott AG7T will present some Field Day antennas for 75 and 80 meters and their models.

Scott expects to cover a family of “controlled current distribution” dipoles, a cage dipole and, if time permits, a 2-element Bat Wing Yagi, and perhaps a delta loop or two.

EZNec+ 4 and 4NEC2 will be used to model the antennas. Both experienced and aspiring antenna modelers will take away some new techniques to apply.

Programs & Activities

Back by popular demand: soldering PL-259s

There has been a request for an encore presentation of the PL-259 soldering class, so we will have one before the October meeting.

Class will start at the head table around 9:20 A.M. I'll have some coax, connectors and hot iron. Bring your questions and your own tips and tricks.

See you there.

at 90 feet.

The 40M SWR didn't seem quite as good as when it was down at 40 feet, but we had knocked off a capacity hat wire on the tram up so I figured that was the reason. Certainly, it was nothing the radio's internal tuner couldn't handle. All seemed great working the CW Sprint in

the first week of September.

Guy N7ZG wanted to use the station for the Salmon Run a couple of weeks later. Sure! No problem at all. He was doing pretty well until he tried to get on 40M. Uh, oh! SWR off the scale. Hmm, that's weird.

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The Inside Story

Cub Scouts get an earful on our hobby of talking on the radio.

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Ticket chairperson still needed for the 2005 Flea Market.

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Mike & Key joins BEARS to sponsor a two-day Tech class.

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The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of amateur radio.

The club meets at 10 A.M. the third Saturday of every month at 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

K7LED Repeaters

146.82 output / 146.22 input (PL 103.5)
Squak Mountain

224.120 output / 222.520 input (PL 103.5)
Tiger Mountain

Web Site

www.mikeandkey.com

E-mail

info@mikeandkey.com

Re ector

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

Send dues to

Treasurer Jack Grimmett
10624 148th Avenue SE
Renton, WA 98059-4203

Send newsletter submissions to

Relay Editor Paul McElroy
6947 Coal Creek Pkwy SE — No. 1000
Newcastle, WA 98059-3136
k7stq@arrl.net

Club Contacts

President	Michael Dinkelman	N7WA	mwdink@eskimo.com	253-631-3756
Vice President	Sam Sullivan	N7RHE	svsullivan@comcast.net	253-631-0663
Secretary	Gary Bryan	KG7KU	glacialview@worldnet.att.net	253-661-7882
Treasurer	Jack Grimmett	N7IHS	n7ihs@aol.com	425-271-7955
Activity Manager	Adrian Roth	KB7BVL	kb7bvl@comcast.net	425-254-8425
Radio Officer	Terry Dettmann	WX7S	wx7s@cfsystems.org	425-821-5832
Trustees				
No. 1	Scott Robinson	AG7T	sg7@nmlink.com	425-788-0162
No. 2	Dick Radford	WA7NIW	wa7niw@arrl.net	425-828-9791
No. 3 (CoB)	Steve Cook	KD7IQL	kd7iql@arrl.net	206-781-2293
No. 4	Richard Pasquier	N7MER	rpasquier@centurytel.net	253-709-1690
No. 5	Dave Smith	KB7PSN	kb7psn@yahoo.com	425-235-5095
Logo Committee	Dan & Dawn Humphrey	N7QHC / KC7YYB	n7qhcdan@juno.com	206-243-0163
Webmasters	Jim Etwiler / Dave Smith	KD7BAT / KB7PSN	kd7bat@arrl.net	206-633-1512

Several club resources are available electronically:

Web: The club's site at www.mikeandkey.com includes extensive information about club events, VEC testing, membership, past editions of the *Relay* and more.

Mike & Key Online

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

E-Relay: Want the newsletter in color and a day or two before the print edition arrives by regular mail? You'll also help the club save money in printing and postage costs.

To sign up, send a message to the editor: k7stq@arrl.net.

Lend a hand—even a word—to the club

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

President

Looks like we will be holding elections at the October meeting. Richard Pasquier has informed the board that, due to work commitments, he will not be able to fulfill his trustee position. I believe there are still 18 months left in that position. Please consider volunteering to run.

The Audit Committee will need to meet by the end of the year. The bylaws require it to have five members, two of whom must be trustees and three selected from the club at large. I have

From the Hot Seat

appointed Scott AG7T and Steve KD7IQJ as the trustee members. I've also appointed Sam N7RHE from the club at large.

I would like more volunteers from the club so I can fill out the appointments. This job usually requires one evening reviewing the treasurer's books.

As mentioned at the September meeting, the December Holiday Party chairpersons will not be able to organize the event. A possible successor was mentioned, but I haven't heard back at this time. If I cannot get a committed organizer by the

end of the October meeting, there will be no event.

In my professional life, I find that feedback is important in making sure that I do my job well and in eliminating surprises when things don't go right.

Feedback is important in the club, as well. For example, ever notice how good a program is when there's "give and take" with the audience actively participating and the presenter responding to that feedback?

Well, that works for club volunteers, too. Many of us spend hours each month running the business of our organization trying to make sure it remains the top Amateur Radio club in the Pacific Northwest. Sometimes the silence is deafening. We really don't know if we are doing what the members want or not and that makes it hard to drag yourself out to a meeting in the evening when you wonder if anybody really cares?

Next time you see one of your officers, committee chairs, event volunteers or *Relay* editor, you might take a minute or two to let them know what's going right, what could be better (no need to be nasty) or just recognize the work they are doing. Maybe that would be a positive step in getting more of our members to volunteer, as well.

Enjoy the rain!

Cubs get an earful on our hobby of talking

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

President

I dragged myself out into a dark and stormy night last Friday to visit a Cub Scout den.

I say "dragged" because it had been a long week and I was tired. I would have much preferred to stay on the couch in the prone position. Working on their "Communicator" merit badges, the den leader had asked me a couple of months ago if I could make a presentation on Amateur Radio. This visit was the result.

How does one tell pre-teen

boys about Amateur Radio? For sure, an old geezer spouting dogma wasn't going to impress them much. So, I created a PowerPoint presentation with lots of pictures, found some computer sound clips of SSB, CW and PSK31, and even brought down a few "toys" for show and tell. And I tossed in some recorded QSOs by the Space Station hams.

I'd hoped to drag a few of you into a QSO or two, but the meeting site was in a basement classroom and hitting the repeater wasn't possible. In the end, it wasn't necessary.

The kids and the adults enjoyed the presentation and had fun playing with the keyer (yes—Morse Code!), radios and looking at QSL cards. The visit certainly brought back some memories of my own experiences as a Cub Scout, and I felt refreshed and revitalized as I headed back into the darkness after the meeting.

Odds are against any of the kids ever becoming a ham, but they certainly know about the hobby now. Then again, maybe a seed was planted that will someday germinate. Only time will tell.

Key Club Dates

Next General mtg.: **Oct. 16**

Board mtg.: **Oct. 27**

Relay deadline: **Nov. 12**

A tale of two lousy weeks — or 900 feet to a good lesson

Continued from Page 1

Well, maybe a cable came loose or the antenna switch has a bad position. Tune up the 80M antenna for 40M and I'll check it out tomorrow.

Sunday, Climb No. 1: Get up to the antenna switch at 90 feet and connect the coax to the antenna analyzer. Seems OK. Not great, but still within range of what I was seeing the previous week.

Connect to another position on the switch, go back down the tower, turn on the rig and ... infinite SWR. Sigh! Well, the 40M beam is pretty simple. Only a couple of things could be wrong. The coax, the balun or the actual connections. Except, they are all 12 feet out from the mast. How do I get to them?

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday, Climbs 2, 3, 4 (it rained Wednesday) were spent trying to figure out how I could get to that driven element. I couldn't tram the antenna down because the tribander was installed below it.

It's a very light antenna (only 25 pounds), but way too awkward (with two 44-foot elements) to manipulate by myself at 100 feet. My climbing partner had messed up his back and was currently grounded, so I really needed to do this by myself.

The answer came in my sleep Thursday night. Drop it down to the tribander (**Friday, Climb No. 5**) and take it apart (**Saturday, Climb No. 6**) using the tribander as a work platform, dropping the elements and boom to the ground in pieces. Six 90- to 100-foot climbs in seven days. Can you say tired?

Can you say stupid?

Putting the antenna together on the ground, the SWR still looked reasonable (though not great) using the analyzer, but adding a few watts always made the SWR go out of sight. Gotta be that balun.

Once I replaced it, the SWR was great (not just reasonable), even with power. I did take the balun apart and it had arced between the windings. Since I only run 100 watts, I fear it was probably pretty well gone when we first installed the antenna and the little use it got in the Sprint finished the job.

Lesson learned. Don't trust a well-used balun until you run some power through it. I had only used the analyzer.

To end this little drama, I had to wait for the next weekend to put the thing back up in reverse order (o'dark thirty comes pretty early by the time I get home from work).

That meant two climbs on Saturday and another climb on Sunday to finish the job. Then, one last climb on Monday to dress the cables (all this to beat the predicted rain).

So, in two *lousy wasted* weeks, I figure I climbed over 900 feet. My legs were shaking that last trip. I don't know how those professionals do it. No, I'm not looking for sympathy; this was my fault, the end result of stupidity, and I learned some good lessons.

For sure, though, I don't even want to see my climbing harness until spring. I only hope that when I'm working 40M longpath to Europe this winter, it'll seem worth it.

Public Service Events

Saturday, Oct. 16

Mount Hood Rally

Mount Hood, Ore.

Contact: Rich, KC7TXF

360-574-8593

maryo@pacifier.com

Saturday, Nov. 6

Veterans Day Parade

Auburn

Contact: Tom, WB7OUT

206-784-9243

bc994@scn.org

Sunday, Nov. 28

Seattle Marathon

Seattle

Contact: Gene, W7AKA

425-226-4115

w7aka@arrl.net

Sunday, Dec. 5

Holiday Cruise

Seattle

Contact: Tom, WB7OUT

206-784-9243

bc994@scn.org

Monday, Dec. 20

Santa Talks

Seattle

Contact: Tim, K7QMI

206-368-3970

tvschnee@eskimo.com

CQ for words of wisdom

This month's *Relay* is a bit thinner than usual.

That's inevitable with the ebb and flow of club activities and newsletter contributions. But it's no coincidence that our president called for a few volunteers in his column this month.

So don't hold back thinking you have nothing to offer. We can all learn from your experience about our wonderful hobby. Keep those stories for the *Relay* coming and help your fellow hams.

Mapping a route to reduce your stress

I don't know about you all, but this summer with all of its beautiful days filled with sunshine disappeared too quickly! It leaves me feeling much like the school-agers having to head back to class. There's so much more I wanted to get done!

We try to stuff too many activities into too short a time, tending to become more stressed than relaxed.

Sights & Sounds by Sunrise

Vacation is supposed to be a time of relaxation, but how many of us actually feel the freedom from tension right after returning from our "vacation?"

The answer escapes me as to how to change this, as I imagine it does many of you.

To many, it becomes a relief to have summer come to an end and the routine begin again. People are usually at meetings and not gone somewhere. There begins to be a feeling of "normalcy," which lends itself to another kind of stress—meeting schedules and another round of trying to stuff too many activities into a limited amount of time, eventually ending in the same stressed-out feeling.

Dan retired and everyone has asked if he is enjoying it. He has been so busy since "retiring" in March, I'm feeling as if we are experiencing week after week of Saturdays, with a break for worship on Sunday.

The working man knows what it is to look forward to "resting" on the weekends, however, most have experienced the "honey-do" list, so kicking

back and relaxing goes out the window. If it isn't the "honey-do" list, it is compulsory visits to relatives or friends to keep them from thinking we're hermits.

Where does it all end?

We've all heard that a certain amount of stress is good for us. We've also heard of people who decided that once they're retired, they're just "goin' fishin'" and kicking back to watch the grass grow. But it isn't long before they've become SKs. So, inactivity isn't the answer!

It is my guess that instead of plunging head-long into doing everything that we've been looking forward to, we need to take a few hours or days, if need be, and map out just what we'd like to do and what we need to get done. Then mark it all on a central calendar so that it is there in black and white.

This way—perhaps if we even color code it in order of importance—we will be free to cross something out if we begin to feel the press of stress, and just do nothing for a day or two to catch our breaths and enjoy each other's company.

If any of this has struck a chord with you and you are approaching retirement, or maybe already are retired and have found yourself on a treadmill of go, go, go, feel free to clip this out and re-read it now and then. And not feel guilty for taking time to stop and smell the roses along the way.

Remember, too much stress *KILL S!*

73 de Dawn KC7YYB

That's the ticket—volunteer still needed

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

President

The Flea Market Committee held its first planning meeting for the 2005 event on Oct. 5.

In attendance were Hal N7NW, Diane KB7DNE, Jack N7IHS, Jim KD7BAT, Pamela N7PRS, Dawn N7VWH, Curtis N7MWC and Mike N7WA.

Pricing was reviewed, taking into account the current state of the club treasury and proposed budgets for next year. It was

Flea Market Committee

decided to leave pricing at 2004 levels.

Committee assignments were reviewed. The only chair not currently assigned is the Ticket chair. This position remains open and candidates are requested to come forward.

Other subjects discussed included:

1.) The construction at the fairgrounds—the building used

by the 4x4 group will be removed and a new building put in its place.

2.) Insurance.

3.) Need for some replacement signs.

4.) Country Store baskets.

The next meeting is tentatively set for the first Tuesday of November, but it may be re-scheduled due to the election.

Watch the Reflector for interim announcements and next month's *Relay* for more on our club's biggest fund-raiser.

Officers present:

President – Michael Dinkelman (N7WA)
 Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
 Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)
 Treasurer – Jack Grimmertt (N7IHS)
 Activity Manager – Adrian Roth (KB7BVL)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Scott Robinson (AG7T)
 No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
 No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

President Dinkelman called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash. All members and guests repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. The president made several announcements: The Mike & Key Club is affiliated with the ARRL, which members are encouraged to join; everyone, including visitors, should sign the rosters; visitors are reminded not to vote on membership matters; smoking is allowed in the parking lot but not in front of the chapel. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion by Jim N7HKO and seconded by Scott AG7T to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

President – Mike N7WA: Next board meeting is Sept. 29, everyone is welcome to attend.

Vice President – Sam N7RHE: New member voting. Membership passed. David Dow KD7YXH, John McTighe KD7AQD, Neil Munson KE7BKQ and John Saunders KD7UIE — welcome to the club!

Secretary – Gary KG7KU: The September '04 *Logger's Bark*, of the Radio Club of Tacoma, is available.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Issued the P&L statement.

Radio Officer – Terry WX7S: (Not present, is attending EMS/CERT training.)

Activity Manager – Adrian KB7BVL: Raffle items are available, please participate. Upcoming programs:

Today - Cortland KA5S - Signal/noise characteristics, source detection; October - Scott AG7T - Antenna research results for 80 meters; November - Scott KC7UOC - Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

**General Meeting Minutes
 Sept. 18, 2004**

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: (Not present.)

Standing Committee Reports

Those committees not reporting in the Relay are asked to report before the general membership.

Technical – Richard N7MER: (Not present.)

Education – Dave KB7PSN: Technician Class is scheduled for Oct. 23-24, at Mercer Island Fire Station 91.

Please contact Dave 425-235-5095 / kb7psn@arrl.net for further information. This class is co-sponsored by the Mike & Key ARC and Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS).

Facilities – Mike N7WA: Flea Market kickoff meeting is Oct. 5. Please contact Mike for an assignment to a committee. Voicing your willingness to chair or co-chair is most helpful to planning this event.

Public Service – Dick WA7NIW: The committee will meet next month at the Yankee Diner following the presentation.

Strategic Planning – Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q: (Not present.)

Public Service Communications – Gary KG7KU: Public Service opportunities are listed on the slips of paper located at each of the tables. Remember, batteries are happiest when charged. Remain involved in public service throughout the year.

Picnic – Reports from the membership were positive. Participation was up. Food was good. A fun event.

Old Business – No old business.

New Business – No new business.

Good of the Order

Next general membership meeting is Oct. 16.

Jim N7HKO reports that the Port of Tacoma is the site for WWA EMS drill, to occur in October.

There being no further business, Jim N7HKO moved and Adrian KB7BVL

Welcome, new members

The Mike & Key Club warmly welcomes these new members, who were approved in September:

David Dow, KD7YXH, a Technician from Wilkeson.

John McTighe, KD7AQD, a Technician from Ravensdale.

Neil Munson, KE7BKQ, a Technician from Shoreline.

John Saunders, KD7UI, an Extra from Wauna.

seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and President Dinkelman closed the meeting at 10:34 A.M.

Attested: Gary Bryan – Secretary, KG7KU

**Mike & Key Club
 will teach Techs**

The Mike & Key Club has joined forces with the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society to present a Technician course.

The course will be held Oct. 23-24, the weekend after the club's general meeting, at Mercer Island Fire Station 91, 3030 78th Avenue SE. Class runs from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Saturday and 8 to 3 on Sunday, followed by an FCC exam.

The cost is \$45, which includes the primer *Now You're Talking*, course materials and the exam fee.

Know a prospective ham? Have them contact Dave KB7PSN (425-235-5095 or kb7psn@arrl.net) and get their license!



Utility pulls the plug on BPL trial

Progress Energy Corp. has shut down its BPL field trial in the Raleigh, N.C., area and removed all system hardware.

The utility's action last week came just as local amateur Tom Brown, N4TAB, had filed a Response and Further Complaint about the system with the FCC. Despite the system's shutdown—which he'd called for in his filing—Brown says he stands by his challenge to the FCC's determination that the utility's BPL system complied with Part 15 rules and that ham band notching was "effective."

Progress Energy's approach to mitigating interference on amateur frequencies by avoiding—or notching—ham bands was, Brown said, "a failed attempt, regardless of what kind of face they want to put on it."

Part 15 is very clear, he said, that if unlicensed devices operating under that section of FCC rules cause harmful interference, it has to cease operation.

— *The ARRL Letter*

Estate sale of ham radio gear

A variety of Amateur Radio equipment has been donated from the estate of Dr. Peter DeSerpe and will be auctioned off.

Proceeds will support Cedar Park Christian School. The auction will be held Saturday, Nov. 13, at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, but bids may be submitted beforehand. More info is at www.cedarpark.org.

The items, which are to be auctioned as a package, include:

Icom IC-745 transceiver, including PS-35 internal power supply, 455 KHz crystal filter and 9 MHz filter.

Icom IC-735 transceiver with built-in electric keyer and CW narrow filter.

Icom PS-30 power supply.

Icom microphones (HM-12 and SM-6).

Icom HP-1 headphones.

Icom SP-20 speakers.

MFJ antenna for 10 to 40 meters.

MFJ 3 kilowatt roller inductor antenna tuner.

Realistic DX-300 shortwave receiver.

Officers present:

President – Michael Dinkelman (N7WA)
Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)
Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS)
Radio Officer – Terry Dettmann (WX7S)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Scott Robinson (AG7T)
No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
No. 3 – Steve Cook / CoB (KD7IQL)
No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash.

Minutes: Motion by Sam N7RHE and seconded by Scott AG7T to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing new to report at this time.

President – Mike N7WA: Holiday party committee is in need of a chair.

Vice President – Sam N7RHE: Review of new membership applications.

Secretary – Gary KG7KU: October

Board Meeting Minutes Sept. 29, 2004

Logger's Bark is available.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Provided the P&L report.

Activity Manager – Adrian KB7BVL: Mike N7WA will be holding another pre-meeting PL-259 class.

Radio Officer – Terry WX7S: Working toward calibration of the new repeater.

Committee Liaison Reports

Facilities – Steve KD7IQL: Equipment trailer will be given storage space in Sequim, care of Jack N7IHS.

Strategic Planning – Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q: Working on membership data collection and metrics.

Technical – Richard N7MER: Nothing new to report at this time.

Public Service – Dick WA7NIW: Following the next general membership meeting, the committee will be meeting

at the Yankee Grill in Renton. Come one, come all.

Education – Dave KB7PSN: Technician class details are worked out, will hold the training and testing at Mercer Island Fire Station, located in the center of the town.

Flea Market – Mike N7WA: First meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 5, Salvation Army Center, 7 P.M.

Holiday Party – Adrian KB7BVL – Mike K7OV: This committee is in need of a chair (as reported earlier).

Old Business – No old business.

New Business – No new business.

Good of the Order

The next general membership meeting is Oct. 16, 2004.


There being no further business, Jack N7IHS moved and Scott AG7T seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Cook closed the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Attested: Gary Bryan – Secretary, KG7KU



Ham Nets & Events October / November 2004

Nets are on 146.82 unless indicated otherwise
Send calendar items to the Relay editor: k7stq@arrl.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 2000 — King Co. ARES (weekly) 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	11 0545 — Weather net: 145.33 (M - F) 1645 — Weather net (M-F)	12 2000 — Snoho. Co. RACES: 146.92 (weekly)	13 2000 — General Info & Tech net: 145.33 (weekly)	14 1900 — Pub. Service net (weekly)	15 2000 — Youth net: 145.33 (weekly)	16 0900 — Club net 1000 — Club mtg. 1300 — Ham exams Mount Hood Rally Oregon
17 2030 — Snoho. Co. ARES: 146.92 (wkly.) Illinois QSO Party	18	19	20	21	22	23 USI W/VE Islands QSO Party QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party (both Sat. - Sun.)
24 FISTS Coast-to-Coast contest	25 1800 — WARTS: 3.970 (daily) 1845 — WSN I: 3.658 (daily)	26	27 1915 — Board mtg.	28	29	30 0900 — WA Emerg. HF: 3.985 (weekly)  CQ Worldwide DX SSB cont. (Sat. - Sun.)
31 2200 — Northwest Astronomy net: 145.33 (weekly)	1 1900 — Elmer's net: 145.33 (weekly) 2000 — YL net: 145.33 (weekly)	2 2000 — Maple Valley ARC/ARES: 146.54 (weekly)	3 2030 — WARFA swapnet: 3.908 (weekly) 2100 — NWSOAR net (weekly)	4 2000 — Computer & Packet net: 145.33 (weekly) 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	5	6 Veterans Day Parade Auburn
7	8 1730 — Puget Sound Traffic Sys. (daily) 1830 — WA Emerg. HF: 3.985 (weekly)	9	10	11	12 Relay deadline	13 Mount Baker Hamfest Lynden