

K7LED Relay

Volume 44, Issue 9

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

September 2016

September is National Preparedness Month

By Gary Bryan KG7KU, President

Thanks so much Hal N7NW, Annie and Rita KD7CNU for the awesome BBQ during the August General Member meeting.

And I want to express appreciation to our VP - Dave Smith KB7PSN for revamping the M&K member application with an On-Line form option. Great work Dave!

There is a little time yet to review the M&K Budget, so be sure to advise the Board if you have interest in helping with the process.

We have transitioned into National Preparedness Month. The ARRL NW Division Newsletter states it succinctly: 'September is National Preparedness Month; so remember You Are Your Own First Responder.'

The Puyallup Fair runs this month, which reminds me - our Sister Ham Radio Club the Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK, reaches 100 years! Congratulations!

It is not too early... to start considering your support role for the upcoming AMICA Seattle Marathon, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016.

See you at the September 17th at the General Membership Meeting!

**Rita, KD7CNU
working the
grill at the Club
Meeting/Picnic**



Celebrate our September Members

By Laura Bendit, KF7ELG, Treasurer

As of September 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!

John McGee	KI7OT	24 Years
Scott Robinson	AG7T	16 Years
Charles Sundberg	K7PHZ	16 Years
Rachelle Gill	KF7QCN	15 Years
John Saunders	KD7UI	12 Years
John Keene	KA7ONE	9 Years
Shelley Stark	KF7TBA	5 Years
Kerry McMurthy	W7KLM	1 Year

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

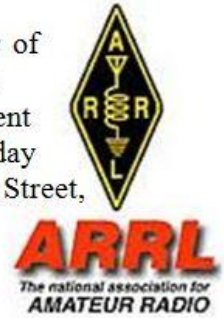
Each of you makes us who we are.



**New Member
Ashley McChord**



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

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Vice President	David Smith	KB7PSN	kb7psn @ yahoo.com	425-235-5095
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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

Greetings from I-90, somewhere in Idaho. Ric and I are on our way to Niagara Falls, NY. So far, so good.

The Membership Committee will be meeting at Kathy Martin's house on Saturday, September 24. I'm sure she'll have all the information you'll need if you want to join us. I'll see you all in October.

We are taking a page out of Stosh Morency's book and taking a traveling companion. Blue Dog belonged to my mom. So BD is going to New York with us. He's a good passenger. No whimpering or whining. 73 & 88 Rita



Blue Dog...

I Finally Have My First Window Shopping Radio

By Jim, K7JGM

Do you all remember going into your first radio store and seeing THAT radio that made the sun streams fall upon it and the angels sing? I do.

It was in the last century and I just earned my General ticket so I went shopping for an HF rig. I walked into the shop in Georgetown, Ham Depot I believe was the name of the place. I told the proprietor my situation; I had saved just over \$1,000 for my new radio and that was all I had, I knew very little about HF radios but I was very excited to learn and get on the air.

I was shown two radios, the Kenwood TS-570 and the IC-746. Being who I am, the eye candy of the 746's band scope made me stupid on the spot. I wanted to open my wallet right there and then but it was a few hundred dollars more than I had so I watched the sun rays disappear and the angels became silent.

I walked out of the store with the TS-570 and I have never been disappointed. It is my go to rig and I know it very well by now.

Fast forward to summer of 2016. I was strolling through the online swap section on QRZ and I see the IC-746 Pro for \$400... WHAT!!! So I contacted the seller to find out why. Apparently it had been damaged in shipping and the VFO knob would not tune the desired frequency. The seller was quoted about \$300 for the repair and he did not want to do it. That was OK by me!

A few days later I had my dream radio, but it was the Pro version! I took it into ICOM for repair and for \$300 they did more than repair the VFO, they did all known updates to the radio, replaced an errant IC (IC-51), did a display backlight modification, aligned and calibrated the unit. For a total of \$700 I have the upgraded version of my dream radio, factory reconditioned.

Once I got it home I set it up, turned it on, tuned it to frequency I knew that had an active net at that time of day and heard nothing. Hmm..... Oh ya, I read about that *&\$%*!d up squelch/RF gain combo pot. Yaesu does the same thing on the 857 and I have never gotten used to it.

I finally got the combo pot adjusted and WOW! The audio on this unit is amazing! It is not thin and tinny but big and very clear! I was also impressed by how intuitive the unit is to use.

I have to say, had I been able to purchase the 746 way back when, I may have been a "dyed in the wool" ICOM fan now.



September 2016

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting – August 20th, 2016
Gene Coulon Park, Renton, WA

Opening:

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.

Announcements:

The Mike & Key ARC 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.

Officer Reports:

President - Gary Bryan KG7KU: Nothing to report.

Secretary - Phillip Pia K7PIA: Nothing to report.

Treasurer - Laura Bendit KF7ELG: Everything looks good. An error in the roster has been fixed.

Activity Manager - Steve Cook KD7IQL: No raffle today. The Picnic is the program.

Vice President – Dave Smith KB7PSN: A quorum is present. Minutes: Ivy WA7IVY moved to accept the minutes as published in the Relay; Jim K7JGM seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Membership: Ashley McCord

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

Radio Officer - Hal Goodell N7NW: Repeater work on the 220 machine is currently taking place.

Editor Reports:

Relay Editor – Mike Dinkelman N7WA: Send in your articles and pictures.

Webmaster - Jim Etwiler KD7BAT: Not present.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Steve Marth WB7AAV (liason) / Rita Danielson KD7CNU: On hiatus; next meeting is in September.

Facilities and Publicity - Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG: Not present.

Education and Training - Jim Monson K7JGM: - Zombie Fest - an emergency preparedness awareness event - will be taking place on September 17th in Normandy Park. There is a Technician licensing class currently taking place this Saturday

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and next (August 20th and 27th) in Tukwila. Dick W7INK mentioned that a Technician class will be taking on September 17th and 24th in Ballard.

Public Service - Tom Helm AF7ZH (liason) / Robert Grinnell KD7WNV: There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer this time of the year; be sure to see the booklet and website for more information.

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

VE Exams - Scott Robinson AG7T: Ten examinees were present at last month's VE session. Seven Technician, one 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.

Flea Market - Hal Goodell N7NW/Mike N7WA: The first meeting for next year's Flea Market is in October.

Field Day - Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY: A work party took place at Toku AD7JA's place on August 6th; all went well. The next big work party for Field Day will be in the spring. The old backup generator is kaput; if you are interested in a project, let someone on the Board know. Upon Board approval, you can pick it up at Toku's place.

Logo Committee - Jim N7MU: Not present.

Awards Committee - George Thornton AE7G, et al.: Nothing to report.

Summer Picnic - Hal N7NW: We are currently having the picnic! Enjoy the fun in the sun.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Alligator Award: Dean N7XS hands it off to Jim K7JGM.

Good of the Order:

- Dick W7INK: He mentioned an inspiring occurrence while volunteering at a triathlon, where someone needed help. Public service volunteers are - more often than not - truly appreciated for their work.
- Laura KF7ELG: Cassandra Trimble KC7SYB needs help with her HT radio; if anyone is interested in a mentoring opportunity, be sure to let her know today at the Picnic.

Closing:

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is on the third Saturday of the month - August 17th at 10:00 am at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

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Ivy WA7IVY made a motion to close the meeting and was seconded by Dick W7INK; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Guests: 5 Members: 37 ARRL Members: 28

Attested: Phillip E. Pia, K7PIA - Secretary.

Mike and Key ARC Board Meeting Tuesday, September 6th, 2016 at 7:15 pm Salvation Army Building, Renton, WA

Officers:

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

Trustees:

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

Editors:

<u>(X)</u> Relay Editor	Michael Dinkelman	N7WA
<u>(X)</u> Webmaster	Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT

Visitors:

Daniel Stevens	KL7WM
Michael Hansen	KG7MX
Monica Cook	KF7QLX
Michelle Cross	WB7AYU

Opening:

The Chairman of the Board David Yarbrough WA7DY called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. Steve Cook KD7IQL moved to approve the minutes as published; Peter K4PNG 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: There were no membership applications to approve this month. The membership application is currently being updated with PDF and web form versions.

Secretary - Phillip Pia K7PIA: It was reported that he will not be at the September General Meeting due to the Salmon Run

contest that weekend (and possibly the October General Meeting as well). Ivy WA7IVY will cover for him at this month's meeting.

Treasurer - Laura Bendit KF7ELG: It was reported that she will not be at the September General Meeting; Kathy Martin KB7QMO will cover for her. The books are in order, and the newest edition of the budget spreadsheet has been distributed to Board members. Attendance for Field Day was reported; overall, it was down from last year. Two QSL cards were received by the Club for contacts made during Field Day; they were given to Hal Goodell N7NW, the QSL manager. Hal Goodell N7NW was commended for doing a great job at the Picnic, and was given a reimbursement check.

Activities Manager - Steve Cook KD7IQL: No program or raffle took place at the last General Meeting, as it was the Picnic. He will not be at the next General Meeting, and is looking for volunteers for this month's program.

Radio Officer - Hal Goodell N7NW: The jammer on the 2m repeater has been a nuisance; we have requested help from the Puget Sound Repeater Group (PSRG) to track him down. The 220 machine has turned off temporarily due to sensitivity problems; he will be going to the repeater site next week to take another look at it. Logbook of the World is working very well for our Field Day QSL confirmations; with it, the club has achieved Worked All States (which he will be applied for soon).

Editor Reports:

Relay Editor - Mike Dinkelman N7WA: Articles are due this Friday; send in your articles and pictures.

Webmaster - Jim Etwiler KD7BAT: Changes to the website include the addition of a Technician class in October in Carnation to the Education page, the online web form on the Membership Application page, updates to the Membership Roster page, and a new edition of the Relay.

Committee Reports:

Education & Training - Jim Monson K7JGM: Daniel Stevens KL7WM mentioned upcoming Technician classes on September 17th and 24th in Ballard, and on October 14th and 15th in Kent. 167 new hams have come through his classes this year. Jim K7JGM reported that the Northwest APRS/Digital Summer Gathering will be taking place this weekend at Valley Camp near North Bend. Zombie Fest, an emergency preparedness awareness event, will be taking place on September 17th in Normandy Park. CERT classes are coming up soon for SeaTac, Renton, and Tukwila.

Membership - Steve Marth WB7AAV: Currently on hiatus; the next meeting is later this month.

Technical - David Yarbrough WA7DY: The Technical Net continues on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm on the Club 2m

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repeater. There have been problems with the repeater jammer interrupting the net; possible solutions were discussed.

Public Service - Tom Helm AF7ZH: Nothing to report. Dave Smith KB7PSN mentioned that the Salmon Days parade will be taking in Issaquah on the first weekend of October; see the booklet or the Club's Public Service webpage for contact information if you would like to volunteer.

Facilities – Peter K4PNG: Nothing to report. Daniel Stevens KL7WM mentioned that the reservation of the the Masonic Hall in Renton for the October General Meeting looks good.

Field Day - Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report. Monica KF7QLX is looking for whoever lost some (rather expensive) tools at Field Day; please see her to identify and claim them.

Picnic - Hal N7NW: The Picnic was a tremendous success.

Flea Market - Mike Dinkelman N7WA: The first meeting for the Flea Market will take place on October 11th at 7:15 pm. The 11th of March will be the date for next year's Flea Market at the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

Old Business:

- Dave Smith KB7PSN: Regarding the Membership Application webpage. An online web form has been added to the Membership Application web page, and is now an option for applicants (in addition to the PDF print-out version).
- Laura KF7ELG: Laura brought up the Club's QSL card situation. Hal N7NW said that he is currently looking into a new design for the QSL cards, and into a new order to replenish the Club's stock (which is currently all of 2 cards). Design ideas were discussed.
- Hal N7NW: There was an inquiry as to whether the contribution to the Lake Chelan Radio Club has been acknowledged. Laura KF7ELG reported that they have not officially confirmed or mentioned the Club's contribution. Hal will be writing them to find out the current situation (as their club's website has not been updated since June). Laura KF7ELG confirmed that they have indeed cashed the check, however.

New Business:

- Dave Smith KB7PSN: We will be eligible to make online reservations for the Wagon Wheel on September 19th; they will be made on that date for Field Day next June. Reservations for the picnic shelter for next year's Picnic at Gene Coulon Park will be made on the first business day of 2017.

Good of the Order: No reports.

Closing:

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:15 pm at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

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

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Attested: Phillip E. Pia, K7PIA - Secretary.

2016 Salmon Run

The 2016 Salmon Run is coming up. You can work from home, portable, or mobile

**Saturday, September 17th: 9:00 a.m. to midnight
PDT (1600Z to 0700Z)**

**Sunday, September 18th: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PDT
(1600Z to 2400Z)**

You can find the rules, awards, and County activation list <http://www.wwdxc.org/2016-salmon-run-information/>.

If you need any Eastern Washington Counties, Jim K7ND and myself will be attempting to put the ALL the counties east of the mountains on. (Of course, you'll need to know a bit of CW to work us.) I've also heard Robert KD7WNV and Tim K7ANE will be on and Phillip K7PIA said he would be doing Salmon Run. Maybe... we'll hear something out of Camano Island from the new W7XS QTH?

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR
YOUR ARTICLE.**

**THIS RELAY IS COMING UP A
BIT SHORT. PLEASE
CONSIDER WRITING FOR
YOUR CLUB AND
NEWSLETTER**

Picnic Pictures

These and many others may be viewed and downloaded at

<https://goo.gl/photos/ssQG51xjbtRmKVE98>

You can also add pictures or comments if you have a gmail account



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](#)

September 24. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest) Spokane Valley, WA. <http://www.kbara.org/>

September 24. Reno Ham Swap. <http://renohamswap.com/>

October 2 ComFest, Delta, BC. http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1824

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

Elecraft Attenuator Kit

submitted by Michael, N7WA

Slowly, I have been building up a noise detection/tracking setup. This includes an HF loop antenna, a couple small UHF/VHF yagis, and a handheld radio that receives AM from HF through UHF. One of the items on my "needed" list was an attenuator.

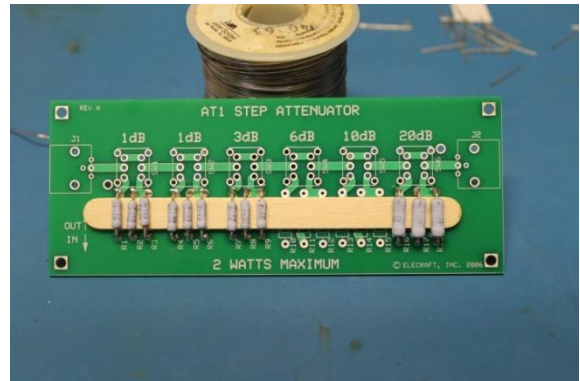
As you get closer to a noise source you are tracking down, it's important to be able to attenuate the signal. This would also be important if you were interested in doing a fox or bunny hunt. There are a number of homebrew designs out there but I saw the offering from Elecraft (http://www.elecraft.com/mini_module_kits/mini_modules.htm) as the simplest and (probably) most cost effective means of getting there.

This is a pretty simple kit. It mostly consists of switches and resistors. It's all thru-hole construction so there are no surface mount components to worry about. The entire manual (including schematic and assembly instructions) is only 6 pages long. It would be a good kit for a first time builder. I think it took me an hour to complete and that was stopping to take pictures too. Your biggest decision is whether to put the BNC connectors on the top or bottom side. If you want a box to put it in, you'll have to get your own. When complete, you have a small piece of test equipment that allows you to attenuate a signal in one dB steps from 1 to 40 dB. It'll handle several watts of power (QRP levels) so don't hook it up to your 100 watt transceiver and transmit through it.

Now this article isn't about explaining what a dB is or the relationship to what your S-meter shows. (Though that would be a good program for a Club meeting.) You might want to read up a bit if interested but a couple points to remember. Decibels are a logarithmic measurement systems. (Don't roll your eyes up into your head at this point.) Just remember that, generally, you cut signal strength in HALF for every 3dB increase of attenuation (or loss) in your system. Sounds bad but most of us would be doing good if we could detect a 3dB change in signal strength. (It's only about one half S-unit on your S-meter.) Another 3dB (6dB total) and you cut the signal in half again... and so on. There is some debate but most people equate 6dB to one full S-unit. Oh, it works the other way too, increasing your power by twice as much (say 100 watts to 200 watts) only buys you a half S-meter increase. Remember that the next time someone says their antenna has umpteen dB of gain.

I haven't had occasion to use the device tracking a noise source but I did use it to help calibrate

my KX3 (I had a signal generator that put out way too strong a signal and I needed to knock it down.) If you did a bunny or fox hunt, you could attach this device between your antenna and radio. As you got closer to the hidden transmitter and the signal started to overload your rig, you could attenuate the signal and continue to see peaks and valleys in signal strength on your S-meter.



Elecraft evens gives you a stick to help keep those pesky resistors off the board while soldering.



Completed kit

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. Phone 253 631 3756.

Tower Takedown Volunteers Needed

I need a couple people to help take down a fold-over tower for the XYL of a Silent Key during a Saturday in late September or early October. No tower climbing - more ground crew stuff than anything else. It's in the Auburn (Lea Hill) area. Shouldn't take more than a couple hours. Send me your availability at n7wa@arrl.net.

Calendar SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 (September)	12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>10:00-M&K Club Mtg</i> 12:30- M&K Ham Radio Exams Contact: Scott— ag7t@arrl.net [Salvation Army- Renton] <i>Salmon Run Contest</i>
18 <i>Salmon Run Contest</i> Latin American Parade Auburn N7QLT	19	20	21	22	23	24 Autumn Leaf Festival Parade Leavenworth N7QLT
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 (October)
2 Salmon Days N7QLT	3	4 Club Board Meeting 7:15PM	5	6	7 Bigfoot 120 Endurance Race KD7WNV	8 Bigfoot 120 Endurance Race KD7WNV
9 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

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