



# MAPLE VALLEY

## H A M L I N K



VOL. 17

May 2010

NO. 5

### FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

by Jim N7MU



“Meet the new boss, same as the old boss...” With MVARC elections successfully conducted in the April Annual Meeting, the new club leadership looks a lot like the old. Whatever happened to “we won’t get fooled again”? Either the members are happy with last year’s officers or the incumbents have run very effective campaigns.

While the current club leadership is pleased to be elected or re-elected, it’s important to add new blood to the group. That keeps us from stagnating and brings new ideas and energy. Those of us who serve as officers are just as busy as anyone else. But we really enjoy the club, the community service it provides, and the chance to grow in amateur radio.

So, who are these guys?

Scott NS7C continues in his role as president, a job he has done well in the past despite a demanding technology career. His is the most recognizable face of the club and many of you have joined after attending his excellent

Next club meeting is on Saturday May 22nd at 10:00 AM at Fire Station 80. Mark it on your calendar. Note the location !



amateur radio license classes.

Jim N7MU returns as vice president and will continue to look for interesting programs and activities for our meetings.

Mike Odom KE7WVP is the secretary and newest officer. He writes that he’s a fairly new ham and will need some advice about setting up his 2 meter base station. Take note of this, Chuck, since he’ll be available to take his turn as net control operator.

Richard KR7L is a veteran treasurer who maintains our financial records and the membership roster. He keeps a sharp eye on club expenditures and sees that we set aside our surplus for a rainy day. He has also been editing the newsletter, the *Hamlink*. That’s a challenge when few members submit content for the monthly publication.

(Continued on page 2)

The Maple Valley Amateur Radio Club is a group of amateur radio enthusiasts in the greater Maple Valley area who meet and engage in activities to further the advancement of this hobby for the good of ourselves and the community. Everyone is welcome at the monthly meetings. A simplex net is held each Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM on 146.54 MHz.

<b>President:</b>	<b>Scott Currie</b>	<b>NS7C</b>	<b>ns7c@arrl.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jim Aigner</b>	<b>N7MU</b>	<b>jimaigner@comcast.net</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Mike Odom</b>	<b>KE7MPV</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Richard Green</b>	<b>KR7L</b>	<b>kr7l@arrl.net</b>

In the event of an emergency in the area, amateurs are encouraged to check in and or monitor at 10 minutes past even hours on 146.54 MHz simplex to provide status or ask for assistance.

MVARC, P.O. Box 1188, Maple Valley, WA 98038

(Continued from page 1) Vice President

If you didn't run for office but would still like to support the club, there are many activities we conduct that need organizers and volunteers. You can indicate your willingness to help by saying so in the membership survey at <http://tinyurl.com/MVARC2010>. Remember to take the survey in the next week or so as it's an important tool for keeping us focused on the right stuff.

By now you should have "gotten" the two quotes in my first paragraph above as lines from a song by The Who. I confess that I had to consult the Internet to fill in the details myself.



During last month's meeting I was on a beach in Kauai. I'm looking forward to renewing membership by paying my dues and to seeing old friends again. See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Station 80 near Four Corners.



## Take the Membership Survey

For a club this size, it's hard to keep track of everyone's interests. Especially since we don't see one another regularly. In order to make sure the club meets its members' expectations, we've created a survey we'd like every member to take. It consists of 30 simple questions about you, your amateur radio interests, and your preferences about club activities.

The survey can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/MVARC2010>. It takes about 10 minutes to complete and has both required and optional questions. You will have plenty of

opportunity to enter comments and suggestions. We encourage everyone to complete the survey – including multiple family members for those of you who have family memberships.

If for some reason, you are unable to take the survey online, you can take it on paper and return it to me. Or, if you prefer, you can have someone else enter your responses. I'll be happy to do that for anyone who chooses.

Since the club is relatively small, we'd like to have a very high response rate for this survey. Please make an effort to take the survey within the next week. After that point, I will send email reminders to those of you who may have forgotten.

Contact me, Jim Aigner ([jimaigner@comcast.net](mailto:jimaigner@comcast.net), 253 630-2752) if you have any questions or problems with the survey.



## SIMPLEX NET

by Chuck, KK7CB  
[Sto99@msn.com](mailto:Sto99@msn.com)



Simplex net every Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on 146.540 MHz. ARES checkins as well. If any NCS has a conflict with these dates, please substitute at will, but let Chuck know at [Sto99@msn.com](mailto:Sto99@msn.com)

Net Control Stations			
June	1	Open	
	8	John	N7SPN
	15	Gary	KB7VDG
	22	Richard	KR7L
	29	Chuck	KK7CB
July	6	Rich	KC7MPJ
	13	Ryan	KE7MAI
	20	Open	
	27	John	N7SPN

Check-ins from April 20 through May 11, 2010

- |        |         |
|--------|---------|
| K7LAE  | Carl    |
| KE7EWX | Chris   |
| KK7CB  | Chuck   |
| K7EJK  | Colin   |
| AC7NP  | Dale    |
| K7SDE  | Dale    |
| N7VOE  | Dan     |
| K7SCD  | Denise  |
| KC7HVV | Dick    |
| N7BVT  | Doug    |
| KF7ACL | Duke    |
| KB7VDG | Gary    |
| KD7TES | Jan     |
| KR7JWL | Jerry   |
| N7MU   | Jim     |
| N7SPN  | John    |
| W7LMK  | Laura   |
| KF7FAC | Martin  |
| AE7MK  | Matt    |
| KE7WVP | Mike    |
| N7UIC  | Mike    |
| KE7AND | Neil    |
| KF7AOR | Paul    |
| KE7FCE | Paul    |
| KE7MPJ | Rich    |
| KR7L   | Richard |
| WE7X   | Rod     |
| KE7MAI | Ryan    |
| NS7C   | Scott   |
| KE7MPO | Skip    |
| KE7OCX | Steve   |
| N7BOF  | Tex     |



**Remember!** ARES Team members check in for roll call on the net Tuesday nights at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on 146.54 simplex. Scott will call for the Maple Valley ARES team members.



## MEET YOUR NEW SECRETARY

by Mike Odom, KE7WVP

I thought it might be helpful if I introduced myself a little since most of you probably don't know me by other than an occasional Tuesday night check in on the ARES net.

I have a General Class License but have not been on HF yet. I have lived in Maple Valley with my wife Carol since December 2004. We have six married children and 19 Grandchildren. I am Director of IT Infrastructure for Weyerhaeuser and have been employed by them for 17 years. My goal is to get to a little over 20 years before retiring.

I am new to Ham Radio and really enjoy it thus far. I could use some Elmer help in getting a 2M Base Station set up. Once that is setup, I will gladly take a turn as Net Monitor on any Tuesday that I am in town. I do travel for work at times and we do travel to visit our Grandchildren. I missed this week due to business travel.

I have served on the boards of several service organizations in the past so I have some knowledge of what I have volunteered to do. So far, it looks pretty easy, take notes at meetings.

However, I just realized that I will miss the May Meeting since my wife and I are going to be in Maui May 21 - 31. I have blocked out field day in June so am willing to attend and assist as needed.

I can probably help with the newsletter later this year if that is of interest.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do to help.

Thanks and 73's

Mike



## ARRL NEWS

*The City of Federal Way has honored their Volunteers of the year for 2009 and they all were Hams:*

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

- Shawn Hickman W7OMG
- Annette Coder KE7ZIM
- Steve Hatch WA7DAD
- James Coder KE7ZIP
- Davina Nolten KE7JQV
- Shelly Graham KE7ZIQ
- David Schwartz KC7RRH

Congratulations to them all. It just goes to show what sort of Amateur Radio Community we have been building in Western Washington.

*The Federal Way Amateur Radio Club has just completed their D-Star repeater project.*

This is a fully loaded D-Star repeater stack sponsored by the club and local emergency management.

The club contributed \$8000 in donated equipment and the city contributed \$14996 to the project. Over 322 hours of donated labor went into constructing the system.

In addition Kent Meridian High School VICA Welding donated the labor to build the antenna brackets. The cabinet was assembled and constructed as part of an Eagle Scout Project by WA7BEN.

For further information contact Dave Swartz at david@swartzfamily.org

Good going FWARC.



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### Is Your Radio Ready for an Emergency?

When you need your portable radio to perform, will the battery have enough charge to carry you through? Or will it die after the first few transmission?

Nickel-based batteries have a

good deal of self discharge, so if it has been a month or so since you last charged your battery it is now time to enter into a scheduled refresh cycle. "How's that?" you say. Seems like nowadays everyone has a calendar of some type, either paper or electronic. So put a reminder on your calendar to refresh the battery of your most needed radio whether it is a ham radio or FRS radio.

So what's this "refresh" all about. nickel-based batteries, mostly nickel-cadmium, but nickel-metal-hydrides also, need to be discharged to 1.0 volt per cell and recharged regularly. And they definitely do not like to be "topped off" (but lithium ion batteries can be).

When disaster strikes, there will not be time to refresh. To do it, requires some thought and preparation. Some manufacturers say to turn on the radio and let it go until it shuts off when the battery is drained. That will do it but some

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## MEETING PROGRAM

Our May meeting will be held in an alternate location since Station 81 is being remodeled. We'll meet at our normal time but at Station 80 near Four Corners. It's on Maple Valley Highway at SE 264<sup>th</sup>. The station address is 23775 SE 264th Street.

Access to the building is in the back off of SE 264th. There is very limited parking at the station so you will have to park on the street nearby. **Observe the NO PARKING postings.**

During the business meeting we will complete the planning for Field Day. So come prepared with your schedule and Field Day plans. The program for May will be about amateur radio DX-expeditions, team radio operations in remote or exotic locations. We'll view a DVD about one of the better-known recent expeditions.

## CERT NEWS

### 2010 Ushers In Increased Wildfire Risk For NW

SEATTLE -- El Nino weather patterns and a relatively mild winter left Idaho, eastern Washington and south central Oregon



drier than normal and vulnerable to wildfire. In addition to urging extreme caution with campfires, fireworks, trash fires, grills and other heat sources, FEMA Acting Regional Administrator Dennis Hunsinger encourages residents living on wooded lots and wildland/urban interface areas to stay informed on local conditions.

"Now is the time to create defensible perimeters by clearing flammable debris away from homes and structures," said Hunsinger. "Of course, fire escapes and evacuation plans are a must, and should include current phone numbers for emergency service providers. By all means, make sure property entrances are clearly posted, with adequate emergency vehicle turnaround space."

FEMA recommends that residents take specific actions long before an evacuation is necessary.

- Clear any flammable materials from around the home.
- Construct roofs and exterior walls from non-combustible or fire resistant material such as slate, tile, sheet iron, aluminum, brick or stone.
- Treat wood siding, cedar shingles, exterior wood paneling and other highly combustible materials with fire retardant chemicals.
- Clean roof surfaces and gutters free of pine needles, leaves, and branches regularly. [Only professionals should attempt to be on your roof. *Ed.*]
- Space landscape plants to limit fire from spreading to surrounding vegetation or structures.
- Maintain fuel breaks around all

structures.

- Store gasoline only in approved containers, and well away from occupied buildings.
- Store firewood and other combustibles away from structures.
- Keep firefighting tools (such as ladders, shovels, rakes and water buckets) handy, and water hoses connected.
- House numbers and all street signs should be clear of overgrowth and always be visible.
- Clear roads and driveways of vegetation overgrowth so fire vehicles have room to maneuver.
- Place a lawn sprinkler on the roof, which can be turned on when evacuating to wet the roof.

It is also smart to keep important personal documents quickly available should you need to evacuate. Consider collecting your driver's license, passport and other identification, birth and marriage certificates, Social Security card, insurance policies, tax records, wills, deed or lease and stocks and bonds. Also, know where your main turn-off switches are for electricity, water and gas.

Another important step that FEMA recommends is preparing an evacuation kit. Items should be put in a container that can be easily loaded into a vehicle for a quick departure. Items to include:

- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio with additional batteries
- First aid kit
- Medicines, prescriptions and eyeglasses
- Water (at least one gallon per person and enough for three days for each person in the household)
- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bags and pillows
- Cash and credit cards

FEMA also recommends that family members discuss how to contact one another if the wildfire comes near when family members are separated. Discuss evacuation routes and identify relatives or friends outside the immediate area that can be contacted. Finally, make sure your pets have collars and identification tags and take your pets with you if you need to

evacuate. While some shelters won't accept pets, an increasing number of communities are organizing pet shelters when large evacuations are necessary. Check with your local Humane Society, animal shelter or veterinarian.

For more information on protecting your family and your home from wildfires, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Contributed by Jerry Lemon, KR7JWL, CERT Captain



## OUR ELMER GROUP

Our Yahoo Elmer Group provides a forum for technical discussions (Elmering) and also planning for club activities. The Group can be found at:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvarc\\_elmers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvarc_elmers)

To post a message, email to:

[Mvarc\\_elmers@yahoo.com](mailto:Mvarc_elmers@yahoo.com)

To subscribe send email to:

[Mvarc\\_elmers-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Mvarc_elmers-subscribe@yahoo.com)

To unsubscribe:

[mvarc\\_elmers-unsubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:mvarc_elmers-unsubscribe@yahoo.com)

Questions? Contact Scott NS7C

## New Club Roster Out Soon

The 2010-2011 Roster of club members will be published soon. If you have not renewed membership, now would be a good time to do it.

# June 2010

## MAPLE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

An ARRL Affiliate



PO BOX 488  
MAPLE VALLEY WA 98038

[www.kc7key.org](http://www.kc7key.org)

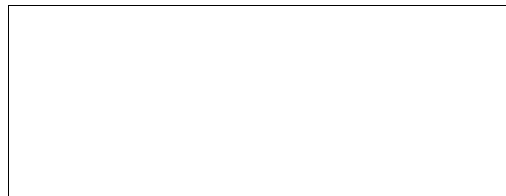
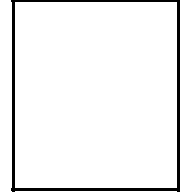
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Net Open	2	3 *Richard KR7L	4	5
6	7	8 Net John N7SPN	9	10	11	12 Parade
					MAPLE VALLEY DAYS	
13 Bear Run	14	15 Net Gary KB7VDG	16	17 * Carl K7LAE	18	19
MV DAYS						
20 FATHERS DAY	21	22 Net Rich- ard KR7L	23	24	25	26 *Gary KC7SHA
						FIELD DAY
27	28 * Chuck KK7CB	29 Net Chuck KK7CB	30			
FIELD DAY						

**Tuesday night simplex net 8:00 PM, 146.540 MHz Net Control Volunteers call Chuck KK7CB 425-432-1119 for changes**

**CERT Net Tuesday 7:30 PM, KC7KEY Repeater, 147.26+ 103.5 tone**

**\* - Happy Birthday**

**Maple Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 1188**  
**Maple Valley, WA 98038**



### **Submit your articles for the *Maple Valley Hamlink***

Articles for the newsletter are always needed. Think of the prestige garnered from being published. Submissions will be accepted in just about any form. Type written or pen & paper can be snail mailed or emailed to reach the newsletter staff usually by 10 days prior to the club meeting

We prefer your submissions be written using a plain text editor. Microsoft Word is OK (or any word processor), but please do not use fancy formatting. When writing your article use carriage returns at the end of paragraphs only. If you are using a plain text editor that doesn't have word wrap then go ahead and use a carriage return at the end of each line. If you forward a message and your e-mail program puts a symbol in column 1, like this ">", then it is better to highlight the text and then cut or copy it to a new e-mail message. Pictures should be in JPEG format. If you use a scanner, set the scan to 96 dpi. Limit picture size to 640x480 pixels and send as separate attachments, don't embed them in a document.

Send your article as an attachment to your e-mail if possible. If your e-mail doesn't allow attachments then go ahead and send your article in the body of your e-mail. Thanks from - Your newsletter staff.

*(Continued from page 3)*Emergency radios have a protection circuit that will automatically turn off after a period of inactivity to save the battery charge and may stop short of draining the battery far enough.

That, of course, defeats what you want to do. In this case, you will have to improvise or switch to a battery charger that is designed to do a refresh cycle, that is, discharge and then recharge.

To improvise and manually discharge, you will have to do some electronic design work and assembly. That will be the subject of another tip.



### **COMMITTEE HEADS**

ARES Team Leader:	Scott	NS7C	
Education Liaison:	Peggy	KC7CLI	
Event Support Coord:	Doug	N7BVT	
Membership Committee:	Jim	N7MU	
Newsletter Editor:	Richard	KR7L	
Proof Reader	Jean	KE4NCX	
Net Manager:	Chuck	KK7CB	
Technical Committee:			
Scott	NS7C	Steve	W7UDI
Rod	WE7X	Roger	K7RXV
Phil	WA7ZWD		
Web Site Administrator:	Scott	NS7C	