

# MAPLE VALLEY HAMLINK



VOL. 16

October 2009

NO. 9

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jim N7MU

At around 8:00 am the other morning the power went in our neighborhood. Oh Great, I thought, just what I need! This happened during the week my neighbor Al and I (he's a heating and air conditioning technician) were trying to keep my gas furnace limping along until a new controller board arrived. All this was a blunt reminder that we are entering a season of threatening weather which often leads to power outages, downed trees, mudslides, and flooding. So I bundled up and did a periodic test of my Honda portable generator. At least this year, I'm ready to operate from emergency power and to keep the furnace running so I can heat the house.



What a contrast this is to the weather we had last month. Our September membership meeting was held on one of the best days of the fall. It was also the day of the very successful Maple Valley Fire Open House and Kid's Day. The weather and good publicity coaxed about 250 people out to the Open House. Scott NS7C and Rich Barger KE7MPJ staffed a club information booth and drew a little interest – mostly from kids who wanted the free candy. I was glad to see so many MVARC members show up and chat with Firefighters and other Fire District personnel. It doesn't hurt to show our faces once in a while if we ever hope to train with them.

October 10<sup>th</sup> was the Emergency Preparedness Fair held at Rock Creek Elementary. Thanks to those of you who attended and helped staff our booth. As a result, we added to the waiting list for the next Technician li-

## DON'T FORGET ...



Next club meeting is on Saturday, October 24th at 1000 hours at the Maple Valley Fire Station 81. Mark it on your calendar!

cense class.

On October 13th the current Technician class ended successfully with a VE session that saw six new hams and one upgrade result from the effort. With expedited processing by the W5YI VEC, our students' names and new call signs appeared in the FCC database the following morning. One of the students was already licensed but attended just for review. That points out the difference between our license classes and the typical weekend offering focusing solely on passing the exam. Scott's class demands a longer time commitment but aims to better prepare the new ham for operating a radio and enjoying the hobby. Matthew Kozma W7MCK took advantage of the test session to upgrade from General to Extra Class. And his son, 8-year-old Colin, earned his Technician class ticket in a VE session at the Mike and Key Club on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to both of them! If I'm not

(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>Larry McDonnell</b>	<b>KE7MPR</b>	<b>larrym@skynetbb.com</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 488, Maple Valley, WA 98038

(President's Corner — Continued from page 1)

mistaken, Colin is the youngest member of our group to have a license.

This month we'll again hold our monthly meeting in the training room at Station 81. Despite Scott's absence we still have a full program planned. After our regular business meeting and social activities, we'll have a guest presenter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ron Zuber KC7RWT is a telecommunications specialist for FEMA Region X and the program manager for the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), a long haul network of domestic HF radio stations. Ron has more than 15 years of emergency and disaster management experience and will share some of his experiences in hurricanes Gustav and Ike last year.

In future meetings, we have plans for some speakers and hands-on sessions including a demo of IRLP and Echolink, a talk about amateur receiver specifications, an overview presentation of our repeater system, and a chance to make crimped coax connections. Stay dry and warm. See you Saturday.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

A reminder that there are no regular monthly meetings in November and December. Instead, we hold our annual Christmas party (a short meeting followed by a potluck meal) It is usually held around the first part of December. Look for details in next month's newsletter. Hope many of you will be able to make it.

## 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
Simplex Net Manager:	Chuck	KK7CB
Technical Committee:		
Scott	NS7C	Steve W7UDI
Rod	WE7X	Roger K7RXV
Phil	WA7ZWD	
Web Site Administrator:	Scott	NS7C

## Net Control Stations

Oct	27	Steve	WB7VAS
Nov	3	Chuck	KK7CB
	10	Richard	KR7L
	17	John	N7SPN
	24	Gary	KB7VDG
Dec	1	Steve	WB7VAS
	8	Open	
	15	Richard	KR7L
	22	Chuck	KK7CB
	29	Rich	KE7MPJ

## Got E-mail?

It seems that email addresses change frequently nowadays. If yours has changed recently, please inform the newsletter editor of your *preferred* email address. Don't miss a single issue.

Just send an email to Richard, [KR7L@arrl.net](mailto:KR7L@arrl.net)

## 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)

## Check-ins

KK7CB	Chuck
AC7NP	Dale
N7VOE	Dan
KC7HVV	Dick
N7BVT	Doug
KF7ACL	Duke
KB7VDG	Gary
W7IUS	Jeff
KR7JWL	Jerry
N7MU	Jim
W7WJM	Jim
N7SPN	John
K7LWT	Kathy
W7MCK	Mathew
KE7OCY	Patrick
KF6MHR	Pat
KF7AOR	Paul
WA7ZWD	Phil
KE7MPJ	Rich
WE7X	Rod
KE7MAI	Ryan
NS7C	Scott
KE7MPO	Skip
W7VAS	Steve
KE7OCX	Steve

THE MAPLE VALLEY HAMLINK, the official publication of the Maple Valley Amateur Radio Club (MVARC) is published monthly except for combined issues in July/August and November/December. Comments and ham related submissions are welcome, but inclusion is at the discretion of the MVARC newsletter staff.

This newsletter and previous editions for about one year can be viewed and downloaded from our website <http://www.kc7key.org>. ARRL and ARES logos are registered ARRL service marks and are used with permission.

Membership information: An interest in amateur radio is the only requirement. Dues are \$16/year (\$8/for first additional family member, with remaining family members free). Beginning April 30th of each year, dues are payable. Contact Richard, 253-630-1426. Dues for new members are prorated based on the month of becoming a member. See the Treasurer for the amount.

## 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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Mvarc_elmers@yahoogroups.com)

To subscribe send email to:

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

To unsubscribe:

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

Questions? Contact Scott at [NS7C@arrl.net](mailto:NS7C@arrl.net)

## NEW LICENSES/UPGRADES

Scott N7SC recently completed another Technician class and the VE team conducted a test session on Tuesday Oct 13.

Of the 6 students that completed the class, 5 of them passed the Technician exam that night. The 6th student passed the exam the following week at a Mike and Key test session. In addition to the students, there was General Class Licensee that upgraded to Extra. Congratulations to the following new hams and upgrades:

Paul Beveridge KF7FCE

Brenda Carl KF7FCF

Julie Pederson KF7FCG

Cindi Strong KF7FCH

Nancy Wik KF7FCI

Colin Kozma TBD

Matthew Kozma W7MCK (upgrade to Extra)

We hope to hear them soon!

## THE ASSISTANT EDITOR SEZ

by Gary, KB7VDG

There was an article in the Boeing News-clips a couple of weeks ago about a manager who rushed out on a business trip and realized he forgot his lap top when he arrived at the airport. He called his office and had one of his staff overnight express it to his destination. FedEx saw the content description and called the FAA. It turned out that new rules that went into effect at the beginning of this year required proper packing and labeling because of the Lithium Ion batteries in the laptop. The FAA fined Boeing \$42,000!



I tried to follow the links to the Boeing web site, which tried to summarize the FAA rules (but from a Boeing perspective). I went to the FAA web site and tried to decipher the rules through various documents, without great success. The following is my understanding at this time.

The FAA rules apply to shipping Lithium Ion batteries and items containing these batteries via air. So first, ground shipments are not within the scope of these rules. Second, the rules pretty much permit transporting most usual items containing Lithium Ion batteries in carry-on luggage (watches, radios, laptops, spare batteries, etc).

The problems come in when you pack these items in your checked luggage or ship them by air without following the new rules. The FAA is concerned with both the fire potential (numerous cases have been reported) and the damage from leakage. The new rules define what LI-Ion batteries can be packed or shipped, how they are to be

packed, and new labeling requirements. I found these rules to be very difficult to understand for the average person.

The bottom line is you should not put any items with Lithium Ion batteries or spare batteries into your checked luggage or ship them by air, unless you are absolutely sure you are meeting the new FAA rules. As can be seen by the example at the begging of this article, the FAA is taking this very seriously and the fines are significant.

One member mentioned that he had been asked by an airline representative if his checked luggage contained any Lithium-Ion batteries, because of some other items he was carrying. And we can see that the shipping companies are checking for these items and cooperating with the FAA. As responsible hams, we should do our part to ensure the safety of air travel and transportation.

## Happy Thanksgiving

**Fact or Fiction:** One of America's Founding Fathers thought the turkey should be the national bird of the United States.

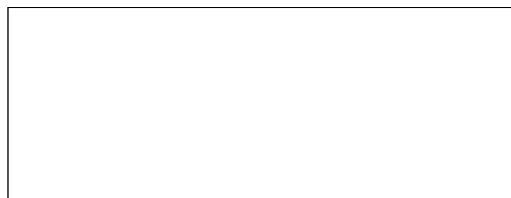
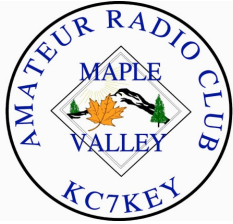
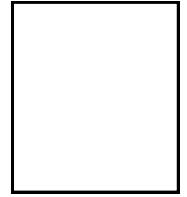
**Fact:** In a letter to his daughter sent in 1784, Benjamin Franklin suggested that the wild turkey would be a more appropriate national symbol for the newly independent United States than the bald eagle (which had earlier been chosen by the Continental Congress). He argued that the turkey was "a much more respectable Bird," "a true original Native of America," and "though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage."

**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.



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**Maple Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 488**  
**Maple Valley, WA 98038-0488**



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### **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 the newsletter staff by the 9th of the month.

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. The formatting will be changed to best fit the newsletter. Also, please especially do not use all capital letters.

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 or GIF if you don't have a lot of colors. 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.



# November 2009

S U N                      M O N                      T U E                      W E D                      T H U                      F R I                      S A T

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Net Chuck KK7CB</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Net Rich- ard KR7L</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Dick KC7HVW</b>	<b>14 Jim W7WJM</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 Net John N7SPN</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23 Dan N7VOE</b>	<b>24 Net Gary KB7VDG</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

Maple Valley Amateur  
Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliate

PO BOX 488  
MAPLE VALLEY WA 98038

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

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

\* - Happy Birthday