

## Next Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 10:00AM at CKC Labs in Canyon Park (note location change). They will show us the dangers of lightning and how to take precautions to prevent damage. Don Jones (K07I) is their senior staff engineer for EMC testing. Recently he attended a conference on lightning and was inspired to give lectures to the ham community on precautions to take to minimize the effects of a lightning strike. Don will give a short talk and then answer questions we might have. We will then have a walk thru and a demo of their lightning test capability. Feel free to invite your friends as this is a rare opportunity to learn about this topic from the recognized experts.

CKC Labs has a web site at [www.CKC.com](http://www.CKC.com). Directions and a map are available there. We will begin the meeting with some club specific items and then move into the formal presentation.

There are some changes afoot regarding the Boeing clubs' futures, especially those in Kent. Mark will provide input on that. We will also chat a bit about Salmon Run which is just around the corner.

## Salmon Run 2009

The 2009 edition of the Washington State QSO Party will be September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The club plans to participate again this year, based out of W7GD's QTH on Camano Island. There have been a few rules changes this year and it looks like they've attempted to spice up the club portion of the competition. BEARONS is the current defending club champion, 2 years running. The complete rules package for the contest can be found on the WWDXC website. The contest runs from 9:00AM local time to

midnight on the 19<sup>th</sup> and then re-starts at 9:00AM and runs until 5:00PM on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Even if you don't plan on participating with the club, consider getting on the air on your own and handing out contacts as a single operator entry.

## Upcoming Operating Activities

State QSO parties in September are – Colorado (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>), Tennessee (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>), Arkansas (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), South Carolina and Washington (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>), and Texas (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>). Other major events: ARRL VHF QSO Party (13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>), North American CW Sprint (13<sup>th</sup>) and the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>).

## BEARONS VE Testing

The next scheduled BEARONS VE test session will be on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 6:30PM at the Everett Activities Center.

## Fall/Winter Contest Season

With the Fall/Winter 2009 contest season just around the corner, now would be a good time to start preparations in the shack and outside with the antennas and related hardware. Better to give things a good going over while the weather is still decent as opposed to having to troubleshoot a pesky problem in the middle of a Northwest rain or snowstorm. Inspect antenna feedlines for damage and any coax connector seals that you may have to make sure they are in good condition. Check rotator control cables for damage or nicks in the insulation. Check/rework any questionable ground connections and the shack grounding system in general. Do you have spare fuses on hand for equipment and power supplies? If not, put those on the list of things "to get" the next time you're out and about, same thing for dry cell batteries (if needed).