



Cathay Newsletter August 2007

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Mission: The Cathay Amateur Radio Club is basically an active social club of Ham Radio Operators and their spouses

Monday Night Net Time: 9PM PST Frequency: 146.67MHz -600KHz PL85.4 and 442.70 +5MHz PL 173.8 The repeaters are linked. The Monday night net is the best way to find out the latest club news. All check-ins are welcome.

Message from the President: *Edison Fong, WB6IQN*

Was that fun or what? You folks that did not make it to the point Reyes KPH fieldtrip really missed something special. Anyway, if you didn't, that's OK. You're just early for the next event. Coming up is the Tech Session in Sunnyvale right after the DeAnza Swapmeet on the 11th of August. More details below.

We regret the loss of two of our longtime members of the Cathay Amateur Radio Club. William Hardy KF6VOG and Jewel McGinnis K6JOY. See below for details.

Did you know that an informal group of the CARC meets every month at the DeAnza Swapmeet in Cupertino? Yep, us diehards are always there bright and early so we don't miss any "great deals". Of course "great deals" are only relative. Talk to my wife and to her I just bring home JUNK. Afterwards, the group then goes out to lunch. I usually see between 6-12 CARC members at the monthly swap.

Trip to the KPH Radio Station.

On Saturday July 7th 17 members and family friends of the CARC took a trek to the historical KPH radio site near Bolinas, California. This was some trip. Although not physically far from San Francisco, about 40 miles, the drive down there was something to experience. Extremely winding roads that would dwarf any roller coaster ride. The closest town was Bolinas, just north of Stinson Beach. Our host was Steve Hawes WB6UZX. He is semi retired as the chief engineer at KPFA in Berkeley. We also met with Denice Stoops KI6BBR the first and only woman to be a telegrapher at KPH and Richard Dillman W6AWO. The structure we visited is a historical landmark now owned by the National Parks and was constructed in 1920. The maintenance of the radio station is now maintained by all volunteers of the *Maritime Radio Historical Society*. It has had various ownership throughout the years from RCA to MCI communications and its present licensee is Globe Wireless. At one time, virtually all of the Pacific commercial telegraphy radio traffic was routed through this station. So if you ever sent a telegram to the Pacific, more than likely it went through here. Of course most of the commercial traffic was done through teletype not CW. CW was primarily used for ship to shore.

There were dozens of transmitters here that were 5KW and above. Did I hear 40KW on one? I am sure all of them have great stories behind them. The KPH site was used extensively during WWII and was used to send the warning message to Hawaii before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Unfortunately, the message arrived too late. Steve told us that the RF fields were so high that a car parked in the wrong place would literally catch fire from the static discharge if enough transmitters were on. I saw some very nice receivers that I would have loved to own. There were two classic National HRO500. These were the first solid state synthesized receivers built. Anyway, the pictures speak for themselves below. Some of the modern stuff still looked very contemporary. The Henry Radio Transmitters were installed as late as 1995. The Watkins Johnson receivers (and I counted 6 of them) would still be very respectable by today's standards and are certainly being used today by commercial operators. After the tour, we had lunch in Stinson Beach and then toured the town before taking the long drive back to Sunnyvale. Again, we would like to thank our host Steve Hawes WB6UZX for this historical experience.

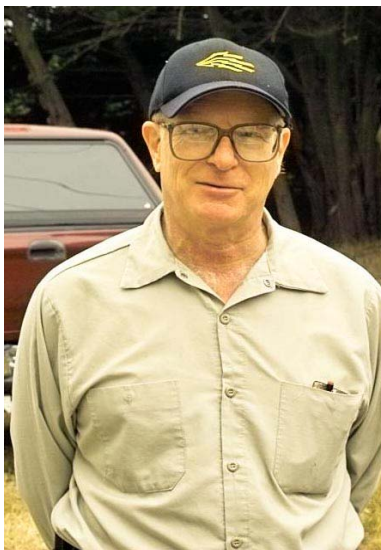
If you wish more information or a history of the KPH station, go to www.radiomarine.org. Or contact Steve Hawes at shawes@uclink.berkeley.edu.



Here is the old KPH building as it looks today.



We had 17 club members drive the distance. Shown are Dave NE5EE, Diana KI6IOH, Ed WB6IQN, Susan, George W6BUR, Howard N6MNV, Cy WB6TCF, Bob KM6QP, Leang K6LJF, Nelson AD6XZ, Bill KC6POF. Not in picture are Sharadon, Arey K6MEW and Annie.



Steve Hawes WB6UZX is one of the experts in restoring the old transmitters.



This was the original plaque from the dedication of the building in 1920.



Richard Dillman W6AWO and Denice Stoops KI6BBR. Denice was the only woman CW operator at the KPH station.



A rack of WJ modern receivers. I would love to have one those.



This is where the oscillators were powered up 24 hrs/day when not in use to keep them warmed up and stable. The sockets supplied the power. One would pull the module and place it in the transmitter when it was ready to use.



These were the old workhorse RCA transmitters 1950's vintage. Still going strong.



Mei-Lin and Violet at the controls.



A top view of the some of the transmitters.



I saw this sign under the staircase.



This was last rack of transmitters that were installed as late as 1995. They were manufactured by Henry Radio. I believe these are still current models.

Tech Session in Sunnyvale Saturday, August 11 – time 12 noon – 3PM

Place: 1163 Quince Ave. Sunnyvale, 408-245-8210 monitor 146.52 MHz

Right after the DeAnza Swapmeet: FREE event. Why go out to the traditional St. John's after the swap and pay for a lunch? Come by after the swapmeet and receive a FREE lunch which includes: Pizza, lasagna, salad lunch, drinks, etc. Bring a dessert to share (optional). The first 10 to show up will receive an analog multimeter with test leads. This meter is handie for all kinds of stuff. So come early. The multimeter is open to members only.

Directions: If you are coming from the DeAnza Flea Market, just head North on Stelling Rd. DeAnza College on the the corner of Stevens Creek and Stelling Rd. Go 2 miles, past Homestead Road, past Fremont Ave. (Stelling Rd. will change names to Hollenbeck Ave. after you cross Homestead Rd.) After Fremont Ave., watch for the first signal light which is Torrington, make a left. Go one block and you will run into Quince Ave. We are at 1163 Quince Ave. I will monitor 146.52 MHz if anyone gets lost.

If you need precise directions from where you are coming from, go to www.mapquest.com. They seem to give the best directions or give me (Ed Fong) a call on the phone.

The Tech session this year will be an introduction of software to run your handie talkie. Almost all of us have a handie talkie. If it was purchased in the last 10 years or so, then it has plenty of memories. Even the most entry level handie talkie has 100+ memories. Most have between 200-2000 memory locations. So how do you program these radios? Certainly one does not do it by hand entering the information into the radio via the keypad. It would take weeks of your time. Anything over 10 memories and it becomes impractical to program with direct entry. Rather, one uses a PC with the aid of a spread sheet. There are programs you can purchase from the manufacturers, but if you come to this session, you will receive a copy or I will show you how to download it from the WEB for your particular HT. I will demonstrate how to use this sometimes "awkward" software. In particular I will use the Yaesu VX2 and ICOM Q7A as examples. If you don't own a handie talkie, well, come early for the food and free multimeter. Besides, it's just another great excuse to get together. It should be lots of fun..

This is right after the DeAnza Flea Market, so bring your friends and family and enjoy a nice relaxing afternoon.



Do you have one of these HT's that you program manually? Come to the August event and we will show you how to program it through your PC via a



The first 10 members that arrive will receive a FREE MF110 multimeter.

Annual Picnic – Fairbrae Swim and Raquet Club Saturday, September 8

Place: Fairbrae Swin and Raquet Club, Sunnyvale

Time: September 8th 12:00AM-3:00PM

Costs: Bring a Potluck to share, FREE parking, FREE drinks, Raffle Tickets: \$5 each

This is a great place, just down from the DeAnza Swap.

We will rent the Club House for the afternoon. There are cooking facilities to heat up food. If you wish to find out more about this facility, go to www.fairbrae.com. The board has approved raffling off an HDTV. That's exactly what I need. More to come in the next newsletter. We have decided that is this will be a pot luck affair. So bring your favorite dish or for you bachelors, go to Safeway or Costco.

This place is easy to find. Fairbrae Swim and Raquet is 1 block away from my house. You can park your car at my place or park at Fairbrae. There is ample parking at Fairbrae.

A Tribute to William (Bill) Hardy KF6VOG



October 4, 1946 – May 25, 2007

We lost our great friend Bill Hardy in May. Bill was a long time member of the Cathay Radio Club and was always present at the events. I always enjoy talking to him and I could tell he had a passion not only for ham radio but for life. Bill certainly lived life to its fullest. He served two terms as Vice President for the club while I was president. At times when we were short changed on the raffle, he would come up and buy a half a dozen tickets so we could break even. Bill loved gadgets and every time I would see him, I would ask him what new toy he had. I will miss him at our events, but his spirit will always be with me. Bill was just a great example of gentleman. Several CARC members were present at his lovely memorial service June 4th. These included Joe W6DOB, Vince W6EE, George W6BUR, John Tim W6QNT, Howard N6MNV, Tony KR6EG, Cy WB6TCF, Connie KF6WEA and myself.

The following is a short history of Bill given to me by his lovely wife Una.

Bill was born in Boston and lived there until joining the U.S. Navy as a submariner during the Vietnam era. He settled in the San Francisco Bay Area upon his discharge from active duty.

He became a member of Stationary Engineers, Local 39 in 1970 and in 1984 went to work for the Union as a Business Representative until his retirement in 2007. He was very proud of his life's work and helped many along the way.

Bill was never bored. He had a plethora of hobbies, each of which he immersed himself in until he had gained mastery. He was an accomplished sailor, an expert model railroader, an avid ham radio operator, a keen photographer, and an enthusiastic astronomer. He enjoyed playing his

guitar, tin whistle, bodhran and harmonica. He enjoyed reading the Harry Potter series and was a connoisseur of single malt scotch.

One of Bill's most striking attributes was the goodness of his spirit. He was a kind, gentle and generous soul who loved humanity and all creatures great and small. He walked lightly upon the earth. He created a welcoming environment at his home for wild birds, feral cats, lost dogs and other waifs and strays. He particularly loved hummingbirds and attracted a huge flock every summer.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Tribute to Jewel McGinnis K6JOY. July 6, 1924 to May 15, 2007

We lost another CARC member June 9, Jewel McGinnis K6JOY. Jewel had been a member for about 10 years. I helped Jewel get back on the air 2 years ago when her Kenwood dual band GM707 has been disabled. Many of the CARC members did not know it, but Jewel was an advocate for the blind. She was blind most of her life but that did not stop her. She was an adventurer and getting her HAM license was only one of her life accomplishments. She died May 15 of heart failure at age 82. Although she was legally blind for most of her life, and totally blind in her last years, Jewel retained an extraordinary sense of where she was. "If you were driving someplace, she'd say, 'You just turned the wrong way,' " said her friend Jeffrey Graham, a San Francisco architect who had volunteered to assist her in everyday living. "It was amazing. She knew exactly which direction she was going. It was like she had a built-in GPS system."

She studied at the University of Redlands and San Francisco State University.

In 1963, she founded Blind San Franciscans, an organization that gave interest-free loans to blind and visually impaired people. "Public transit riders in San Francisco benefit daily from her work with the Muni Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Paratransit Coordinating Council,"

according to her friend Louise Rice, a volunteer at the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco. Miss McGinnis' tireless work earned her a spot in "Who's Who of California 1982."

She will be missed by all the people she touched.



Some of the Cathay Radio members got together at Ming's in San Mateo for a pre 4th of July lunch.

Standing L to R: Ray Biagini, Sr. KO6GV; Paul Kitagaki W6NDA.

Seated L to R: Dave Chan WZ6X; Joe Lee W6DOB; Bill Tom KN6QD; Edwin Wong N6YCG.

Hey, Joe and Dave can you announce this to the rest of the group so we could join them the next time they get together.

Well that's all for now and make sure you set your calendars for September 8 for the annual picnic and raffling of an HDTV. I haven't bought the TV yet, so if any of you know of a big sale, please email me or call me.

Have a great summer.

Edison Fong WB6IQN