



Cathay Newsletter August 2008

www.cathayradio.org

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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*

Wow!!! Here we are in July and summer is half way over. Hope things have been going well. The stock market and price of oil has certainly not made this a smooth summer. I have been biking to work a lot and yes I have been saving on gas. For the summer this is fine since the sun sets later in the evenings. When fall comes I don't know what I am going to do. Any good ideas out there? I have been seriously thinking about buying one of those electric scooters that look like a Vespa but run on an electric 500 watt motor. The low end ones go for about \$1000 and these can run up to \$2500 for the higher end models. Anyway, if you have any suggestions on how we can save on energy, please email me so we can share it with the rest of the group. Here is our agenda for rest of the year.

August 9 - Tech Session right after the DeAnza Swap Meet. See details below.

September 13 Cathay Amateur Radio Club annual picnic. To be held at National Semiconductor Sunnyvale.

October - Computer History Muesum - Mountain View.

December – Christmas Party in Sunnyvale

Hey, don't forget to check into the Monday night net. 9PM (2100 local). This checks out the repeater and also provides for the latest announcements. How much more convenient can it be? You can check in either on VHF or UHF. You don't have to be at home and it only takes about 10-15 minutes of your time.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send a \$15.00 check for your 2008 membership renewal to CARC, c/o Bill Chin KC6POF, 43 Norwood Ave, Daly City, CA 94015.

Tech Session in Sunnyvale Saturday August 9th. (includes free lunch)

Date: August 9 – 12 noon – 3PM

Subject: *Extending the range of your wireless WiFi*

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

Cost: *FREE to Cathay Members and Guest*

Directions: *If you are coming from the DeAnza Flea Market, just head North on Stelling Rd. DeAnza College is 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.

This is right after the DeAnza Swapmeet. Before going home, come on by and have a great lunch and meet new friends. Lunch will consist of lasagne, pizza, salad, drinks, chips and desserts. Why go out to the traditional St. John's after the swap and then to HRO's? Drop by, save your money, and still have time to go to HRO's. Bring a dessert to share.

This year's topic will be "*Extending the range of your wireless WiFi*".

We all know about 802.11b/g. This is the standard that is used throughout the world for local WiFi use. This standard is used in homes, schools, businesses etc. But its range is limited to the immediate area and seldom can go beyond 100 ft. Take a wireless card like an Airlink AWLC-4030 shown in the photo. This card can be bought for less than \$10. Unfortunately unless you are in the same room as the wireless router, it is limited in its performance. If you want some improved performance one could set up a gain antenna. This is offered in the Airlink AWLL3055 which goes for about \$25 when it is on sale at Fry's. This will clearly get around the house and even into your neighbor's network. Beyond that, what can one do to extend the range to several city blocks, even miles? It will be these range extending techniques the will be introduced at the August meeting.

Why would you want to go several blocks or miles? Well, is there a coffee shop or recreation center or hotel near your house with FREE WiFi? Need I say more.

Supprisingly, an elaborate system that can get you miles can be obtained for less than \$100. Who says ham radio needs to be expensive. Come to the August meeting and learn about some of these techniques and perhaps even put together a long range Wifi yourself. Fully functional systems will be demonstrated at the August 9 meeting.



This is a typical PCMCIA card that most people use. Its range is limited to the immediate area. Fortunately, these can be purchased for under \$50.

Report on the Picnic at George's House, July 19th

That was a great potluck get together at George's W6BUR. I counted 31 people. There may have been more but counting got difficult with so many people. The club wishes to thank George and Hetty for their hospitality. Everyone had a great time. Aside from the great food (and there of plenty of it) and deserts, we also got to tune radios. I must apologize due to the lack of time if I did not have time to get to everyone's radios. I will have much more time at the August meeting at my house. There were also a good number of XYL's. A few I had not met before. My daughter Mei-lin sold so many tickets that we had to throw in an EXTRA Motorola GP68 into the raffle. So we ended up having two winners. David Wong KG6SWL and Arey Mew K6MEW. Congratulations!!! Many of the attendees had never been to George's house. I understand this was Skip Wiess KG6SCE first Cathay event. The club welcomed him by having him win a 3 million candle flashlight. Below is a list of people I remember seeing (30 of them) , but I am missing few. It was just great to see so many people there. I just didn't have enough time to get to everyone.

Attendance (at least 30 - that I can remember) I'm missing at least one :

Ed Fong WB6IQN, Gary Gin KN6LV, George Chong W6BUR, Hetty Chong WB6SHU, Dirk Thiele KE6ZUY, Bill and Florence Chin KC6POF, Tony Halog KR6EG, Connie Halog KF6WEA, David Wong KG6SWL, Nelson Doon AD6XZ, Arey and Annie Mew K6MEW, Bob Lai KN6QP, Dave Gomberg NE5EE, Diana Lum KG6 IOH, Chris Gin KG6FOX, Norman Noble WB6YSL, Ralph Kulger KC6YDH, Dave and Judy Chan KI6FPO, Skip Weiss KG6SCE, Bill Tom and Linda KN6QD, John Tim and Lois W6QNT, Joe Lee W6DOB, Alon Yu – WA6GTY, Sharadon Smith, and Mel-lin Fong

Winners of the raffle prized at he July meeting meeting.

*Motorola GP68 VHF Arey Mew K6MEW
Motorola GP68 UHF Dave Wong KG6SWL
GP4 SW Radio David Chan KI6FPO
Insignia HDTV Tuner Insignia Digital Tuner Alon Yu WA6GTY
Journey's Edge Flashlight/pocket knife. Leonard NX6E
Pryme dual band BNC antenna Arey Mew K6MEW
Laser Pointer Flashlight Bill Chin KC6POF
ARRL Antenna Compendum Ron Quan KI6AZB
3 million candle power light Skip Weiss KG6SCE
Kronus 1 million candle power light Leonard NX6E*



XYL's Linda, Sharadon and Hetty. Diana in the background.



Bob KN6QP, Nelson AD6XZ and David KG6SWL.



David KI6FPO and Judy winning the GP4 radio.



Skip KCGSCE and Judy buying tickets from Mei-lin.



Arey K6MEW winning the Motorola GP68.



Dave KG6SWL winning the second GP68.

Economics 101

Its time for another lesson in economics. What I like to do in this section is to unravel some of the misinterpretation of “percent yield”. A lot of it is twisted truths often looking at the situation through rose colored glasses. This month’s topic will be on “total average return”. Almost all mutual funds will have this as one of the parameters. Total average return stated in “percent”. You guessed it. This can be a deceiving number. If a mutual fund quotes its total average return for the last, let’s say, 10 years one must really look at the actual performance of each of those years to be fair. Let’s take a very simple example with very simple numbers to first demonstrate my point. Suppose you are given \$100 and earn an interest rate of 5% annually. At the end of the first year, one has \$105. With compounding, at the end of the second year one would have \$110.25. Most people would call this an “average annual rate of return of 5.25%”.

Ok, that is simple. Now suppose with the same \$100 you invest in a high flying mutual fund. The first year it drops 50%, so you are down to \$50. The next year it reports fantastic results with 100% returns. So what does one have left at the end of 2 years? Exactly \$100, the same amount you started with. But what will the mutual fund report on its annual statement? It will calculate -50% plus 100% then divided by 2. That is the average return for two years or 25%. In real money terms, you have gain nothing. One was much better off with the 5% return with a CD. This is very deceiving. The key here is that one cannot go negative, this really hurts the total return. This is why government securities are so good, they never go negative. Almost all sector or stock mutual funds go negative at some point and that really hurts the total growth of the fund. Although the average annual return might be respectable.

The above example is quite dramatic and may not reflect reality, but it demonstrates that going negative really affects the total return but yet the average annual return number may still look attractive.

So let’s take a more realistic fund. Suppose we take the Standard and Poor’s index, like SPY. This is what most funds compare themselves to. The numbers below are the actual numbers as taken from *Yahoo.finance.com*.



So the above chart summarizes to the following for each year.

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
-15.3%	-2.5%	-23%	+34%	+5%	+3.4%	+13.6%	-10.5%

If you took the above numbers and averaged it, the result would be **+0.58% over the 8 year period**. So one would think you would have \$100.58 dollars left at the end of 8 years from a \$100 investment in 2001. That's not great, but at least it is not negative.

Now, let's see what the real numbers are after each year of a \$100 investment made in 2001.

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
\$84.70	\$82.58	\$63.59	\$66.77	\$89.47	\$92.51	\$105.09	\$94.05

So there you see it. No tricks. One would think they would have had \$100.58, but in reality one only has \$94.05. So instead of breaking even, you are about \$6.00 in the hold. Now suppose you took tax free bonds at 5.5%. NO Federal or State Taxes. Remember, it never goes negative.

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
\$105.5	\$111.30	\$117.42	\$123.88	\$130.69	\$137.88	\$145.46	\$153.46

I close my case.

It's not that you could not have made money in the market, but it is very tough. In the 1990's it was easy because the market never went negative. But when it goes negative, then one needs to more carefully look at the numbers and how it is being calculated. On another example, a member of this group thought they were making 15% annual return on a fund. When I actually calculated it with my "real method," it was only 5.1%.

So before investing in a mutual fund, one must normalize the method which one is comparing it to other instruments such as CD's and bonds. In almost every case, the techniques used to report total average return on annual reports of mutual funds are optimistic. At times it is the method which they calculate it and other times, it is the time window they chose to report their numbers. Just be very careful.

NEW CALIFORNIA DRIVING FINES AS OF JULY 1,2008. Bill Tom KN6QD

Here are some interesting new laws that you should be aware of. Thanks to Bill for submitting it.

1. As of 07/01/08 cell phone use must be "hands free" while driving. Ticket is \$285. They will be looking for this like crazy - easy money for police department.
2. Carpool lane - 1st time \$1068.50 starting 7/1/08 (The \$271 posted on the highway is old). Don't do it again because 2nd time is going to be double. 3rd time triple, and 4th time license suspended.
3. Incorrect lane change - \$380. Don't cross the lane on solid lines or intersections.
4. Block intersection - \$485
5. Driving on the shoulder - \$450
6. Cell phone use in the construction zone. - Double fine as of 07/01/08. Cell phone use must be "hands free" while driving.
7. Passengers over 18 not in their seatbelts - both passengers and drivers get tickets .
8. Speeders can only drive 3 miles above the limit.
9. DUI = JAIL (Stays on your driving record for 10 years!)

EARN YOUR RADIO LICENSE IN ONE DAY!

Sunday, September 7, 2008

8:45AM SHARP! - 3:00PM

San Francisco County Fair Building Hall of Flowers – Rec Room
9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

There will be a General cram for Techs same place & time.

Ample free parking. Great lunch restaurants nearby.

Bring 2 IDs (one with picture), a couple of pens and

\$20 cash for Technician study materials, tips, and test **OR**

\$40 cash for General study materials, lecture, and test **OR**

\$14 cash for testing only (general, extra, Morse tests available too)

8:45AM Checkin for study. Don't be early or late. Dropins OK.

If you want test only (no preparation onsite) come at 1:30PM.

8:50 Beginners' tips, donuts 9:00 Self-study starts, coffee

1:30 Exams begin

No advance preparation needed for beginners, we do it all in 6 hours. General exam class begins

9:05AM (if you are already licensed or have already mastered the Technician exam material).

Questions? **hamcrams.com**

Dr. Walt Gee K6GIJ

Walt was a great friend of mine. He was sometimes better known as K6GI (Joe). I first met him back in the mid 90's and we share some great stories. He worked with Prof. Tuck Lee at Lockheed and I had Prof. Lee for many antenna design classes when I was in graduate school. He knew a lot about antennas which also was my favorite subject. I also always enjoy talking to Walt at our gatherings. I really admired Walt because I just could not believe he graduated with his Ph.D. at age 50. I barely did it at age 30. He and wife Anne were always a pleasure to talk to. He was very loyal to our club and his loss was a personal lost to me. Walt was always one of the lucky one's at our club gathering. He won the grand prize twice, once for a Yaesu FT817 and once for a Dell Laptop. The club donate \$75 to the Gee family.



Dr. Walter Gee July 3, 1933 - June 5, 2008 Walter Gee, Ph.D., a native of San Francisco, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2008, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Walter was the youngest son of the late Lawrence Gee and May Chin. He is survived by his devoted wife, Anne; children, John (Ping), Peter (Alice), Beatrice (Joseph Montoya), Christina, Martin, and Steven; grandchildren, Cassie, Jenny, Richard, Jeffrey, Justin, Juan and David, and oldest brother, Lawrence Gee. Walter graduated from St. Mary's Chinese Catholic School. He enlisted in the US Air Force at age 17 and served during the Korean War. He joined Lockheed Missiles & Space Company in 1965. Despite the demands of working and raising his family, he earned a B.S. in mathematics in 1973, M.S. in electrical engineering in 1977, and Ph.D. in electrical engineering on his 50th birthday in 1983. Ironically, his doctoral research focused on the use of microwave-induced hyperthermia to destroy cancer cells. After retiring in 1992, he formed his own company, Walter Gee and Associates, and developed a low profile antenna in his garage laboratory. He patented two of his designs.