

## **Cathay Newsletter January 2009**

*www.cathayradio.org*

**President:** Ed Fong, WB6IQN email: *edison\_fong@hotmail.com*

**Vice President North:** Leonard Tom, NX6E

**Vice President South:** Bill Fong, W6BBA

**Secretary/Membership:** Bill Chin, KC6POF

**Editor:** Ed Fong WB6IQN email: [edison\\_fong@hotmail.com](mailto:edison_fong@hotmail.com) and Bill Tom KN6QD

**Treasurer:** Vince Chinn, W6EE

**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.

**Washington High School Net : Monday** 7PM PST Frequency: 147.06.MHz +600KHz PL100 . Net control is Nathan KI6PVO. This is on the Mt. Diablo Radio Club Repeater

**Message from the President:** *Edison Fong, WB6IQN*

Here we are with a New Year. Hopefully 2009 year will be more prosperous than the last one. With new leadership in the White House we hope that things will slowly get better. The job market at present is the worse I have ever seen it in my 30 year working career. The official number for unemployment claims are like 8.2% but the key word here is unemployment claims. After 6 months, you are no longer “unemployed” according to the government. Many of my colleagues have been out of work for over a year now. So I hear numbers like 15% are more realistic. This is the first time that all three college roommates I had in graduate school are out of jobs. These roommates of mine are highly skilled professionals with advanced college degrees. This is getting scary. Economists agree that, next to the Great Depression of the 1920’s and 1930’s, this is worst we have experienced. Only this

time, it is worldwide. With today's modern technology and communications, the entire world economy is intertwined and there is no escaping it. We can blame it all on the subprime mortgage fiasco. We can blame it all on President Bush and his administration. We can blame it on Congress. There is plenty of blame to go around, but the more persuasive question is where we go from here? In the year 2000 we had a surplus and ever since then we have had a deficit. Depending on how you count it, our deficit is in the TRILLIONS. Just the Bush bail out package alone is a surprising at \$700 billion. President Elect Obama wants to increase this even more. It is a general agreement that President Bush did not help the problem by appointing his personal friends to his administration. We all know now that this leads only to disastrous consequences. One must have the best and brightest running this country. You cannot have your "friend" running the department of education like Margaret Spelling. When asked what qualifications she had to run the Department of Education, she reply "I have two children that went through the public school system." Are you joking? So did hundreds of millions of other Americans. She did not even have a "teacher's credential". There are about 10 million licensed teachers in the United States, all would have been more qualified than her. You cannot have your friend running FEMA, like Mike Brown. Because of these incompetent decisions, people died. So the President needs to take both domestic and international problems seriously and find the best qualified candidates. President Elect Obama appears to have started by making some great choices such as Dr. Steven Chu, Nobel Laureate 1997 in physics, for the Department of Energy. Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. General Eric Shinseki as United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I believe these are all good selections. But only time will tell. Hey, two of these choices are even Asian, but only by coincidence. If we slowly improve, I will have to say it was no accident. It was by design. Let's wish President Elect Obama the best.

On another note, I have got good news for members of the Cathay Radio Club for 2009. Our treasurer, Vince Chin W6EE, has informed me that our treasury is in such good shape. The board has agreed that dues will be reduced to \$12 for the year of 2009 if you renew by January 16, 2009. Otherwise it is \$15. Not only that, we are doing so well that the club can subsidize renewing members one full dinner as opposed to the traditional \$5. **Yes, you heard it right folks**, this year it will be 2 for 1. If you were a paid member in 2008, you can bring a guest. This can be your spouse, your friend, your sibling, etc. You can even bring another member (then they won't have to pay for their dinner). This has got to be the best deal in town. Absolutely no strings attach.

In this newsletter we have a summary of the Christmas Party with photos, details of the Chinese New Year's Banquet coming up Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, a description of the free LED flashlight for each renewing and/or new member, a ballot sheet for voting, and the annual dues and banquet sign up. If you folks have anything you would like to see this coming year, please email or call me. [Edison\\_fong@hotmail.com](mailto:Edison_fong@hotmail.com). We always welcome suggestions. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the officers that make the club, but the members. The officers plan and arrange the details of the events, but it is ultimately the members and their guests that really make the event successful. If no one showed up to the events, there would no club.

It has been great being your president for the 4 terms (2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008). However, we still need help on the newsletter for articles, officers for planning events, raffle committee, etc. Notice that we could not fine anyone to run for President. This was after George Chong, Bill Chin and myself

exhaustively searched for a candidate. So please consider volunteering to help the club. We can use the help. I can no longer be the President since I have other obligations such as work, family, teaching classes at Cal, IEEE meetings, etc.

I wish the best to you and your family in 2009.

Ed

**Repeater Status** - The repeater seems to be working great. Thanks to George W6BUR, we are now getting really good handie talkie coverage. No more noises, desense problems, etc. This is the backup machine that George has got on the air. I am looking into the main machine to see if I can fix it.

### **Report on the Annual Christmas Party – Ed Fong WB6IQN**

The 2008 Christmas Party was held on December 20. There were about 80-100 people that attended and that included about 20 kids. They came from all over the Bay Area. The format was pot luck so we got food from all ethnic groups. From traditional American to Italian, to Chinese, to Indian, to Japanese. The desserts ranged from traditional apple pie to flaun (hope I got the spelling correct), to special desserts from Draeger's, to homemade cookies and cakes. This year we even had an ice cream bar that was really popular with the kids. Thanks to Teresa Schindler for setting it up. One of the main attractions was the "Green Christmas Tree". See the photo in the caption. The kids and adults were welcome to guess how many LED lights were on the tree. There were two categories; one for the kids and one for the adults. The answer was 350 LED lights that consumed about 24 watts. The winners were Leslie (not a ham) for the adults and Gabriela Nelson for the children. Both received a Cree LED AA flashlight with focusing LED. The kids had fun breaking apart the home made gingerbread house (See the photos on the next page.). It took Mei-lin, Violet (my daughter) with their friends Katherine and Alexandria Hutchins (harmonics of ex WB6BDV) over 4 hours to make the previous day. The gingerbread house was destroyed and consumed in less than a minute. If you missed the party you missed meeting some of the movers and shakers in the Silicon Valley. There was Prof. Op Amp himself, Tom Frederickson AC6QS. Tom is the famous author of the widely distributed book, *Intuitive Op Amps*. There was the retired President of Elantec, Lee Stoian and his wife Olga. There was Paul Uneuten (forgot his call) one of the founders of MPS which is one of the Valleys more successful companies. Even Mike Langberg (formerly of the San Jose Mercury News) was there with his wife Debbie and daughter Sara.

I thank everyone for coming and bringing the wonderful food. It was the people that really made it a great party. We are looking forward to hosting it next year.

*Ed WB6IQN*



As usual, there was plenty of food, but are those potential HAMs? I'm going to work with them this summer.



That's well known Prof. Op Amp himself Tom Frederickson AC6QS talking with legendary CMOS pioneer Lee Stoian (retired CEO of Elantec).



Judson Chu W6WTY with his lovely wife May.



Ron KI6AZB, Jeff ex. WB6BDV, and Leonard NX6E shooting the breeze.



Here are the kids working on the ginger bread house. Several of these harmonics are "almost" ready to take the exam. This summer for sure.



Gabriela Nelson guest the number of LED lights on the Christmas tree. It was 350 and she guessed 275. She won the Cree 1 Watt LED flashlight.

## Annual Chinese New Year's Banquet

2009 will be the year of the Ox. The New Year will officially begin January 26. If you were born in 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 - you were born under the sign of the Ox. If you were born the year of the Ox, you are always busy pursuing a personal goal or ambition, and are thus known as one of the hardest-working signs in the [Chinese zodiac](#). Famous people born in the Year Of Ox include Jack Lemmon, Tony Benet, Shirley Bassey, Jack Nicholson, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Walt Disney.

The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. This powerful sign is a born leader, being quite dependable and possessing an innate ability to achieve great things. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm, and modest. Like their animal namesake, the Ox is unswervingly patient, tireless in their work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint.

Ox people need peace and quiet to work through their ideas, and when they have set their mind on something it is hard for them to be convinced otherwise. An Ox person has a very logical mind and is extremely systematic in whatever they do, even without imagination. These people speak little but are extremely intelligent. When necessary, they are articulate and eloquent. The Ox works hard, patiently, and methodically, with original intelligence and reflective thought. These people enjoy helping others. Behind this tenacious, laboring, and self-sacrificing exterior lies an active mind. The Ox is not extravagant, and the thought of living off credit cards or being in debt makes them nervous. The possibility of taking a serious risk could cause the Ox sleepless nights. It is important to remember that the Ox people are sociable and relaxed when they feel secure, but occasionally a dark cloud looms over such people and they engage all the trials of the whole world and seek solutions for them (taken from Wikipedia).

The annual Chinese New Year Banquet will be held at the Silver Dragon in Oakland on Saturday, January 31. Thanks to George W6BUR and Joe W6DOB for organizing it. This is a great restaurant with great food. Bring your family and friends. The menu is a 10 course traditional banquet usually reserved for weddings. If you had to attend one event for the year, this is it. We expect about 80-100 people to attend. Remember, this year it will be 2 for 1. Paid 2008 members will be charge \$40 for two people. Your guest is free. Please be prompt since the program will start at exactly 6:00PM. Set your calendars for Saturday January 31, 2009. The program will be as follows:

- 5:00PM Dining room open and social time.
- 6:00 PM Dinner begins
- 7:00 PM Introduction of new officers.
- 7:30PM Raffle begins.

Here are the conditions for the banquet.

1. All reservations and payments should be made by January 16, 2008.
2. Dinner seating will be open and non-reserved.
3. Kids under 12 are free.
4. All requests for special needs should be included when making reservations.
5. If you cannot attend or find a substitute to attend and have already paid, there are no refunds since we must pay in advance. The club will make every effort to try to find a substitute for you.

The preliminary menu is:

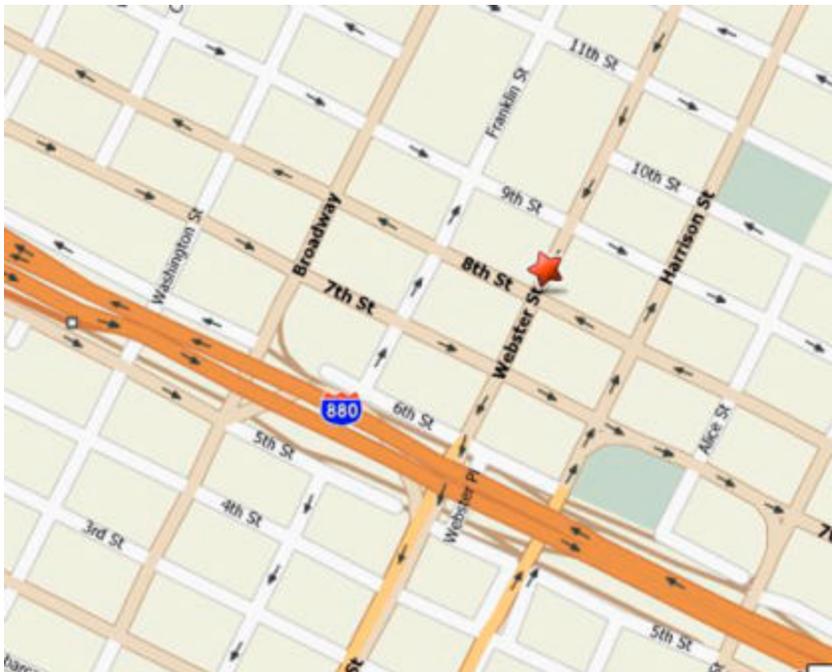
*SILVER DRAGON APPETIZER PLATTER  
ROSTERED WHOLE QUAILS  
DOUBLE HAPPINESS SHARK'S FIN SOUP  
PEKING DUCK WITH LOTUS ROLLS  
SAUTE SCALLOPS IN A PHOENIX'S NEST  
BRAISED MUSHROOMS WITH SEASONAL GREENS  
BOSTON LOBSTERS WITH GINGER AND SCALLIONS  
STEAMED SEASONAL WHOLE FISH  
SEAFOOD COMBINATION FRIED RICE  
DESERT OF THE DAY*

Now that sounds like a great menu. Directions and address are as follows:

Silver Dragon Restaurant  
835 Webster St, Oakland, CA  
510-893-3748

**From South Bay:** Take 880 north. Exit on the Broadway exit towards downtown. Proceed to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Make a right on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and find street parking. There is a public garage on Franklin and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**From North Bay:** Take 880 South to San Jose. Exit on the Broadway/Alameda Exit. Stay straight, go on to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left on Broadway. Turn right on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. There is a public garage on Franklin and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.



## **The Grand Prize for the Banquet – Acer Notebook Computer**



In keeping with the tradition of offering the latest and greatest in technology, the raffle grand prize, will be a notebook laptop. This is just not another notebook laptop. This is a notebook using the new Intel Atom processor. This makes possible a 2 lb laptop with the following features; 120 Gigbytes of hard drive, 1.6 GHz processor, 8.9 in LCD screen with LED backlighting. 1024x600 graphics, 1 Gbyte of RAM, built in 802.11b/g WiFi networking, 3 USB 2.0 ports, multi-format memory card reader, and built in webcam. With its light weight, you can take this laptop anywhere, work anywhere, do your email, spreadsheet, watch videos, its just endless. Thanks to Leonard NX6E who introduced this to me at the Christmas party.

## **Second Prize 50 Yaesu FT1802 – 50 Watt Mobile Transceiver**



This model transmits from 144 to 148 MHz with up to 50 watts in four power levels (50/25/10/5 watts). Receive is from 136 to 174 MHz. You get both CTCSS and DCS encode/decode plus tone search scanning and 7 character alphanumeric displays. The keypad is backlit. Comes complete with MH48 touch tone microphone which is also used for direct frequency entry. Offers 221 memories. Even has a built in CW trainer.



### **Third Prize - Yaesu VX-150 5 Watt Handie Talkie**

This model transmits from 144 to 148 MHz with up to 5 watts in three power levels (5/2/0.5 watts). Receive is from 140 to 174 MHz. You get both CTCSS and DCS encode/decode plus tone search scanning and 7 character alphanumeric displays. The keypad is backlit. The supply voltage is 6 to 16 VDC. Features include 209 memories. This unit comes with the new 1100mah rechargeable battery and the fast drop in charger. This radio is used by search and rescue teams and is the choice right behind Motorola. It has an ultra sensitive receiver all built around a super rugged mil spec 810 case. The audio is second to none.

The above is just the first three prizes. As many of you know, we will have other great prizes like GP4 shortwave radio, MAG LED flashlights. Its endless and you have to come to the dinner to experience the rest.

### **Get this State of the Art LED Flashlight, - just for renewing your membership.**



Remember last year's December newsletter? Well to remind you, we had a series of articles on the LED's (aka. light emitting diode). We gave an introduction to the history of the LED and where the present state of the art stood. The holy grail of LED's was to develop a "white LED". Many attempts were made; first using a mixing scheme of red, green and blue. Although these were successful in developing "white light", they consumed considerable power. After all, there were 3 LED's in them using basic color theory to establish the white. It was not until early 2000 that efficient white LED's were made via a process of using blue and igniting a

white phosphor that made white LED's successful. The next problem was focusing the light from an LED to make a practical flashlight. In last year's December issue of this newsletter I showed how difficult it was to focus LED's. MAG flashlight was the first to use a focusing LED which was patented and was introduced in 2007. In the flashlight world, this was a true innovation rivaling that of the invention of the LED itself.

In the tradition of the Cathay Amateur Radio, we like to go to where no club has gone before. If you renew your membership by January 16, you will receive a novel focusing LED flashlight just for renewing. This flashlight is small, uses a hi rel (mil spec) switch, and is water resistant in a machined anodized case. This flashlight runs on one AA penlite cell thanks to a built in DC to DC converter that converts the 1.5 volts to 3.5 volts. It will run for about 4 hours on a single charged NiMH battery or about 6 hours on an alkaline battery. It uses a 1 watt LED but is backed off to about ¼ watt to conserve the battery. Because the eye is a log scale, one only notices the light dropping off about 30% when running at ¼ power. This is not one of the cheap imitations that do not have a state of the art DC to DC converter. The imitations will typically use 3 AAA batteries and give you the same number of hours of use. So you can do the math? An AA battery goes for about 0.21 cents at Costco. With 3 AAA batteries, it will cost about \$1. Much more if you buy the batteries retail like at Long's. So what is the conclusion? It cost about 1/5 the price to operate an LED flashlight with a built in DC to DC converter. So over the years, the flashlight pays for itself. So they did a really good job on this flashlight or what? These go from \$15-25 in the stores. Be the proud owner of one of these lights just by renewing your membership by January 16. If you want extra lights for your family, they are \$10 each. Proceeds go to the club treasury. They make great gifts or can go into your emergency kit. You do have an emergency kit, don't you?

Remember, if you renew today, you will get a state of the art LED flashlight. These will be distributed during the banquet to paid 2009 members. If you do not attend the banquet, the flashlight will be sent to your via United States Postal Service. You may purchase extra flashlights for a \$10 donation to the club. Email Ed Fong for details.

**2009 Membership Renewal and Banquet Reservations**

	<b>Number</b>		<b>Amount</b>
Member Banquet \$40.00		Name (call sign)	\$
Spouse (or) Guest FREE Additional \$40 Kids under 12 free		Name (call sign)	\$
☺ 2009 Renewal \$12.00 \$15 after Jan. 16, 2009		Name	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$

**2009 membership renewal information**

Membership or Roster changes  Especially email address.	
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Make the check payable to the **“Cathay Amateur Radio Club”** or **“CARC”** and mail the ballot and banquet reservations to Bill Chin KC6POF by January 16, 2009:

Bill Chin

43 Norwood Ave.

Daly City, CA 94015

If you have any questions on the membership or banquet email Bill at: [bill.kc6pof@comcast.net](mailto:bill.kc6pof@comcast.net)

## Election Ballot 2009 Officers

President of the Cathay Amateur Radio Club:

write-in \_\_\_\_

Vice President of Northern California:

Leonard Tom NX6E \_\_\_\_

George Chong W6BUR \_\_\_\_

Vice President of Southern California:

Murray Kay WA6USL \_\_\_\_

write-in \_\_\_\_

Treasurer:

Vince Chinn W6EE \_\_\_\_

write-in \_\_\_\_

Secretary/Membership:

Bill Chin KC6POF \_\_\_\_

write-in \_\_\_\_