



Cathay January 2010

www.cathayradio.org

President: George Chong, W6BUR email: W6BUR@comcast.net

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

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.

Message from the President: *George Chong, W6BUR*

Thanks you all for your contributions to the CARC and attendance to these many years we have been in existence. To those of you who have been with us early on, we had some great times together. I remember the year the club was revived by Vince Chinn, W6EE (formerly K6KQN). I remember our first Field Day held up here in the Oakland Hills. Unlike our recent Potluck Field Day's (and they earn a thumbs up all the way with the greatest and most delicious from our members), this was a real one. Yes! we had real hamming at the beginning. We strung up antennas, we put up tents for over nighters, our members (NQ6S, N6YCG, W6TRN, KN6LV and WB6IQN) brought their favorite radios to operate, these die hard hams remove the radios from their shack! Yes ...we even had a 12 volt battery, two 5Kw gas operated generators for power, the other one was for stand by should one quit or ran out of gas. Cy, WB6TCF drove his "All Band Communication Van" which included his 5 kw generator up to these hills. The guys came early in the morning to set up, all band antennas, coaxial cables for dipoles, and it wasn't all technical. We had to set up tables and chairs as part of the infrastructure.

Wow, what a bunch of beavers! Back then we even had a 5' x 6' banner of our club, "W6MFI Cathay Amateur Radio Club San Francisco" LOST...does anyone know where it is? I have videos of those far gone days. If there is enough interest it could be shown for the first time on our next get together...anyone for 2010? Bill Fong, W6BBA videographer extraordinaire, has videos of every Chinese New Year's Banquet that he has ever attended. A bit of arm twisting wouldn't even be necessary for Bill to show off one of his favorite hobbies besides ham radio. I would love to see some of these earlier videos. Bill really kept up with the state of the art...he has gone High Definition. Some of you will remember that Bob, KN6QP or was it David WZ6X that worked a satellite passing over head with his HT during one of our Field Days, when was that? I don't recall, you will have to ask Bob or David. Edison, WB6IQN has done his best with his vast technical. I realized I have left out many others who were also involved in keeping our group informed too, my apologies to them with my faltering memory bank. Wishing you all a prosperous 2010....Looking forward to seeing you all at the Silver Dragon Restuarant for Year of the Tiger.

Report on the Annual Christmas Party – Ed Fong WB6IQN

The 2009 Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 12. 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 potluck so the variety food came from all ethnic backgrounds. From traditional American to Italian, to Chinese, to Indian, to Japanese. The desserts ranged from traditional apple pie to some exotic delicacies I cannot pronounce.

There was the traditional Ginger Bread House. It took Mei-lin, Violet (my daughter) with their friends Katherine and Alexandria Hutchins (harmonics of ex WB6BDV) all of Friday afternoon constructing the house. What people did not notice was that there was a mocked UHF dipole antenna on the house. This was just the right dimensions since the house was 12 inches in length, just the right size for a ½ wave dipole. Look at the pictures very carefully and you will see the 70cm dipole antenna. We had Mike Langberg and his wife Debbie attend. Mike is “Mr. Networking” himself. Being a public relations representative for Yahoo, it's his job to keep up with the latest rumors in the Valley.

Tony Sacco (KE6EOD) won the GP68. He is the author of our www.cathayradio.org website. I have had the pleasure of knowing Tony for 20 years. This prize couldn't have gone to a better gentleman. Tony did his undergraduate degree in physics and then went to law school. He practiced law for while but found electronics to be his passion. The train set went to Audrey and Brian Yip. They are the son and daughter of Jimmy Yip. Jimmy is not a ham but knows a lot about wireless and internet communications. If you missed the party you missed being with some of the nicest people around. .

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



A brother and sister team won the train set. They are Brian and Andrey Yip. They are the children of Jimmy and Emily Yip who live in the neighborhood. The train was unique in that it had a microprocessor in it to control the lights, horn and start/stop.



These kids are growing up. I don't even know their names anymore.



Here are the bakers of the gingerbread house. L-R Katherine, Mei-lin, Alexandra, and Violet.



Diana *KG6IOH*, Wei *KJ6AKR*, and Leonard *NX6E*.



Here's the gingerbread house just before it was eaten up.



Here is Mei-lin getting ready to pick the winning ticket for the Motorola GP68 for the grand prize. This was the door prize so there was no charge for the ticket. Each licensed ham attending the dinner got a ticket.



Tony Sacco *KE6EOD* was the winner of the Motorola GP68. Tony is the author of our Website, www.cathayradio.org.

Annual Chinese New Year's Banquet



2010 is the **Year of the Tiger**, which commences on February 14, 2010 and ends on February 2, 2011. If you were born in 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, 1938, 1926, or 1914 you were born in the year of the Tiger. The Tiger is the third sign in the Chinese Zodiac cycle. This courageous and fiery fighter is admired by the ancient Chinese as the sign that keeps away the three main tragedies of a household. These are fires, thieves and ghosts. Famous people born in the year of Tiger include: Agatha Christie, Bill Murray, Chuck Berry, Crystal Gayle, Cybill Shepherd, H. G. Wells, Jay Leno, Paula Abdul, Penelope Cruz, Tom Cruise, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Tigers are physically powerful, gracious, independent and brave, they are extremely bold animals. They are friendly and loving but can also selfish and short tempered. Tigers seek attention and power; frequently they are envious in a relation. Tigers live dangerously which often leads to trouble. They are intolerant, take risks and are always searching for excitement. Tigers are also instilled with a good dose of courage.

The Tiger is a natural leader and loves to be the center of attention. As a rebel it goes up against authority and speaks out about wrongs in society, and willingly puts up objections. Even if you don't agree with the beliefs of the tiger you admire his way to protest.

People that are born in the Year of the Tiger are generally well liked because of their charisma. They are natural born leaders and perform at their best if working towards positions of power and influence.

Anyone that is born in the Year of the Tiger is usually straightforward and outgoing by nature. They will never give up no matter how aggravated they may become. But, they are also full of suspicion and at times will take hasty action. Never lose sight of the fact that Tigers are smart and instinctive.

Come and celebrate the Year of the Tiger at the annual Chinese New Year Banquet which will be held at the Silver Dragon in Oakland on Saturday, January 30. Thanks to George W6BUR and Joe W6DOB for organizing it. This is a great restaurant with great food. Bring your family and friends. If you had to attend one event for the year, this is it. We expect about 80-100 people to attend. Please be prompt since the program will start at exactly 12:00 noon. Set your calendars for Saturday January 30, 2010. The program will be as follows:

- 12:00 noon Dining room open and social time.
- 1:00 Lunch begins
- 2:00 PM Raffle begins

Here are the conditions for the banquet.

1. All reservations and payments should be made by January 16, 2010.
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:

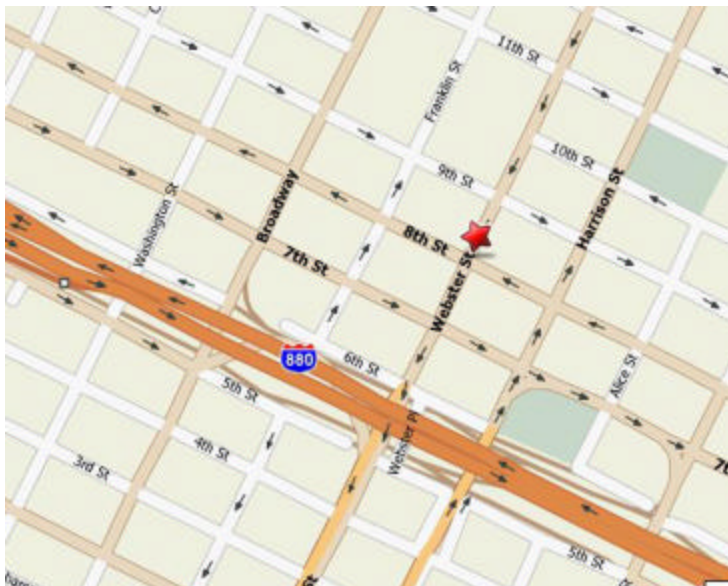
Minced Sausage, Waterchestnuts, & Mushrooms w/Lettuce Cups
Winter Melon Soup w/Seafood Combination
Stuff Chicken w/Sweet Rice
Braised Bean Curd w/Julienne Vegetable
Tenderloin of Beef w/Sugar Snap Peas, served in a Potato Basket
Peking Spareribs
Braised Yee -Foo Noodles w/Golden Chives
Steamed Rice (Upon Request)
Beverages (Oolong tea and 7-up)
Dessert (Tapioca w/Coconut milk)

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 9th Street. Make a right on 9th Street and find street parking. There is a public garage on Franklin and 9th Street.

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



Prizes for the Banquet.

Again we have some great prizes this year.

Yaesu FT817ND - The Grand Prize for the banquet this year will be a Yaesu FT817ND. **YES, YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT.** The board has approved this since our treasury is healthy. So mark your calendars.



The **Yaesu FT817ND** is the world's first self-contained, battery-powered, multi-mode portable transceiver covering the HF, VHF, and UHF bands! It covers 160-6 meter, 2 meter, and 70cm in SSB, CW, and FM. It will cover broadcast AM, broadcast FM and commercial SW. It has 200 memories. What more can you ask for? I would love to own one of these myself. It has a built-in keyer and DSP filters. Bob Lai *KM6QP* says the radio even goes on Red Cross frequencies. This may be the last radio you buy. If you are worried about the low

output power, Tokyo Hi Power Labs just announced a 40 watt amplifier for the radio. Here are some of the features if you are not familiar with the radio.

- *TX Frequency Coverage: 160 - 10 Meters, 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 430-450 MHz, plus Alaska Emergency Channel (5167.5 kHz).*
- *RX Frequency Coverage: 100 kHz - 56 MHz; 76 - 154 MHz; 420 - 470 MHz. (Exact frequency range may be slightly different)*
- *Power Output: 5 Watts SSB/CW/FM with 13.8V External DC;*
- *Operating Modes: USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, W-FM, Digital (AFSK), Packet (1200/9600 FM).
Digital Modes: RTTY, PSK31-U, PSK31-L.
Weight: 2.6 lb (with Alkalines and Antenna, w/o Mic.)*
- *Built-in Noise Blanker.*
- *Dual VFOs, Split Capability, IF Shift, and R.I.T. ("Clarifier").*
- *AM Aircraft Reception.*
- *Built-in CW Electronic Keyer and Semi-Break-In (down to 10 ms delay) Capability.*
- *Adjustable CW Pitch; CW Paddle Normal/Reverse Connection Selection.*
- *Built-in VOX*
- *Built-in CTCSS and DCS.*
- *ARTS™ (Auto-Range Transponder System).*
- *Spectrum Scope.*
- *200 Regular Memories, plus Home Channels and Band-Limit (PMS) Memories.*
- *Alpha-Numeric Labeling of Memory Channels.*

Can you name anything this radio can't do?



MaHa MH -C9000 charger. This is the latest in smart chargers from Maha. Individual cells are analyzed and cycled if necessary and then one can has the option of several charge rates. Each battery slot has its own microcontroller so you can mix match cells of different man-ufacturers. You can mix slightly used cells to totally dead cells and the charger figures it all out. This is the Rolls Royse of all chargers. It has programmable cycling, programmable charge rates, programmable discharge rates. It even provides for battery matching when you place batteries in series. Input voltages of 100-240V or 12V.



New Maglite -Here is the latest and greatest this year from Maglite. Maglite introduced the first true focusing LED flashlight 2 years ago. This year they out did themselves. This is not only a very bright LED flashlight but it has a dimming mode which emits 75% less light for reading and saving the battery life. It also has a blinking SOS mode for emer- gencies. This is about as close to ham radio Maglite is going to get.



7" LCD picture frame. This is great to hang on the wall or on your desk at work. Now you can never say, "I'm tired of that picture on the wall." You can present an entire slide show with the frame. It accepts flash cards in all kinds of formats from USB Flash, SD/MMC/SM, etc. This one even comes with wireless remote so you can control the display across the room. What will they think of next?



Journey's Edge Knife - This is a really cool knife. I mean really cool. I always keep one in my backpack because you never know. I bought my first one several years ago at Radio Shack not realizing what I had purchased. Well, it turns out there is quite a following for these knives. I started to read blogs on them and people swear by them. I read quotes like, "I wouldn't dream of leaving the house without my Journey's Edge." "This is one compact knife with all the features I need." "Extremely well made, I now carry it over my Swiss

Army Knife which I have had for most of my life."

Well here is why. This compact sturdy knife has all the following: LED flashlight, large blade, saw blade, scissors, can opener, slotted driver, bottle opener, key ring, philips screwdriver, file, awl, corkscrew, and leather punch. All in a compact knife complete with nice nylon case. I never leave home without it.



HP Webcam: Are you familiar with Skype? It's an internet service which provides for both voice and video to anyone else with a broadband connection and a webcam. It's free to non commercial users (that's you). Talk to anyone in the world with broadband internet connection in living color. I would have died for one of these years ago. Who would have thought even 10 years ago that you would have a color video phone and not be charged for the service to anyone in the world.

When I was growing up I use to wonder when will video phones be available? With long distance calls to Hong Kong going for about \$3 per minute when I was growing up I thought long distance video phones was a pipe dream. Well, color video phones are here and the service is free. What would they think of next?

The Cathay Radio Board has voted to suspend all dues for the year of 2010. The annual banquet is not for free though. We are looking for officers to fulfill all positions, especially newsletter editor. My teaching job and working at Canesta just does not allow time for me to continue burning the candle at both ends. After doing the newsletter now for 7 years, it is time to take a break. I can still help out with articles, but taking pictures, writing articles, organizing the layout, etc. is just too time consuming.

2010 Membership Renewal and Banquet Reservations

	Number		Amount
Member Banquet \$20.00		Name (call sign)	\$
Spouse (or) Guest Additional \$30 Kids under 12 free		Name (call sign)	\$
☺ 2010 Renewal Free		Name	\$ free
TOTAL			\$

2010 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, 2010:

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