



Cathay Newsletter November 2009

www.cathayradio.org

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

Vice President North: Leonard Tom, *NX6E*

Vice President South: Murray Kay *WA6USL*

Membership Chairman: 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.

No President's Column

Christmas Party – Saturday, December 12 6-10 PM

Format: Potluck – Family, friends, kids, all welcome. FREE

Door Prize: Motorola GP68 UHF 20 channel handie talkie – Cathay members only.

Door Prize: Kids under 10 will be eligible for a Train Set door prize

Where: 1163 Quince Ave. Sunnyvale phone: 408-245-8210

– precise directions: www.mapquest.com

We will once again host the Christmas Party this year. Last year we had over 80 people with kids, friends, neighbors, all kinds of ham friends. There will be all kinds of dishes from traditional Christmas, to Chinese, Korean, Italian, barbeque, you name it. Deserts are always plentiful. Who knows who

would be there. Last year we had the Mayor of Sunnyvale and several famous people from the electronics industry. This is also a great party to update your professional networking if you are looking for a job.

This year we will do something different. All paid Cathay members will receive one ticket for the door prize. Or, if you are not a member, you can sign up that evening to participate in the raffle. It will be \$15 for 2010 membership. The prize will be for a Motorola GP68 20 channel UHF walkie talkie. It will come complete with a battery, drop in charger, antenna, belt clip, software, and owners manual.

The Motorola GP68 meets all commercial specs from UHF 430-470MHz. No ham radio can do that with such wide bandwidth. Most radios designed for amateur service can go out of band with some modifications but they actually do not meet technical specifications outside the band. This is one of the very few Motorola radios that can be channel programmed without a computer. There is still a serial port on this radio for computer programming and we will provide the software. The software controls power levels on each channel, deviation on each channel, fully programmable low battery indicators, RSSI (receiver strength), etc. Because it is a commercial radio, it has features such as totally independent transmit and receive PL. Capabilities of scrambling (not legal on the ham bands). The unit comes with a Motorola drop in charger, NiMh pack, belt clip, flexible antenna, and full operations manual.

Additional accessories include: extra AA battery pack, extended battery pack (for continuous 5 watt operation), Motorola thread to BNC adapter, full length 6" antenna, speaker/mic, earphone, etc.

Specifications: UHF 430-470MHz

1 Watt lo 5 watt hi (fully adjustable)

0.25uV sensitivity

20 channels (front keypad programmable)

All PL and DPL tones – has separate transmit and receive

Fully programmable offsets on all channels

Mil 810E compliant

Various levels of battery save

Full DTMF features and auto dial.

Includes all professional software to program the internal firmware



The Motorola GP68 is a commercial hand held capable of 20 channels which are keypad entered. The accessories included a drop-in charger, belt clip, 77 page operations manual and rechargeable battery.



Kids under 10 will be eligible for a drawing for the above train set.

If you need to check your radio for deviation, frequency, etc. bring it by, my service monitor is open for all to use.

Precise directions can be found from www.mapquest.com.

Report on the October Picnic Ed Fong *WB6IQN*

We had about 60 people attend our October picnic at the Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Center in Sunnyvale on October 10. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the attendees were potential members. I counted about 10 kids and they all look like they were having a great time. Mullin See flew all the way down from Vancouver BC. This was a competitive weekend for ham radio events. There was the Ham Flea Market at DeAnza College, Amtech at Stanford's Linear Accelerator, and QRPacificon in Milpitas. All these on the same day and yet we still got 60 attendees. The grand prize winner was new member Alan Gilham *KI6CQM*. Believe it or not, he just past both his tech and general one hour before the picnic. The exam session was at DeAnza Park, just a few blocks away from the picnic site. So after he passed the exam, one of the examiners (Don Shannon) gave him directions to our event. I met him and he immediately became a member and bought he bunch of raffle tickets. Wow!!! What a welcome to ham radio, he won. I was glad to see Dave Rogers *K9ZPY* and his family (two very cute girls) come all the way down from San Francisco. Also, Prof. Tom Lee, Prof. George Vendelin, Tony Loeb and his two boys, Mayor Dean Chu and his two girls, too many others to mention here. I must also give special thanks to Skip *KG6SCE* for managing the barbeque. I could not have done it without him.

There was only one major mishap and I must apologize. We mixed up the sirloin prime burgers. The club bought 60 high grade sirloin 1/3 lb. burgers. These are the best. The manager of Fairbrae told me he put them in the "freezer". Fairbrae has both a "deep freezer" and a refrigerator. He actually put them in the refrigerator. By coincidence there were also burgers in the "deep freezer", but these were the standard 1/4 lb. burgers. So by mistake, the first crowd got served "standard burgers" until I later found out we had used the wrong burgers. The good news, Fairbrae did not charge us for the 40 or so burgers we used. I managed also to return the 30 unopened sirloin burgers to get our money back. So only about 25 of the premium burgers were served. I'll make sure this does not happen next year. To me, you haven't had a burger unless you have experienced a premium sirloin burger.

We also had another first time experience. The first drawing of the ticket for the HDTV was not present. Several people bought tickets just as a donation to the club. I know of Prof. Tom Lee and Don Shannon *KA2COB* that made a donation but left before the drawing. So one of these folks had the original winning ticket.

Here are the winners of the prizes; Andy Gilham *KI6CQM*, 40" HDTV, Dave Gomberg *NE5EE* HP Color Printer and 3 million candle power flashlight, Andy Gilham, 3 watt Mag LED flashlight, Normal Noble *WB6YSL* GP4 shortwave radio, Dale Rogers *K9ZPY*, Journey's Edge Knife and tool box, LeAnn Rogers, Fred Schindler - Scientific calculator.



Alan Gilham *KI6CQM* (left) winning the 40 inch LCD TV. Violet Fong congratulates him. Skip Weiss *KG6SCE* (right) has full control of the barbeque.



Dale Rogers *K9ZPY*(left) and Lin Lin pick the winning ticket. Tony Loeb (right) and his two boys experiencing a Cathay event.



Mullin See and Norman Noble *WB6YSL* (left) get acquainted. Ed Fong (right) running the raffle with Violet Fong and Alexandria Hutchins keeping him honest.

My Recollections of the Cathay Radio Club. Dan Young *K6GOW*

My story goes way back to 1955. I was studying for my novice license. My car had a 2 meter coaxial antenna on the bumper, however at the time I was not a licensed ham. One day I stopped my car in front of Al Lum's garage drive way and ask him to check on my antenna. At that point, Al knew I wanted to become a ham.

He invited me to come and join the Cathay Radio Club which met every Friday evening in a club room located inside the American Legion Bldg on Powell St. in San Francisco. The club owned a World Radio Transmitter and Receiver. Some of the club members I remembered were: Gin Fong, Bob Lee, Vincent Chinn, Milton, Wilton, Mel, Frank Lee, Bill Green, Howard Yuen, Bob Chow, Walt Gee, Steve Wong, Karl, George Chong, Manny, Harold and many others that I do not remember.

After the club meeting, some of us would go to Chinatown for a midnight snack. After returning home, we would get on 6 meters and have a round table net for hours. I remember having Field Day at various interesting sites. We went to Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tamapious, McClaren Park. Around 1960, I was drafted into the Army and as I recall Vincent also went off for some military training.

In around 1962, Vincent and I met back again. He told me he had returned to the Cathay Radio Club meeting room. To his surprise, he found that the club was now being used as a store room for Band Instruments. The club ham gear was gone. Vincent asked me to join him to attend the American Legion Board meeting to ask if we could have our Radio Club Room back. The answer is NO!

Vincent continued to try to get the Cathay Radio Club going again. He organized a dinner banquet at Oakland (think we had two tables) with former members of the club and some new people back in 1991. The purpose was to determine whether we could get together to start the club back up.

Later Vincent and George Chong W6BUR had an open house and set up a ham station at the Chinese Hospital in San Francisco. Vincent always wanted to have his own repeater. He has had one now for many years on the Transamerica Building. From that time on, the Cathay Radio Club was reborned. Vincent and George was even able to get the original call letters back for the club, W6MFI.

So the next time you see Vincent and George, thank them for saving the Cathay Radio Club.

73's

Dan Young, *K6GOW*

Getting More out of your Yaesu FT817. Bob Lai *KM6QP*

Here is a great modification that Bob Lai performed on his Yaesu FT817 portable HF radio. Now it lasts all day on a single charge. Check out the pictures, Bob got the batteries to all fit into the small space.

We caution you that LiOn batteries are not all created equal. Some have higher voltages than others when fully charged. If you perform this modification, make sure your total voltage does not exceed 17 volts under ANY conditions. LiOn batteries start out very high in voltage after a full charge. 4.5 volts is not uncommon for a single cell. So this could burn out an FT817. LiOn batteries drop off in voltage proportional to the capacity left in the battery. This is both good and bad. Good in that the voltage can be used as a fuel gage, so you know when your power is running out. Bad, in that it does not provide for a constant voltage like Nicads and NiMH batteries. Most applications using LiOn batteries end up using a switching supply to regulate the voltage. One is also not allowed to let the voltage drop below 2.5 volts per cell (this value varies and is dependent on the exact chemistry). When this happens, the cell dies and is not retrievable. So Bob has presented a technique here that is just a beginning. The club is not responsible for any repair cost of your radio if it is damaged using Bob's technique.



Connie King – Locke’s First Lady (1923-2009)



Connie King is part of Chinese American History. She was 86 when she passed away Sept. 25, 2009. In her life, she grew up under the Chinese Exclusion Act that had deprived her of all her citizenship rights, and then came the 1929 Depression that deprived her of all her economic rights. But she survived two pitiful marriages of physical, and then mental abuses. She had a child by each.

In her second marriage, she moved into a small town of Locke in the Sacramento Valley. Locke is on the National Historic Registry as the only surviving town built by the Chinese laborers who were brought to his country to build the intercontinental railroad, to build the thousands of miles of levees to recover farming lands from the estuary delta of the Sacramento Valley and to start the agricultural system in California. Later, Connie voluntarily became the nursemaid for these many elderly laborers who had become ill and she saw to the proper disposition of those who had died.

She became sheriff of that little town and eventually became its Mayor. In her dynamic role as Mayor, she convinced the county to place her town into a historic status, put in a brand new sewer system and a new fresh drinking water system. In that process, she recovered many of the old toilets and built herself a toilet garden that had been visited by tourists from around the world.

Then, with respect to the toils of all those bachelor workers who came to America to do the hard labor and were subsequent stranded here due to financial lack to return home to their families.

She started a drive to create a memorial garden to honor them who spent their lives here doing the hard labor only to die and vanish as paupers. The garden was created from public donations.

Connie's greatest achievement was in convincing the State to undo the strangling laws that had forbidden the Chinese people from owning land in California. The entire town of houses were built by the Chinese on lands leased from Mr. George Locke's estate. Connie was successful in getting the State of California to purchase the entire town and partitioned the town into house lots and sold each lot to whoever owned the houses to recover the public funds. Connie had lived in her house for 60 years before she was able to buy the land, finally in 2007. Our government, just this year, had the California legislature issue a public apology for the racial subjugation that had been so illegally

perpetrated against the Chinese people. Apologies are empty when those who had suffered were not compensated. Many dreams and plans were dashed by these racial subjugations.

While all these events were taking place, Connie became blind by macular degeneration in her only good eye. Her other eye was blind at birth.

The claim to fame is highly dependent of a public outcry of personal loss, and a reiteration of her glorious role as a human being. So far, it appeared that nothing has happened. I felt a personal loneliness now because I used to reach for the phone to call her every few days, or about twice a week. She would call me on the alternate days. We were very close as siblings and I miss her now during the moments I sit near my phone today.

Because of her inability to see, my sister Mae and I purchased a voice-operated telephone for her birthday, and my son, Bill, installed it after three months of objections from her. I thought perhaps she felt that she was regarded as being disabled. But she was disabled by having lost her ability to see.

It eventually turned out that she loved the phone because all she needed to do was to say the person's name and the new telephone would dial the number for her. Then, she got upset because some numbers cannot be accessed because we had not entered those numbers into the phone for her, and she was unable to read the numbers from her telephone book..

My last few words with Connie was a day before she went to sleep. She was so elated that her blood panel was so very good, except for her higher level of blood glucose. Her doctor had confirmed she had diabetes, although she did not have any of the symptoms. For her, diabetes was a diagnosis she had feared as death itself because so many under care had died of diabetes. The Dr. had previously ordered her to stop eating rice or anything starchy and to go on a diet. At our family July 4th reunion, she was seen to have eaten only a few pieces of vegetables. Then, the Dr. had previously ordered her to walk 10,000 steps everyday, rain or shine, which she did do. With a body frame of about 90 lbs, walking 5 miles a day and placed on a diet, it was a wonder she was able to do what she had done. She defended her doctor, saying that he told her that she would live to 100 if she went on a diet. She actually lasted only one week after the last doctor's visit.

On the last day of her life, Connie was seen planting a hundred flower bulbs into her garden on that Thursday afternoon in the 102 F heat. Perhaps, there was a vendetta for her to do that right away because she felt she had to do that because her times was ending. When my younger brother Warren was dying of cancer, his last words to me were that "Mother is coming to take me". Perhaps, Connie was told that, too, and she had to complete her final task, regardless of heat, dehydration and exhaustion.

I appreciated your thoughts.

Bill Tom *KN6QD* –brother to Connie King

Sad News

One of our long-time members, George Froberg *NR6I*, passed away recently. He will be sadly missed. George checked in on the Monday net religiously. He came to many of the Cathay event. I was always impressed with him that he would drive all the way down from Marin County for our annual picnic in the South Bay

Joyce Yuet-Ching Fong, wife of Bill Fong *W6BBA*, passed away October 6th. Bill is another long-time member and Vice-President, South for many terms. The club sends it deepest sympathy to Bill and his family.

LICENSE IN ONE DAY!

EARN YOUR RADIO LICENSE IN ONE DAY!

Sunday, November 22, 2009

8:45AM SHARP! - 3:00PM

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
3200 California Street at Presidio Avenue

There will be a General cram for Techs same place & time.
See *hamcrams.com* for parking info & late-breaking news.
Lunch available onsite or you can brown-bag.

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 (Extra exams available too)

8:45AM Check-in for study. Don't be early or late. Dropins OK.
If you want test only (no preparation onsite) come at 2PM.

8:50 Beginners' tips 9:00 Self-study starts, General cram lecture

1:30 Exams begin 3:00 Last tests start

No advance preparation needed for beginners, we do it all in 6 hours.
General exam class begins 9:00AM (if you are already licensed or have already thoroughly mastered the Technician exam material).
Questions? *hamcrams.com* Next test date: November 22, 2009
Passing this test will get you a ham radio license from the FCC good for 10 years.

