



Cathay Newsletter September 2008

www.cathayradio.org

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Editor: Ed Fong WB6IQN email: 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.

Message from the President: *Edison Fong, WB6IQN*

OK, here we are in September. If you have not attended any of the Cathay events and have paid your dues, thanks for donating to the club fund. But what we really want is for you and your family (friends) to come join us at our events. Come meet some really nice people. Have some good food. This summer has been really nice and cool. So far we have not had a heat wave which is great since there is a drought.

In this newsletter we have pictures from the August meeting in Sunnyvale, details for the picnic coming up in September, Radio Shack recall of a very popular switching supply, Hamcram exam schedule and the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Again, if you have suggestions for the club or have a good meeting place, please email me.

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

October - Computer History Museum - Mountain View. – exact date still to be determined

December – Christmas Party in Sunnyvale – tentatively set for Saturday, December 13

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.

Summary of the Tech Session in Sunnyvale Saturday August 9th.

Right after the flea market on August 9th, we had our meeting in Sunnyvale at yours truly's house. This was convenient since people needed to eat after walking for hours at the swap meet. There was plenty of food available as can be seen from the photos. Bringing a dessert was optional and I thank the people who contributed. There were great cookies, pies, and ice cream. Seems that everyone was so full that there was a gallon of ice cream left in my refrigerator when everyone left. Well, my kids loved it.

The Club picked up the tab for the food. We had Chicago Stuff Pizza, true Italian vegetarian lasagna, true Italian meat lasagna, and mixed salad with fresh tomatoes from my garden. There were also plenty of drinks and desserts to go around.

We had a good showing of members. About 25 that I counted. We managed to get about 15 of them to pose for a picture shown below.



Chris Victor W6SDY, Tom Woods, Bill Chin KC6POF Arew Mew K6MEW, Ron Quan KI6AZB, Howard Louie N6MNV, Annie Mew KG6CFO, Ed Fong WB6IQN, Andy Woods, Bill Dick WB6EGW, Lloyd De Vaughns KD6FJI, Dave Chan KI6FPO, Dirk Thiele KE6ZUY, Ralph Kugler KC6YDH and Leonard NX6E. Not pictured Judy Chan (took the picture), Gordon KI6UH and Brianna Yee. Rich and Tina Hammerschlag

The whole purpose of the meeting was to test a bunch of 802.11 Wifi systems and antennas. Although it was not a scientific test, the results were very convincing. With just a WiFi PCMCIA card (Airlink 4030), we could get about 3 signals (not including my own). With a gain antenna, such as the Airlink AWLL3055, we managed to log around 2x the number of stations. When we switched up to a 15 element yagi, we logged about 12 signals. With a 1 meter dish we got around 16 stations (but that was only in one direction). Lloyd *KD6FJI* pointed the 1 meter dish in several directions and we literally logged over 40 signals; and that was just standing outside the sidewalk as shown in the photo. Imagine what one could do on the rooftop. Anyway, we had lots of fun getting into neighbor's networks.



TOP: Dirk *KE6ZUY* , Ed *WB6IQN* and Lloyd *KD6FJI* pointing at a neighbor searching for a WiFi signal

LEFT: Howard *N6MNV* enjoying the food.



Leonard *NX6E*, Bill *KC6POF* and Howard *N6MNV* tuning up Motorola radios.



Leonard *NX6E* showing his HDTV PC tuner.

Annual Picnic - Saturday, September 13

Place: National Semiconductor, corner of Lawrence Expressway and Kifer in Sunnyvale

For you GPS lovers, the exact address is: 2900 Semiconductor Dr. Sunnyvale, 95052

Time: September 13th 12:00AM-3:00PM Right after the DeAnza Swapmeet

Costs: Bring a Dessert to share, FREE burgers, hotdogs, lasagna, salad, drinks and FREE parking.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 each

This year's annual picnic will be again held at National Semiconductor Park in Sunnyvale due to popular demand right after the DeAnza Swapmeet. Bring your flea market goodies and share it with the rest of us. Who knows, maybe that piece of "junk" you picked up at the swap meet doesn't work and someone at the picnic can help you repair it. You never know. Can't beat this park since there are no park fees, no charge for parking, and best of all, it is close to HRO's, Halted Specialities and Costco. Bring your friends, family and guests. Kids are welcome. The more the merrier. It's all free except for the raffle tickets. The club will provide for hamburgers, hot dogs, lasagna, drink, and salad. Bring a dessert to share (optional).

After the picnic we can all go to HRO's and see what is new or go bargain hunting at Halted Specialities.

The Grand Prize this year will be a Yaesu FT817. **YES, YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT.** The board has approved this since our treasury is healthy. If you don't win the grand prize, how about an Altec Lansing ACS33 speaker system complete with sub woofer for your PC or iPod? This was the speaker system that gave Altec Lansing their name in the PC world. Aside from the annual banquet, the picnic is our biggest event. 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.*

So don't spend all your money at the DeAnza swapmeet. Make sure you have enough to buy tickets for this extraordinary prize. The second prize won't disappoint you either. This is the famous Altec Lansing ACS 33 speaker system.

There's going to be about a dozen prizes and I promise (due to inputs from members), the prizes are going to be great; including the new Mag 2 D size 3 watt LED focusing flashlight, the famous GP4 shortwave radio, and 400 watt UPS power supply, to name a few.



GP-4L All Purpose Radio. This is the world's smallest AM/FM/SW radio and runs flawlessly on two AA batteries. It is one of the few radios I know that can receive SW and WWV off its built-in whip antenna. It has a built-in LED flashlight and the LCD display also serves as a clock for the clock radio. When I go on vacation or travel for work, I never leave home without it. The GP-4 checks in at 3.5"H x 2.5" x .75" D. With 2 AA cells installed, it weighs less than 5 ounces.

Everyone should have one of these in their emergency kit.

CLOCK: 12 Hour Format with Wake Up to Radio Alarm

RUN TIME: Radio: 150 hrs at 40% Volume –is that enough time or what?

LED Flashlight: run time approx. 70 hours – that's 3 days continuous

FREQUENCY RANGE: FM 76-109 MHz MW 520-1740Khz SW 5.20-18.30 MHz

SENSITIVITY FM < 10 microV MW-AM < 1 microV/Meter SW-AM < 30 micro V

POWER REQUIREMENTS 3-4.5 Volts DC via side jack (no adapter included) 2 each "AA" batteries

DIMENSIONS: 3.4" X 2.55" X .83"

SPEAKER: 40 mm in diameter, 4 Ohms, .25 watt

EARPHONE JACK: 3.5 MM, Earphones Included



Altec Lansing ACS33

Here is a picture of the Altec Lansing ACS33 satellite speaker with subwoofer. The Altec Lansing Website describes these speakers as follows: The ACS33 Power-Cube speaker system is a three-piece multimedia audio solution for your home or office personal computer. Providing 25 watts of total power, the system includes two 5-watt satellite speakers for mid to high range frequency response, while the 15-watt powered subwoofer delivers extended low-range bass. A patented

control circuit automatically boosts bass at low volume to maintain musical sound realism. The unified volume control simultaneously adjusts the volume of the satellites as well as the subwoofer. The satellite speakers are magnetically shielded to prevent monitor distortion. The system is especially designed for multimedia computer near field monitoring. The satellite speakers are magnetically shielded to prevent color distortion on video displays.



APC 650 400 Watt UPS. This is a 400 watt UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). With emergency capacity like this, your computer should hold up for about 2 hours after power outage. This is plenty of time to backup whatever you are working on and safely turn off your computer. No one should be without a UPS. You never know when power will be lost and your valuable data is corrupted. This is a commercial grade unit and was donated by National Semiconductor.

Directions to the picnic site: On 101 take Lawrence Expressway West. Go about 0.5 miles and there will be an underpass, go past Arques Ave (this is the turnoff for HRO's). The next intersection is Kifer, make a right at Kifer. Go about 2 blocks and National Semiconductor is on your right. Go past the main building and eventually you will see a big park on your right. Turn in and that is where the picnic will be. Monitor the Southbay repeater N6MNV 442.70+ 100Hz pl if you get lost.

News Flash -Radio Shack Recalls Power Supplies – call to attention by Bill Chin KC6POF

Do you have one of these switching power supplies from Radio Shack? Well they are being recalled.



Catalog 22-508



Catalog 22-507

The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of some 160,000 Radio Shack 13.8VDC 3 Amp and 15 Amp power supplies due to electrocution and fire hazards on July 2, 2008. These power supplies (catalog nos. 22-507 and 22-508) were sold October 2004 through January 2008.

Name of Product: 13.8V DC Power Supplies

Importer: RadioShack Corp., of Fort Worth, Texas

Hazard: The recalled power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Sold at: RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004 through January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact RadioShack at (800) 843-7422 anytime, or visit the firm's website at:

www.radioshack.com/recall or <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/08319.html>.

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 No you are already licensed or have already mastered the Technician exam material).

Questions? **hamcrams.com**

EARN YOUR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE!

September-November 2008

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

AERO (the Auxiliary Emergency Radio Organization) is proud to announce a special learning opportunity directed to helping you earn your Extra Class license. There will be eight lecture sessions and a review session before the test on November 16th.

This is important because there are only a few such efforts each year in the US. So if you are waiting for a chance to structure your study for the Extra exam, this is it. More details at **hamcrams.com**.

It is critical that you let us know you are coming. This is because we need to order the books in advance. You need your License Manual right away to keep up with the lectures. To register, just email me at dave1@wcf.com See <http://ne5ee.com> for more details.

Muscular Dystrophy Ass. Telethon in September 1st

The MDA Telethon is coming up in Sept 1. They are looking for volunteers to man the phones, registration, accounting security, etc. Our own member Mike Torrey KF6YRG will be there in Oakland. Please consider volunteering. For more information go to www.mda.org or call 415-673-7500 or fill out the form below.



MDA TELETHON

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Monday, September 1, 2008

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

EVENING PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please indicate your top 2-3 choices for a shift. We will do our best to accommodate your request.
Your help is greatly appreciated!

SHIFT A: 7:30am - 12:30pm

Accounting Phones Registration (7am)
 Commissary Mailroom Security

SHIFT B: 12:00pm - 5:30pm

Accounting Phones Registration (7am)
 Commissary Mailroom Security

SHIFT C: 4:00pm - 6:30pm

Wrap Up / Tear Down

Please complete this form and fax to 415-673-7501 or e-mail to sanfrancisco@mdausa.org at your earliest convenience.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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