

Cathay Newsletter Sept. 2009

www.cathayradio.org

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Treasurer: Vince Chinn, *W6EE*

Mission: The Cathay Amateur Radio Club is basically an active social club of Ham Radio Operators, their spouses and friends.

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*

Wow! It's September already, so get yourself ready for the "October's late Summer Picnic" at the Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Club in Sunnyvale. "The Clubhouse" is located near Edison's *WB6IQN* QTH. This happening is on the 10th October, a Saturday right after the DeAnza Swap Meet. Those of you who have not been to this lovely facility should get ready to enjoy a great afternoon of outdoor swimming, tennis, indoor and out door dining, whatever may be your pleasure. Dress for the occasion, should it become a hot-hot day....will call for cooling off in the pool. Following Ed's directions given in this newsletter. If you get lost, we will be monitoring 146.52 MHz.

It is also time to be thinking of your participation as 2010 officers. Like to run this club your way? Here is your chance. Want to have the inaugural and the 2010 Chinese New Year's function

somewhere else other than the Silver Dragon in Oakland? This is your club, without you and your ideas to go on, there will be no more club.

Think about it and act!

Thanks again for your participation in the Pot luck in the Oakland Hills event in July. We had a nice gathering, great food, great attendants , fantastic weather and great selection of prizes from our prize chairman WB6IQN, Ed. Let's do it again for Field Day comes June 2010.

Report on the Tech Session in Sunnyvale August 8th. - Ed Fong WB6IQN

We had over 25 people come to the Tech Session. At least that is how many sign the log sheet. The group consumed 10 lbs. of lasagna, a 10 lb. family size stuff pizza from Papa Murphys, two Digerno family pizzas, 5lbs of salad 4 gallons of beverages. I think that is a record. Not to mention all the desserts that people brought. I personally thank everyone for attending. Everyone had a great time playing with the DC-3GHz spectrum analyzer and also tuning up their radios. It was the first time I had seen Rob Martin *NK6U* (one of the famous RF guys in the Silicon Valley come by) and Jeff Anderson *K6JCA* (one of the original employees of Polycom) attend this event. Come to think of it, I had never seen Dale Rogers *K9ZPY* attend one of these events either. Paul Unenten (he is the founder of MPS, one of the more successful semiconductor companies in the Valley) also came by. We never know who comes to these events. One thing for sure, everyone had a great time. Of the people that came. I know of four that were involved in startup companies that were successful and went public. Ron Quan *KI6AZB*– Macrovision, Paul Unenten – MPS, Jeff Anderson *K6JCA*– Polycom, and Rob Martin *NK6U* –Alien Technologies. So if you want to meet the movers and shakers in the Valley, consider setting your calendar for October 10 our next Cathay event. Details on page 3.



From left to right: Peter Chow AF6DS, Gary Gin KN6LV, Loren Sing AD6YU, Jeff Anderson K6JCA, Skip Weiss KG6SCE, Dale Rogers K9ZPY, Bill Chin KC6POF, , Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Don Shanon KA2COB Ed Fong WB6IQN, Phil Stewart K6PHL Shawn Storm, Gordon Yee KI6UH, Howard Louie N6MNV, Stuart Yee KI6FZB, Dave Chan NC6D, Nimit Hongyim K6XOX, Gerry Horn K6TXD, Tad Kawano KD6EFH, Ron Quan

KI6AZB Not pictured: Rob Martin NK6U, Dan Sullivan KI6QWT, Richard and Tina Hammerschalag WD6X Paul Ueunten (exp. Call) Judy Chan took the photograph



Rob Martin *NK6U*, Jeff Anderson *K6JCA* , Judy and Dave Chan *NC6D* enjoying themselves.



Dale Rogers *N9ZPY* checking out the setup.



Here is Shawn Storm *AF6AR* and Tad Kawano *KD6EFH* checking out the spectrum analyzer. All one needed was a PC running windows to get the DC-3 GHz spectrum analyzer going.

Annual Picnic – Fairbrae Swim and Raquet Club Saturday, October 10

Place: Corner of Hollenbeck and Sheraton in Sunnyvale, 1 block from my house.

Time: Saturday October 10, 2009 12:00AM-3:00PM

Costs: FREE hamburger, hot dogs, chicken, drinks, Raffle Tickets: \$5 each

This is a great place to go right after the DeAnza Swap Meet. We will rent Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Club for the afternoon. See the pictures for yourself. This is much quieter than National Semiconductor. It is just down the street from my house and 2 miles down from the DeAnza Swap

Meet. There are cooking facilities, so we can heat up food. There are two large barbeques. Bring a dessert or salad (optional). If you wish to find out more about this facility, go to www.fairbrae.com. Bring your kids, grandkids and don't forget the swim suits.

So what are we going to have for a grand prize? The board contemplated this decision for months. In the end they decided on an HDTV. We haven't given away one of these in several years and boy have things changed in the TV industry. The board decided on a high quality TV, not a low end house brand type. They wanted it to be suitable for a living room not a bedroom. So something in the 40" plus range. The question was, "Could we really afford such a prize." The answer was "yes" since we know the members and our guests will all chip in. So invite your family and friends for an afternoon of fun activities, great food and great prizes. The prize this year will be a 40" Toshiba HDTV. This is a top of the line Toshiba 40" LCD with 1080p resolution, 3 HDMI inputs, and built-in ATSC HD tuner. This will no doubt look great in your living room. Our second prize will be a HP D4360 color inkjet printer. Hey, other clubs will be glad to have this as the first prize. We'll have the famous 3 watt MagLite flashlight, the Journey Edge multi function knife, the GP4 SW radio, etc. It should be fun for everyone, so mark your calendar, Saturday October 10th.

Directions to the Fairbrae:

From the DeAnza Swap Meet: Very easy to get to. On Stelling Rd which is the street the Swapmeet is on, go North 2 miles (towards the Bay as oppose to the hills). You will cross major streets of Homestead Rd, then Fremont Ave. After you cross Fremont Ave., go two more blocks and you will see Sheraton St. Make a right on Sheraton and the Club is right there.

From 101: Take the Mathilda Exit and head South (towards the hills and not the Bay). Go about 2 miles past El Camino Real, the next major signal light will be Remington, cross Remington and the next signal light will be Fremont Ave. Make a right on Fremont Ave. Go ½ mile to the first signal light at Hollenbeck Ave. Make a right on Hollenbeck, go 2 blocks to Sheraton Ave. The Swim and Tennis Club is at the corner of Hollenbeck and Sheraton Ave.



Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Club is a private club with a lap pool, diving board, full size kitchen, indoor dining, out door barbeque and picnic benches. Bring your swim suits to cool off if the weather man says it's going to be hot.

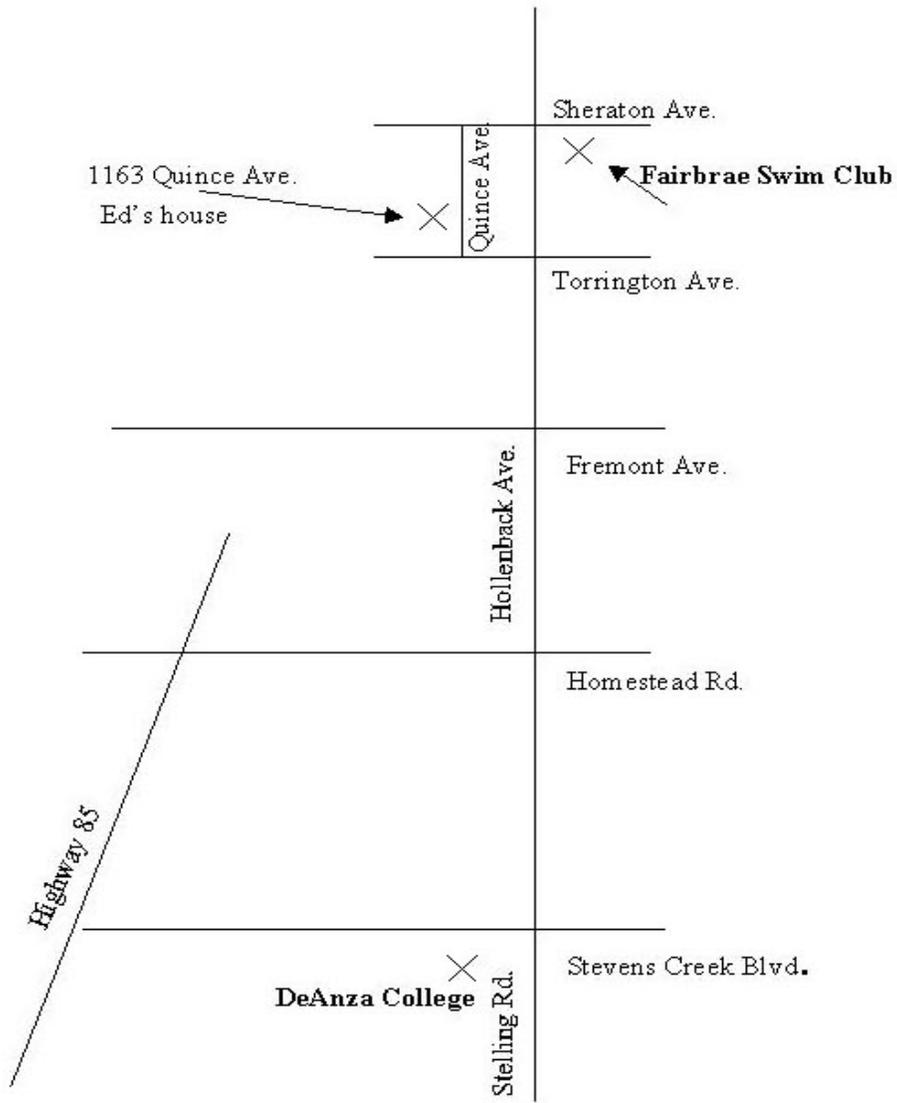


Here are my girls showing the Grand Prize of a Toshiba 40 inch HDTV. What club can offer this as a grand prize with a free lunch? Buy a raffle ticket from my girls and let them deliver you a top of the line HDTV to your house. The last time Hetty bought a ticket from Violet, she won the grand prize of a Acer Aspire One note-book computer.

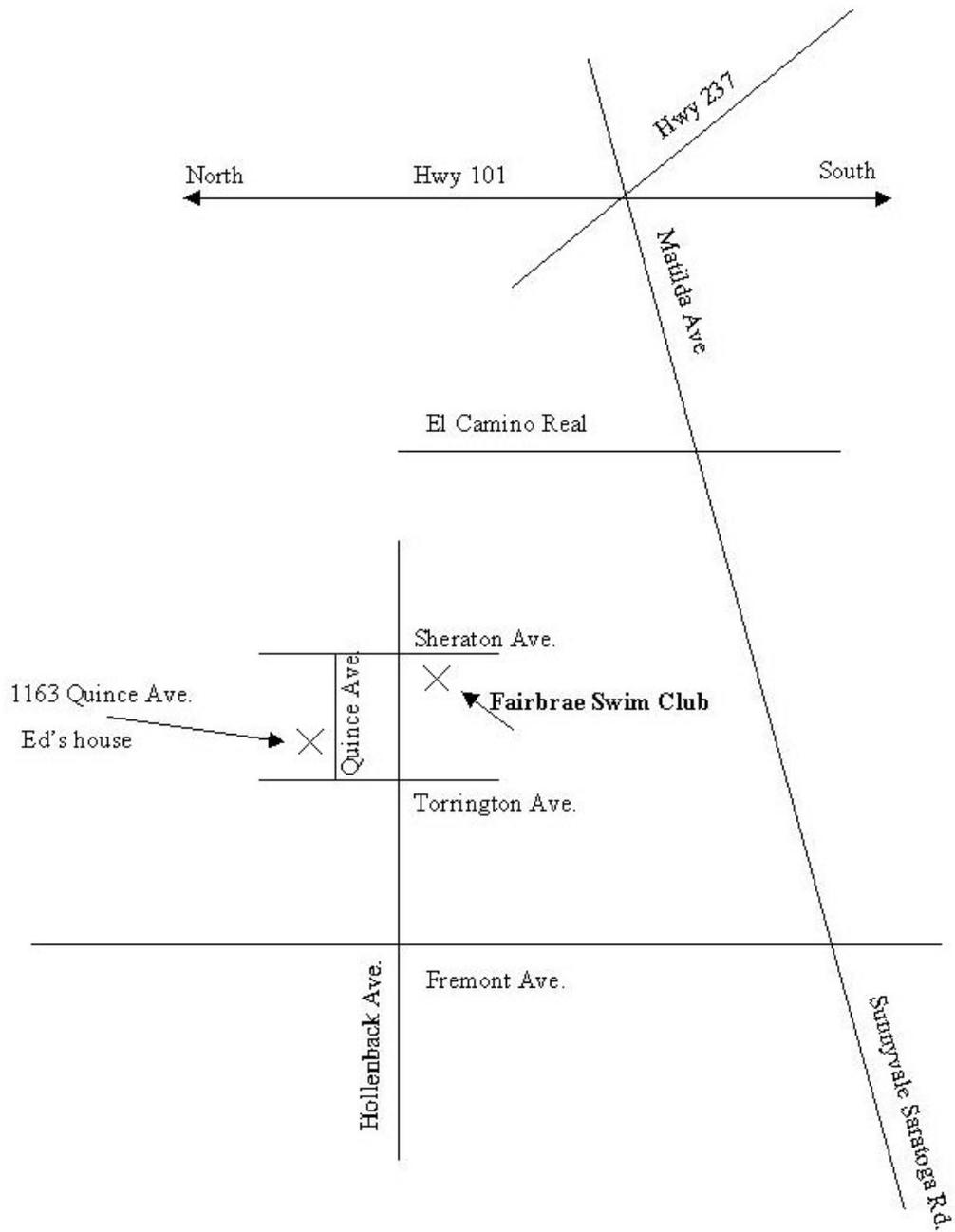
This HDTV has it all, 1080p, Dolby Sound decoder, ATSC tuner, 3 HDMI inputs, etc. You can even plug your PC into it and view your photos or maybe use it as a VERY LARGE PC monitor?



Our second prize will be an HP Deskjet printer. This is nice compact high speed color printer that will provide you with years of good service. If your printer is getting old or if you just need a printer for that second computer, this is the prize for you. Mei-lin will be glad to deliver it to you personally. This printer is spec'd at 30 pages per minute for B/W and 23 pages per minute for color.



Directions from DeAnza College.



Directions from Highway 101 and Highway 237.

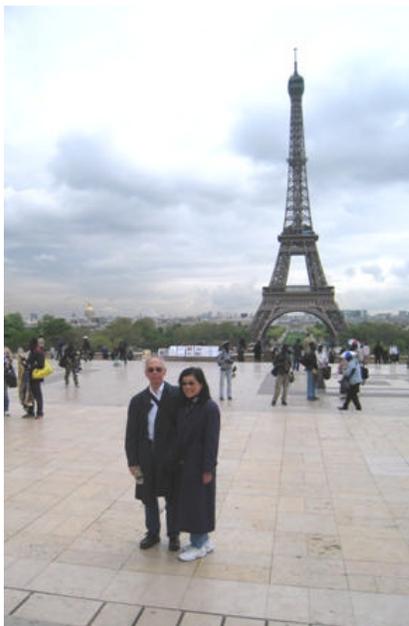


John Tim W6QNT: MY FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE This is me visiting Rockville School which is located in the countryside in Suisun, California. I started first grade here many moons ago. There were no daycare or nursery schools back then. This was originally a one-room school where one teacher taught all 8 elementary grades. You can bet she ruled with a hickory stick to maintain strict discipline!

Later, they added the second room in the back and brought in a second teacher as enrollment grew. There were no school busses or public transportation; so we had to walk about two miles each way. The school has been shut down and is now used occasionally as a club house. My Father also went to this school---over 100 years ago.



"CHANGING OF THE GUARD" took place at the annual Cathay New Years banquet. in January 2009. On the left is outgoing President Edison Fong, WB6IQN. On the right is incoming President George Chong, W6BUR. In the middle is our newest and youngest member, Nathan Ng, KI6PVO.



CELEBRATING 32 YEARS: Bill KC6POF and YL Flo celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary with a trip to Paris. But KC6POF is still wondering how many contacts he could make if he could mount an antenna on top of the 1,000 foot Eiffel Tower.

Economics 101 - Ed's Financial Column -

It's time for another economics lesson. This month we will evaluate the DOW Jones and see what it really means. Many say, just invest in good solid companies for the "long term" and you will do fine. Is this really true? In this month's column, I put it to the test. We use three dates that are relevant to my life but you can choose almost any dates. The dates I chose were: the year I was born (1955), the year I started to seriously invest (1985), and the present date (August 2009).

So here we are in 2009. The following companies in the Dow Jones as of August 2009 are:

3M Company, Dupont, McDonald's, Alcoa, Exxon, Merck, American Express, GE, Microsoft, ATT, HP, Pfizer, Bank of America, Home Depot, Proctor and Gamble, Boeing, Intel, Travelers, Caterpillar, IBM, United Technologies, Chevron, Johnson and Johnson, Verizon, Cisco, JP Morgan, Wal Mart, Coke Cola, Kraft Foods, and Walt Disney

Below were the companies in the Dow Jones in 1955, the year I was born.

Allied Chemical, GE, Proctor and Gamble, American Can, General Foods, Sears, American Smelting GM, Standard Oil, ATT, Goodyear, Standard Oil, American Tobacco, International Harvester, Texas Company, Bethlehem Steel, International Nickel, Union Carbide, Chrysler, International Paper, United Aircraft, Corn Products, Johns-Mansville, US Steel, Du Pont, National Distiller, Westinghouse, Eastman Kodak, National Steel, and Woolworth

What's in common after 54 years? Only **GE** and **Proctor & Gamble**. You have got to be kidding? The DOW has been a terrible investment in the last 54 years. You would have lost your shirt unless you drop out of a stock every time it dropped out of the DOW and then also added a stock every time it was included in the DOW. Clearly you would have done better with your money in the bank.

So now let's go back 25 years (1985), which is about the time I started seriously investing. Below were the 30 companies in the Dow Jones in 1985.

Allied Chemical, Aluminum Corp. of America, American Can, American Exp. ATT, American Tobacco, Bethlehem Steel, Du Pont, Kodak, Exxon Corp. GE, General Foods, GM, Goodyear, Inco, IBM, International Harvester, International Paper, Merck, 3M, Owen-glass, Proctor & Gamble, Sears Roebuck, Standard Oil, Texaco, Union Carbide, United Technologies, US Steel, Westinghouse, and Woolworth.

What do I see in common? *GE, Proctor & Gamble, IBM, ATT, Chevron, United Technologies, McDonald's, 3M, and Exxon*

I see only 9 companies that have stayed in the DOW. So if I would have taken the Warren Buffet advice of buying "quality" and holding. It would have been DEAD WRONG. The DOW is a dynamic index and the S&P 500 is no better. We won't even mention the NASDAQ where it is difficult to find a company that stays for more than 10 years.

For example, during the DOT COM boom, I invested in 10 startups. Fortunately, I did not invest very much money. It was about \$1k per company. I'll just name a few of those companies that you may recognize. ZYMOS, WANG, OAK, WebVan, excite@home etc. Not a single one of these companies exist today. So it's was a total lost.

But let's suppose you really got lucky and bought Google on the first day it went public and got it at \$150 on August 2004. It actually went public at \$85 but only a few select people were fortunate to get it at that price. Today it is worth about \$450. So it has tripled in value in 5 years. A return of 60% per year. So that's really good and that is what a stock manager might tell you, "You missed a great opportunity." But what he doesn't tell you is that it is almost impossible to "guess" who the next Google or Microsoft is going to be. During the DOT.COM (or was that DOT.BOMB), there were thousands of IPO's. From what I could see, the two most successful were Google and Yahoo!. Have you checked Yahoo! stock lately? Have you check Silicon Graphics stock lately? How about Sun Microsystems? JDS Uniphase anyone? Have you checked excite@home lately? What it amounts to is that 99.9% of companies that go IPO do not exist 10 years later.

So what can we learn here? First of all, stock fund managers really have a tough job. Most companies do not stay on top of their game for more than 10 years. Stock fund investors or for that matter, any stock fund manager, try to give you the impression they know a little bit more than you. They are trying to convince you that they have the "edge". In truth, unless they are doing inside trading (aka, breaking the law), it is very difficult to even stay ahead of government bond returns. Investment advisors will tell you, "Hey I have a fund that has been doing ****% for the last five years, you better jump in." If they are doing so well, why is the DOW back to where it was 10 years ago? I actually talked to a broker (name withheld) from Fidelity Investments. He was one of many VP's at Fidelity Investments and I questioned him on this investment philosophy. His answer was, "Ed, you need to look at this long term." My answer was, "Hey, 10 years is long enough for me. My working career is only about 30 years. You're full of *****. Besides, if the tip was so good, why are you telling me? "

It is evident that if you bought the Dow 30 in 1985 and if you would have held on to all those stocks, it is worth about 15% of your original investment. Of course if you would have bought the DOW index where they are constantly only keeping the top 30 companies in the DOW, then you would being doing OK. You would be doing terrible if you bought the DOW 10 years ago since the DOW is where it was in 1999. From my perspective, unless you have inside information, the cards are stacked against you whether you invest in individual stocks or stock funds.

Now on the other hand, suppose you bought government bonds. I don't know of a single Federal Government Bond that did not pay as promised in the last 10 years. In fact, I can't recall the last time the United States Government defaulted on a promissory note. Orange County did go into default but eventually they did iron out everything levying a parcel tax on property and all within 2 years, all bond holders were paid back. This is one lesson to be learned. State bonds are both Federal and State tax free, but they do carry more risk since States cannot go into debt like the federal government.

If you are a Government Bond investor, as a general rule, one can get \$45-\$50 per month for every \$10,000 invested. So many retired folks calculate it that way. First determine your monthly expenses, then determine how much more money you need on top of Social Security to live comfortably. For example: If you need an additional \$1000 per month to cover expenses, you would need about \$200,000 in bonds. This may sound like a large number but certainly through a lifetime of savings, it is doable.

Judson Chu, W6WTY's Daughter Elected to Congress 32nd District



Democrat Judy Chu won a runoff election to become the first Chinese American congress- woman in the United States for the 32nd District which covers most of East Los Angeles. She was sworn in July 16th in Washington DC. Congresswoman Chu is the daughter of our long time member Judson Chu W6WTY. A proud father he is. His son Dean Chu was the former Mayor of Sunnyvale and is presently a councilman. The entire family, including the grand kids of Dean and Wilma Chu, (Liane and Carey), all flew back to Washington DC to witness the ceremony.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi presided over the ceremony, as Congresswoman Chu's family, close friends and staff looked on from the Gallery. Following the swearing in, Congress- woman Chu mingled with her new colleagues on the House Floor and then proceeded to a private ceremony with Speaker Pelosi attended by Dr. Chu's closest family and friends.

"On behalf of all Members of Congress, I am so pleased to welcome Judy Chu to the House of Representatives. As the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress, her victory is a source of pride to many," said Speaker Pelosi in a statement following the swearing-in ceremony.

"Over her 24 years in public service, Congresswoman Chu has been committed to the essential issues facing our nation: the strength of our economy, the education of our children, and the health of all Americans," Speaker Pelosi added. "I look forward to working with Congress-woman Chu to address these challenges and make progress for the entire nation."

Congresswoman Chu was elected to succeed Labor Secretary Hilda Solis on Tuesday by a 61% to 33% margin following a hard-fought primary during which she beat out a crowded field of 12 candidates. She campaigned on a platform of creating jobs and protecting homeowners in her working class 32nd District east of Los Angeles, and put together a multi-ethnic coalition to win the seat in the primarily Latino district.

She was born and raised in Los Angeles and lives in Monterey Park, where she served on the City Council for 13 years, as mayor for three terms and helped the city earn a Diversity Award from the League of California Cities. She is married to Assemblyman Mike Eng, D-El Monte.

EARN YOUR RADIO LICENSE IN ONE DAY!

NOTE NEW SITE FOR THIS EXAM!!!

Sunday, September 13, 2009

8:45AM SHARP! - 3:00PM

Saint Mary's Hospital

450 Stanyan at Fulton (where GG Park meets Panhandle)

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. Drop-ins 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.

Questions? ***hamcrams.com***