



Cathay December 2024

www.cathayradio.org

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Mission: The Cathay Amateur Radio Club is basically an active social club of Ham Radio Operators and their spouses. We support local community requests for HAM emergency communications. Several of us are trained in CPR/ First Aid and are involved with community disaster preparedness.

Monday Night Net Time: 9 PM Local Time/PST, As of 8/21/2023 we are switching over from using Repeater: WB6TCS to **Nick Cassarino's Repeater: WA6GEL UHF 444.800 Mhz, Offset +5 Mhz, CTCSS/Tone PL 179.9 Hz on Monument Peak, Milpitas.**

If you cannot reach the fore-mentioned machine, please use Ralph Kugler's KC6YDH cross band repeater at 147.51MHz VHF (Simplex, Carrier Access) during the radio net time. Coverage is western side of San Francisco and central Daly City.

The CARC Monday night net is the best way to find out the latest club news. All check-in are welcome.

Message on Behalf of the President: Leonard Tom, *NX6E*

Hello CARC Members and Friends;

Many thanks to both Nick Cassarino for the use of repeater – WA6GEL and Ralph Kugler's cross band repeater - KC6YDH for our CARC Monday Night Net.

Additional folks are needed to help out with conducting the CARC radio net on Monday nights. Please contact Ed Fong (edison_fong@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

I wish to thank our CARC members that set aside their valuable time to participate in our Monday night's nets.

Introduction Silent Key – George Chong – W6BUR & Hetty Chong - WB6SHU

As many of you know the passing our CARC president George Chong on April 7, 2024 came as a great shock. It personally affected my ability do a write up on his passing as he was both a trail blazer and great mentor to me. It is long overdue, but with loving care I was finally able to do a proper write up about George. He is the person that recruited and encouraged me to write the monthly CARC newsletters. Yes, I along with others greatly miss him like crazy! - R.Yee (Editor)

Late breaking update as of 12/8/2024: Hetty Chong, xyl of George Chong has passed away on October 2, 2024.

Please go further down this newsletter to read about George Chong and Hetty Chong obituary.

Announcement of CARC Annual Christmas Party

Please mark your calendar: 6pm Saturday December 7, 2024 is the CARC Christmas Party Hosted by Ed Fong.

For further information please read the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Tech Section:

The **Tech Section** was skipped this month to keep the size of this newsletter a reasonable length.

CARC Final News Wrap Up

Chat sub s'em to all you CARC members! - Leonard Tom, *NX6E*

Public Service Announcements

HAM CRAM / HAM Licensing

For upcoming HAM Licensing locations please refer to:

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)

The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) is a unit of trained professionals who supply communications support to the agencies of the City and County of San Francisco, particularly during major events/incidents. ACS goals are the support of gathering and distribution of information necessary to respond to and recover from a disaster.

The ACS Net begins at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m. PT) local time each Thursday evening, on the WA6GG repeater at 442.050 MHz, positive offset, tone 127.3 Hz. The purpose of this net is to practice Net Control skills, practice checking in with deployment status in a formal net, and to share information regarding upcoming ACS events. Guests are welcome to check in. ACS members perform Net Control duty on a regular basis. On the second Thursday of each month, the net is conducted in simplex mode on the output frequency of the WA6GG repeater, 442.050 MHz no offset, tone 127.3 Hz.

ACS holds its General Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 1900 hours to 2100 hours local time. Currently meetings are exclusively conducted over Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACS looks forward to meeting in person again as soon as possible.

Upcoming meeting dates in 2024 are:

- Jan 21, 2025
- Feb 18, 2025

Location of in person future ACS meetings are yet to be determined as the regular location is under reconstruction. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For further information contact Corey Siegel KJ6LDJ <kj6ldj@gmail.com>.

For more information, please attend an ACS meeting, check in on the ACS radio net, or call 415-558-2717.

Free Disaster Preparedness Classes In San Francisco – NERT Taught by San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD).

<https://sf-fire.org/nert/nert-calendar-meetings-trainings-events>

Training Classes
TBD

+ Recertifications
TBD

***SFFD DOT** is the Fire Department Division of Training. All participants walking, biking or driving **enter through the driveway gate on 19th St.** between Folsom and Shotwell. Parking is allowed along the back toward the cinderblock wall.

Visit www.sfgov.org/sfdnert to learn more about the training, other locations, and register on line. Upcoming Special NERT Events.

San Francisco Police Department: Auxiliary Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT)

The Auxiliary Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) is a citizen disaster preparedness program designed. The ALERT program is for volunteers 16 years of age or older, who live, work, or attend high school in San Francisco.

Graduates of the San Francisco Police Activities League (P.A.L) Law Enforcement Cadet Academy are also eligible to join.

ALERT volunteers will no longer need to complete the Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) (www.sfgov.org/sfnert) training and then graduate into two 8 hour Police Department course specifically designed for ALERT team members.

ALERT members will work closely with full-time and/or Reserve Police Officers in the event they are deployed after a disaster. The Basic ALERT volunteer will have no law enforcement powers other than those available to all citizens.

SFPD ALERT Training (New Members)

The next SFPD ALERT training class has been scheduled for: TBD

*Class date indicated are only for new members

IMPORTANT- All participants must complete the background interview process in order to be eligible to attend the ALERT training class.

Eligible ALERT participants may register for a training class by contacting the ALERT Program Coordinator, marina.chacon@sfgov.org, or by telephone at 415-401-4615.

SFPD ALERT Practice/Training Drill

All active/trained ALERT members are asked to join us for our next training drill, via scheduled for on TBD

For more information on the San Francisco Police Department ALERT Program, email us at sfpdalert@sfgov.org, or call Lt. Marina Chacon (SFPD Ret.), SFPD ALERT Program Coordinator, at (415) 401-4615.

For additional information on the web please refer to:

<https://sfgov.org/policecommission/alert>

Silent Key, George Chong - W6BUR; (November 21, 1925 – April 7, 2024)

By Rodney Yee – KJ6DZI



The passing of our beloved Cathay Amateur Radio Club (CARC) President at the age of 98 has left many of the club members in shock.

George was born at the San Francisco Chinese Hospital and grew up in San Francisco Chinatown. He would ride the Muni Cable Car, would love to eat Tomato Beef Chow Mein at the Universal Café Restaurant, hang out at the local Fong Fong restaurant that served American style food.

At the age of 13, several things would unfold for George when he joined the local boy scouts and during the St. Mary's street fair he introduced himself to Edwin Wong, a Ham radio operator. Edwin was demonstrating his homemade transmitter, that became the inspirational spark for George's lifelong interest and passion for both HAM radio and electronics. George also became friends with Jack Quan W6RLZ, one of the earliest hams in Chinatown. He also met and became friends with the famous gunsmith, Bob Chow via through their common interest in Ham radio. Bob Chow, set several US Navy and world shooting records along with competing in the 25-meter pistol event at the 1948 Summer Olympics held in London, England.

During the early years of WWII, George attended Mission High School and Curtis Wright Technical Institute in Glendale California. Upon graduating High School in July 1944, he was drafted into the Army Air Corp at the tender age of 19.

After extensive flight training, due to his small stature he was assigned to B-17 belly ball turret gunner position while serving along with his other 9 crew members. He was still in-flight training when the war ended in Europe on May of 1945. He was reassigned to undergo training as a flight crew on B-29 when the war ended with Japan in August of 1945. He was later deployed to Randolph Field, San Antonio Texas.

His education from Curtis Wright Technical Institute allow him to grow into taking on many additional aircraft maintenance duties, including preflight and taxing aircraft on the

flight line. He enjoyed the responsibility of sitting in the cockpit of the top of the line Republic P47D fighter-bomber, doing a preflight and firing up the powerful 18-cylinder Wright Duplex-Cyclone R-2800 engine. In 1946 he was honorably discharged from the US Army Air Corp.

With his new coming of age confidence and using the GI Bill, he attended Electronics School in the Mission district of San Francisco, CA.

George got his Ham Radio License – W6BUR in 1948, and was among the earliest members of the Cathay Amateur Radio Club (CARC) that was based inside the Cathay Post 1384 in San Francisco, CA.

In late 1949 / early 1950 George worked for KRON Ch 4 as a TV mike boom operator. It was the beginning of his long career as a TV broadcast engineer. At the time, he was only one of two Chinese Americans working as a television broadcast engineer.

After 2 years with KRON Ch 4, he moved on to work for Ch 40, a brand-new TV Station in Sacramento. Through mutual friends, George met his future wife; Hetty Wong of Sacramento. They were married in 1959 and celebrating 65 years together until his death.

In 1958, George moved back to the Bay Area and took a job with KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland that was just getting built from the ground up. After 38 years in the TV Broadcasting industry, George retired from KTVU Channel 2.

At age of 55 years old, George designed and built his family house in the Oakland Hills. His entire family pitched in to construct the family house even through rain storms. He also had a passion for sports cars and would often say: "If only, I kept a few of those classic collectable cars he had once owned, he would have become a very rich man".

George's intellect, TV broadcast experience, electronics knowledge, easy going demeanor, kind hearted and garrulous nature made him an excellent CARC president over these many years. He held many Field Days events at his home using his local repeater and extensive Ham equipment. I along with other fellow Hams shared and enjoyed many meals at his home with his lovely family.

George is survived by his wife: Hetty, children: Lauren, Janine, Russell and Michael, grandchildren: Rayan, Natatalie, Megan and Atreyu.

Silent Key Update (12/8/2024):

Silent Key, Hetty Chong - WB6SHU; October 6, 1932 – October 2, 2024)



Left to right: Hetty Chong - WB6SHU, and George Chong – W6BUR

Hetty Chong - WB6SHU, xyl of George Chong peacefully passed away at the age of 91.

Many of the CARC members would address Hetty as “Mom”. She was like a 2nd mother to many of the CARC members. She was also a terrific host at many of the CARC functions and will be greatly missed by all that met her.

Hetty after marrying George Chong, she worked as an assistant at Commodore Stockton Early Education School that is currently remains located right in the heart of San Francisco Chinatown.

In retirement, Hetty loved to tend to her very productive Oakland Hills garden and apple trees. They would have several 5-gallon buckets full of apples that was given away to neighbors and friends. Deer would come by the garden and eat the very ripe and sweet apples that had fallen to the ground.

Both George and Hetty were very gentle, supportive, and welcoming warmed hearted folks. They were the perfect match for each other and for the CARC members. We were so blessed to have had both George and Hetty in our lives.

Hetty and George will be greatly miss by all that knew them.

End of Silent Key / Memorial Tribute

CARC Annual Christmas Party Hosted by Ed Fong WB6IQN

Ed Fong Annual Christmas Party – Saturday, December 7, 2024 6-10 PM

Where: 1163 Quince Ave. Sunnyvale, CA

Format: Potluck – bring your favorite dish.

Door Prize - Lenovo Thinkpad PC, uSDX+ HF transceiver, 120 MHz dual trace oscilloscope, Nano VNA-4H and more– each attendees gets one raffle ticket for FREE. Tickets will not be sold. If you bring a friend or spouse, each one will get a raffle ticket - FREE

Best directions given on www.googlemaps.com Call if you get lost 408-245-8210

Do you folks know of Prof. Hiroki Kato's AH6CY (formerly of Harvard University) work on preserving the history of WWII spy radios? Meet him in person. He is an authority on WWII secret organizations such as SOE (special operations executives). These were the brave folks that snuck into enemy lines and provide vital information to win the War.

Prof. Hiroki Kato is a fascinating person and just a world of knowledge. He was only 3 years old when the Bomb dropped in Hiroshima and he survived.

There is no excuse not to attend. Not only that, it is FREE to all attendees. Just bring a dish to share. If you have ever been to our Cathay Radio Christmas Party, you know this is the event to taste foods from all over the world. Does not matter whether you like – barbecue ribs, salads, seafood, Chinese, Mexican, Italian, Korean, it will be there. All kinds of desserts served at the dessert table. Get ready to eat your heart out and meet new friends as well.



Just some of the food at previous year's Christmas Party.

Get a chance to meet some really cool folks that are movers and shakers in the Silicon Valley: Dr. Steven Stearns, Keith Synder, Ron Quan, Nick Cassarino, and Jim Walker.

Rules for the raffle - Every attendee will receive one raffle ticket - no charge at the door. This will make you eligible for the grand prize and raffle. This is our way of saying thank you for your support during the year at the events we have held.



1st Prize Lenovo – Thinkpad X240 i5 processor with 8GB of memory and 256GB SSD

Windows 10 Pro operating system

CNET rates this laptop a 4.3/5

Up to 15 hours battery life.

PC benchmark 4,717 - very respectable.

Less than 3 pounds, 0.8 inches thick

USB 3.0

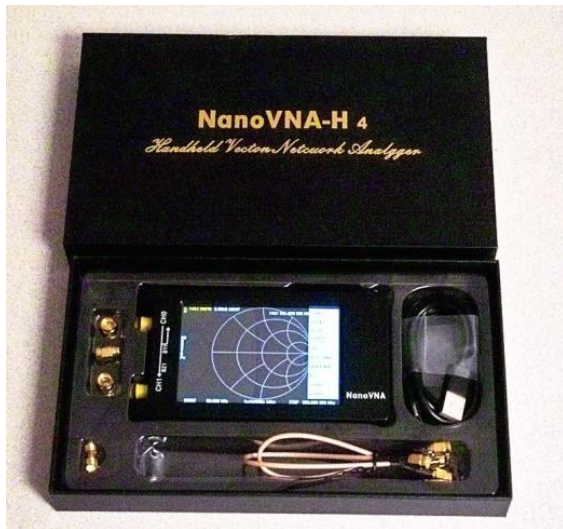
14 inch screen - just perfect to carry around.

Intel HD4400 graphics processor

Intel Cetrino Wifi.



DSO03D12 120 MHz dual trace scope with probes - features a built in DVM , Signal generator, and FFT spectrum analyzer.



Nano VNA - H4 - 4 inch 1.5 GHz VNA - Tuned antennas, duplexers, filters etc. Full touch screen. Latest version includes functions for TDR – time domain reflectometer.

Includes cables and full calibration kit.



uSDX+ - QRP HF transceiver - Covers 160-6 meters – SSB, CW, digital QRP transceiver. 5 watts CW – 10 watt SSB. Built in CW decoder, full DSP noise reduction. Complete with 4000 MaH LiOn battery, AC adapter/charger, Speaker/microphone



Baofeng UV5R x2 dual band handie talkie

Drop in LiOn smart charge, 1800 Mahr LiOn, battery, belt clip, antenna

Frequency coverage:

- 65-108 MHz – FM broadcast – receive only
- 136-174 MHz – VHF – TX/RX
- 420- 520 - MHz - TX/RX

Full CTSS and DCS coding

Remaining prizes



Mil spec - 800 lumen aircraft aluminum LED flashlight with 18650 3000mAh battery and AAA battery adapter.

So please mark your calendars for 6pm Saturday December 7, 2024. You must be present to win.