



Cathay April 2013

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, Frequencies: 146.67MHz -600KHz PL85.4 and 442.70 +5MHz PL 173.8. The repeaters are linked only during the CARC Monday night net. The CARC 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

Hello CARC Members and Friends;

By now you must be wondering as I am, how this can be April 2013 already! I am still trying to finish up my 2012 Christmas candies and cookies.

These last several months have been extremely busy for all of us but at least we all have fond memories of recent the CARC activities.

Please remember to keep your busy schedules clear for the HAM field day June 22-23, 2013.

Public Service Announcements:

Edison Fong - WB6IQN will be making a presentation on antennas at the April 6, 2013 ORCA meeting.

SFPD ALERT training, I wish to call your attention to the San Francisco Police Department offering their very first ALERT training program on April 13, 2013.

Further details are contained in the Public Service Announcement section in this newsletter.

Special Feature Article:

The Featured Tech Article has been replaced for this month by a special feature article written by CARC member Bart Lee - K6VK: "Visiting Hong Kong's CQ Shop".

Bart Lee previously contributed the article "Fong Yee, an Early Wireless Expert from Oakland circa 1910" that was published in the CARC Dec 2012 newsletter.

Bart Lee is a San Francisco attorney and noted wireless historian. He is a CARC member, CHRS History Fellow and AWA Hauck Award winner.

CARC Final Wrap News:

Chat sub s'em to all you CARC members!

- George W6BUR.

Public Service Announcements

Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA) meeting announcement.

Edison Fong (WB6IQN) will be making a presentation on antennas at the April ORCA meeting.

The meeting will be held on 9:00 AM Saturday April 6, 2013 at the Fire Station #1, Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King at 17th Street, Oakland.

HAM CRAM / HAM Licensing

For upcoming HAM Licensing locations please refer to:

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

Bart Lee – K6VK

Attention all HAM, it is MayDay!!

The California Historical Radio Society (CHRS) and its amateur radio station W6CF is caught up in its landlord's bankruptcy (Inner Cities Broadcasting). This forces CHRS to purchase the Berkeley KRE building and property now or lose it.

TODAY'S UPDATE – March 27th– We started with \$93,000 in our Museum Fund last June, and today we have 255 donations and pledges totaling \$685,420! THANK YOU! Our goal is \$750,000+. We only have \$64,580 to go! Holy Cow, we have already raised nearly three quarters of a million dollars! It's downhill from here. We have done so well, please dig deeper and make this happen! We should be able to raise the rest with your help and support.

\$25,000 CHALLENGE: CHRS MEMBER TOM NELSON, WHO WORKED AT KRE IN THE 1940s, REALLY WANTS TO SEE CHRS PURCHASE KRE AND NOT LOSE THIS HISTORIC PROPERTY. TOM PLEDGED \$5,000 THEN INCREASED IT TO \$25,000. NOW, TOM HAS OFFERED UP A CHALLENGE, POTENTIALLY WORTH \$100,000. THIS WOULD PUT US OVER THE TOP. HERE IT IS:

Tom will pledge another \$25,000 if 3 or more people will step up and match his pledge or increase their pledge by at least \$25,000, making this challenge worth at least \$100,000... or more! We know there are people reading this right now who can meet this challenge and ensure that CHRS stays at KRE. AS OF TODAY... NO ONE HAS OFFERED TO MATCH TOM'S CHALLENGE. Please step up!

THESE EVENTS DO NOT MEAN AN END TO OUR FUNDRAISING BY ANY MEANS. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME OF YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGES, SO OTHERS MUST STEP AND PLEDGE FOR THE FIRST TIME OR INCREASE YOUR PLEDGES. WE ALSO HAVE INSURANCE, OPERATING COSTS AND FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS FOR KRE TO CONSIDER. PLEASE PLEDGE NOW. WE HAVE AMAZED THOSE OUTSIDE OF CHRS FOR OUR ABILITY TO REALIZE ALMOST ALL OF OUR GOALS IN A VERY SHORT TIME. WE KNOW THAT YOUR SUPPORT AND THE SUPPORT OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS. WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO THIS, WITH YOUR HELP.

MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED TO BE MADE AWARE OF WHEN WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO OUR GOAL SO YOU COULD INCREASE YOUR PLEDGES. NOW IS THAT TIME. THE PUSH IS ON. SO, PLEASE DIG DEEPER AND REMEMBER THE THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF SWEAT THAT YOUR CHRS BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAVE PUT INTO THIS PROJECT. WE KNOW THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE READING THIS WHO HAVE NOT PLEDGED. WE ARE VERY CLOSE. YOUR PLEDGE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING A PLEDGE, DON'T HESITATE. DO IT NOW AND BE PART OF THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT.

REMEMBER – You can pledge now, but you need not send any funds until we need them. [CLICK HERE TO PLEDGE.](#)

SUPER DONORS – The list keeps growing. Be part of it! EVERY pledge and donation means a great deal to CHRS. But it is worth noting several pledges / donations that are really helping us to reach our goal:

Jack Bethards	– \$5,000	Bert Buss	– \$5,000
Elmo & Kim Giovanetti	– \$5,000	Chip Lim	– \$5,000
Tom Nelson	– \$25,000	Robert & Reina Swart	– \$5,000
Judy Mears & Bart Lee	– \$10,000	Norm Howard Lehfeldt	– \$15,000
Larry & Joan Drees	– \$16,600	Tom & Julie Bonomo	– \$25,000
George Patterson	– \$25,000	Gilles Vrignaud	– \$25,000
Norman Leal	– \$75,000	Philip Monego	– \$100,000
Scott Robinson	– \$100,000	John Staples	– \$100,000

Organization Donors of note:

The CHRS Central Valley Chapter – \$3750 The Alabama Historical Radio Society – \$1000
The SF Bay Area SBE Chapter 40 – \$1000 The Sacramento SBE Chapter 43 – \$1000
The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club – \$1000 The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club – \$1000
The Art Deco Society of California – \$500 The Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society – \$500

We are grateful to these fine organizations for their support! And we need more support... Our \$25,000 Challenge Pledge from Gilles Vrignaud towards our KRE building purchase fund is complete! Thank you Gilles and all who pledged during this challenge. The challenge and matching pledges were worth \$50,000! – Who will step it up and offer a \$50,000 Challenge next?

That is potentially worth \$100,000 and puts us very close to our goal. So, if you have not pledged, do it now! Many people have recently increased the size of their pledges. You can do the same and we would really appreciate it.

All donations to the CHRS are tax deductible and will be for the good cause of preserving the KRE building.

KRE 2012 - after CHRS Restoration



For additional information see: <http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/>

Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) - Tony Halog (KR6EG), ACS Chief

The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) was organized by the San Francisco Office of Emergency Services (OES) following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake to support the communications needs of the City and County of San Francisco when responding to emergencies and special events.

The Auxiliary Communications Service holds General Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at the San Francisco Emergency Operations Center, 1011 Turk Street (between Gough Street and Laguna Street), from 1900 hours to 2100 hours local time. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

The ACS Net begins at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) 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 should perform Net Control duty on a regular basis. On the second Thursday of each month, the net will be conducted on the output frequency of the WA6GG repeater, 442.050 MHz no offset, tone 127.3 Hz, simplex.

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

Upcoming meetings: Tuesday 7pm, April 16, 2013
Tuesday 7pm, May 21, 2013
Tuesday 7pm, June 18, 2013

Gilbert Gin (KJ6HKD)

Free Disaster Preparedness Classes In Oakland:
<http://www.oaklandnet.com/fire/core/index2.html>

CORE is a free training program for individuals, neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in Oakland. The underlying premise is that a major disaster will overwhelm first responders, leaving many citizens on their own for the first 72 hours or longer after the emergency.

If you have questions about the recertification process, you may contact the CORE Coordinator at 510-238-6351 or core@oaklandnet.com.

Free Disaster Preparedness Classes In San Francisco – NERT Taught by San Francisco Fire Department

RSVP to sffdnerf@sfgov.org or call 415-970-2024 to register. Visit www.sfgov.org/sffdnerf to learn more about the training, other locations, and register on line.

Upcoming Special NERT Events.

April

3rd: ICS Forms workshop - Using NERT ICS forms. 7:00p-8:30pm, SFFD DOT*

Register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5018115318#>

6th: Staging area drill

Put your ICS to practice. This is great preparation for the April drill on April 20th.

8:30am-1:00pm, SFFD DOT*

Register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5018317924#>

13th: DART II - 9:00am-1:00pm, SFFD DOT*

This is session 2 of 4. See March 16th for registration requirements and details

20th: NERT Citywide drill - SAVE THE DATE

27th: DART III - 9:00am-1:00pm. SFFD DOT

This is session 3 of 4. See March 16th for registration requirements and details

May

4th: Intro to Ham Communications Team (HCT) 101, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., SFFD DOT*

New or interested HAM operators beginner course (no license required)

HAM operators that want disaster communication instruction are welcome after lunch

7th: Ham Radio for "dummies", HCT 300 & 301, 6:30pm-9:00pm, SFFD DOT*

Get to know your radio. Basic how to instruction: turning on, tuning in, changing batteries etc. (Amateur Radio license required)

8th: Ham Emergency Messaging for the non-hobbyists (hobbyists allowed),

HCT 303, 6:30pm-9:00pm, SFFD DOT*

Learn and practice creating emergency messages (an important skill for ALL NERTS) and practice talking on the radio. Overcome your hesitation and just do it.

9th: Advanced Ham Radio for "dummies" Ham Communications Team (HCT) 400

Hands on training, 6:30pm-9:00pm, SFFD DOT*

Bring your radio and practice, practice, practice: buttons, antennas and tones etc. (Amateur Radio license required)

11th: DART IV, Animal Rescue Team Exercise, 9:00am-4:00pm, ACC, 15th and Harrison

This is session 4 of 4. See March 16th for registration requirements and details

16th: Neighborhood Coordinator/Leadership College, 8:30am-4:00pm, SFFD DOT*

* SFFD DOT is the Division of Training @ 19th Street/Folsom. (enter through yard on 19th and park along back wall) Division of Training classroom is in the 1-story building directly next to the Fire Station on the corner

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 first complete the Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) (www.sfgov.org/sfnert) training and then graduate into an 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.

As part of their commitment, community members volunteering as an ALERT member will be required to attend two drills per year to maintain their program status and certification.

Every two years, the ALERT member will be required to attend an update course.

ALERT Training

The first ALERT training class has been scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, 2013. The class will be held at the San Francisco Police Academy, in the parking lot bungalow, from 8am-5pm (one hour lunch break).

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

Eligible ALERT participants may register for the April 13th training class by contacting the ALERT Program Coordinator, Mark Hernandez, at sfpdalert@sfgov.org, or by telephone at 415-401-4615.

* To register for the training class please email sfpdalert@sfgov.org with your NAME and PHONE NUMBER. For more information on the San Francisco Police Department ALERT Program, email us at sfpdalert@sfgov.org, or call Sergeant Mark Hernandez (SFPD, Ret.), SFPD ALERT Program Coordinator, at (415) 401-4615.

For additional information on the web please refer to: <http://sf-police.org/index.aspx?page=4019>

Visiting Hong Kong's CQ Shop by Bart Lee - K6VK

Hong Kong, like Shanghai, is modern China. Amateur radio operators in Hong Kong are well organized. There are at least a couple of local businesses that supply radio equipment, much of it for amateur use.

The CQ Shop in Hong Kong is one I went to visit in April, 2012. It advertises itself as the only full-service amateur radio store and is located on the "Street of Electronics". Like many cities, each retail category seems to have its own geographical location: the "Street of the Kitchen Appliances", the "Street of the Lamps", etc.

The "Street of Electronics" is full of shops selling audio gear and the like. (The "Street of Computers" is just a block or so away to the East). Walking these streets is an adventure in itself, because they are full of people and sellers of everything, but free of cars.



Hong Kong's Electronic Shops Neighborhood, photo by Judy Mears, K6VK/XYL

A photo of the “Street of Electronics” appears nearby; it shows the approach to the shop. The shop is on the right side of the street displaying a big yellow sign (see photo below).



Hong Kong's CQ Shop Sign, (photo by Judy Mears, K6VK/XYL)

Mr. Simon H.K. Hung, the manager (see two photos), is very friendly, as is the staff. He suggests that if you visit, ask for a discount. The hours listed are 11 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday.



Left to right: Mr. Simon Hung and two staff members. (Website photo)



Author: Bart Lee, K6VK.
Photo by Judy Mears, K6VK/XYL

Simon likes to put up QSL cards from visiting hams on his wall. I was pleased to be able to give him one of mine for my station: K6VK.

Some months later, my fellow ham Dave Billeci (WA6UHA) of the San Francisco Radio Club, also visited the CQ Shop in Hong Kong. He noted that my card, K6VK, had been added to the wall of QSL cards of some of the many visiting hams from across the globe and sent me the photo below.



Photo by Dave Billeci, WA6UHA, SFRC

If you find yourself in Hong Kong, check out the CQ Shop. It is one of my favorite away from home radio stores. The CQ Shop is located in the Sham Shui Po district on the Kowloon side which has its own subway (MTR) station on the Red Line, going North. Go out exit C2 of the station, and turn right, walk about 30 yards up the street to the shop.

The address is: 252 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon side. It's also just a short taxi ride from the Hong Kong side. The email for the CQ shop is: info@CQShopHK.com and their website is: www.cqshophk.com.



While in Hong Kong, Simon told me about the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (HARTS).

Although we are an ocean apart, it is nice to know we are just one good HF signal away from each other. Cathay ARC member David Chan, WZ6X has told me that he makes regular contacts via HF with his Hong Kong ham friends.



A picture of HARTS, the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society, an active club with regular nets and meetings. Photo from the HARTS website.

If you get to Hong Kong, be sure to visit the CQ Shop, and please give Simon a “73” from me. Bring a copy of this article when asking for your CARC discount!



Mr. Simon H.K. Hung in blue jacket with his fellow HARTS members. Photo from HARTS website.

Please note: It looked to me that many of the HTs sold by the Hong Kong CQ Shop are “Wide Open” on transmit as well as receive, and thus they are able to operate on all VHF/UHF frequencies.

These “Wide Open” HTs are not FCC type accepted for amateur ham use in the United States. However “Wide Open” HTs would be extremely useful for true MAYDAY life-in-danger emergencies in any part of the world including the USA.

73 de Bart Lee, K6VK - email: Bart Lee kv6lee@gmail.com ##