



Cathay May 2012

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 PST, Frequencies: 146.67MHz -600KHz PL85.4 and 442.70 +5MHz PL 173.8. The repeaters are linked. 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

There are four items of special interest I wish to call your attention:

- Chinatown HAM Cram
- Public Service Announcement from Phil Wong
- The passing of Edwin G. Wong (N6YCG)
- Featured Technical Article: Electricity From Body Heat

Chinatown Ham Cram

On April 21, 2012, the Cathay Amateur Radio Club in partnership with the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition (www.nicoschc.org), Chinatown Salvation Army, and American Red Cross held in Chinatown a HAM Cram Session for the Technicians Exam

If my memory serves me right, I believe the last HAM Cram held in Chinatown was done by the CARC some 15 years ago.

I am very pleased to report that as of Saturday, April 21, 2012 there are now 25 newly minted HAM Technician license holders that either live or work in the San Francisco Chinatown area. Those new HAMs will help the local community become more disaster resilient by aiding in emergency communications.

The participants were from the Boy Scouts of America, Chinatown Childhood Development, NICOS, Chinatown Salvation Army, SFFD NERT, Old St. Mary's Church, YSRO, Pine View Housing, Veterans Administration, Buddhist Tzuchi Foundation and American Red Cross.

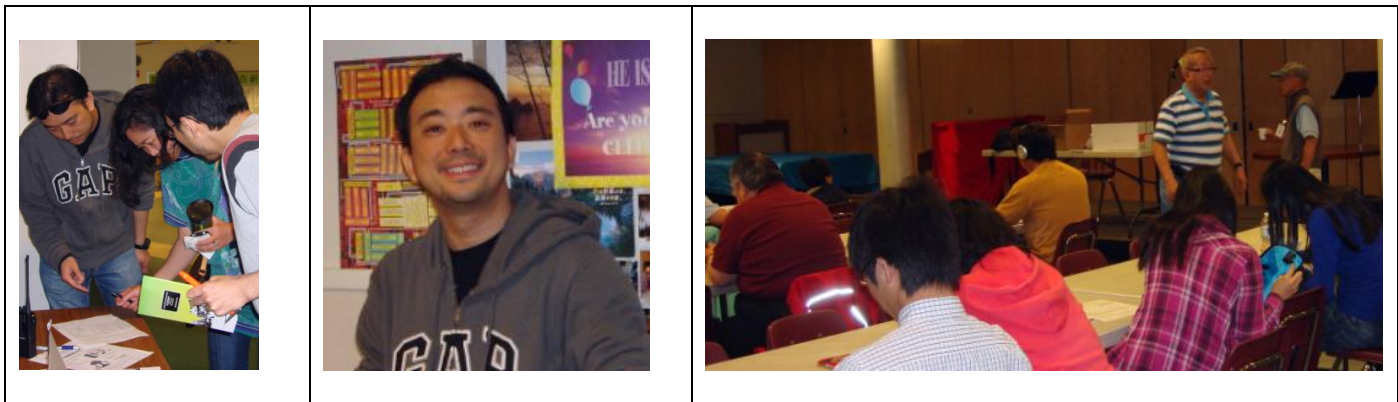
A total of 34 people participated in the HAM Cram. It was very well attended by good cross section of the Chinatown Community. Many of the participants were volunteer Asian high schools kids that spoke English as a second language. We had a pass rate of 73.5%, which was not unexpected given the diverse group and the number of teenagers.

We were able to pull this off with the help of our CARC Volunteer Examiners (Mingie –W6EE, Bob – KM6QP, Rodney – KJ6DZI, and George – W6BUR) plus help from Hetty - WB6SHU, Paul of Salvation Army, Michael Liao of NICOS, and Michael Wong of American Red Cross.

At this point the Cathay Amateur Club is actively looking at ways to reach out and support the local Chinatown community.

Below are pictures taken during the Chinatown HAM Cram.





Public Service Announcement from Phil Wong

A free USGS open house event is scheduled for May. Yes, it is great to have contributions of this nature from our fellow CARC members, please keep them coming!

The passing of Edwin G. Wong (N6YCG)

Edwin was a special friend to me and one of the original Cathay Amateur Radio Club members. A special section called: **Silent Key**, has been written by our editor in memory of Edwin Wong.

Featured Technical Article

This month's featured tech article was inspired by a little girl asking her father, would it be possible to generate electricity from the human body wearing special clothing. Gosh, it is reminiscent of the movie the Matrix, where science fiction is not so far off from the actual truth.

Public Service Announcements

Phil Wong - KG6ECC

FREE - U.S. Geological Survey Open House

10AM - 4PM Sat-Sun May 19 & 20, 2012
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA

The 10th USGS 2012 Open House will have exhibits, presentations, and live music. Learn about earthquakes, volcanoes, ocean sciences, geography, and much more.

Nearby parking lots are available and downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto are less than a mile away.

<http://openhouse.wr.usgs.gov/2012/index.html>

Tony – KR6EG

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.

Upcoming meetings: Tuesday 7pm, May 15, 2012
Tuesday 7pm, June 19, 2012

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

Gilbert – 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.

Oakland Chinatown Citizens on Patrol program is looking for a few good volunteers.

A volunteer staff is gearing up to make the Oakland Chinatown neighborhood safe for its citizens. The program called "Oakland Chinatown Citizens on Patrol" is endorsed by the City of Oakland.

The volunteer staff will work with the Oakland Chinatown Neighborhood and the Oakland Police Department to be the "eyes and ears" of the community. The volunteers will patrol the neighborhood and use radios to relay timely eye witness accounts of any criminal activity.

The program is looking to be up and running this late April / early May 2012 and is looking for HAMs to be among its ranks of volunteers.

To apply please obtain an application from the Oakland Police Department's Chinatown Office (360-A 8th Street Oakland, CA 94607). For additional information email: OCCOPS@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (SF NERT) Announcement

May

9th: NERT Coordinators and Leadership meeting, 6:30pm-8:30pm, SFFD Division of Training (DOT*)

12th: Intro to Ham Communications Team (HCT) 101, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 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

Register: <http://nertham101may2012.eventbrite.com/>

19th: Ham Radio for "dummies", 8:30pm-4:00pm, SFFD DOT*

(HCT 300 & 301) Get to know your radio. Basic how to instruction: turning on, tuning in, changing batteries etc (HAM license required)

(HCT 303) Ham Emergency Messaging for the non-hobbyists (hobbyists allowed).

Learn and practice creating emergency messages (ALL NERTS) and practice

talking on the radio (license required). Overcome your hesitation and just do it.
(HCT 400) Advanced Ham Radio for "dummies" Ham Communications Team (HCT)
Hands on training. Bring your radio and practice, practice, practice:
buttons, antennas and tones etc. (HAM license required)
Register: <http://nertham300400may2012.eventbrite.com/>

* 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.

Silent Key Memorial - Edwin G. Wong (N6YCG)

By Rodney Yee
4/29/2012

Edwin G. Wong (N6YCG) of Berkeley, California - October 1, 1924 - April 17, 2012, passed away at the age of 87.

Edwin was one of three original members of the Cathay Amateur Radio Club. The Cathay Amateur Radio Club was established in April of 1949. The other two club members were Manfred Jang, Winston Wong. With the exception of Winston, they all were Chinese Americans GIs that served in the US Army in WW II and had returned to their homes in the San Francisco bay area. Their HAM radio clubhouse was in the American Legion Cathay Post on Powell Street, San Francisco.

In 1940, Edwin met our present day Cathay Amateur Radio Club President, George W6BUR at a St. Mary's school sponsored street fair held on Stockton Street in San Francisco. Edwin was demonstrating his homemade CW transmitter he built as a Boy Scout - Troop 3. In the crowd that day observing Edwin's CW transmitter was George W6BUR, he introduced himself to Edwin as a fellow Boy Scout - Troop 11 and an aspiring HAM.

Back then both Edwin's and George's families lived in Chinatown San Francisco. Edwin and George became lifelong friends, hung out together and ate lunches at the famous 100 year old Sam Wo restaurant on Washington street.

Edwin interest in electronics led him to become a HAM before the war. When he entered the service in 1943, he was a natural fit for U.S. Army Signal Corp – 14th Service Group and was stationed in Chan Yuan Province, China. By 1946, Edwin rose to rank of Technical Sergeant as he completed his tour of duty in the China, Burma and India (CBI) Theater of War.

Edwin's choice of joining the Cathay Amateur Radio Club would be a rather fortuitous life changing event. His fellow club members; Manfred Jang and Winston Wong introduced Edwin to Miss Loretta Yee who eventually became his wife.

After 35 years of Federal Government Civil Service as an inspector of military equipment he completed his career with the Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation as a Quality Assurance Specialist.

Edwin enjoyed his retirement fishing and making radio contact with fellow HAMs from all corners of the globe.

According to his wishes, there will be no services and his ashes will be scattered outside the Golden Gate where he loved to fish.

Edwin leaves behind a devoted wife of 61 years, Loretta Wong and his cherished 3 daughters: Denise (Sherman) Lee, Jadine (the late Steve) Yamamoto, and Deanne (Robert) Surtees. He always will be the loving grandfather of Stacey Lee, Kevin Lee, and Maia Surtees. Survived and missed by dearest cousin, Shubert Yee, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Contributions in Ed's memory may be made to Vitas Innovative Hospice Care or the [American Heart Association](#) .

Featured Tech Article:

The Fabric of Our Power-Hungry Lives

By [Drake Bennett](#) on March 02, 2012

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-03-02/the-fabric-of-our-power-hungry-lives>

A new fabric being developed at Wake Forest's Center for Nanotechnology and Molecular Materials, however, has the potential to make Gore-Tex seem about as high-tech as sackcloth. Called Power Felt, it generates electricity from heat.

Wrap your cell phone in Power Felt and it could feed off your body heat to recharge while it's in your pocket. Line the inside of a roof with it and, especially in the summer, it could power a household's appliances.

Lay it on the floor of a car and it could use the heat from the motor to run the air conditioning and radio—if it's an electric car or hybrid, the Power Felt might even boost the mileage.

Potential uses for Power Felt include lining automobile seats to boost battery power and service electrical needs, insulating pipes or collecting heat under roof tiles to lower gas or electric bills, lining clothing or sports equipment to monitor performance, or wrapping IV or wound sites to better track patients' medical needs.

"Imagine it in an emergency kit, wrapped around a flashlight, powering a weather radio, charging a prepaid cell phone," says [David Carroll](#), director of the Center for Nanotechnology and Molecular Materials and head of the team leading this research. "Literally, just by sitting on your phone, Power Felt could provide relief during power outages or accidents."

Cost has prevented thermoelectrics from being used more widely in consumer products. Standard thermoelectric devices use a much more efficient compound called bismuth telluride to turn heat into power in products including mobile refrigerators and CPU coolers, but it can cost \$1,000 per kilogram.

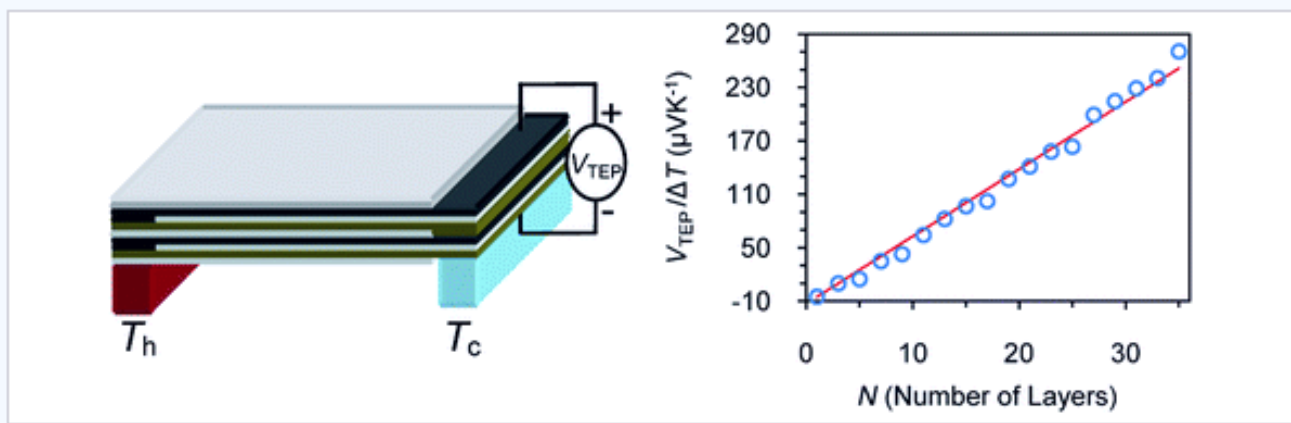
Like silicon, researchers liken its affordability to demand in volume and think someday Power Felt would cost only \$1 to add to a cell phone cover.

Currently Hewitt is evaluating several ways to add more nanotube layers and make them even thinner to boost the power output.

Although there's more work to do before Power Felt is ready for market, he says, "I imagine being able to make a jacket with a completely thermoelectric inside liner that gathers warmth from body heat, while the exterior remains cold from the outside temperature.

If the Power Felt is efficient enough, you could potentially power an iPod, which would be great for distance runners. It's pretty cool to think about, and it's definitely within reach."

Currently Wake Forest is in talks with investors to produce Power Felt commercially.



Thermoelectrics are materials capable of the solid-state conversion between thermal and electrical energy. Carbon nanotube/polymer composite thin films are known to exhibit thermoelectric effects, however, have a low figure of merit (ZT) of 0.02. In this work, we demonstrate individual composite films of multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWNT)/polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) that are layered into multiple element modules that resemble a felt fabric. The thermoelectric voltage generated by these fabrics is the sum of contributions from each layer, resulting in increased power output. Since these fabrics have the potential to be cheaper, lighter, and more easily processed than the commonly used thermoelectric bismuth telluride, the overall performance of the fabric shows promise as a realistic alternative in a number of applications such as portable lightweight electronics.