



Cathay November 2014

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.

Update: Link to repeater 442.70 is currently not active until further notice.

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;

Much activity has been going on in the Bay Area as Fleet Week has just concluded and with the San Francisco Giants winning the National League play offs to make a 3rd appearance in the World Series. And of course, with all of us holding our collective breaths with the undecided winner of the final game of the World Series (as of October 28, 2014), we are all have a difficult time to keep from passing out.

Anyway, with all this Bay Area activity happening I hope we don't overlook this November 11, 2014 is Veteran's day. This very special day for those of us that did military service; it is a reminder of a common bond and devotion to our beloved USA. I am proud to be a US Military Veteran that served this country in a time of need during WWII.

In celebration of Veteran's Day please join me (non-veteran's invited too) for lunch:

11am – 2pm Tuesday November 11, 2014
Buffet Fortuna Restaurant
800 Broadway, Oakland, CA
(510) 839-1688

New Book - Electronics from the Ground Up Book

I am pleased to announce that CARC member, Ronald Quan – KI6AZB has published a 2nd electronics book: “***Electronics from the Ground Up: Learn by Hacking, Designing, and Inventing***”.

You can find Ron's new book on Amazon with the following URL;

http://www.amazon.com/Electronics-Ground-Up-Designing-Inventing/dp/0071837280/ref=sr_1_2/179-3842971-4625314?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1413613218&sr=1-2

Ron wrote his new book for beginners that wanted to learn the fundamentals of electronics.

Annual Christmas Party: 6pm-10pm Saturday December 13, 2014

Please make sure you read further down in this newsletter for more information about the upcoming Christmas Party. The Christmas Party will be hosted by Edison Fong - WB6/QN at his home: 1163 Quince Ave. Sunnyvale, CA. Please email Ed: edison_fong@hotmail.com if you are able to attend the Christmas Party.

Featured Tech Article Intro

This month's article entitled: "A Portable Power Pack: Solar in a Suitcase" has been authored by CARC member, Bart Lee – K6VK. My thanks go out to Bart Lee for his latest article and the many previous articles that he has written for our newsletter during this past year.

CARC Final Wrap-up News

Chat sub s'em to all you CARC members!

- George W6BUR.

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) 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, Dec 16, 2014
Tuesday 7pm, Jan 15, 2015

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 sffdnert@sfgov.org or call 415-970-2024 to register.

Visit www.sfgov.org/sffdnert to learn more about the training, other locations, and register on line.

Upcoming Special NERT Events.

October

17th: Loma Prieta commemoration event. Details TBD

18th: **the Loma Prieta 25th Anniversary October Drill - REGISTER**

29th: NERT Coordinators/Leadership meeting, Wed 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Volunteer leaders are the backbone of NERT.

Want to be more involved in NERT leadership?

Meet NERT Coordinators from all over the City. All NERT grads are welcome.

Register

November

3rd: Triage Drill, Monday 6:30pm-9:00pm, SFFD DOT*

Register as "Triage Rescuer" (NERT Grads Only) 6:30pm or

"Triage Victim" (Non-NERTs) 0:00pm

Register

* 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.

SFPD ALERT Training

The next ALERT training classes have been scheduled for **TBD. The classes will be held at the San Francisco Police Academy, in the parking lot bungalow, from 8am-5pm (one hour lunch break).**

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, Mark Hernandez, at sfpdalert@sfgov.org, or by telephone at 415-401-4615.

SFPD ALERT Training Drill

All active/trained ALERT members are asked to join us for our next training drill, scheduled for Saturday November 1, 2014. The drill will be held in the Police Academy (350 Amber Drive) parking lot from 9am-1pm. Details will be emailed to active ALERT members, prior to the date of the exercise. Participation is not required, but strongly encouraged.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

An informational meeting will be held at the San Francisco Police Academy, located at 350 Amber Drive, Parking lot bungalows, on Thursday January 15, 2015, at 7pm. All members of the public are welcome. Interested individuals will have their questions

about the program answered at the meeting.

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>

Annual Christmas Party

Host: Edison Fong – WB6IQN

Christmas Party – Saturday, December 13 6-10 PM

Format: Potluck – bring your favorite dish.

Door Prize - Beofeng UV5RA Dual band hand held

Where: 1163 Quince Ave. Sunnyvale, CA -

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

We will once again host the Christmas Party this year. Bring your friends, neighbors, cousins, you name it. Last year we had over 80 people with kids, friends, neighbors, all kinds of ham friends. There will be all kinds of dishes from traditional Christmas, to Chinese, Korean, Italian, barbeque, you name it. Deserts are always plentiful.

Who knows who would be there this year? Last year we had the Mayor of Sunnyvale and several famous people from the electronics industry. This is also a great party to update your professional networking if you are looking for a job.

All licensed hams will receive one ticket (no charge) for the door prize- no charge. That will make you eligible for the door prizes.

The grand prize will be the Baofeng UV5RA. This is the latest version of the Baofeng UV5 series. This is a supper radio with 128 memory channels, 1800 mah battery; drop in charger, built-in LED flashlight and even a built-in FM broadcast radio. I carry mine with me all the time.

Kids are welcome and bring your friends.

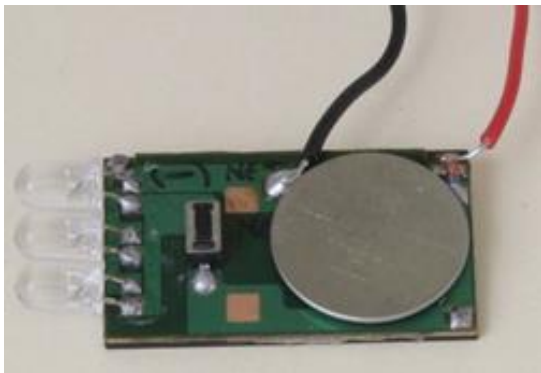
To show our appreciation for your support of the Cathay Amateur Radio Club (CARC) for the last year, all attendees will receive a gift of a unique 3 LED solar rechargeable flashlight. No batteries to ever buy.

This little light incorporates 9 silicon solar cells (generates about 6 volts in the sun), a rechargeable LiOn battery, three bright white LED's, a momentary switch, and steering diode for charging. When the battery runs down, just place it the sun for a day and it is ready to go.

See the pictures below with the flashlight taken apart.



3 LED solar rechargeable flashlight disassembled.



Close up of the circuit board of flashlight



Flip side of circuit board with solar panel attached



BaoFeng UV-5R

Featured Tech Article:

A Portable Power Pack: Solar in a Suitcase

By Bart Lee – K6VK

October 20, 2014

June's Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) featured Charles Henry, KG6PHZ on solar power and his high-powered multi-panel set-up on a trailer. The similar work of others over the years inspired my local-use solar portable power pack, and seeing Charles's operation inspired me to tune it up.

The idea here is to make many power options, *especially solar as a last resort*, available in the field for disaster relief. I have used this system during local power failures.



Bart Lee – K6VK with his portable radio setup during Field Day with the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (W6CX). Photo by Pete Harris – KE6ZIW

This last Field Day was on June 27 - 29, 2014. MDARC held its Field Day at Heather Farm Park in the large parking lot near the community center on North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. When I visited, David, KK6GSC, from Salvation Army, operated from his neat and elegant solar and battery power system for his two-meter rig, and I wanted to show him my “Portable Power Pack -- Solar in a Suitcase” alternate power options to him. I drove it over to Heather Farm Park and set it up, successfully communicating with it via W6CX on Mt Diablo. Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, MDARC’s photographer, shot some pictures (nearby). David, alas, had had to leave early.

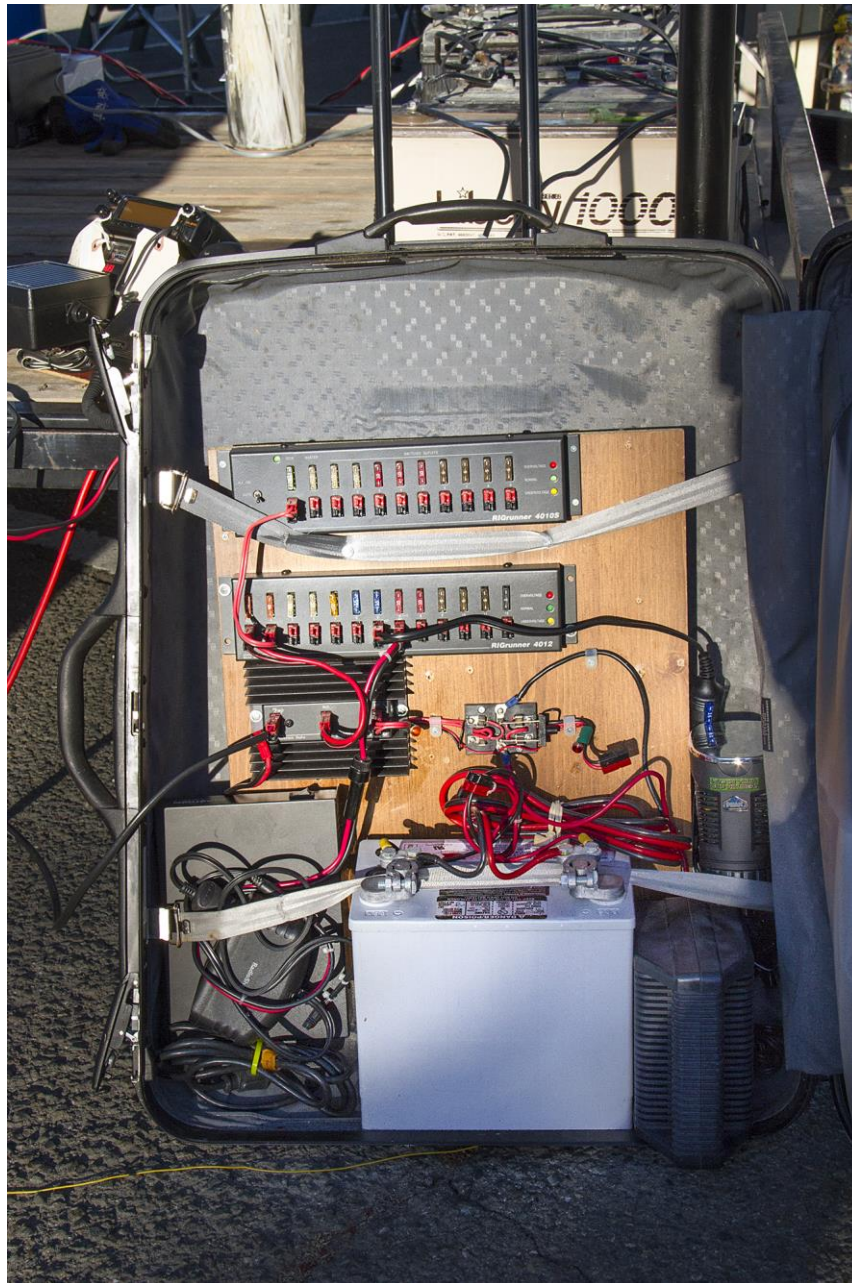
My present “Portable Power Pack -- Solar in a Suitcase” all fits in a (large) suitcase on wheels. The battery can charge off 110 volts, or any 12 volt source or solar power through a regulator (included). Two solar panels can maintain charge for the battery. A small inverter to 110 volts and also to 5 volts USB is included. A ten amp 100 volt to 12 volt DC power supply is also included. There are two Rig-Runner ® output panels for 12 volts out at various fused power (amperage) levels, useful to charge 2 meter handy-talkies (HTs). George Hughes, WØWEB built the first iteration of this system for me maybe ten years ago, after he and I refined the design.



Bart Lee - K6VK's small battery power unit. Photo by Bart Lee



Bart Lee -K6VK's Ni-Cad battery charger for 12 volts. Photo by Bart Lee



Close up of Bart Lee – K6VK portable power supply setup.

Photo by Pete Harris – KE6ZIW

A Yaseu 8100 transceiver (built on a board also by George Hughes, WØWEB) fits in the top of the suitcase. It features an antenna tuner and two different speakers so that voices on two meters and 70 cm sound different. Various antenna options, including two WB6IQN portable antennas, Edison Fong's J-Pole from twin-lead, go in the included bag of gear.

Not shown in the big photo (but included) is a small sub-system (via RadioShack ®) to charge rechargeable 1.5 volt and 9 volt batteries from 12 volts.

Also included is a gel-cell battery pack (Vector Pocket Generator ®) that can be belt-worn, with a 12 volt gel cell (won at a Cathay ARC raffle). It is also an inverter to 110 volts AC. A USB charger plugs into its 12 volt car accessory socket.

Next to be included is the N8XJK Marine Booster, a 12 volt DC Booster Regulator, which is designed to boost nominal 12 volt DC power up to 15 volts DC even with the supply voltage dropping as low as 9 volts. This will come in handy to maintain transmit power in power depletion situations.

73 de Bart, K6VK ##