

Cathay September 2014

www.cathayradio.org

President: George Chong, W6BUR email: W6BUR@comcast.net

Vice President North: Leonard Tom, NX6E email: nx6e@hotmail.com

Vice President South: Bill Fong, W6BBA - email: w6bba@arrrl.net

Secretary/Membership: Rodney Yee, KJ6DZI - email: rodyee2000@yahoo.com

Editor: Rodney Yee, KJ6DZI - email: rodyee2000@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Vince Chinn aka Mingie, W6EE - email: vince@vincechinncpa.com

Web Master: Edison Fong – WB6/QN - email: edison_fong@hotmail.com

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;

I am sure by now you experienced and/or have heard the news about the biggest Northern California earthquake in 25 years. At a little before 3am Sunday August 24, 2014 both myself and Hetty (xyl) were awake to get a sip of water when the 6.1 magnitude South Napa earthquake came rolling into the Bay Area. During the 20 seconds of the quake, our bed rolled forward and backwards numerous times. I had originally estimated that the quake lasted 15 seconds.

The previous big Northern California quake was the 7.1 magnitude Loma Prieta earthquake back in 1989, it lasted at least 15 seconds and caused wide spread destruction in the Bay Area along with heavy loss of life.

After this latest earthquake, we surveyed our home and discovered much to our relief we had suffered no apparent damage. However later on the morning news we learned just 55 miles north of my home in the Oakland Hill, the good folks of the city Napa were not so lucky. Napa and the immediate surrounding area suffered heavy damage and fires but with no loss of life. Our prayers and sentiments go to our neighbors in the north.

The next day I spoke to one of our CARC members, David – WZ6X who lives in the city of American Canyon, the earthquake epicenter being only 2 miles west. David commented that the biggest casualty was the local Safeway store with spilled shelves of canned goods and other items. Otherwise the American Canyon town did all right according to Dave, his backyard radio tower stayed up with all the antennas still working.

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency to help deal with this disaster. This latest earthquake serves as a wakeup call to prepare ourselves for the next one.

As HAMs many of us are skilled, trained and have appropriate radio gear to serve on local ARES/RACES organizations as emergency communications personnel. Our HAM hobby has a very practical and serious side to it. It has made each one of us an emergency community resource and as a potential first responder support member.

Yes, I am proud to be a HAM and proud of each of our HAM Cathay Amateur Radio Club Members who I know will rise to the challenge as a community resource during an emergency. So give yourselves a pat on your back for just being who you are!

Many private and government organizations have told me that they really want us around! Yes, Cathy Amateur Radio Club Members (please pardon the pun) .. We Rock!

2014 HAM Tech Session Wrap up

I wish to thank Edison Fong – *WB6/QN* and his sister (Susan) for organizing and running a very well attended and well received Tech Session Event on Saturday, August 9, 2014 at his home.

Additional write up and pictures are in the section: **Tech Session Recap**

For those folks that missed the HAM Tech Session gathering, you have another chance to attend another super event: The CARC Annual Picnic. This event will also have terrific raffle prizes along with fabulous food.

Due to a scheduling conflict, I was not able to attend the HAM Tech Session. However; I shall be at the CARC Annual Picnic and encourage all CARC members to attend this wonderful event.

Upcoming 2014 CARC Annual Picnic

Ed Fong (*WB6/QN*) will also be hosting the 2014 CARC Annual Picnic that will be held 11am-3pm, Saturday September 13, 2014. Ed is doing the heavy lifting for this event along with providing fabulous raffle prizes. The grand raffle prize will be a mini-iPad. Now how can you beat that for a grand prize!

As a bonus, a wonderful 2nd raffle prize has been donated by **Louis Dorren – WB6TXD**, a Zastone MP900 transceiver (Yaesu FT8900 clone). The CARC is extremely fortunate to have **Louis Dorren** as a generous CARC member and benefactor. Thank you both Ed and Louis for going above and beyond in support of the CARC.

Please RSVP to Ed Fong: edison_fong@hotmail.com the number of people accompanying you to the CARC Annual picnic.

Addition information is in the last section of this newsletter.

The **Tech Article Section** will return in the October 2014 issue.

CARC Final Wrap Up Message:

I look forward to seeing many of our CARC club members at the special CARC annual picnic event.

I will keep it short, 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, Sept 16, 2014
Tuesday 7pm, Oct 21, 2014
Tuesday 7pm, Nov 18, 2014

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.

September

13th: Disaster Operations I, 8:30am-3:30pm, SFFD DOT*

Learn how to manage a response and put ICS into practice in a classroom setting using the NERT Field Operations Guide (FOG)

Register

20th: Disaster Operations II, 8:30am-3:30pm, SFFD DOT* Prerequisite:

Disaster Operations I. This class focuses on incident handling , information flow and field team operational planning for the NERT staging area. **Register**

30th: ICS Forms workshop. All NERT grads welcome. 6:30p-8:30pm, SFFD DOT*

Review each NERT ICS Form. The forms are crucial for safety and accountability.

Register

October

17th: Loma Prieta commemoration event. Details TBD

18th: **the Loma Prieta 25th Anniversary October Drill - Save the Date!**

* 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 Saturday, October 25, 2014. 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 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, September 6, 2014 and 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, at 7pm **Thursday, September 18, 2014.** 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>

Tech Session Recap

Our summer Pizza lasagna party was another great success. We had about 55 people attend with plenty to eat and drink. We had three types of stuff pizza. A Chicago (mix of meat and veggies), a five meat, and garlic chicken. I ordered 20 lbs of all meat lasagna, a mixed chicken- bacon salad (that went fast), a ½ sheet of chocolate cake, and 3 gallons of ice cream. I like to thank people that also brought extra cookies, fruits, etc. That really topped it off.

When I took a quick survey, people like the garlic chicken the most. Maybe I will order two next year. This is the first time I saw Paul Rako (the editor of EDN magazine). In fact, he wants to write an article in EDN magazine about us. I told him the secret to getting a crowd is 3 things - good free food, good guest speakers, and GREAT raffle prizes.

We had absolutely two outstanding speakers this year on the “state of software defined radios” (SDR). Ron Quan – KI6AZB and Wayne Lake - WD6DZS were the guest speakers. Ron and Wayne showed some inexpensive dongles one can purchase for about \$20 that are USB compatible. The Realtek2832 dongle seems to work best with most software. Wayne showed some awesome software that tracks commercial airlines as can be seen by the photos. Ron also showed a Radio Shack and County Comm (GP5) complete SDR using the SiLabs SDR chip. We thank them both for providing such a great update in this rapid changing field.

Switching to the raffle – The Toshiba Laptop computer was won by Tom Hinke KK6FJZ. This was Tom’s first ham meeting since passing his exam. Beginner’s luck. David Wong KG6SWL won the SDR GP5 radio, Mike Lechner KN6QI (President of the FARS club) won the tool set, Javen O’Neal KF7JO won the Mag lite, Gilles Van Ruymbeke (famous analog IC designer) won the 150 watt inverter, and Leonard NX6E won the heavy duty jumper cables.



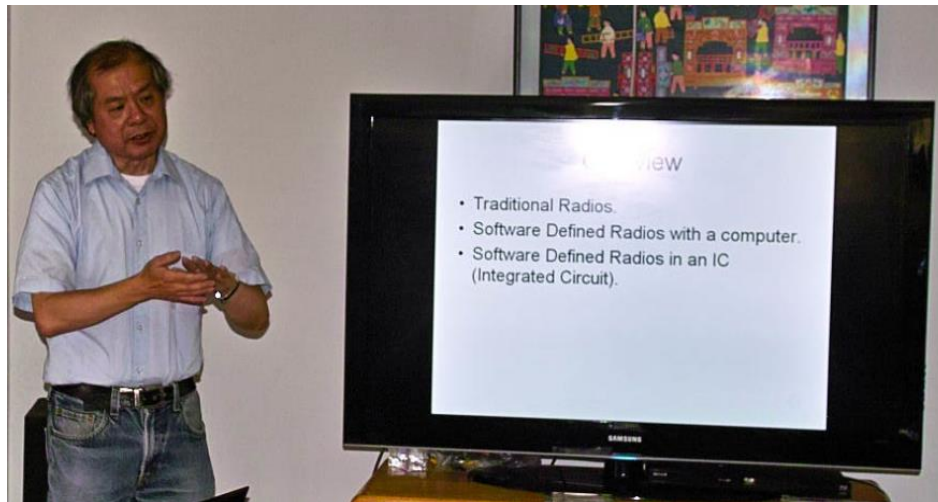
David –KG6SWL winner of the SDR radio.



Calvin Chien – Prof. Vendelin's last Ph.D. student



Gilles Van Ruymbeke – top notch analog designer



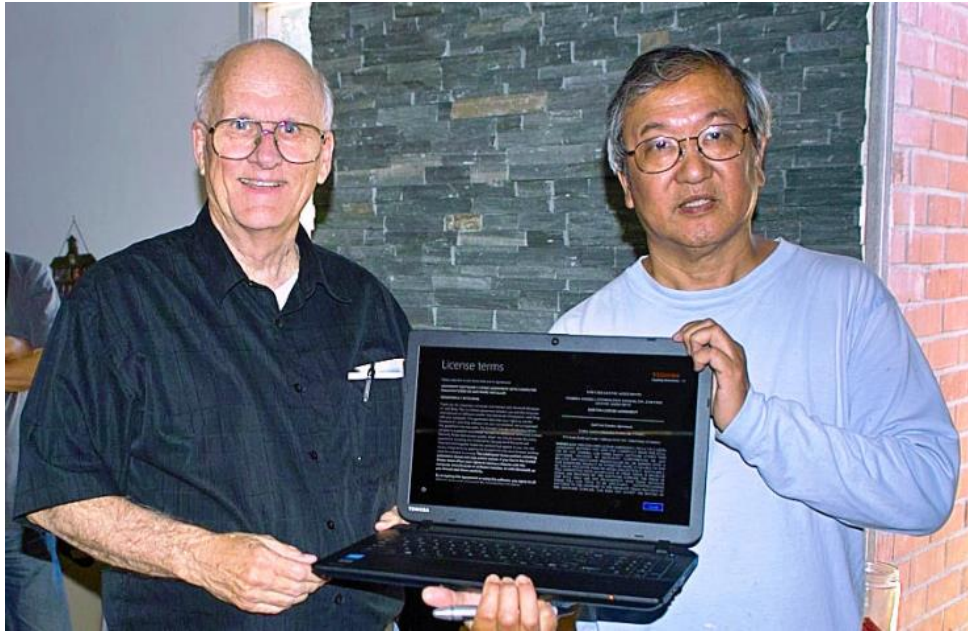
Ron Quan KI6AZB on SDR's



Wayne Lake WD6DZS shares his experiences with SDR's.



One of the real time displays from the SDR's on a PC



Left to right: Tom Hinkle KK6FJZ – winner of the grand prize with Ed Fong (WB6/QN) presenting the prize



The crowd listening to the talk by Ron and Wayne.

2014 CARC Annual Picnic – Fairbrae Swim & Racquet Club 11 am – 3 pm, Saturday, September 13, 2014

Place: 696 Sheraton Dr. ,Sunnyvale 94087 Corner of Hollenbeck and Sheraton in Sunnyvale, 1 block from my house (Ed Fong – WB6IQN) for directions please use Google maps.

Time: Saturday September 13, 2014 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Costs: FREE – tell your friends - you need not be a licensed ham to attend. Please RSVP to edison_fong@hotmail.com on how many are coming so we can purchase enough food.

Menu - 1/3 lb premium Sirloin hamburger with all the trimmings and/or Hebrew National hotdogs. Salads, chips and drinks. Special Desert - Hot apple pie with vanilla ice cream.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 each for prizes below.

If you missed the August meeting, you are just early for the September meeting.

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. It is just down the street from my house and 2 miles down from the DeAnza Swap Meet.

The club will provide for 1/3 lb. premium sirloin burgers and/or Hebrew National hot dogs and drinks (got to try these to experience a true burger). For desert we will have hot apple pie with vanilla ice cream.

Bring your kids, grandkids and don't forget the swim suits.

For the raffle, we will have the **Zastone MP900**. This is the same as the Yaesu FT8900. This is a complete dual band mobile with completely independent receivers and transmitters for VHF and UHF. Great for cross band repeating and satellite work. It has a completely removable control head along with a 15 ft extension cable.

We thank Lou Dorren - WB6TXD for his generous donation of the Zastone MP900.

If this does not strike you or you already have a full featured mobile radio, we have an iPad Mini. Even our third prize is outstanding. A full featured portable AM/FM, SW (with SSB) donated by County Comm of Santa Clara.

Grand Prize as requested by CARC members:



Apple iPad mini –

No need to describe this. One of the classic tablets with a gorgeous display and has one of the best video and still cameras of any tablet. Great for Apple Facetime.



Zastone MP900 (same as the Yaesu FT8900).

Full featured dual band mobile with cross band repeat with removable control head. FM broadcast radio built-in, air craft receiver (109-136 MHz) built in. Has 128 memory channels. 40 watts on VHF (136-174 MHz 35 watts on UHF (400-470MHz) . Direct frequency input from mic. Complete with extension cable.

Donated by CARC Member: Louis Dorrem – WB6TXD



OneTecsun PL660

One of the latest portable SW radios around with great audio and one of the very few with SSB. Received great reviews in QST. Full featured clock. Covers AM/FM, LW, SW, air band. Stores up to 2000 memories.



3 Watt LED Maglite

Mag Lite 3 watt LED flashlight. This flashlight is the talk of the town. Made of aircraft aluminum, it is waterproof and can also be used as a police night stick. There is a powerful 3 watt LED bulb running on 2 D size batteries. The super efficient LED bulb. It's really bright and with its focusing beam, it will easily throw a beam several hundred yards. I have had mine for about a year now and it is still on the original alkaline batteries.

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

