



Cathay Newsletter April 2008

www.cathayradio.org

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Vice President South: Bill Fong, W6BBA

Membership Chairman: Bill Chin, KC6POF

Editor: Ed Fong WB6IQN email: edison_fong@hotmail.com and Bill Tom KN6QD

Treasurer: Vince Chinn, W6EE

Mission: The Cathay Amateur Radio Club is basically an active social club of Ham Radio Operators and their spouses

Monday Night Net Time: 9PM PST Frequency: 146.67MHz -600KHz PL85.4 and 442.70 +5MHz PL 173.8 The repeaters are linked. The Monday night net is the best way to find out the latest club news. All check-ins are welcome.

Message from the President: *Edison Fong, WB6IQN*

Welcome to the April issue of the Cathay Amateur Radio Newsletter. Actually April is the official beginning of our year since January is our New Year's Dinner which is fully planned in December of the previous year, 2007. April is the time to plan out the rest of the year. First of all, I would like to welcome our new officers. Leonard, NX6E is our new vice president. Yours truly remains as President, Bill Fong W6BBA returns as Vice President South, Vince Chinn W6EE remains our treasurer, and Bill Chin KC6POF returns as our membership chairman/secretary. We also have 9 new members. Please welcome them when you see them at our events and at the swap meet. Our first get together for the year will be at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City. This is where we plan our year and get inputs from members of what they would like to see. Don't let the word out, but our treasury is doing fine. We have about \$11k in our account according to Vince Chinn CPA W6EE, our treasurer. So bring in your suggestions, we can spend some money for our loyal club members. That is why we gave every new and renewing member a hi tech LED flashlight. We need more suggestions of this type.

This is my fourth term as President and although I have enjoyed my tenure I always welcome new blood, new ideas and always need help. We are approaching 100 members and I am sure many of the members will like to participate with new ideas. (If you have not yet, please send a \$15.00 check for your 2008 membership renewal to CARC, c/o Bill Chin KC6POF, 43 Norwood Ave, Daly City, CA 94015.)

In this newsletter, we have a report on the annual banquet, April 12th meeting at Hofbrau's in Redwood City, Economics 101, and a nice color Amateur Radio Frequency Band chart reproduced with permission from the ARRL at the end of the newsletter. Keep this chart around, since the phone band on the 40 meters has increased. For a black and white version, see ARRL's website www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html.

Please welcome new and returning members: John Chalbalko *KI6MX*, Ti Michelle Connelly *NJ6T* (pronounced "tee" michelle), David Kamita *K6DLG* (returning member), Wayne Lake *WD6DZS*, Dennis Lee *AH6KD* (returning member), Skip Weiss *KG6SCE*, Doug Wong, *KF6YCY*, Michael John Torrey *KF6YRG*, and John Enos *KI6GHI*.

The New Year's Banquet

I enjoyed seeing a lot of new faces at the annual banquet at the Silver Dragon. We had 70+ members come by with their guests. I tried to swing around and introduce myself to everyone so if I missed you, it was not intentional. Special thanks go to George *W6BUR* and Joe *W6DOB* for organizing it and Hetty *WB6HSU* and Lois *XYL W6QNT* for helping at the check in. The meal was great as usual. Wesley Chee, the owner of the Silver Dragon did a great job as our host. The Peking Duck is still my favorite.

The winner of the grand prize was Frank Inami *W6GSR*. He should enjoy his state of the art laptop computer with wireless, DVD burner, widescreen, etc. Marvin *W6VM* won the dual band mobile and David *KG6SWL* the GPS receiver. Congratulations to all.

We also introduced new officers. Vice President Leonard Tom, *NX6E*, Vice President South Bill Fong *W6BBA*, Treasurer Vince Chinn *W6EE* and the Membership Chairman/Secretary Bill Chin *KC6POF*.



Marvin W6VM wins the Yaesu FT7800, the second Prize



Not a single person in this picture is a licensed HAM. They came just for the great food. L-R Susan Fong, Gloria and Sanford Ma, Mei-lin, Violet and Sharadon Fong.



New members Gary Crown AB6S and Michael John KF6YRG enjoying the event for the first time.



Frank W6GSR winning the HP laptop.



Wellman KC6MTN and wife Betty.



Doug KG6YCY and son with Dave Wong KG6SWL

Harry's Hofbrau Saturday April 12, 2008

Our Harry's Hofbrau meeting will be held on Saturday April 12 right after the DeAnza Swap Meet. We will meet around 12 noon. Remember, this place has something everyone. For about \$5 you could pick up a great sandwich. An entire meal with all the trimmings for under \$10. At this meeting we would like to get ideas from members of what they would like to see. We have had some really good suggestions in the past that included Locke California, Hiller Air Museum, USS Hornet, etc. So come on by, have a great meal, have great company and even win a prize. Hey did I mention the raffle prize?

We went all out again. We have given away enough Japanese radios designed for ham use. This time, we will offer a Motorola GP68, your choice of either VHF or UHF. What's so unique about a GP68?

Something special is usually something you can't buy at a store like HRO's. Something special is something you probably shouldn't even own. In fact, this radio is so unique it cannot be sold in the United States or Canada. This is because the FCC has ruled that any commercial radio cannot be front keypad programmable. Why such a ruling? Very simply, back in the old days of crystal controlled radios, it was never a problem, but as synthesized radios came on the market, they had to make a rule that commercial radios could not be programmed easily through the front keypad. It's a reasonable ruling. What would it be like if a pizza delivery boy or taxi cab driver had one of these commercial handheld radio in their hands that can be keypad programmable? We have enough computer hackers, we don't need commercial two-way radio hackers. This could create a BIG problem and that is why radios like the GP68 are technically not approved for commercial use in the United States. They are sold overseas since some countries, such as China and South America do allow them. It meets all commercial EIA RS-316B specifications for shock, dust and humidity. The radios meet spec from VHF 136-174MHz and UHF 430-470MHz. No ham radio can do that with such wide bandwidth. Most radios designed for amateur service can go out of band with some modifications but they actually do not meet technical specifications outside the band. Sometimes it is their sensitivity, other times it is spurious radiation.. Most likely it is a combination of several specifications no longer meeting the datasheet. This radio is guaranteed to meet the entire specification from 136-170MHz. This is quite an accomplishment. The radio is capable of 20 memory channels which can be completely front keypad programmable. This is one of the very few Motorola radios that can be completely programmed without a computer. There is still a serial port on this radio for computer programming, but the software and cable are not included. The VHF model can be used on ham bands, MARS, Marine, MURS, commercial and ham bands, all meeting RS-316B specs. Some radio? Because it is a commercial radio, it has features such as totally independent transmit and receive PL. Capabilities of scrambling (not legal on the ham bands). The unit comes with a Motorola drop in charger, nicad pack, belt clip, and full operations manual. Extra batteries and accessories are available. These include extra AA battery pack, Motorola thread to BNC adapter, speaker/mic, earphone, etc.

The UHF model is just as awesome. It covers 430-470 MHz. So it covers amateur, police, GMRS, and FRS, all in one radio. The only thing it doesn't do is trunking. Ham's don't do trunking anyway. I have used this radio for months and I must say, it is a very high performance radio. It has a very good

combination of body chassis and antenna design which makes it an excellent performer. In my opinion, it's a great performer and certainly can run circles around most "ham" radios. If you wish to find out more about this radio go to Google and just enter "Motorola GP68".

So come to the April meeting and enjoy the great atmosphere, the great company, four 9V batteries (see below) and the unique raffle prize of a Motorola GP68.



The Motorola GP68 is a commercial hand held. The April winner will get their choice of VHF or UHF model. The accessories included a drop-in charger, belt clip, 77 page operations manual and rechargeable battery.

Directions to Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City (1909 El Camino Real – 650-366-3733):

From 101 in Redwood City take the Woodside Road exit. This is also known as Highway 84. It only goes towards the mountains and not towards the Bay. Go about 1 mile on Woodside and you will approach El Camino Real and Woodside. Harry's Hofbrau is on the corner of Woodside and El Camino. Woodside Road will be an overpass over El Camino so you can either exit before or after the overpass. Either way will get you back to the corner of El Camino and Woodside Rd. If you can't make the meeting, you can still buy a raffle ticket to support the club. Just call me (Ed Fong 408-245-8210) or email: edison_fong@hotmail.com.

Reminder- change your smoke alarm battery.

We all have smoke alarms and the Fire Departments remind us to change the smoke alarm batteries at least once a year. You can go a little longer (about 2 years) if you replace the smoke alarm with a good commercial grade 9 volt battery such as a Duracell Procell. These are available for usually under \$2. Over \$2 if you don't shop around. Even better would be to replace the battery with a lithium 9V which should last up to 5 years. However, these cost on the order of \$8. Here at the Cathay Radio club we don't want to hear any excuses about forgetting to replace your fire alarm battery. We don't want to hear that a 9V battery cost too much. At the April Hofbrau meeting, 9V Duracell Procell's will be available absolutely FREE to paid members. Limited 4 per family. These batteries are also used in garage door openers, older pocket radio, remote control toys, etc. Hey, who says being a member of the CARC is not a good value. For 2008 paid members, you got a discount of \$5 for the annual dinner, a high quality state of the art LED flashlight (retails for about \$10), and now up to four 9V Duracell batteries, an \$8 value. I don't mean to sound like a midnight TV commercial, but that is a \$22 value for only \$15 in dues. Tell me that's not a great value. See you at the meeting.

Ed



Each member gets up to four - 9V Duracell Procells at the April Hofbrau meeting.

Economics 101

It's time for an economics lesson again. I am sure we all like to shop around and get the best deal. That's why we go the monthly swap meet at DeAnza College. Shopping for mutual funds is no exception. There are all kinds of mutual funds; large caps, small caps, foreign, technology, etc. The list is endless. So what does one look for in a mutual fund? Some look for growth, some look for income, and others are a combination of both.

Most of us have it set in our minds what an annual rate of return is. This is probably the number we look for first in a mutual fund. It is expressed in percent annual return. We were introduced to this in the 6th grade when we studied percentages. That is, if someone tells you that your passbook at your local bank is receiving 5% annual interest, almost all of us will interpret this as for every \$100 put away for 1 year yields \$5 at the end of 12 months. There is really not much that one can misinterpret or dispute.

However, when you purchase a mutual fund, the return rate number they quote in their prospectus can mean different things. In last year's November newsletter we calculated that a 5% annual return is actually a 7.15% return if compound over a 14 year period.

So when mutual funds report their performance, it is obvious that they would like to report their performance in the best light. This is known in the investment community as "the best spin". There are several techniques they use, but many of us do not understand the language or details described in the prospectuses. Not only is the fine print too small to read, the wording is difficult to understand unless you are CPA or CFP (certified financial planner).

To demonstrate my point, I would like to take an index which most of us follow; the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index, often referred to as the DIAMonds. Here is the definition of the Diamonds Index as stated in their prospectus.

"Diamond Trust is an exchange traded fund designed to generally correspond to the price and yield performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Diamonds Trust holds all of the Dow Jones Industrial Average stocks".

The above statement is clear and unambiguous. Shown below is the Yahoo plot of the DOW from 1998 to the present. This is taken right off the yahoo.finance.com website. From my memory, it is basically what I recall from the past 10 years.



As can be seen from the plot, the DOW peaked in the year 2000 at about 12,000. It again peaked in September of 2007 at 14,000 and is now back at slightly above 12,000. I recently bought the DIAMONDS fund (Feb. 2008) and they sent me the following prospectus as shown on the next page. I have not manipulated this page in any manner. This was scanned on an HP8200 color scanner. So what is it that I don't understand here? Where do they get 18,400. Even the most liberal ways of interpreting the DOW would not give these figures. The only way I could figure it out is if someone bought low and sold high for the year. But then that would be playing the stock market or in the vernacular, gambling.

According to the scanned page, investors should have earned 18.81% last year. Also, by the graph if you would have invested about \$14,800 in the year 2000, you should have \$18,400. First of all, that is a gain of \$3,600 over a span of 7 years or about \$514 per year. Based on \$15,000 that is only a 3.4% gain per year. I don't know where they obtained their math skills, but I would say that is not a very good rate of return. I could have gotten this in a bank CD that was federally guaranteed rather than to play the high risk stock market game. But what is even worse I don't see the DOW increasing at all. Today it closed at 12,200 which is about what it closed at in 2000. According to my math (from 5th grade arithmetic), the DOW has done very poor. So how do they get claims like 18.18%. Heaven only knows.

Here is one explanation but certainly not complete. They sent me last year's (December, 2006) prospectus. Was that just policy or just convenience? If the DOW had really done well in late 2007 and performed poorly in 2006, what prospectus would they have sent me then? They sent me this prospectus in February 2008. Yes, that's 2008.

Conclusion: Buyer beware. I have noticed that Government Tax Free bonds, Municipal Bonds, I Bonds, Ginnie Mae Bonds all pay as quoted. That is, when they say 5%, they pay 5% using 6th grade arithmetic.

Average Annual Total Returns* (For Periods Ending December 31, 2006)

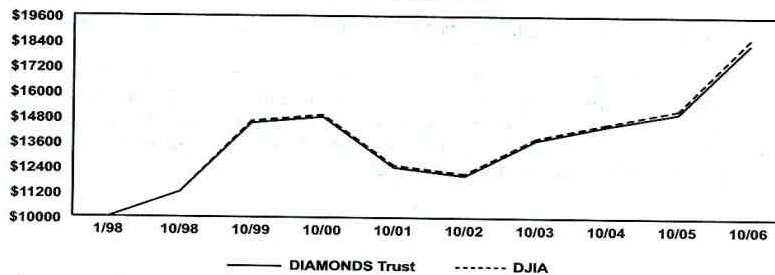
	Past One Year	Past Five Years	Since Inception ⁽⁴⁾
DIAMONDS Trust, Series 1			
Return Before Taxes ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	18.81%	6.61%	7.39%
Return After Taxes on Distributions ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	18.42%	6.09%	6.82%
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Redemption of Creation Units ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	12.68%	5.47%	6.16%
DJIA ⁽⁵⁾	19.05%	6.81%	7.54%

* Total returns assume that dividends and capital gain distributions have been reinvested in the Trust at the net asset per unit.

- (1) Includes all applicable ordinary operating expenses set forth above in the section of "Highlights" entitled "Expenses of the Trust".
- (2) Does not include the Transaction Fee which is payable to the Trustee only by persons purchasing and redeeming Creation Units as discussed below in the section of "Highlights" entitled "A Transaction Fee is Payable For Each Creation and For Each Redemption of Creation Units". If these amounts were reflected, returns would be less than those shown.
- (3) Does not include brokerage commissions and charges incurred only by persons who make purchases and sales of DIAMONDS in the secondary market as discussed above in the section of "Highlights" entitled "Brokerage Commissions on DIAMONDS". If these amounts were reflected, returns would be less than those shown.
- (4) Investment operation commenced on January 13, 1998.
- (5) Does not reflect deductions for taxes, operating expenses, Transaction Fees, brokerage commissions, or fees of any kind.

DIAMONDS TRUST, SERIES 1

**GROWTH OF \$10,000 INVESTMENT
SINCE INCEPTION⁽¹⁾**



¹ Past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Trust will perform in the future.

The above was sent to me February 2008 after I purchased the DIAMONDS Trust.

US Amateur Radio Bands

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications. Power is rated in watts PEP output. Except where noted, the maximum power output is 1500 Watts.

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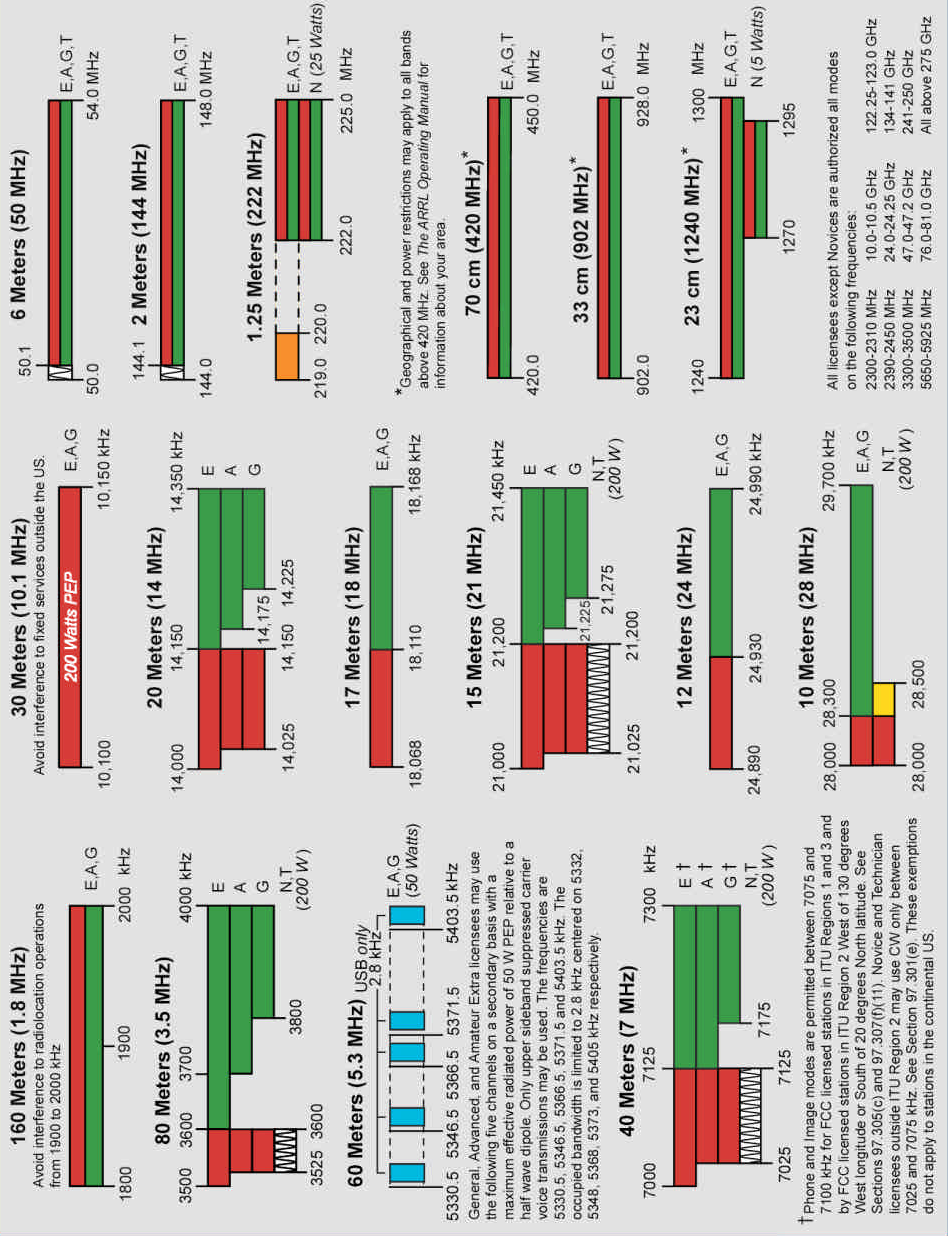


KEY

Note:
CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands except 60 meters.
MCW is authorized above 50.1 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz.
Test transmissions are authorized above 51 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz.

█ = RTTY and data
█ = phone and image
█ = CW only
█ = SSB phone
█ = USB phone only
█ = Fixed digital message forwarding systems only

E = Amateur Extra
 A = Advanced
 G = General
 T = Technician
 N = Novice



See ARRLWeb at www.arrl.org for more detailed band plans.

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