

THE WECAGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTCHESTER EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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SEPTEMBER 1987

The first meeting for the fall season, 1987, will be held at the

FIRE TRAINING CENTER-VALHALLA, NEW YORK

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 7:30 PM^{EST}

Topic for this meeting will be a recap of activities by the By-laws committee during the summer, status report of the repeater situation and other topics of interest to all. All are invited to attend. Bring your friends. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

OCTOBER 1987 MEETING

TRIBUTE TO WILLARD SMITH, K2CFX

This meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th at the Fire Training Center, Valhalla, New York. This is the third Monday due to the holiday on the 12th. This will be a very special program. Please bring family and friends. It promises to be a very interesting meeting. Further details in the next newsletter.

AN EDITORIAL

You all notice, I am sure, the deviation from a two-column format for this month's newsletter. I apologize for the change. However, because of the immense amount of material which had to be included and problems with our copying machine (it wrinkles badly when copying the second side), in the interests of space, I decided to use the single column format. I hope to return to the two-column format next month.

I want to appeal to anyone out there who might have access to a copier with double-sided capability to let me know. Ultimately, we would like to obtain (perhaps as a donation) a copying machine with double-sided capability and reducing and enlarging capability also. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to donate such a machine, please contact me as soon as possible.

I also would like to remind everyone that articles are always welcome. Send them to WECRA, P.O. Box 131, North Tarrytown, New York 10591-0831. Thank you.

WHAT IS HHAPP???

HHAPP, the Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Packet Project is in full swing. On August 6th and 7th, NOAA's P3 Orion carrying the KI4T-1 digipeater flew into a weather formation near the island of Hispanola, and Miami packet stations digipeated through the aircraft as it left from and returned to Miami.

Early concerns about the digipeater interfering with sensitive scientific instrumentation on board the aircraft or interference to the digipeater from the heavy complement of on-board computers appear to be unfounded.

When the aircraft is flying at 15,000-18,000 feet, its radio horizon is approximately 200 miles allowing a total communications path through the aircraft digi of 400 miles. This distance closely corresponds with the affected area of a hurricane. Since the aircraft digipeater beacons every 4 minutes, any station within receiving range of the beacon should send weather data from that location either thru the aircraft to a BBS or by some other route to the BBS. The aircraft digi will be either on 145.01 or 145.03 Mhz.

The beacon from the aircraft reads:

KI4T-1) HHA FLYING DIGI WX DATA FORMAT:
LHILUN6/DYFIMZ/DIRSPMSR/BARDa)

The beaoned data format is described in detail in July CQ Magazine. A one page description of how to send the data may also be obtained with an SASE to:

Jowl Kandel KI4T
5463 S.W. 90 Avenue
Miami, Fl. 33165

The packet weather data sent during an approaching hurricane should be addressed to W4EHW @ W4NVU. W4EHW is the station at the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Fla.

Efforts are being made to enlist participation from the Caribbean countries, including Cuba, which sits strategically on the Florida straits in the path of most hurricanes entering the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. Stations along the Gulf are asked to send the coded weather information through W5XD PBBS in Gause, Tx., or W4SDVU PBBS in Gulfport, Ms. Eastern Seaboard stations may relay the information down the coast in the most expedient manner. Timeliness of the weather data is of paramount importance. The success of the project will be in direct proportion to participation from amateur stations with weather measuring instruments.

The following is a discussion of the HHA Synoptic Weather Code for the amateur packet radio operator participating in the "HHAPP". The digipeating of this synoptic weather code will take place whenever the aircraft is flying in a storm. The plane will digipeat on either .01 or .03 depending on its location to a BBS on those frequencies for ultimate forwarding to W4NVU BBS in Miami. This will then make it available to W4EHW packet station located at the National Hurricane Center. The "NHC" will then be able to analyze the data for enhancing the predictability of the

storm's future course. This modified synoptic code is used by the NWS computer system. It requires that the full string of data be filled in with either the information as described in the example or the optional "M" character(s) which represent unobserved or unobservable data. The entire data string contains 32 characters including slant bars, numbers, a single letter, and the end-of-data symbol, ")". The following synoptic code will be used as a model. Definitions for each information group are provided including the alternative "M" characters:

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2570803/081347/270080095/750F)
257-Your wx observation point latitude expressed in deg. and
tenths of a deg.
0803-ex observation longitude expressed in deg. and tenths
/08-day of the current month
1347-time in UTC (don't forget to change day if UTC:2400)
/270-wind direction (magnetic heading from)
/MMM-wind direction not determined
080-wind speed in MPH
MMM-wind speed not determined
095-maximum gusts in MPH
MMM-maximum gusts not observed
/2750-barometric pressure in inches to 2 decimals
/MMMM- " " " " not determined
F-falling barometer from last observation
R-rising " " " "
S-same " " " "
M-no previous observation made
)-end-of-data symbol

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Please remember to disconnect immediately from the BBS, in order to allow other data senders access. Address all inquiries concerning the transmission of the weather data to KI4T @ W4NVU BBS.

 WECA members with weather observation capabilities are requested to participate in this program in the event that a hurricane approaches our area. If you do not have packet, put the data in the above format and send to N2SF or any other packet equipped station who will collect the data and forward on via packet to the NHC. The FOC will be open during hurricane warnings in our area and will collect this data. Sandy Fried, N2SF Westchester County Communications Officer.

UPCOMING VE TEST SESSION

The next Volunteer Examiner Test Session in the area will be jointly sponsored by WECA and WFMARA and will be held on Thursday, October 15th, 7:30 PM at the Emergency Operating Center, County Office Building, White Plains. Contact N2SF at 285-3029 during business hours for further information.

SHIRTS, JACKETS ANYONE????

If anyone is interested in obtaining a WECA shirt w/pocket and WECA emblem or a jacket, two different styles, please contact Dwight Smith, NEFMC. He will provide you with information as to cost, etc.

FROM THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR...

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS):

(*-county sponsored/run event)

September 1987

*Saturday, 19th (rain or shine)-Senior Games, Westchester Community College 8 AM to 3 PM (if you can help only AM or PM, that is fine!)

Sunday, 20th-Diabetes Eikeathon (details forthcoming)

October 1987

?? nothing yet

November 1987

Sunday, 1st-New York City Marathon

Sunday, 2nd-Turkey Trot in Mamaroneck

December 1987

?? nothing yet keep in mind Blythesdale Santa operation

1988 - some dates not set exactly yet

January 1988

?? nothing yet

February 1988

*1st Sunday that is NOT Superbowl Sunday-WINTER FESTIVAL at Kenner Dam Plaza Site-further details to follow

March 1988

Sunday, 13th-WECRFEST 88 ??

April 1988

Sunday, 24th-March of Dimes Walk America in Mount Kisco

May/June 1988

*Sunday, May 22 or Sunday June 19 - "Super Sunday" in conjunction with a bike Sunday on Bronx River Parkway and the re-opening of the County Center. This will be a BIG event and we'll need at least as many operators as for the Air Fair.

...Speaking of the Air Fair-There may or may not be one in 1988-due to the expenditure of funds for the County Center re-opening events. We were asked to try to keep the Air Fair date open...in case!

No date set yet for the Philharmonic Concert at WCC.

Please try to plan which events you would like to participate in and let me know as far in advance as possible (at least one month would be preferable) although not giving advance notice does not mean you can't participate!

For anyone who missed this information, address and phone number on the membership roster is incorrect as is the call sign.

For the record:

Sharon Moseson N2HGR
 3 Everett Avenue
 Ossining, New York 10562
 (H) 914-762-6058
 (W) 914-241-3900 X 6214

Thanks for your cooperation and participation!
 DE Sharon, N2HGR, Activities Director

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP/AUTOPATCH DIRECTOR...

The following applicants have been proposed for membership and will be voted on at the September meeting:

KB2BRN	Gino Giotta	Tech.	Sponsor N2EQM
KB2CDF	Gregory Appleyard	Nov.	Sponsor N12C
N2BUH	Peter J. Caluoni	Adv.	Sponsor AC2V
N2HGO	Armando Cosentino	Tech.	Sponsor WA2ATY
N2HXO	George Doucker	Tech.	Sponsor AC2V
K2VPE	Robert Ravich	Gen.	Sponsor AC2V
N4DDX	Andrew R. Farber	Tech.	Sponsor AC2V
N2DBF	Milton H. Cohen	Tech.	Sponsor NY47

Upgrades:

KB2BMU	now N2HGR	Sharon Moseson	Nov. to Tech.
N2BFG	now NW2L	Richard Moseson	Adv. to Extra
N2GSC		Jerry Fleming	Tech. to Gen.
KA2YIU	now KE2BF	Tom McVey	Tech. to Adv.
KA2KHZ		Larry Gianguzzi	Nov. to Tech.
KD2RI	now NX2T	Charles Stanke	Adv. to Extra
N2FMC		Dwight Smith	Tech. to Gen.

Re-instated members:

N2EYG Bruce Dias Tech.

Family memberships:

N2EED Sonny Dulbs Gen. XYL of Bennie Dubbs WA2FSR
 WA2YJU Joan Zal Nov. XYL of Stan Zak K2SJD
 KB2BMV Lisa Raffaelli Nov. daughter of Tom Raffaelli WB2NHC
 N2HEK Barbara Weinstein also upgrade Nov. to Tech. XYL of Steve
 Weinstein N12C

Silent Keys:

We are sorry to report the passing of John Morocco, WA2LPY.

Renewals for membership and autopatch are due. All notices were sent out at the end of July. Autopatch will be prorated from December to August 31, 1988. For your convenience, there is one billing for membership and autopatch. Please note that any membership dues not paid by 30 September will be subject to a \$5.00 re-instatement fee. Thank you for your cooperation.

DE Emily, AC2V, Membership/Autopatch Director

NOTE:

Due to shortage of space, summary of minutes for the June meeting and board meetings which occurred after the June meeting will be summarized in the next issue.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT..

Report of the 1987 WJTB Kytowu Committee:

The committee had its first meeting on 7/24/87. The committee members are Richard Benda, WB2QJA, Sal Lagonia, N2EQM, Thomas Raffaelli, W4PNHF (Chairman), Guy Smiley, WB2MED, Dwight Smith, N2FMC, Charles Stanke, NX2T, Robert Steinberg, WA2KHR, Les Turner, K4TGF, Paul Vycarony, W4PWHK and Sarah Wilson, N2EVX.

The committee set several rules to govern its work and established an agenda for each of its meetings. These are listed at the end of this article.

The committee wishes to be guided by the desires of the membership in revising the Bylaws. To this end it set several ways for the membership to be informed of its work and contribute to the result. All members are invited to observe the committee's meetings. Members are encouraged to submit their ideas to the committee. Three methods for member input were established. Firstly, comments may be given to any committee member at any time; secondly, members may address the committee at specified times during committee meetings; thirdly, an open forum was held on August 28th for debate of the issues. All committee meetings were held at the Apple Bank, Rosehill Shopping Center, Columbus Avenue, Thornwood. From September on, they will be held at the Fire Training Center in Valhalla. Talk-in will be provided on the 147.66/06 repeater. Members are encouraged to submit their ideas in writing.

The committee will use this newsletter to keep the membership informed of its progress. It will distribute, through this newsletter, the draft of each Bylaws article as it is written. It will also provide progress reports at the membership meetings.

My thanks to all committee members for getting us off to a fine start and for the dedication expressed in undertaking this endeavor.

The committee agreed to the following rules to guide its work:

- 1 - A unanimous vote of the entire committee is required for agreement on any matter. This includes any committee members not present at the time of the vote.
- 2 - Directors and others will be invited to participate in the development of those portions of the Bylaws that apply to their areas of responsibility or interest.
- 3 - Opinions of the membership will be sought on all Bylaws Articles before their adoption by the committee.
- 4 - Individual Bylaws Articles will be published in the Association's newsletter as they are developed and agreed upon to allow review and comment by the membership.
- 5 - The final ratification by the membership will be on the document as a whole. Ratification will be conducted by mail ballot.
- 6 - WECA members will be kept informed of the committee's schedule and progress via the Association Newsletter.

The committee further agreed to the following timetable for its work:

- * 07/24/87 Committee organizational meeting.
- * 07/31/87 Draft of Articles I Offices,
II Purposes,
IIA Agreement with County,
VI Seal,
VII Construction
08/01/87 Newsletter deadline
- * 08/07/87 Draft of Article VIII Amendments,
- * 08/14/87 Draft of Articles III Membership,
IIIA Autopatch
08/17/87 Newsletter deadline
- * 08/21/87 Draft of Articles III Membership
IIIA Autopatch
- * 08/28/87 Open Forum
- * 09/11/87 Forum Discussion
09/14/87 WECA Membership Meeting Progress Report
- * 09/18/87 Draft of Articles IIIB Election Procedures
IV Directors
V Officers
09/21/87 Newsletter Deadline
- * 09/25/87 Draft of Articles IIIB Election Procedures
IV Directors
V Officers
- * 10/02/87 Review of entire document
10/19/87 WECA membership meeting - final report
10/26/87 Newsletter deadline

11/29/87 WECB Membership meeting - Bylaws ratification

* denotes committee meetings

Tom Raffaelli, Chairman

SOUTHERN DISTRICT NET

1986 Traffic Report:

Net totals were as follows:

sessions..... 364
checkins.....3,752
traffic listed....1,246
traffic passed....1,149
time(minutes)....5,473

Directed Nets and Operations:

When you check into a directed net, you must follow the direction of the net control station. A directed net means just what it says. The NCS runs the net and all stations must do as he says. Don't make unauthorized transmissions or break the net in other ways.

This also applies to other activities the club may be involved in. Things such as the Indian Point Drill, The New York City Marathon, Walkathons, Concerts, etc., are the same as a traffic net when it comes to keeping control of the radio transmissions.

Stations cannot talk to each other or to the net control station without net control giving them permission. This is the only way to keep the operation under control.

I'm not talking about an emergency situation when it is not only proper, but essential for such transmissions to occur.

Please follow the net control station's directions at ALL times!
DE Nick Gallo, K27VI, SDN Net Manager

DE W92QJA-4.....

Greetings! I will try to supply Paul with a regular column on different topics regarding the use of the PRRS.

First of all, some general comments: I notice many of you connecting through the digipeater when you could connect directly. By doing this, you lower the best possible baud rate from 1200 to 500 because every packet has to go through the intermediate station. Give it a try direct! Secondly, if possible if you would compose messages offline before signing onto the board, you would shorten your connect time and make the board

available sooner for the next person. Thirdly, as many of you have noticed, you cannot download a large file (>16K) between 7 AM and midnight. This is done in the PBBS software so that the PBBS doesn't get tied up during "prime time".

For this column, I would like to talk about REMOTE file requests. That is asking about the directories or other PBBSs and then requesting specific files. For example, you are interested in seeing what WB2MNF (in Medford, NJ) has in his FILES directory. You send a message to WB2MNF at WB2QJA-4 by:

S REQDIR @ WB2MNF

the PBBS prompts use ENTER TITLE OF MESSAGE:

You send:

. @ WB2QJA-4

The "*.*" is the "wild-card" search and asks him for everything in the files directory. Actually, it is not necessary and you could have sent "@ WB2QJA-4". The "@ WB2QJA-4" tells the other PBBS where to send the response to your request. What you will get back is a complete listing of the files WB2MNF has in his FILES directory:

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05-87MAP.DOC      HOWTONTS        C64 (DIR)      IMBPC (DIR)
NET.BAS          BBS.LST         -----etc.
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You then may ask for a specific file (say you wanted the NET.BAS file) by connecting with WB2QJA-4 and sending:

S REQFILE @ WB2MNF

When you are prompted for the Title of the Message, enter:

NET.BAS @ WB2QJA-4

When prompted for the actual message, you always just send the Control-Z or /ex. Now suppose you want to list the programs/files in the IMBPC (sub) directory, just enter:

S REQDIR @ WB2MNF

When prompted to enter the Title of the Message, enter:

IMBPC @ WB2QJA-4

and enter Control-Z (or /ex) when asked to enter the message. Again, you will get back a list of programs from WB2MNF which are in the subdirectory IMBPC. If you wished to request one of these programs, again connecting with WB2QJA-4 you enter:

S REQFILE @ WB2MNF

and when prompted to enter the Title, enter:

IMBPC/2BR.ASC @ WB2QJA-4 (where 2BR.ASC could be the name of any file/program in this subdirectory).

Again you enter Control-Z (or /ex) when asked to enter the message. What this does for you is automatically gets the PBBS system to do the dirty work. You don't have to worry about how the message will get there, etc. Your reply will be on your local PBBS which you can then download at your convenience. It usually takes a day or so for these messages to go through the system before you get a reply.

More next month, 73 DE Rich WB2QJA @ WB2QJA-4

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From K2ERR:

List of Ham Equipment for Sale
by Dr. Charles E. Junka
65 Radnor Croton on Hudson NY 10520
271-4046(h) 941-0456(w)

I examined the following equipment; my comments are listed.
Contact Dr. Junka if you are interested.

ITEM	COMMENTS
RAK Digital Multimeter	looks OK
Buxer Fan 115V	"
Buxer Fan 115V	"
Buxer Fan 115V	"
ODE Radio Control Box	"
Drake 707E Microphone	"
Drake 80A Power Supply	"
Dr. J. MN-2000 Matching Network	"
Drake R4A	"
Drake 14XC	"
GC 8 ohm Speaker	"
G. E. Osc. or Filter 222.66 Mhz	"
Heathkit HD 1410 keyer	"
Hi-Fi Speaker 8 ohm	"
Icom IC-211 2 meter XCVR	Top cover off; may need work
Midland 12-509 220 Mhz XCVR	"
Motrolia HT220 Omni Charger	Looks OK
Motrolia NLN 6682A Battery	"
Nye Viking Lo Pass Filter	"
Nye Viking Phone patch	"
Power Line Voltage Monitor	"
Power One 12V 16 Amp power supply	"
Switched Multi outlet strip	"
Switched Multi-outlet strip	"
Texas Inst. Digital Clock	"
Vandy SS2 SSTV Monitor	"
VHF Eng. 220 Mhz repeater	"
Wilson 2202 HF 144 Mhz.	INC connector; needs work
Wilson T 15 NC charger	Looks OK
Yaesu YD-301 Monitor Scope	"

WECA FIELD DAY 1987
BY N2EYX AND N2DVQ

Field Day weekend was June 27 and 28 this year and WECA again ran its 4th operation from Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. After so many years of good weather for Field Day, it was inevitable! We got rained upon during set-up on Saturday. The hardworking set-up crew didn't let it slow them down, though. Four dipoles, three beams, one vertical, four shelters and one tower were assembled,

erected and connected in four hours. Each year, set-up seems to go a little more smoothly. Thanks must go to Bob Casino, N2GDY, for bringing the Village of Dobbs Ferry bucket truck down to the Park. As usual, we depend on Paul Vydarny, WB2VUK, to supply everything from his beam to a barbeque and his packet terminal.

When on-air operation officially began at 2:00 PM, 15 CW and 20 phone were on the air, while 40 CW was a bit late in getting started. Thanks to the efforts of Rich Moskon, NW2L, some of our set-up and operating activity was recorded by a film crew shooting an ARRL film, "The New World of Amateur Radio". We realized we might have a problem with the 20 meter CW station when the crew tried to film John Moody, K2ZN, working a station in Florida. The band was very active and the other station should have heard us well. It took John 6 or 7 tries to get our exchange across to him. After spending over an hour fixing a broken lug and trying to tune the beam, we realized that the elements of the beam were bent where they belonged. By 5:30 PM 20 CW was on the air and the contacts came in quick succession. The rain had stopped and we were beginning to get a little sunshine.

Some outstanding radios were loaned for the event by Willard Smith, W6TIX (ICOM 740), Paul Levine, W2ATY (Drake Twins), Steve Weinstein, N1CC (ICOM 735) and Sal Lagonia, N2EQM (Kenwood TS-520). Since the object of Field Day is to make contacts, the radios weren't much good without antennas. Before moving to Ohio, Kim McDaniell, N2FRW, donated a 40 meter dipole and 500 feet of 16 gauge wire which was used to make an 80 meter dipole. The dipole was a one and a half wave dipole fed one quarter wave from the end. It seemed to work well in 80 CW. Les Turner, K4TGE, supplied his tower and the dipole used by the novice station. Bob Schaps, W1GNVR, donated his Suttner HC4R beam (used by the novice station) to WEGA. Steve, N1CC, also supplied his tribander and his vertical. Other items, Comm Van and generator by the County ODES and line filters by ARRL were also essential items for the operation.

We contacted stations in the Caribbean Islands, Hawaii, Sweden, England and Russia. We contacted many stations on more than one band. We worked K2KM in NNJ on 6 bands and K2SE on 5 bands. We contacted N0YL, K2RH and VE1PEI on 4 different bands. By 7:30 Saturday evening, we were making a combined 150 contacts an hour.

Here are the official Field Day results as submitted to ARRL on July 17:

BAND	CW	X	MAX RATE	PHONE	X	MAX RATE
Packet	21	1	-	--	--	--
10 meters	--	--	--	66	4	--
15 meters	154	7	35	9	--	--
20 meters	547	31	50	146	8	32
40 meters	245	14	40	98	5	47
80 meters	286	16	43	250	14	56
160 meters	2			0		
TOTAL	1225	69		575	31	

Max. Rate refers to the maximum contact per hour rate.

This is a total of 1800 contacts. The CW QSOs are worth 2 points, while the phone contacts are worth 1 point. We earned 3,025 QSO points x the power multiplier of 2 for operating at power less than 150 watts, giving us a score of 6,050 points. We also claimed Bonus Points for an additional 500 points. Based on last year's reported scores, we would have ranked in tenth place with this score, compared with our actual ranking last year of twentieth place. Some interesting statistics are shown by the activity charts reproduced below: Sunday morning 20 CW consistently made over 50 contacts an hour for 3 hours peaking at a 60 contact rate per hour. John, K2ZM, worked the event over its 24-hour duration and he merits special mention for maintaining that incredible rate.

Tom Raffanelli, W4-NPC, supplied us with a comfortable station with his pop up tent trailer (not to mention his excellent Sunday morning breakfast for those who spent the night on site). Thanks to Sandy Fried, N2SE, and Westchester County for the use of the Emergency Communications van which supplied us with a phone station and a dependable supply of power.

There were many other participants and visitors to the site, many of whom helped set up, take down and operate. Rather than leave anyone's name or call off the list, we just want to say thanks to all for their help. It was a tremendous effort and we pulled it off in style this year. Thanks again to everyone for the great team effort and SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!

Bob and Sarah Wilson N2DVO/N2EYX







