

THE WECAGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTCHESTER
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PACKET WB2QJA-4-PBBS 145.09-
WB2ZII-5 LOCAL AREA NETWORK

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The WECAGRAM is a monthly publication of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc., except July and August. Any inquiries, comments, suggestions or information may be sent to WECA, P.O. Box 131, North Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591-0831.

WECA Officers/Directors:

President - Sal, N2EQM
Vice President - Tom, WB2NHC
General Counsel - Guy, WB2MED
Secretary - Rich, WB2QJA
Treasurer - Les, K4ZGE
Trustee - Paul, WB2VUK
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President Emeritus - Paul, WB2VUK
Publicity - Rich, NW2L
Social -
Technical - Paul, AC2T
Training - Bob, K2AMU

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 11th beginning at 7:30 PM with a social half-hour.

The formal part of the meeting will begin at 8 PM. The program for the evening will be presented by Sy Yuter, W2NBT, who will give a presentation on "Mobilizing through the British Isles-Ireland, Scotland and Wales". This promises to be a very interesting and informative evening!

The meeting will be held at the Fire Training Center, Valhalla, NY. Talk-in on 147.06.

Bring your friends. Refreshments will be available and there will be a door prize.

Let's hope the weather cooperates. Hope to see you all there!

REMINDERS

There are a number of upcoming public service activities. They are:

First Sunday in February - Winter Festival at the Kensico Dam Plaza. No firm information as yet. Stay tuned or contact N2HGR for further information.

MEMBERSHIP

DE AC2V..

The following are official new members, welcome:

Jim Mortensen, N2HOS (Full)
Kenneth Stein, KD2WQ (Full)
Deborah Stein, KB2BMP (Family)
Andrea Stein, KB2BPM (Family)
David Stein, KD2ZE (Family)

Please add these to your roster. Also find enclosed a sheet providing an update to the current roster.

There are no new members to be proposed at this meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

The December meeting was called to

PACKET RADIO

order at 8:15 PM by Vice President Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC.

Publicity Director NW2L indicated that press releases had been sent out and flyers distributed for the showing of the movie at the meeting. Rich also provided further details on the upcoming Hudson Division Convention to be held in conjunction with WECAFEST '88.

County Liaison N2SF indicated that the parts for the Motorola repeater had been ordered. He also reported that THE NEXT VOLUNTEER EXAMINER SESSION WOULD BE HELD ON JANUARY 21ST AT 7:30 PM AT BOC. Also, the next Indian Point Drill would be held during the week of March 20th and anyone needing a letter to take time off from work should contact Jim. A new tower and radio room will be built near the old site to make room for the new addition to the jail.

Digital Modes-WB2QJA and WB2IXW reported that the new digi-WB2Z11-5 was on the air on 145.09. It is for local use. Note that a new version of software is running on WB2QJA-4 FBBS. Users can download 'HELP.MB' for the new commands.

Technical, AC2T indicated that he has been working on repairing the Motorola and is just awaiting parts. Director-at-large, K2ZVI indicated that additional help with traffic is needed on SDN.

Membership, AC2V announced the calls of those applying for membership. They were approved unanimously. Activities, N2HGR indicated that help was still needed for Blythedale.

New Business:

Bylaws committee chairman WB2NHC announced that the committee had reached an impasse on the question of honorary membership as had been reported in last month's newsletter. A vote of the membership was taken and the overwhelming majority (12 to 1) voted that the selection of honorary members remain with the executive board.

Rich, NW2L presented the ARRL video, "The New World of Amateur Radio". The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Greetings to all. I hope you enjoyed the Holidays and the New Year finds you safe and well! Did you get any packet goodies for Christmas or Hanukkah?

I plan to publish the results of the packet poll in next month's column, so if you haven't filled out your questionnaire yet, please do it soon and get it to me.

This month I would like to bring you up to date on what is going on, on the BBS and on the packet network. First of all, WB2QJA-4 is now using version 98K of the KATS PRMBS software. Version 1.00 will be on the way soon and will be released nationally probably via CompuServe. Many thanks to both Brian, KA2BQE, and Dave, NN2Z, who developed the software. As many of you know, The PRMBS BBS software is more user friendly than the comparable WA7MBL version. There are many new commands on the BBS. If you are unsure of the correct command syntax, you can type "?" for a menu or "cmds" for the list of commands that you can use. To list the most recent calls heard/connected, "J" has been replaced by "HEARD".

If, when you sign onto the BBS, you are informed that you have mail, just enter the command "MAIL". You will see a list of messages waiting for you with a "*" before message that is unread. You then get a short "E,K,R,S,V,cr,t,-".

"E" is to edit the message header. Say for example, if you received an interesting message and want to redirect it to someone else.

"K" is to kill the message.

"R" or "V" allows you to read/view the message; the difference is that if you view the message, you will see all the forwarding headers while if you read the message, you will not.

"S" will send a reply back to the person who sent the original message to you.

"CR" stands for carriage return and allows you to skip over that message.

"-" changes directions and lets you go backward to the previous message.

"+" is opposite and lets you go forward to the next message.

A word about traffic. If you use packet to enter NTS traffic, use the "ST" and "KT" commands to send and kill traffic respectively. The "T" tells the BBS and the "system" that the message is NTS traffic and handles it a bit differently. If your traffic is picked up from a BBS which supports this, a service message will be generated back to you telling you who picked up the traffic, from where, when. Nice! It looks like zip codes are in and telephone area codes are out for routing of NTS traffic. If you are sending traffic via packet and do not know the call of the BBS serving that area, send the traffic this way: ST NTS @ ZXXXXX

The "XXXXX" stands for the zip code. This will ensure that your message is route quickly and doesn't need to wait for the sysop of the BBS to re-address it for you. This BBS will automatically forward any such addressed traffic.

Don't forget about the "HOME" command. You can use this command two ways. You can query the BBS to see if you have entered this yet and what you have entered, or you can enter "HOME RBSCALL" to set your home BBS. You should do this on all BBSs you check into. This way, all mail for you will be automatically shipped to one location. If you want to check your statistics re: how many times you have signed in, etc., enter the "USER" command. If you want to see if someone else uses the BBS or when was the last time he or she signed in, enter "USER XXXXXX" where "XXXXXX" is the call you are interested in.

There is a great new file called "USER.DOC" which has been prepared by WB2ENA for users of the PRMBS system. Download this file (D USER.DOC) for detailed information about all user commands.

Great things are afoot for creating a better and more reliable packet network. RATS is supposed to release its COSI level 3 software sometime in January. This promises to be a more advanced network than NETROM. Several

of the people running the area nodes held a meeting in December which was attended by Al, WB2IXR. There are plans to put a 220 and 440 MHz backbone on the air for the current 2 meter nodes. WECA may be involved with this by placing a node on 220 after the New Year.

'Till next month.....73, Rich

SWAP AND SHOP

For sale, Tandy Color computer with logo plugin rom, etc.
TENTEC transceiver with all options, extra VFO, Power Supply, etc.
Contact NX2T at 762-3982 for further information.

WECAFEST '88 - MARCH 13, 1988

The Hamfest Committee held a meeting December 5th at Sal Lagonia's home. Those present were N2EQM, WB2NHC, N2DHH, N2DVO, N2EYX and KD2IX. The following areas of responsibility were discussed and job descriptions were developed.

HAMFEST COMMITTEES

Hamfest Chairman-Sal Lagonia, N2EQM
Honorary Chairman-P. Vydareny, WB2VUK
Security-Bill Griggs, KA2ZRT (*)
Financial-Les Turner, K4ZGE (*)
Operations Coord.-B. Steinberg WA2KRR
Vendor Operations-Sarah Wilson, N2EYX
Site Operations-Bob Wilson, N2DVO
Activities Coord.-T. Raffaelli WB2NHC
---Door Prizes
---Door Prize tickets
---Raffle (trip to Dayton!)
---Raffle ticket sales
---Fox hunt/bunny hunt
---CW Proficiency contests
---PA Announcements-A Sniffer WB2IXR(*)
---Club information table
---and lots more.
Please take a job and make it your own!
Gate-Sharon Moseson, N2HGR
V.E. Testing-Steve Weinstein, NI2C
Forums/Program-Rich Moseson, NW2L

Communications-Adam Epstein, N2DHH
Tech Clinic-
Club Sales-Phil Fiol, WB2BMC
Special Events Station-
Publicity-Rich Moseson, NW2L
Signs-Frank Lauri, KD2IX
(* needs to be confirmed with
Hamfest Committee.

As discussed at the November General Meeting, this year WECA will host the 1988 ARRL Hudson Division Convention co-sponsored by WECA and HARC (Hudson Amateur Radio Council). HARC and WECA will share in the proceeds from this event and HARC will pay for extensive advertising for the Convention and Hamfest.

We need you all to help out in some way. Please look over the list above and find your area of interest. Contact the person in charge and share your ideas with him or her.

FROM THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Enclosed with this newsletter is a set of sheets with the vocabulary of the 850 controller. Please study it and see if you can come up with some catchy phrases which can be changed from time to time.
de AC2T

TIME OUT FOR SOME HUMOR

The following is compliments of WB2BTJ:

STATIC MAJOR...

An aborigine flew to London for a visit and was met at the airport by reporters, one of whom asked, "Did you have a comfortable flight?"

After making a series of honks, squeals and other weird screeches, the man replied in perfect English, "Yes, thank you very much."

"How long do you plan to stay?" he was asked. After the same series of strange sounds, the aborigine replied, "About three weeks."

Baffled, the reporter asked, "Where did you learn to speak such perfect English?"

Again prefacing his remarks with the same sounds, he replied, "Short-wave radio."

Officer to Sergeant: "Find out what Private Jones did before he joined the Army."

"Why Lieutenant?"

"Because every time he fires a shot, he takes out a handkerchief and wipes his fingerprints off the rifle!"

Did you know.....

The following are quotes from Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations" with credit to the authors. Some are often heard usually without the knowledge of where they originated. Sidney Smith--Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they can not be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them.

John Heywood---Two heads are better than one. Ah, well I wot that a new broome sweepeth cleane. To robbe Peter and pay Poule. Potius sero quam nunquam (Better late than never). Beggars should be no choosers. No man ought to looke a given horse in the mouth. For when I gave you an inch, you tooke an ell. A peny for your thought. Leape out of the frying pan into the fyre.

EDITORIAL

In an effort to keep the issues down to four sides plus any enclosure I have not used all which was sent me. I want to thank Adam, N2DHH for his contributions which will appear at a later date. Also, I again want to thank Frank, WB2BTJ, for his going contributions and also W2HVX, for his contributions. Items like these which will make the newsletter more interesting and more appealing to more people. Please DO NOT stop sending in items. You may send them to the P.O. Box 131 or directly to my home address. I hope to incorporate some of the ideas which have been suggested already into future issues. Again, if you have any recommendations, please let me know. One final note. A special thanks to all who helped out at Blythedale!