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**THE WECAGRAM**



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831

North Tarrytown, New York 10591-0831

WECA Information Hotline: 914-741-6606

Web site: <http://www.weca.org>

*Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972*

**Volume 20, Issue 5 July 1996**

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## N2YHK Receives Bill Knott Memorial Award

At the June 10th membership meeting, John Ruggiero, N2YHK was presented the Bill Knott Memorial Award "in recognition of efforts in the furtherance of the purposes and goals of WECA and Amateur Radio as exemplified by Bill Knott, K2AVP, the founder of WECA and first radio officer of Westchester County."

John has been an active participant in WECA public service events, Skywarn nets, the Southern District and other local NTS nets. He will be moving to Vermont this summer, and he will be missed.



## Now You're Operating

On Monday, July 8, 1996 instead of our monthly meeting, we will be holding a special Summer Seminar at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

The program will focus on setting up and operating an amateur radio station. Topics will include home station setup, mobile installations, antenna options, HF operating, contesting, award hunting, repeater operating and etiquette. There will be a panel of WECA's famous Elmer core to answer questions after the presentations. Attendance is open and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to be a presenter, or if you have ideas for additional topics, call Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC at 914-769-1486.

Hope to see you all there!

[Response](#)

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John, N2YHK receives his plaque from Rich Benda, WB2QJA at the June meeting.

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## THE WECAGRAM

**Editor:** Fuat Baran, N2YGN

**Assistant to the Editor:** Melissa Metz, KB2SXB

The WECAGRAM is the official newsletter of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc., a Special Service Club affiliated with the ARRL, ARES, the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, and RACES, and a member of the Westchester County Emergency Medical Services Council.

Any inquiries, comments, items for Swap and Shop, commercial advertising, suggestions, contributions and letters for inclusion should be sent to the editor at:

3215 Arlington Ave, #4H

Riverdale, NY 10463.

Submissions via electronic mail to [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org) are especially welcome. You can also fax them to 212-662-6442 (ATTN: Fuat Baran). Submissions may be edited for clarity, style and space. The deadline for acceptance of material for each newsletter is the twentieth of the preceeding month.

All materials are the opinions of their authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of WECA, its officers, directors, or the editor.

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The WECAGRAM would like to exchange newsletters with other clubs. If you are interested in receiving the WECAGRAM through such an exchange or know someone who would, please contact the editor.

### **WECA Officers/Directors**

**President:** Joseph L. Brown, KB2NBN

**Executive Vice President:** David J. Weiss, N2OGK

**V. Pres./General Counsel:** Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI

**Secretary:** Anthony J. Licata, N2NWZ

**Treasurer:** Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX

**Trustee:** Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK

**County Liason:** Sanford H. Fried, N2SF

**Digital Modes:** Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA

**Director At Large:** Ronald E. Devenuti, N2TJE

**Education:** Barry J. Frajer, N2LER

**Engineering:** Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ

**Membership Services:** Peter A. Johnson, N2TFC

**Newsletter:** Fuat C. Baran, N2YGN

**Repeater Operations:** Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC

**Public Relations:** William E. Hertwig, Jr., N2QZB

**Public Service:** Robert Kantor, N2TSE

**Social:** Salvatore Cresenzi KB2GTE

**Bylaws Committee Chair:** Andrew Farber, N4OOX

**Awards Committee Chair:** Richard Benda, WB2QJA

**President Emeritus:** Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC

## **WB2ZII/R**

WECA operates the following repeaters:

147.060(+) MHz PL 2A (114.8 Hz)

447.475(-) MHz PL 2A (114.8 Hz)

224.400(-) MHz PL 2A (114.8 Hz)

**WECAGRAM Online:** <http://www.weca.org/wecagram>

## **From the Editor**

I'd like to begin by thanking the membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your new newsletter editor. I'd also like to express my thanks to our former editor, Paul Vydareny for all he has done while he was at the helm and for setting the high quality standards of the WECAGRAM that I will strive to match.

As Paul and Peter before him have said, this is your newsletter. Your participation in WECA activities, your submissions--may they be letters to the editor, announcements, opinion pieces or feature articles-- your expressed interests and your continued support are what will shape this newsletter. Please consider writing for the WECAGRAM. See the masthead to the left for my addresses. Any comments or suggestions you may have would also be greatly appreciated.

I hope you all had a wonderful Field Day. If you would like to say a few words about your Field Day experience, or have photos that you would like to share with us, consider sending in a submission. And speaking of Field Day, see Governor Pataki's proclamation of Amateur Radio Week on page 3.

As you may have heard, John, N2YHK will be leaving New York for Vermont this summer. We wish him well. Congratulations again, John, on a well deserved Bill Knott Memorial Award.

Remember, the July 8 Summer Seminar "Now You're Operating" will take place instead of a membership meeting at the County Center. You don't have to be new to the hobby to attend and maybe even learn a thing or two.

Summer WECAFEST at Yonkers Raceway is a month and a half away. Call Tom, WB2NHC, to see how you can help. And while on the subject of helping, Larry Handwerger, WB2LBF, has volunteered to coordinate WECA's 1997 Field Day. If you would like to give him a hand, contact him.

By now most of you have heard of the "Threat to 2 Meters/70 cm" brouhaha. Check out the ARRL web server (<http://www.arrl.org/announce/2m70cm.html>) for the latest information, and lend your support by writing your reasoned, calm, civil comments to the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, care of the FCC at: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Send one copy along with the original and include at the top "Reference No. ISP-96-005" and "Advisory Committee Informal Working Group 2A." You can also email [wrc97@fcc.gov](mailto:wrc97@fcc.gov).

Thanks to WECA webmaster Alan, N2YGK, as of this issue, the WECAGRAM will also be simultaneously published on the web at <http://www.weca.org/wecagram>.

73,

## New WECA Directors Elected

WECA held elections at the June meeting. In the only contested position on the slate, Bill Hertwig, N2QZB was elected Public Relations Director.

The following unopposed candidates also became new board members:

Robert Kantor, N2TSE Public Service Director

Fuat Baran, N2YGN Newsletter Editor

Also elected to new terms were Joe Brown, KB2NBN (President), David Weis, N2OGK (Executive Vice President), Michael Weitzner, N2EJI (Vice President/General Counsel), Anthony Licata, N2NWZ (Secretary), Andrew Farber, N4OOX (Treasurer), Ron Devenuti, N2TJE (Director at Large), Richard Benda, WA2QJA (Digital Modes Director), and Peter Johnson, N2TFC (Membership Services Director).

WECA thanks outgoing directors Fran Lasorsa, N2OLU, Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, and Darlana Mayo, KB2EPU; the nominating committee: Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, and Dwight Smith, N2FMC; as well as the elections committee: Rich Anderson, KB2MGM, Sandy Fried, N2SF, and Bob Steinberg, WA2KHR.

## June Meeting Highlights

In addition to the presentation of the Bill Knott Memorial Award and the elections, the program included two presentations. The first was by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, on [ham radio resources available on the net](#). Alan brought his computer and a canned web presentation featuring the many ham radio related things one can find on the net such as antenna guides, equipment manufacturers and mail order dealers, electronic parts dealers, component databooks, newsgroups (and how to cope with them) and most importantly, the WECA web server (<http://www.weca.org>). He also briefly discussed what one needs to get on the net. A copy of his presentation will be online on the WECA server for those of you needing a starting point to endless hours of web surfing.

Following Alan, Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, gave his Field Day presentation and slide show. The pictures showed the many aspects of this wonderful weekend activity, from setup and antenna erection to intense contesting.

## Gov. Pataki Proclaims June 16-23 "Amateur Radio Week"

### Proclamation

State of New York

Executive Chamber

The State of New York has more than 37,000 licensed amateur radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications.

The Amateur Radio Operators provide educational opportunities for young people through the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, which brings the voices of space shuttle astronauts into our classrooms. They donate these services free of charge to federal, state and local emergency agencies in the interest of the citizens of the Empire State.

Amateur Radio Operators are on alert for any emergency, local or worldwide, and practice their communications skills during the American Radio Relay League's field day exercise.

This year's amateur radio field day will take place the weekend of June 22-23, 1996.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize June 16-23, 1996 as

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the amateur radio operators of the Empire State.

/s/

George E. Pataki

Governor



## New Members

Please welcome the following new WECA members who have joined the club recently.

N2JXN Christopher Efthimiou Patterson, NY

K2KQ Donald Toman Pleasantville

KB2WHF Christopher Scola Yorktown Hts

All new members will receive a package from our membership services director (Peter, N2TFC) that contains a member roster, operations manual, and a member identification badge. Applications for WECA autopatch and membership in the ARRL are also included.

## Latest Call Signs

As of June 11, 1996, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra) AB2BM

Group B (Advanced) KG2HP

Group C (none left)

Group D (General/Tech/Novice) KB2ZIY

The FCC reports 3301 new licenses were issued in May 1996.



## License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, August, 15, 1996 at 7 p.m. at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in the County Office Building, sub-basement EOC/ODES office (Office of Disaster and Emergency Services), 148 Martine Avenue, in White Plains, NY (across from The Galleria). For information contact Sandy Fried, N2SF, during regular business hours at 914-285-3029.

Other area upcoming exams are:

July 7, 9 a.m. (YARC)

July 16, 7:30 p.m. (Pel-HAMS)

YARC: Yonkers 1st Police Precinct on Grassy Sprain Road between Jackson Ave and Tuckahoe Rd. Contact: Emily Maytan, AC2V, 914-237-5589. Talk-in: 146.865 Mhz. VEC: ARRL

Pel-HAMS: Pelham Doronco Town House, 20 Fifth Ave, Pelham. Contact: Mike Ciferri, WA2TGO, 914-738-5775. Talk-in: 145.495 Mhz. VEC: W5YL.

## Southern District Net

According to Darlana, KB2EPU, net manager for the Southern District Net (SDN), May was a banner month:

Sessions 31

Total Checkins 473

Traffic brought to the net 94

Traffic passed on the net 94

Percent passed 100!

Total time 535 minutes

SDN is a local net of the National Traffic System, serving the Greater Westchester and Rockland County areas. It meets each evening at 9:30 p.m. on the WB2ZII repeater (147.060). All amateurs, with or without traffic handling experience, are always welcome to participate. For more information about this aspect of ham radio or about SDN in

particular, contact Darlana or any of the net control stations.

## Vanity Email Address

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

Get a Vanity Internet Email Address to go with that call sign. WECA members in good standing who have an Internet email address are eligible for a WECA "vanity" email address of *callsign@weca.org*. For example, mine is *n2ygk@weca.org*. These are not email accounts but rather an email forwarding service that points to your current email address. Each time you change that email address (by changing jobs or Internet service providers), simply update your WECA entry and folks will always be able to reach you at *callsign@weca.org*.

To sign up for a WECA email address or to get in the World Wide Web WECA roster, simply use a Web browser such as Netscape to fill out the request form at <http://www.weca.org>.

The Internet WECA.ORG domain is provided courtesy of Cloud 9 Internet, cloud9.net.

## WA2KZS, SK

We are sad to report the recent passing of WECA member Samuel P. Puner, WA2KZS of Ossining, NY. He was 87.

## A Parting Shot

by Fran Lasorsa, N2OLU

To All Concerned (You Know Who You Are),

I would like to express my thanks to all of you for making my tenure as public service director as successful as it was fun. Together we have made great strides in promoting WECA as a professionally run and gifted group of communicators. In the past five years WECA has received many plaques and letters thanking us for our participation, culminating with an award from Westchester County honoring our efforts in public service.

It's a tough job to nag and coerce hams to give up their hard earned weekends, especially when you're asking them to get up at 6 a.m., but you came through for me every time. I can't start to acknowledge all of you individually but I would especially like to thank Sandy Fried, N2SF, who always came early and stayed late so we could have the communication van at our disposal, Robert Kantor who in the past two years has acted as my assistant and has now taken on the task of continuing to nag all of you, and to my wife for kicking me out of bed on event days and getting calls in the early morning hours of an event day when I have already left. I guess that's all I have to say. Please continue to support WECA's public service goals and thank you for all your past efforts.

73

P.S. Since I have all this free time on my hands, I would like to continue a project that Paul Vydareny started a while ago. As most of you know, during SDN new hams are sent messages informing them of their call signs. I handled a few of these messages and in speaking with these new hams I answered quite a few of their questions. If you can remember back to your first days as an amateur you can see that some sort of elmering program would be a great help. With that in mind I thought that a few elmers scattered around the county could be called upon to show new hams the ropes. If anyone is interested in this project please call me so we can talk about how to proceed. There I go nagging again...

## ARES/RACES Training News

## by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

The ARES/RACES training net continues to meet each Wednesday evening on 147.06 or on 2 and 10 meter simplex immediately following the 9:30 p.m. SDN traffic net. The usual simplex frequencies have become 146.565, 146.580, and 28.350 MHz, subject to the frequencies being in use of course.

Recent topics covered during the net include:

### *Lessons learned during public service events:*

- \* Sometimes event officials that should have had a ham shadow didn't. Usually it's not a VIP, but a key person such as the supply truck driver or sound technician for events with performers at rest stops.
- \* All operators need to carefully monitor the net even when the traffic is not initially directed to them to cut down on repetition of messages.
- \* Communications with other groups that we regularly see at these events could be improved. Specifically, the motorcycle club(s) that use CBs could stand to have a CB base station in the comm van.
- \* Anthony, N2NWZ's, ATV experiment at the Playland event was a success. So was the new portable repeater remote package, which saw its first use at Playland.
- \* Some areas of the County have dead spots that make it difficult to get in to the repeater system.

### *Traffic handling practice:*

- \* NTS radiogram traffic is frequently passed around, and we frequently see the "telephone" problem of slight mistakes creeping in and magnifying with each relay. Seeing these mistakes helps us learn to avoid making them.
- \* Besides passing traffic on the repeater, we've done several simplex relays, simulating unavailability of a repeater (e.g. down or busy with other traffic). These relays have happened on 2 and 10 meters.

### *Other topics covered:*

- \* What should be in a jump bag.
- \* Non-commercial power sources.
- \* How to make a simple wire 2m antenna (dipole, ground plane, j-pole)
- \* SKYWARN training.
- \* Listen to a busy professional public service radio dispatcher such as NYC police on a Friday or Saturday night for examples of good practices to bring to a busy emergency net (short, to-the-point transmissions; NCS has complete control of the net; appropriate use of standard phonetics and other

(continued on page 6)

## **ARES/RACES (continued from page 5)**

shorthand codes; etc.) Note: this does not mean we should adopt police phonetics (Adam vs. Alpha) or 10-codes. It does mean we should apply the Amateur radio equivalents of ITU phonetics and concise English words, avoiding rambling monologues.

Everything discussed during the training nets (and more) is being compiled into an ARES/RACES training/reference

manual which may appear on the WECA Web page one day!

## Recent Public Service Events

# Walk for Multiple Sclerosis

On Sunday, April 21, WECA participated in the 1996 Walk for Multiple Sclerosis at Rye Playland Park. Participants were: N2DVQ, N3EMF, N2INJ, KB2NBN, WB2NHC, WA2NRV, N2NWZ, N2OHY, N2OLU, KF2QN, N2QZB, W2RWR, N2SF, N2TFC, N2TSE, N2TWN, KB2WHF, N2YGK, N2YHK, N2YYL, and K4ZGE.

Rudy Breedy, Volunteer/Special Event Coordinator for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Southern New York Chapter wrote:

On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, I would like to thank you for your outstanding support of the 1996 Walk for Multiple Sclerosis. The event was a huge success and much of that is thanks to you. [...]

[O]ne letter can never tell of the impact your support has had upon our endeavors to aid MSers within the community. I look forward to working with you again in the near future.

## March of Dimes

On Sunday, April 28, 1996 WECA communicators participated in the 1996 Northern Westchester March of Dimes WalkAmerica. The coordinator of the event, Joan Gianico sent a letter of appreciation to WECA.

Quoting from the letter:

Thank you for joining us for the 1996 Northern Westchester WalkAmerica and for keeping us on WECA's agenda. We are deeply grateful for WECA's long standing support of this event.

WalkAmerica volunteers have commented on the outstanding support from your volunteers. I have been asked to extend their compliments and thanks to your group. [...]

WECA volunteers were : N2AMP, N3EMF, N2KIM, WB2LNB, N2OLU, N2QZB, N2SF, N2TJE, N2TSE, N2UXJ, KB2WHF, and N2YYL.



Photo courtesy Joan Gianico, March of Dimes

WECA communicators N2UXJ, N2QZB, N2YYL and N2TSE at the March of Dimes WalkAmerica taking a moment for a coke and a smile.

## Burke Wheels & Heels 5K Race

The Burke Rehab 5K race took place on Sunday, June 9, 1996. Volunteer communicators at this event were: KB2EPU, N2KIM, KB2NBN, KB2NBO, WA2NRV, KB2PWJ, KB2SHD, and KB2SRK.

## ADA Tour de Cure

The American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bike tour also took place on June 9. Volunteers at this event which started and ended at SUNY Purchase were: N2AMP, WA2KHR, WB2LNB, N2MEF, K2NGK, N2OLU, N2PLX, W2RWR, N2SF, N2TFC, N2TJE, N2TSE, N2TWN, N7UJT, N2UXJ, KB2VNW, KB2VNX, N2XRC, and KB2YHT.



## Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, July 22, at 8pm at the EOC in White Plains. The meetings are open to all WECA members.

## 10% off from the ARRL

Hot Summer Sale--June, July, August--ARRL members get 10% off all orders from the ARRL. Call 1-888-ARRL-BUY and ask for your discount.

## Backgrounder: Hurricanes submitted by Sandy Fried, N2SF

(Adapted from <http://www.fema.gov/fema/hurrica.html>)

### Emergency Information

1. The 74 to 160 mile per hour winds of a hurricane can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can spawn tornadoes, which add to the destructiveness of the storm. Floods and flash floods generated by torrential rains also cause damage and loss of life. Following a hurricane, inland streams and rivers can flood and trigger landslides.
2. When a hurricane watch is issued, the best response is to protect your property by boarding up windows, bringing in outside items, and being prepared to evacuate the areas as soon as officials so advise.
3. Even more dangerous than the high winds of a hurricane is the storm surge--a dome of ocean water that can be 20 feet at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide. The surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributable to the storm surge.

### Danger Areas

Areas in the United States vulnerable to hurricanes include the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Texas to Maine, the territories in the Caribbean, and tropical areas of the western Pacific, including Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and Saipan.

## What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relative calm center known as the "eye." The "eye" is generally 20 to 30 miles wide, and the storm may extend outward 400 miles. As a hurricane approaches, the skies will begin to darken and winds will grow in strength. As a hurricane nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds, and storm surges. A single hurricane can last for more than 2 weeks over open waters and can run a path across the entire length of the eastern seaboard. August and September are peak months during the hurricane season, that lasts from June 1 through November 30.

## Vanity (Flood)Gate 1 Opens to Enthusiastic Response

(Reprinted with permission from the *ARRL Letter*, June 14, 1996)

Thanks to the new vanity call sign program, W4KFC--the former call sign of the late ARRL President Vic Clark--will again grace the airwaves. On June 7, the FCC issued W4KFC to Vic Clark's son Ken. The younger Clark, who lives in Centreville, Virginia, was formerly K4OKZ. Vic Clark served as ARRL President from 1982 until his death in 1983. Vanity Gate 1, which permits licensees to get back former individual or club call signs or the former call sign of a deceased close relative, opened May 31.

The FCC reports it received 371 first-day applications and nearly 700 the following day. By June 10, the Commission had nearly 1700 applications in hand. Some folks apparently jumped the gun, however. The FCC reports 85 applications were filed too early. These had to be returned to applicants for timely resubmittal. A handful of applications have required special handling by the Commission.

The FCC's Larry Weikert said the vanity call sign program has not been without its problems. Some of the more common ones: The license of a deceased ham is still in the FCC database, since no one has properly requested that the license be canceled. Item 6 on Form 610V also has been a problem area. Some applicants are failing to show their current valid call signs. Other applicants are not selecting one of the choices in Item 7B. For example, they're writing "son" when the correct response should be "child." In addition, "we have had some that applied when their gate is not open yet, or they are applying for a Group A call sign and they are only a General class," Weikert reports.

Gate 1 remains open for applications indefinitely. The FCC has not yet announced opening dates for the other filing gates.

[Editor's note: On June 21, the FCC announced that Gate 1a will be opening on July 21, 1996. Gate 1a allows club station license trustees to apply for in memoriam call signs of deceased members. FCB]

July 1996

Sunda.	Monda.	Tueda.	Wednesda.	Thurda.	Frida.	Saunda.
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 ARRL Society	8 ARRL Society Name Sale	9	10	11	12	13 ARRL World Championship
14 ARRL World Championship Finals	15	16 ARRL Society	17	18	19	20 ARRL World Championship Finals
21 ARRL World Championship Finals	22 ARRL Society	23	24	25	26	27 ARRL Society
28 ARRL Society	29	30	31	1	2	3

**Nets on 147.060:**

- \* Daily, 9:30 p.m.: Southern District Net (SDN)
- \* Mon/Wed/Fri 7 p.m.: Bulletins (with Amateur Radio Newsline on Fridays)
- \* Tue 8:30 p.m.: Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA).
- \* Wed after SDN: ARES/RACES Training Net

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the following upcoming events:

**Saturday, July 20:** New York Philharmonic at Westchester Community College. "Priceless Music, Absolutely Free." Fireworks! Contact: Robert, N2TSE at 914-949-4231.

**Sunday, August 18:** Summer WECAFEST at Yonkers Raceway. Contact: Tom, WB2NHC at 914-769-1486.

## Hamfest on July 14

The Sussex County ARC will be holding a hamfest at the Sussex County Fair Grounds in Augusta, NJ on Sunday, July 14, 1996. Contact Dan Carter, N2ERH at 201-948-6999 or Deborah McKay, N2TTP at 201-948-5786 or [deborah@skylands.net](mailto:deborah@skylands.net) for more details.



Westchester Emergency

Communications Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 831

North Tarrytown, NY 10591-0831

RUSH - DATED MATERIAL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Reminder: "Now You're Operating"

Seminar on July 8