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THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831

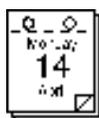
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

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Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 1997 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, beginning at 7:30 p.m. with a social half-hour followed by the main program at 8 p.m.

This month's guest speaker is going to be Lou Leonard, WA2UIJ. He will be doing a show-and-tell of the vintage equipment from an amateur radio station constructed between 1925 and 1928. Besides a slide show, Lou will be bringing a 1910 Slaby Arco 2 KW Ruhmkorff Spark Coil (Maritime Spark Exciter), 1910 Resonator Helix and Spark Gap, 1910 H.V. Glass Resonator Condensers (Electro Importing Co.), various early (pre-1920) vacuum tubes, radio components going back to 1915, and a variety of headphones dating back to before 1930.

Lou will need five strong and *careful* guys to help unload his vehicle in front of the County Center at 7:30 p.m. sharp. If you can get there early and aren't terribly butter-fingered, please volunteer to help.

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March Meeting Minutes

by **Anthony Licata, N2NWZ**

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Vice President Dave Weiss, N2OGK, introduced guest speaker J.P. Kleinhaus, W2XX, Hudson Division Vice-Director. J.P. talked to the membership about what the ARRL is working on. He talked about the poll the league took of both league and non-league hams about the morse code requirement for HF privileges. Over 60% of hams polled want to keep the morse code requirement.

J.P. also talked about a proposed restructuring of licensing and how it differs from the current licensing structure. J.P. and Frank, N2FF, the Hudson Division Director, want to hear from people in the division about their opinions on the proposal. Based on comments they get they will make their decision on how to vote at the league board meeting.

Then J.P. gave the latest update on the "Little Leo" situation. They have now asked for the 220-225 band besides the 2 meter and 440 bands. (See the League web page at www.arrl.org for the latest information on the "Little Leo" problem.)

J.P. then took questions and comments from the membership.

Tom, WB2NHC, gave a slide presentation about WECAFEST on March 23. He showed the new building that WECAFEST is going to be in and how the event is going to run.

Anthony, N2NWZ, is looking for pictures or slides of WECA activities in the 70's and 80's to put together a presentation for the ENY convention in Fishkill on April 27 where WECA will have a club table. If you have photos or slides Anthony needs them by the April membership meeting.

From the Editor

At the February meeting Prof. Eli Noam of the Columbia University Institute for Tele-Information made a presentation on the lessons learned from the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan. The discussion session afterwards was pretty lively with members questioning some of the conclusions he reached. In an attempt to bring the topic to folks who were unable to attend the meeting, we have obtained one-time reprint permission from *Science* magazine. The full text of Prof. Noam's article, on which his talk was based, is reprinted starting on page 6. If you have any thoughts you would like to share on this topic, feel free to write to the WECAGRAM. If you would like to send feedback to Prof. Noam, let me know and I can put you in touch via email.

In this issue, WECA founding member Stan, WA2NRV, shares some memories of the early days of WECA. I encourage other members, new and old, to share anecdotes as we celebrate WECA's 25th anniversary.

73,



New Members

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

WB2IAE	Gary Cohn	Bedford, NY
KC2AOW	Bill Dubin	Larchmont, NY
AB2BX	Mario Chiappetta	Mamaroneck, NY
AA9LA	Gene Skopal	Montrose, NY
KC2ARM	Dan Reilly	Ossining, NY
KC2ARW	James Fennell	White Plains, NY
KC2ARX	Bill Adams	White Plains, NY
KB2UAF	Mike Fairchild	Hopewell Junc., NY

Web Sites of the Month



www.arrlhamden.org



www.altavista.digital.com

ENY Convention

The Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club is hosting the Eastern New York Section Convention at the Mt. Beacon Hamfest on Sunday, April 27, 1997. It will be at the John Jay High School in Fishkill, NY. Many ENY clubs, WECA included, will have tables there.

Call 914-485-9617 or write to Ken.Akasofu@bbs.mhv.net if you have any questions.

Memories of Early WECA

by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

It was Bill Knott, K2AVP's idea to form the Westchester Emergency Communications Association many years ago. Bill was the first radio officer for the County of Westchester and RACES officer for the Civil Defense office. At Bill's suggestion a group of hams all involved in RACES put our heads together to form an organization with the following goals:

To provide a trained volunteer communications system for local emergencies.

To offer a means of training prospective amateur radio operators and educating the general public about the benefits of "ham radio."

To further social relationships between local amateurs and their families.

We started WECA with a 2-meter FM repeater, as a means of providing reliable communications over a greater area with inexpensive surplus equipment. The WECA repeater was a hodge podge of Motorola, General Electric, and home brew systems provided and paid for by the few founding members. It was hardly as sophisticated as today's system. Just a

transmitter, amplifier, receiver, duplexer, and antenna. The antenna for K2AVP, the original WECA call sign, was on Bill Knott's amateur radio tower located on the Grassland Reservation, in Valhalla, N.Y. Most early members used old commercial police or fire equipment or new crystal controlled smaller radios. Most with tubes of course.

As WECA grew so did the services we provided to the County and the general public. We were involved in bike races, walkathons, provided communications at a train crash, flood conditions, etc.

For fun and to gain experience we conducted hidden transmitter hunts, usually on six meters. This paid off down the road when we tracked a jammer with a stolen radio up 684 and caught him in South Salem. We also tracked some "kids" to their parents' home in Scarsdale. I won't mention the name of that current member...

We had quite a few get-togethers for lunch or dinner and picnics during the summer. We had games for the children and adults. I still retain fond memories of wheelbarrow and three-legged races. My memory will not let me forget the faces of the members who didn't win the raw egg throwing contests.

In time we built kit projects such as a solid state VHF engineering handi talkie (HTT) and later a GLB synthesizer to mate to the HTT. These were difficult state of the art projects that we did at home and compared notes and results with each other. They all worked when we finished. We helped each other.

At one time we had a terrible disagreement within the membership and severed our relationship with Westchester County. This was a time when the county was in turmoil, changing communication officers frequently. During this time we moved to another repeater site, still used for a backup and digital today. Cool heads prevailed on both sides and we reinstated our agreements with the County and the new radio officer.

Our club has grown into a large viable organization, of which I'm proud to be a member, providing many services in a variety of areas, although sometimes I miss the "good old club."

Radio Amateurs Lose Two Meter Band!!!

by Stan Zak, K2SJO

Suppose you picked up the newspaper one day and read the above headline!! That could very well happen with the many commercial interests trying desperately to populate the two meter band, and for that matter, all of our higher frequencies. Commercial low-earth-orbit satellites operating below 1 GHz, also known as "little LEOs," are going to be here before you know it and commercial interests are eying the amateur frequencies as a distinct opportunity to use our bands on a shared basis. Imagine the havoc and the complaints to the FCC that hams are interfering with the commercial signals if this happens.

We cannot afford to lose the higher frequencies. We will not and cannot share these frequencies with anyone else.

Of course, just about everyone has written or sent an e-mail to the FCC to let their views be known, haven't we all? Baloney! I bet only one out of a hundred Amateurs have bothered to write or e-mail their comments. Many are just content to operate and let the other guy do it. (The ARRL had requested Amateurs to send an e-mail or letter to the FCC stating that they were in agreement with the position taken by the ARRL.)

If you are just sitting on your hands at least you can have someone else do the battle for you.

That battle is now being waged by the American Radio Relay League, the good old ARRL. But I bet you are not a member! Sure, you can spend a few hundred bucks for a rig that may be useless in the near future but not a few bucks to join the ARRL!

Do you know of any other organization that is devoting any resources for the protection of the Amateur bands and representing *you* in this country and world-wide? Don't be a "free-loader." Join the ARRL and help to ensure that the commercial interests do not gain control or share in our frequencies! You will be investing in the future of Amateur Radio, protecting your investment, and ensuring you will still be able to operate on all of the amateur bands.



Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, April 28, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.



ARES/RACES News

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

New ARES/RACES Call List

By now, all current ARES/RACES members should have received the new call list, dated March, 1997. Please make sure to review your call list for inaccuracies and to see which callup group you are in. Let Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, or Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, know about

any errors. There are several new hams and old hams new to the area on the roster. Welcome to all!

Please make a point of understanding how the callup list works and your responsibilities for alerting not only the next person in your group but those that follow if he or she does not answer or is unable to continue the callup. Check in to the weekly ARES/RACES training net if you have questions about the callup list, or anything else for that matter.

Expect a callup list drill sometime in the near future. Don't forget to make copies of the list for home, work, the car, etc.

New ARES/RACES Members Web Page

<http://www.weca.org/aresmembers.html> reflects an ongoing project of mine to develop a new ARES/RACES training and operations manual. I've been working on it a bit at a time for over a year now and decided to finally give up and make it available already! New and long-time ARES/RACES members should take a look at it and please critique and propose new sections or changes.

Some highlights:

Callup list procedures in more detail than what's in the mailing.

A jump bag list.

I hope to work with Fuat to print this information in the WECAGRAM in future issues.

ARES/RACES ID Badges April 8 7:00pm

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is receiving radiological monitoring training on April 8th at the EOC and will be getting new ID cards. ARES/RACES members who can make it then are also invited to come to get your ID cards.

We will also do an ID card session at a future WECA membership meeting.

SKYWARN Coordinators Meeting

Sandy Fried, N2SF, Darlana Mayo, N2DB, and Anthony Licata, N2NWZ, attended a SKYWARN coordinators meeting on March 15th at the National Weather Service forecast office at Brookhaven National Labs in Upton. Among the topics discussed were the NWS's use of WinAPRS and automated weather stations at NWS and SKYWARN sites. Also discussed was the new Emergency Alerting System and the NWS's version of it, *SAME* (specific area message encoding?) which will enable NWS to send out much more specific alerts (on a countywide basis instead of tri-state, for example).

SKYWARN Training Class in Pomona

Due to budgetary constraints, NWS is no longer able to run SKYWARN training classes on a

county-by-county basis. The next SKYWARN training class is expected to be at the Rockland County Fire Training Center in Pomona (35 Fireman's Memorial Drive) on May 1 at 7 p.m. and will include Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Putnam counties.

MCI Training at Phelps Memorial Hospital

A mass casualty incident (MCI) training class was held at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow on March 8th. The class was organized by Bob Cuomo, N2QGE, Manager of EMS Education at Phelps, and was presented by Barry Nechis, President of Rescue Technology, Inc.

The class had over 50 attendees (mostly EMTs) and included the following ARES/RACES members: Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, Robert Kantor, N2TSE, Anthony Licata, N2NWZ, Phil Petrus, W2RWR and Stan Rothman, WA2NRV. The presentation was for EMTs. We attended to learn where we can help and where we need to stay out of the way during an MCI.

The primary information covered was Incident Command System (ICS) structure. I have a handout if you want to look it over.

Examples of several local drills were given and ATV (N2NWZ) was highlighted as something new "the county" was trying out.

Some specific local problems for EMS that Barry pointed out:

EMS radio system is outmoded and too busy.

Lack of common dispatch capability makes it difficult to do a large scale callup (e.g. EMS agency is seperately paged).

Lack of common radio frequencies.

Insufficient number of tactical frequencies (everyone is on 46.26)

Insufficient number of portable radios.

RACES fits into ICS under Logistics Section/Service Branch/Communications Unit.

Some key ICS concepts that were covered:

Keep the span of direct supervision to between 2 and 7 people with 5 optimal. More than that is just too much for one person to effectively manage. As things get bigger, grow the ICS structure to keep the 5 per group leader concept.

First arriving responder is the Incident Commander until control is *formally* passed to (typically) a more senior officer--but transfer is not automatic and is only done to make things run better.

For triage/transport at MCI, only the EMS transportation officer communicates patient info to the hospitals (ambulance designation, triage tag #, physical description of patient--no names--and nature of injuries). Ambulances are not to communicate with the hospital individually.

ICS requires a lot of pre-planning to work. Barry demoed ICS notebooks, one per function, which can be handed out to supervisors as a reminder of the required functions of their job title.

We should learn more about ICS and design our command structure to "drop in," which will make the other ICS user agencies much more comfortable when using us. It's 99% common sense and 1% structured job titles! I'm hoping to get more ICS information for us, especially what is pertinent to ARES/RACES.

Correction to NYS RACES Net time

The correct time for the NYS RACES net is Sundays at 9 a.m. on 3993.5.



Southern District Net

Darlana Mayo, N2DB, net manager of the Southern District Net, reports February SDN stats as follows:

Sessions	28
Total checkins	460
Traffic brought to the net	97
Traffic passed on the net	82
Percent passed	85
Total time	626 minutes

Feb. Board Meeting Minutes

by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ

In attendance were N2s NWZ, OGK, SF, QZB, DVQ, FMC, TJE, TSE, and YGK, KB2s NBN and MGM, WB2s NHC and QJA, WA2NRV, AA9LA.

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Joe, KB2NBN, reports that the Conex Chapter of QCWA would like to honor WECA on its 25th anniversary. More details to come in the future.

Joe also reports that the nominating committee for the upcoming elections is Alan, N2YGK, Stan, WA2NRV, and Fran, N2OLU.

Rich, WB2QJA, reports that the K2ZM Packet BBS has been shut down due to the illness of John, K2ZM. On motion by Rich, WB2QJA, seconded by Bob, N2DVQ, a motion was passed to have the WECA board send a certificate in appreciation of the eight years John operated the BBS for all in the amateur community to use.

Rich, WB2QJA, also reports intermod on link to Alpine and LI WECA 5 node. He is going to purchase filters to solve the problem.

Bob, N2DVQ, reports he worked on filters at the main site to try to strike a balance between the power output and the receive sensitivity of the repeater for best coverage in Westchester.

Alan, N2YGK, reports that he, N2TSE, and N2NWZ attended an ENY EC meeting in Kingston. At the upcoming ENY convention they will try to have a live demo of public service events on radio and APRS tracking.

Robert, N2TSE, reports that he received QSL cards from Boy Scouts met in October during the Jamboree.

Joe also received a letter asking for club participation in the ENY convention. The board agreed to have a display table inside and the Red Cross Van on display outside the convention.

For Sale

Icom 449A 440 MHz mobile. 45W output: \$300.

Cushcraft ARX450B base station 440 MHz antenna with 100 ft. of coax cable: \$50.

Both together: \$325 or best offer.

Both are brand new and have never been used.

Call Brian Torpey, N2PHW. Home: 914-769-1413 (leave message).

Kobe's Lesson: Dial 711 for "Open" Emergency Communications

by Eli M. Noam and Harumasa Sato

Reprinted with permission from *Science*, Volume 274, Number 5288, Issue of 1 November 1996, pp. 739-740. 1996 by The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Editor's Note: We only received permission to reprint the article in the print version of the WECAGRAM.

Free Power Supply

50-amp 12-volt DC power supply, 208-volt 3-phase AC input, old pipe organ rectifier free for pickup. Use it for power, use it for parts, use it to stabilize your house in high winds, the price is right!

Call 914-337-6776 daytime or 203-374-4141, ask for John, K2GTY.



License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, April 10, 1997 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.

Federal Communications Board Announces Sweeping Changes to Amateur Radio

by April P. Hool, NF2UAT

The Federal Communications Board (FCB) announced major changes to amateur radio, scheduled to take effect at the beginning of April.

Highlights of the late breaking news include:

- Reassignment of the amateur 2 m and 70 cm bands to the Low Ionosphere Orbiting Navigational Satellites (commonly known as Little LIONS).

Auctioning of amateur service call signs. Auctions to be held at the FCB in Gettysburg, PA once a year during the winter (all travel to the FCB must be done uphill and barefoot). It is expected that proceeds from the auction would take a significant bite out of the federal budget deficit.

Reorganization of the license classes into Beginner, Intermediate and Extra Crispy.

Morse code proficiency requirements for the three new classes will be 20 words per minute, 30, and 45 respectively. Tests must be conducted under true operating conditions. The test will be sending only (via spark gap transmitter), to examiners at the American Radio Frequency League (ARFL) headquarters.

Mark Your Calendars

by **Robert Kantor, N2TSE, Public Service Director**

For those of you who plan in advance, here are some dates for upcoming public service events that WECA will be participating in:

Sunday, April 20: 1997 Walk for Multiple Sclerosis at Rye Playland.

Sunday, April 27: March of Dimes WalkAmerica, in Mt. Kisco.

Sunday, June 8: Burke Rehab. Wheels and Heels 5K Race.

Sunday, June 8: American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bike tour at SUNY Purchase.

Saturday, July 26: New York Philharmonic at Westchester Community College.

If you would like further information or would like to put your name on the volunteers list, give me a call on the 2m repeater, or call me at 914-949-4231.

Latest Call Signs

As of March 22, 1997, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra)	AB2DJ
Group B (Advanced)	KG2KP
Group C	(none left)
Group D (General/Tech/Novice)	KC2BEK

Free QST Back Issues

A whole slew of back issues of QST are available to the first person to cart them away. Contact Fran, N2OLU, if you want them.

April 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesda	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 ^y April Fools' Day	2 ^y	3	4	5
6 YARC DST Begins Set Clocks Ahead 1 hr.	7 ● NM	8	9	10 WICA Vt. Session	11	12
13	14 ● PQ WICA Meeting ARRL VU1 Sprint 2hr	15	16	17	18	19
20 V.S. Walk	21	22 ○ Passover Eggs ARRL VU1 Sprint 222	23	24	25	26 Nat Exam Day
27 RNY Convention Nat Exam Day March of Dimes Walk America	28 WICA Board Meeting	29	30 ● LQ ARRL VU1 Sprint 132	1	2	3