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# THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831

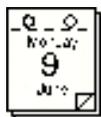
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Web site: <http://www.weca.org>

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

**Volume 21, Issue 6 June 1997**

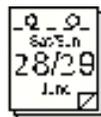


## Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 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.

Elections will be held at this meeting. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

Tom, WB2NHC, will be giving his Field Day slide show and plans for WECA's Field Day event will be worked on.



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## Field Day

The weekend of June 28 and 29 is Field Day. As always, WECA will be operating from Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck, NY. Hope you can all make it, at least for some portion of the operation. It will be fun!

## See you all at Field Day! "N2SF...4A...ENY"



## And the Candidates Are:

Several changes to the slate have occurred since the nominating committee presented their nominees. At the May membership meeting the slate was finalized:

<b>President:</b>	Joe Brown, KB2NBN
<b>Exec. VP:</b>	Dave Weiss, N2OGK
<b>Counsel:</b>	Mike Weitzner, N2EJI
<b>Secretary:</b>	Anthony Licata, N2NWZ
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Andy Farber, N4OOX
<b>Dir. at Large:</b>	Ron Devenuti, N2TJE
<b>Education:</b>	Darlana Mayo, N2DB Russ Stevenson, N2AMP
<b>Engineering:</b>	Bob Wilson, N2DVQ
<b>Repeater Ops.:</b>	Dwight Smith, N2FMC
<b>Social:</b>	Will Austen, N2UXJ Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Elections will be held at the June membership meeting.

This year's election committee consists of Joe Bruno, WB2VVS (Chair), Bill Hertwig, N2QZB, and Sandy Fried, N2SF.

Get out and vote!

## From the Editor

June is an exciting month. First, we have the annual WECA elections. This year, two directorships are being contested. Don't forget to vote at the June meeting, or send in your ballot. Second, we have Field Day, amateur radio's premier operating event. As always, WECA will be out in force at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. Hope you can drop by, help set up/tear down, and operate.

If you haven't heard seen me around or heard me on the air recently, here's why:



**Jennifer**

**Yoko**

**Baran**

born 9-May-97

1756Z (1:56 p.m. EDT)

3270 grams (7 lbs. 3 oz.)

50.5 cm (19 3/4 in.)

## Contest Results

Several WECA members have recently participated in various operating contests, and results have appeared in the June issue of *QST*:

Operating under the K2TVI call, Adam, N2DHH, Bob, N2DVQ, Dwight, N2FMC, Robert, N2GDY, Michael, N2HTT, Norman, N2GKM, Anthony, N2NWZ, Russ, N3EMF, Rafael, WA2LVY, and Tom, WB2NHC, got 152,320 points in the ARRL January 1997 VHF Sweepstakes, placing them in sixth place overall under the multi-op category, fifth place in the Northeast region, and first place in the Hudson Division!

Larry, WB2LBF, operated during the ARRL November 1996 Phone Sweepstakes and with a score of 55,950, placed third in ENY in the low power category.

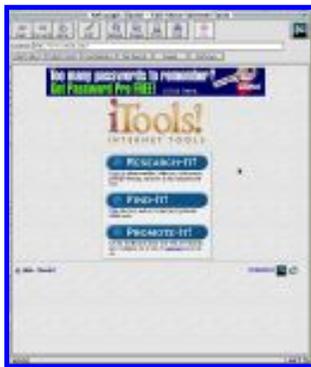
Congratulations to everyone!

If you participated in a contest, or know of members who have, send in the results to [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org).

## Web Sites of the Month



[www.icomamerica.com](http://www.icomamerica.com)



[www.itools.com](http://www.itools.com)

## From the President

by Joe Brown, KB2NBN

If there were opposition for the office of President this would be a campaign statement. I would like to think that the lack of opposition for my office is a vote of confidence in me. For that I thank you.

Two years ago when I first accepted the nomination for President I asked for your help. I told you that there is no way I could be successful without it. To say that you responded would be an understatement. The past two years has seen WECA excel in many areas.

The Board of Directors have done a great job in guiding the organization. I thank them for their support. The Field Day Committee has done an excellent job. As far as performance we have set WECA records the past two years. Last year we finished higher than ever before.

We continue to provide Christmas cheer for the Blythdale Children's Hospital. Westchester County ARES/RACES, which is made up predominantly by WECA members, completed many outstanding missions with Westchester County and the Red Cross. There have been damaging storms and evacuations as well as the usual drills--both Indian Point and Westchester County Airport. You responded to the TWA Flight 800 disaster when called upon by our brothers in Suffolk County. At the same time some of you were in Valhalla

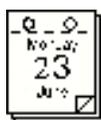
providing communications for the New York Philharmonic concert. What's this? Doing two major events at the same time? Yes, and that's not the only time. In the past two years you have responded a number of times to provide support to simultaneous requests for your assistance. More recently you outdid yourselves. On April 27 a contingent went to the Eastern New York Convention in Fishkill to represent WECA while another contingent went to Mount Kisco to provide communications for the March of Dimes. We did our usual outstanding job in Mount Kisco and walked away with the Best in Show award at the ENY Convention. To use a street term "WE BE BAD!"

The past two years you have certainly produced. However, you know the phrase "what have you done for me lately?" That certainly applies to us. We cannot sit back and coast on past deeds. We must continue to work hard and even do better. There are many organizations that count on us being there for them. We can't let them down.

Some of the older members have "been there, done that and got the tee shirt." The excitement is gone and the tendency is to sit back and let the younger members do it all. This is just fine to a point. We need to get the younger members involved because

for any organization to flourish we must constantly cultivate them. However, we still need you to show the new guys how it's done. I'd like to see a few more of you at a couple of events a year.

At the Annual Meeting in June we will have the election. This year has been very interesting to say the least. The slate of nominees has changed around a bit and there are contested offices. This is good for the organization and it shows your dedication. I ask you to make sure you vote. I'd like to see you attend the meeting. But, if you can't attend, please mail in your absentee ballot. When you vote, please vote for the person you feel will do the best job. Don't let popularity, sympathy or anything else enter into your decision. I need the best team to help WECA go forward.



## Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, June 23, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.



## License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, June 12, 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.



## Southern District Net

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

Sessions 30

Total checkins 498

Traffic brought to the net 84

Traffic passed on the net 75

Percent passed 89

Total time 563 minutes

## Candidate Statements

(alphabetical by last name in each category)



### Darlana Mayo, N2DB

#### Running for Education Director

Please ask yourself the following questions. Have I made it my business to welcome new hams and old hams alike? Do I inform the ham community of clubs, repeaters, ARES and RACES, Public Service, and other local activities? If I don't know the answers, do I normally point toward the appropriate people?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then I would like to be your Educational

Director. I can be a pain in the neck sometimes, but do I get the job done???

For those who don't know me well, I was born in Mt. Vernon, NY with many congenital birth defects. Everything from a heirlip, cleft palate, to a partially formed right eye which was eventually removed. Because of my facial problems, I was a very sickly child as well, having pneumonia several times, staph infections, etc., etc. I was supposed to die. Over the years, I have had close to 3 dozen surgeries.

Because of my facial problems and the cruelty of kids, adults and sadly even some members of the ham community, perseverance and dedication has been deeply rooted into me. This quality will serve me well as your Education Director.

My mother was unable to take care of my medical needs, so the last time she saw me as a babe, I was a year and a half in the hospital. I went from foster homes to hospitals until I was eventually adopted

I graduated high school with full scholarships and honors. I attended Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY where I studied accounting. I am presently running my own marketing and advertising business and will soon expand.

I have been a ham for over 10 years and hold an extra class license and have been with the ARRL for the same period of time. I am involved with ARES/RACES, Skywarn and NTS. I am active on HF nets and DXing and all mode digital contacts and nets. There are still many other modes I would like to explore.

Over the years, I have been privileged to be an Assistant Hudson Division Director, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, president of a club, and the public relations director for WECA. Currently I am the manager of the Southern District Traffic Net and the Skywarn Coordinator for Westchester County. I am also a MARS member and a Red Cross volunteer.

Some of my more notable accomplishments have been getting President Clinton to acknowledge amateur radio, County Executive Andrew O'Rourke presenting WECA with a proclamation, and setting up a radio interview with our current President and President Emeritus.

As a disabled individual, I know all too well the value of what ham radio and its many facets can make in one's life. Amateur radio is an integral part of my life and should be for many others as well.

Director or not, I will always continue to reciprocate my love for this service and hobby to hams and non-hams alike.



## Russ Stevenson, N2AMP

### Running for Education Director

I have been a ham for 18 years and a member of WECA for the last 5 years and am a life member of the ARRL and AMSAT. I've participated in most of the WECA related public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, NYC marathons, Indian Point, concerts, and Blythdale. I'm an annual participant in both the Field Day and WECAFEST endeavors. I participated as a communicator in a Red Cross evacuation center and in the Flight 800 tragedy. As an active member of WECA, I would like to increase my participation even more by becoming the club's next Educational Director.

As owner and manager of a small school, I am personally involved with curriculum development and the maintenance and upgrading of teachers' skills. For the 20 years prior to the school, I was a computer professional. I have maintained those skills and am proficient in computer technology and its relationship to amateur communications.

As the club's Educational Director, I would ensure that the WECA by-laws, with respect to training, are fulfilled. The by-laws call for periodic license preparation classes. I would ensure that there are license preparation classes available for those seeking them. The by-laws call for the Educational Director to be responsible for examinations for amateur licenses. As an accredited Volunteer Examiner, I would ensure that such tests continue to be readily available. WECA is currently doing a credible job of training its members. Last year's "Now You're Operating" was a great program. The weekly ARES/RACES net is a valuable source of training.

The WECAFEST forums are always very informational. WECA members can also get training from outside the club. The Red Cross holds training sessions useful to hams. There was recently radiological and Skywarn training given by outside sources. WECA currently does not have an active Educational Director. Because these programs are a great source of knowledge for WECA members, I would strive to ensure their continued success and would add new programs that the membership may be interested in.



## **Will Austen, N2UXJ**

### **Running for Social Director**

Hi, my name is Will Austen, N2UXJ, and I am running for Social Director. I have been married 6 years and have one child. I am 37, and work as a Scenic Manager, for Staging Techniques, a service company that does industrial Audio/Visual productions. I am a WECA member since March 1993 when I passed my written test, at WECAFEST (I think it was the year it snowed). When I first got the itch to take the test and become a ham it was to fulfill a childhood dream. I had remembered going to my best friend's house after school, and for countless hours tuning up and down the radio dial. I remember first learning about skip in a 1968 Plymouth, on the AM dial. And now as a man I remembered my dream and wanted my ticket. When I joined WECA all I thought the hobby had to offer was tinkering and rag chewing. I have discovered that this hobby has much more to offer. There are the public service events where we work with the other local organizations and the local community. There are the hamfests with table after table of stuff that I always tell my wife I truly need. And there is Field Day, the yearly race, to get all the gear on air, to get the food to feed the hungry hams, and to get as many contacts as possible, in o such a short time. And then there are the friends, the other people in the radio community that feel the same way as I. Willing to give up time with the family, take a sick day from work, or whatever. To be there to help. All I ask for is your vote. And I thank you for this opportunity to serve. Thank you and 73's.



## **Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC**

## **Running for Social Director**

I am running for Social Director this year because Sal is stepping down. The Social Director is responsible for Field Day and WECAFEST. I have assisted Sal for many years by being the chairman for WECAFEST and serving on the Field Day committee. I would like to continue to serve WECA by becoming Social Director. I ask for your support and your vote.

## **For Sale**

Icom IC-736 HF+6 meters with straight key, bencher paddles, and MFJ 949 antenna tuner--no Mic.--\$1250

Kenwood TH-28A 2 meter handheld with extra longlife battery--\$200

Cushcraft AR-270B dual band antenna--\$50

Kenwood TM-733A dual band mobile with duplexer--\$350-\$400

If interested, please call Chris Scola at 914-243-4889 or 914-245-1412

## **For Sale**

Yaesu 1000D, Dual receive, filters, SN #080216.

Henry 2K-X console. Triex LM470.

Tailtwister rotor. KLM 40M dipole, KT-34A.

2 Alpha Delta 4-position switches.

Grandmaster Keyer.

Ameritron Remote Coax Switch (#2).

Daiwa power meter. Astron RS-20A, RS-20M.

dumb terminal. PK-88.

Icom 27-H, 28H, 228H, 02-AT.

Yaesu FT-411E (#2), FT-23R, FT-811.

Bencer and Miller Low pass Filters (#2).

Hal PCI-4000M amtor, rtty, & clover board.

IBM personal dictation adapters(#2) with software.

Call: Charles Starke, NX2T. 914-923-4185.

## **April Board of Directors Meeting**

**by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ**

In attendance were N2s NWZ, OGK, SF, YGK, EJI, QZB, TJE, DVQ, FMC, TSE, TFC, AMP, KB2NBN, WB2NHC, WB2VVS, and WB2QJA.

Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m. on April 28, by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Liam Murphy, Dir. of the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES) spoke to the board about upcoming Indian Point drills. In July there will be radiological training for RACES members. In the spring of '98 there will be a FEMA Hurricane drill. Also need to check on Sound shore community communications with local Police Departments.

Anthony, N2NWZ, reported that WECA took the Best of Show award at the ENY Convention on April 27 in Fishkill. He thanked everyone who came to work the event and also people who worked at the March of Dimes in Mt. Kisco. Doing two events at the same time was one of the reasons we won the award.

Tom, WB2NHC, reported that the ENY Convention ran short of money to buy plaques for award winners. Motion by WB2NHC for WECA to donate money to pay for four plaques. Seconded by Dwight, N2FMC. Motion passed.

Tom, WB2NHC, reports that we can put the WECA logo on the Red Cross Communications Van as well as "Westchester Emergency Communications" in blue in 3" letters. A 16" logo will go on the back of the van. Cost will be about \$200. Motion by WB2NHC to put logo on van. Seconded by Bob, N2DVQ. Motion passed.

Rich, WB2QJA, reports that he purchased two filters to help with intermod problems on the packet network. Also he updated area nodes network to 9600.

Bob, N2DVQ, reports that he purchased two more radios for another remote package costing \$700. He hopes to put them in the Sound shore area. The portable remote package was used at Playland and worked well. He noted that we need to buy a large battery to run remote when operating without the Comm Vans.

Bill, N2QZB, states he didn't know about reporter at the WECA meeting and at the MS Walk. Bill needs to be the one person who needs to work with any media person.

Bob, N2TSE, reports that we had 30 people at the MS Walk and 18 at the March of Dimes. The Burke event has been canceled. The June 8 bike tour starts at 7:30 a.m. A training course on Public Service Communications is being planned.

Alan, N2YGK, is working on a budget proposal

for ODES and needs to work on mutual aid agreements with other counties for workman's compensation insurance. Informed by State SEMO that even if RACES is activated, if we leave our own county we're not covered with insurance unless there is an agreement.

Anthony, N2NWZ, reports that WECA received a certificate of appreciation from the Red Cross for work done on the Comm. Van.

Ron, N2TJE, reports the he sent a card to Carl, N2VQP, who was in the hospital, and flowers to funeral of Tom, KE2BF.

Sandy, N2SF, volunteered to be the third member of the election committee.

The next board meeting was moved to Tuesday, May 27, at the EOC, because of Memorial Day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

## May Membership Meeting

by **Anthony Licata, N2NWZ**

Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m. on May 12 by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Bill, N2QZB, read the slate of candidates for the upcoming elections [see front page--Ed.].

Shirley, N2SKP, presented WECA with a certificate of appreciation for participating in the ENY Convention. WECA took the Best of Show award for our display.

Robert, N2TSE, gave out T-shirts and hats to the people who participated in the MS walk and March of Dimes events. Robert mentioned he needs lots of people for the bike tour on June 8.

Joe, KB2NBN, announced that an article about Westchester RACES appeared in the New York Times on the front page of the Westchester Section on May 4.

Dave, N2OGK, introduced the guest speaker Anthony, N2NWZ, who talked about Amateur Television. He set up a station with camcorder, TV set, ATV transmitter, antennas, and down converter. He talked about the frequencies that can be used for ATV and the importance of having a good antenna system and using the right type of coax. He also talked about what you are allowed to show on ATV and how one must ID. Anthony talked about what it takes to make your ATV station go portable in the field and the different techniques used for ATV repeater operations and simplex communications. Anthony then took questions from members. Here are some Web links for people interested in more info:

<http://www.dxer.com/atv.html> , <http://www.njin.net/~magliaco/atv.html> ,  
<http://www.ladas.com/ATN/> , and <http://www.hamtv.com> .

Alan, N2YGK, has the new RACES ID cards. Get in touch with him if your picture was taken at the April Meeting.

Joe, KB2NBN, also announced that Fuat, N2YGN and his wife Melissa, KB2SXB, just had a new baby girl.

All nominations for office closed at the end of the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



## ARES/RACES Meeting at ENY Convention

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

One of the many popular forums at the ENY convention was the ARES/RACES section-wide meeting. About 50 people attended and many counties were represented by their ARES and RACES leadership. There were also representatives from served agencies such as the American Red Cross.

The meeting was run by Tony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, the ENY Section Emergency Coordinator. Leo Guilmette gave a presentation about NY State RACES and its relationship to the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). Leo also described some of the radio toys at his disposal including the portable satellite ground station he brought to the convention with its T1 (1.544 megabit/s) link which provides telephone and data communications.

A common theme that was brought up by several of the counties' representatives was their somewhat rocky relationship with their county fire coordinators and police brass--some of whom see no need for amateur communications since their own communications facilities are sufficiently robust. Leo pointed out an interesting distinction that sometimes escapes people: the police and fire/EMS communications capabilities may be sufficient for their specific missions, but amateurs fill an important role in supporting human needs ("health and welfare traffic") that shouldn't be forgotten and is equally necessary.

Another common theme was volunteers wearing too many hats. It's great that you volunteer for several emergency services organizations (typical examples are ARES/RACES and Red Cross or Salvation Army or even overlapping/neighboring ARES/RACES groups), but you and the leaders of each organization need to understand what your commitments are so that

you don't get double-booked! Some amateurs commented on the pressure for hams to be Red Cross volunteers in order to provide communications for the Red Cross. (Similar single-agency ham groups have signed up with the Salvation Army.) This is not required under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the ARRL and the American National Red Cross (nor with the Salvation Army for that matter)--as long as your ARES group has at least one member (e.g. an AEC) who is an ARC volunteer and serves on the relevant ARC committees.

Many groups have found it useful for hams to be trained in damage assessment so that they can make the reports directly rather than shadowing another ARC volunteer. Opinions vary on this practice which is a small step beyond "just communicating," but things are not always so cut and dry and I believe this should be a personal choice of the individual ham. Whatever it takes to get the job done without getting too hung up on bureaucracy is my philosophy.

### **Cross training**

Some counties require ARES/RACES members to take three of the eight FEMA Emergency Management Institute home study courses. Many encourage their members to take the American Red Cross Damage Assessment and Introduction to Disaster Services courses. The reason this training is encouraged is so that ARES/RACES radio operators have a better understanding of the "system" that they are being dropped into.

The FEMA EMI home study courses are free (I've taken all 8!) and you can find reference to them on the ARES/RACES home page at <http://www.weca.org/aresmembers.html>, or contact me if you don't have web access and I'll get you a copy of the order form. Many of them are directly relevant to our role as part of the Indian Point disaster response plan.

American Red Cross training is offered on a regular basis. Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, who is both the Westchester ARES AEC for American Red Cross (ARC) liaison and the Westchester ARC chapter's Communications chair can tell you more about attending one or both of these courses.

### **Section-Wide Net on 145.25 MHz**

There is a monthly ENY ARES/RACES net on the Northeast Connect linked repeater system on 145.25. The net meets the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and again the first Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. I would appreciate a few volunteers to check in to represent Westchester. Thanks to Robert Kantor, N2TSE, who's checked in a couple of times now.

There are also the weekly NYS RACES nets on SSB 3993.5 KHz every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. And CW 3530 KHz at 9:30 a.m. And don't forget SDN daily at 9:30 p.m. and the Wednesday night ARES/RACES training net which follows SDN.

### **ENY Section Emergency Services Family Picnic**

There will be a section-wide emergency services family picnic Saturday August 9th (Sunday rain date) at Lake Taghkanic State Park in Columbia County which is just off the Taconic State Parkway between Routes 199 and 82.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

**by Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

- 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 May 20, 1997, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra) AB2DT

Group B (Advanced) KG2LG

Group C (none left)

Group D (General/Tech/Novice) KC2BTW

## June 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 YARC VE Session HoSARC Hamfest	2	3	4	5 ● NM	6	7
8 Tour de Cure LIMARC Hamfest	9 WPCA Meeting	10	11	12 WPCA VE Session	13 ● IQ	14 Flag Day Asia Pacific SSB Snet ARRL June VIII QSO
15 Father's Day ARRL June VIII QSO WV QSO	16 ARRL June VIII QSO	17	18	19	20 ○ PM	21 1st Day of Summer All Asian DX Contest (CW) SMIRK 6m QSO
22 All Asian DX Contest (CW) SMIRK 6m QSO	23 WPCA Board Meeting	24	25	26	27 ● IQ	28 <b>Field Day</b>
29 <b>Field Day</b>	30	1	2	3	4 ● NM	5