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THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

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

Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 21, Issue 11 November 1997



Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 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.

At press time the guest speaker and main topic had not yet been announced.

Meetings are open to all--bring a friend! If you need directions, ask on the 2m repeater.



Turkey Trot

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

The annual Mamaroneck Turkey Trot will be held on Sunday, November 23 at Harbor Island. WECA will provide communications support. Volunteers can meet for breakfast at McDonald's from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. or at the event at 8 a.m. The event should be over by 11:30 a.m.

If you'd like to volunteer or need more information, please call me at 914-949-4231, or catch me on the 2m repeater.

WK6R Recovering from Bypass Surgery

Reprinted from *The Hudson Loop*, Issue #47, Oct. 13, 1997. (*The Hudson Loop* is a publication of the Hudson Division Information Center.)

[WECA Life member] Dr. Richard A Sandell, WK6R, Publisher of *The Hudson Loop*, underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery October 7. The Past Hudson Division Director, who had been hospitalized in June for gall bladder surgery, was admitted to St John's Riverside Hospital September 29 after complaining of chest pains. He was later transferred to Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx for tests.

Richard's surgery utilized a new technique, pioneered at the Einstein Medical Center at Montefiore Hospital, which uses veins removed from the patient's arms. Veins from a patient's legs have traditionally been used for coronary bypass procedures.

WK6R's sense of humor came through the operation unscathed. When asked how he felt, he replied, "How would you feel after being hit by a bus?" His prognosis is for a complete and rapid recovery and he is due to be released early this week.

At the request of his wife Phyllis, KD2OG, get well wishes may be sent to:
Dr. Richard A Sandell, WK6R
441 Central Ave., Box 1367

Scarsdale, NY 10583

PLEASE--NO PHONE CALLS!

Richard says that he will not be able to reply to e-mail messages for several weeks.

From the Editor

November is here, and the weather is getting chilly. Why not fire up the ol' laptop and warm up with a little creative writing? The *WECAGRAM* can use more writers.

This month we bring you the second half of SM0VPO's article on electronic component identification. Next month we're going to start having some of his simple projects.

73,

ENY Essay Contest Winners Named

by Ed Rubin, N2JBA

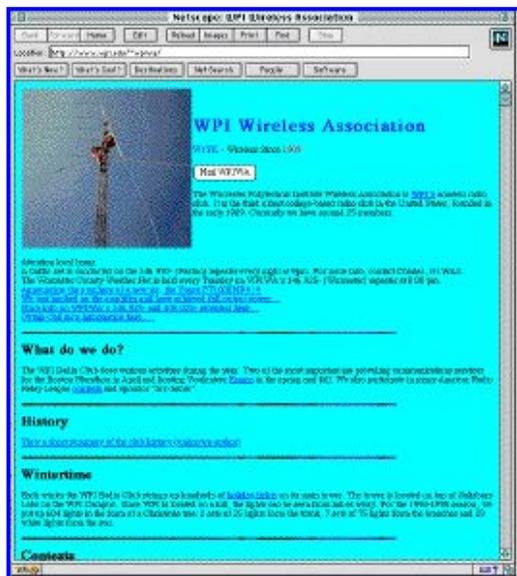
Reprinted from *The Hudson Loop*, Issue #47, Oct.13 1997. (*The Hudson Loop* is a publication of the Hudson Division Information Center.)

An essay written by Brenda Lee Spagna, N2TTO, and Eileen Mang, N2QLB, has been named the winner of the ENY Section Essay Contest, which commemorated New York Governor George Pataki's Proclamation marking the month of June 1997 as "Amateur Radio Month in the Empire State." The subject of the essay was to be how a radio amateur has influenced the life of an individual or a group by some extraordinary act of public service and, of course, utilizing amateur radio.

The winners' composition detailed the story of how a group of Mid-Hudson Valley amateurs anonymously donated and delivered Christmas gifts to the doorstep of four children whose family had fallen upon hard times. The idea developed from a morning drive-time repeater conversation last December and grew, thanks in a great sense, due to the organizational skills and "big hearts" of amateurs--a true measure of the spirit of Christmas.

Thanks go to all who took the time to put their thoughts to paper and congratulations to the winners! The winning essay will be printed in a future edition of *The Hudson Loop*.

Web Sites of the Month



<http://www.wpi.edu/~wpiwa>



<http://www.alinco.com>

October Meeting Minutes

by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 p.m. on October 6 by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Joe reported receiving a letter from YARC inviting WECA members to their Fox Hunt that meets at the Cross County shopping center on the upper parking lot once every month.

Joe also reported that WECA has been asked to set up a ham station for JOTA on October 18 at Croton Point Park. [See JOTA article in this issue.]

Ray Albanese, N2FXU, Assistant Communications Officer of the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES) sent a letter thanking WECA for helping in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET). [See letter in this issue, as well as an article on the SET.] Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, and Alan, N2YGK, also thanked everyone who came out for the SET.

Joe Bruno then introduced the first speaker of the night, Sgt. Andy O'Mare from Troop T of the New York State Police that patrols NYS Thruways. He talked about the annual Pumpkin Patrol. Every Halloween volunteer groups (hams, REACT members and CB groups) watch over the overpasses of the thruway to ensure that nobody throws objects off an overpass that might strike a passing car or truck. The program started in 1976 and now stretches from Westchester to Chautauqua County. Last year 455 people from 18 groups were involved. Sgt. O'Mare requested that WECA participate and handed out pamphlets describing the program.

Police Departments around the areas covered are notified that we are out there and people who participate will receive a certificate. Joe Bruno is coordinating the volunteers and making bridge assignments. A member of the Albany club that participates in program, April, KA2QIG, showed a videotape of news coverage of past Pumpkin Patrols.

Joe Brown, KB2NBN, then introduced Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, who is the First Vice President of the ARRL and NYC Marathon Coordinator. Steve just came back from a Region 3 IARU conference held in Beijing. At the conference it was decided to recommend at the WARC '99 meeting that 6.9 to 7.2 MHz be a world-wide ham band. Broadcasters are complaining about interference in the 7 MHz band. There's also talk about a piece of the 5 MHz band being allocated to hams. Also from the conference was a recommendation that the CW requirement be maintained.

On stateside issues, Steve mentioned a bill in Congress (HR2569) restricting listening to any Public Service Band, other than ham bands, which would make scanners illegal. The league is lobbying to get the bill changed.

Steve also reminded everyone that November 2 is the NYC Marathon, and said that he was still looking for new volunteers. Steve noted that 38% of people who volunteer for the Marathon come from WECA. Steve also congratulated all the work WECA does in public service events and emergency communications, and said that we were some of the best on the East Coast.

Robert, N2TSE, reported that the Turkey Trot is on November 23 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Mamaroneck.

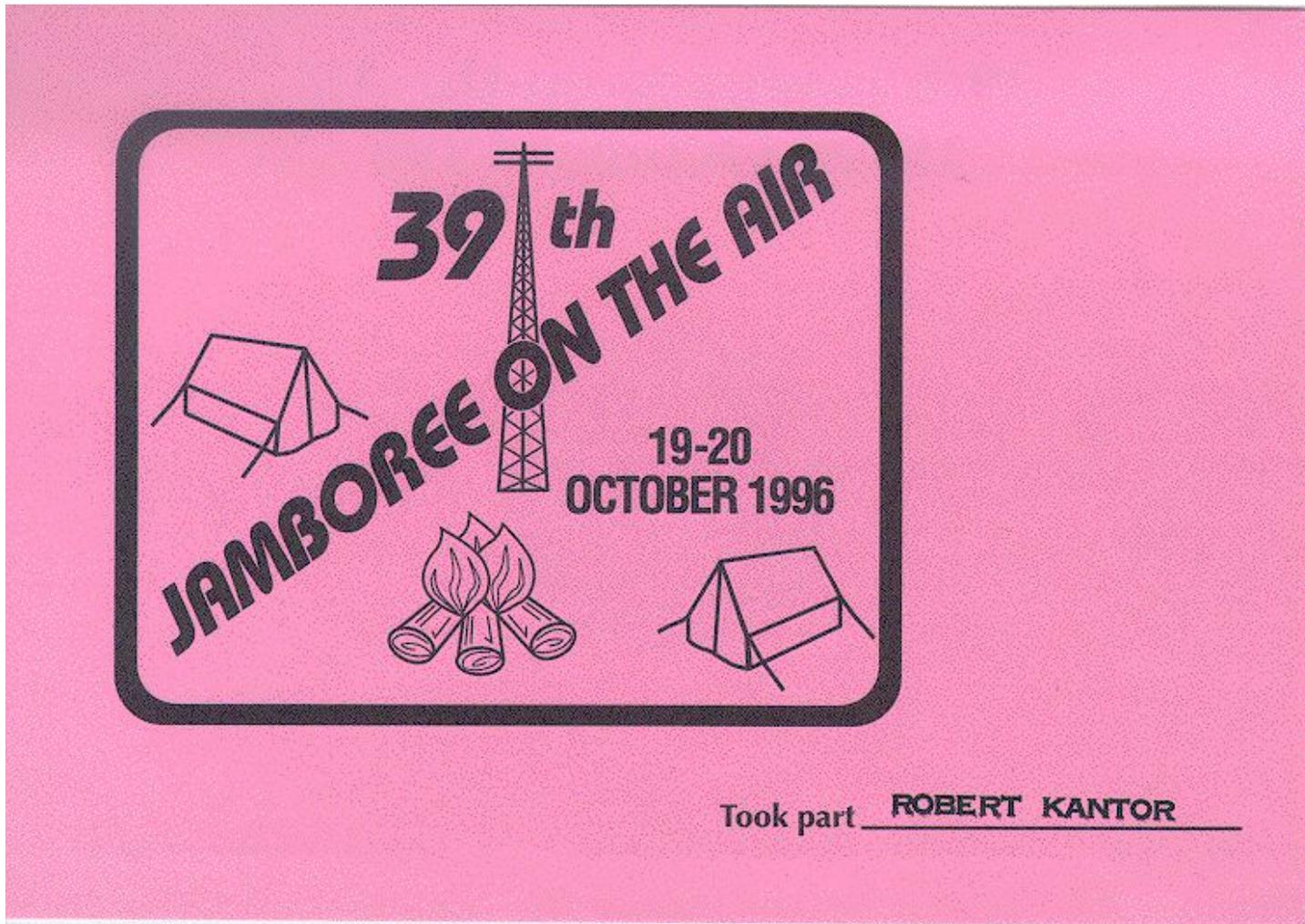
The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

JOTA

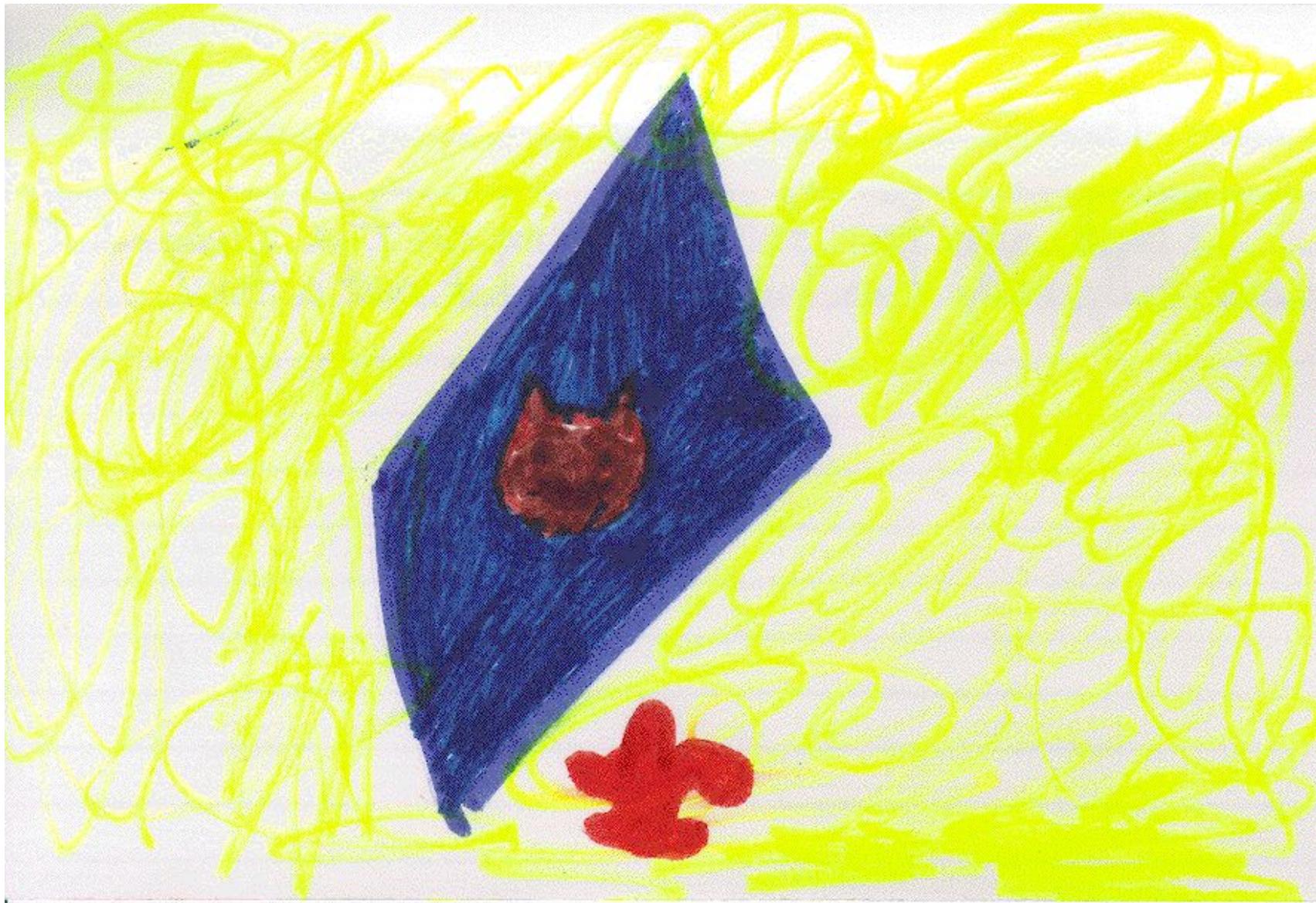
WECA participated in the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) at Croton Point Park on Saturday, October 18. We set up the communications van on the 2m repeater as well as on HF with an 80m dipole and an 80-10 meter vertical. More than 1200 scouts came through the station in about four hours. Each scout had the opportunity to talk on the the 2m repeater and then receive and send a little Morse Code.

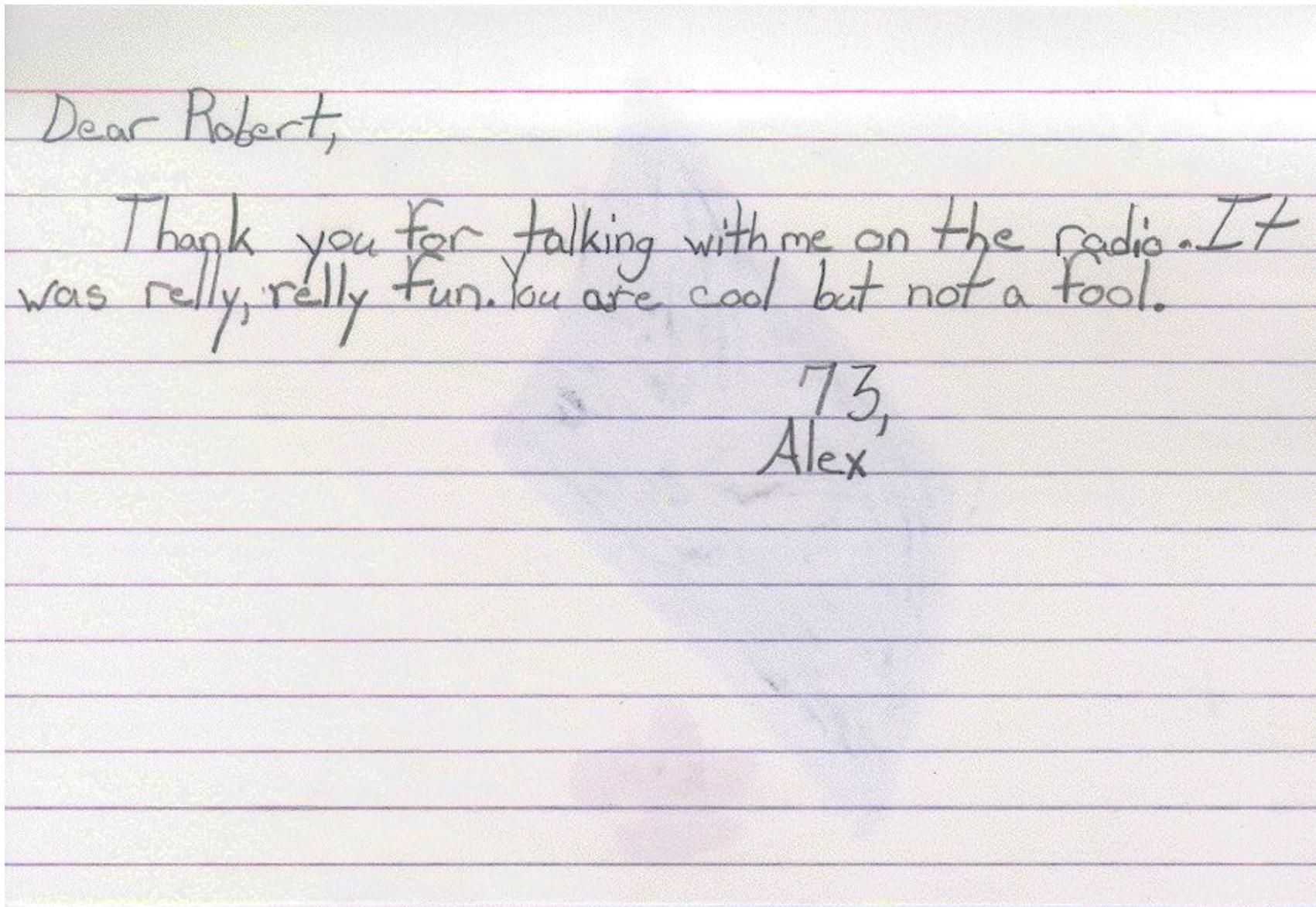
We made several contacts on 40 meters, including a conversation with K3BSA in Pennsylvania. Of course the big comm van and flashing lights were a hit with the youngsters. We also made contact on the 2m repeater with scouts on Long Island, who had conversation about what den they were from, their favorite sport, what they were going to be for Halloween, and what events they took part in during the day.

JOTA activities worldwide brought out a lot of Scout DX, including one of the rare opportunities to legally work third party with the UK as they ran many JOTA special event stations. Several QSOs were monitored on 15m between the UK and JOTA stations stateside.



A card from last year's JOTA.





A thank you card from last year's event.

Field Day 1997

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

In February the Board concluded that planning for the upcoming Field Day was not progressing well and the Board identified some problems that had to be worked out. But who could step in? Michael Weitzner, N2EJI, picked up the leadership, made the phone calls, signed up the leaders and organized the team. Thank you Mike!

It was touch and go a couple of weeks before Field Day. Seems the Mamaroneck Fire Department had their carnival scheduled for the same weekend and the Recreation Department had put up fencing that made it appear that we would not have access to the park. Sal Cresenzi, KB2GTE, got in touch with the Mamaroneck folks and squared it away. Thank you Sal!

Our towers were stored up north and needed to be moved closer for staging. They are heavy beasts and beyond the capacity of most ordinary vehicles. But then Russ Biltz's, N3EMF, monster truck is no ordinary vehicle. Problem solved! Thank you Russ!

Time to examine the field. Well, work was done on the fencing and grass in the spring so the configuration was different again this year. Bob Wilson, N2DVQ, figured out the RF interactions and fired up his Autocad. Problem solved! Thank you Bob!

We needed more stations, more towers, more antennas. Where would they come from? Once again, Les Turner, K4ZGE, offered his tower, plus a second. Thank you Les!

Wait a minute, everybody arrives at 9 a.m. on Saturday. That's a big traffic jam at the entrance. Who better to organize the staging than our own organized President, Joe Brown, KB2NBN? Thank you Joe!

How do we get all that steel and aluminum in the air? As usual Bob Casino, N2GDY, arrives with the Dobbs Ferry bucket truck. Thank you Radar and thank you Dobbs Ferry!

VHF and UHF stations mean more points and more fun. Stacks of antennas and radios are needed to make this happen. No problem. Russ Biltz once again arrives with all the hardware and know how. Thank you Russ!

Packet you say! No problem. Arte Booten, N2ZRC, and Rich Benda, WA2QJA, handle it like a walk in the park. Thank you Arte and Rich!

So you want to be a big gun on 160 meter and 80 meter phone? No problem, call the band busters. Lou Leonard, WA2UIJ, and the WARA team show up with full wave loops, high flying balloons and a dynamite 160 meter antenna tuner. Thank you Lou and thank you WARA!

Oh, you want smokin' CW stations. Call Bob Wilson with his 40 meter wire log periodic, and Mark Eidelburg, WR2I, with his big time 20 meter CW contest station and your dreams come true. Thank you Bob and Mark!

Is SSB your cup of tea? Well then, sip a little of Les Turner's 20 meter station. Thank you Les!

A first class set up needs a first class (Extra Class?) call. None better than "Never 2 Finer Stations" (N2SF). Thank you Sandy!

There are extra points for a novice station and we need to train our future contest ops. Who can get this done? Why it's Chris Maselli, KB2PWJ, and his gang. Thank you Chris!

Well, with seven stations running simultaneously, we need to keep track of a lot of data. Manual dupe sheets just don't cut it anymore. We need computers, logging software and fiber connectivity. WECA folks get it done again. Joe Brown supplied the computers, Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, configured the contest software, and Norm Krajkowski, N2GKM, built the fiber optic network that links them all together. Thank you Joe, Joe, and Norm!

What, we need shelters you say? No problem, Dwight Smith, N2FMC, rolls in with the WECA Comm Van and Sandy Fried, N2SF, rumbles in with the county Comm Van while Steve Holton, N2QCA, loads up with the five WECA tents. Thank you Dwight, Sandy, and Steve!

But Tom, it's a two day event and we must be nourished. Well then, the only way to go is call Sal Cresenzi for the food and chef Robert Steinberg, WA2KHR, for the cooking. Thank you Sal, Robert, and all the cooks!

Saturday dinner was topped off by WECA receiving an honorary membership in QCWA for its 25th Anniversary. Thank you to Dick O'Brien, NJ2J, Harry Moore, W2JQS, and Dick Robinson, W2OZA, and all the members of QCWA Chapter 181! By the way, Chapter 181 and WECA have 18 members in common.

There were 75 people at WECA Field Day this year. Too many to keep track of all that went on. If I didn't mention your effort, please forgive me. WECA events are always a great team effort and always lots of fun. Thank you all!

Put it all together and it was a fun weekend for all and now a great memory. Then, the November *QST* arrives and there, on page 104, we discover another fruit of our labor of love--fifth place (that's nationwide) out of 127 stations in class 4A. That's the best we have ever done. THANK YOU ALL!



SET Summary

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

Westchester ARES/RACES participated in the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) during the weekend of October 4-5. The SET drill locally tested a portion of the RACES component of a recently-completed City of Rye hurricane evacuation plan.

The weekend's activities included a triage drill at the United Hospital Medical Center in Port Chester, NY, which is designated as the shelter for evacuees with special medical needs. Fourteen radio operators participated in the field in the local drill. 43 participated overall in the group call-up and section-wide communications activity.

An Eastern New York section-wide SET drill was also underway for the entire weekend, involving communications throughout this 15-county region--from the southern counties of Westchester and Rockland to the northern counties of Washington and Warren--as was the nationwide SET involving drills throughout the nation.

For a complete SET report, see <http://www.weca.org/SET>. Following is a summary of that report.

What Went Wrong

It Happened During a Holiday (Rosh Hashanah) which was a four-day weekend for many with school children.

Not enough traffic was generated to stress the system.

United Hospital radio operating position was not the best.

EOC radio room was too noisy because nobody used headsets.

Some participants lacked NTS traffic handling experience.

Inappropriate scope of "Book" traffic recipients. I "spammed" all the ARES staff in the section with a message that should have gone up the chain of command.

Contact was not made with adjacent sections in NLI, NNJ, CT.

Poor record keeping: Operator logs need to be kept accurately. NTS forms need all the tracking information filled in.

Directed net procedure was not always followed. Stations must call through NCS and turn it back to NCS when done.

Group A members ("senior staff") didn't keep each other fully informed.

Too much email was sent to the westchester-ares reflector.

What Went Right

The call-up list was recently updated and had only a small number of errors. One or two people reported not being notified however.

Radios worked: everyone was on the air on time with no problems.

Using the Internet to get the word out is a good thing.

Using scheduled bulletins (MWF 7 p.m.) to get the word out is also a good thing.

Lessons Learned

More NTS training is needed.

NCS and operator logging training is needed.

A regular schedule of Group A status meetings should be built in to our plans.

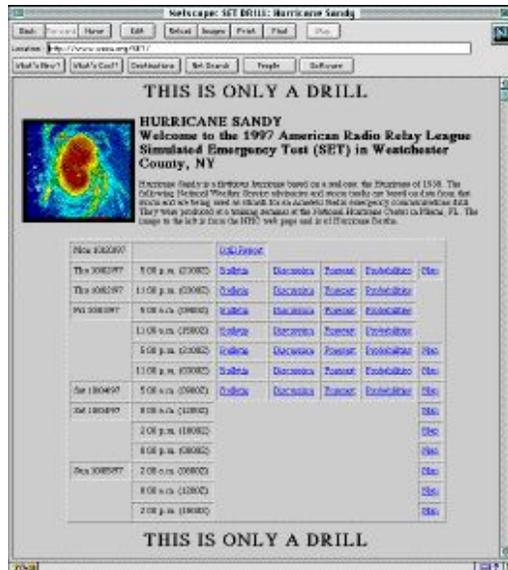
Regularly scheduled bulletins during an extended activation are a good way to keep the membership informed.

Collateral Benefits

The SET deadline forced me to get out a new roster!

Facilities database updates (listings of hospital antenna locations).

Inspection of United Hospital, Rye PD, Rye Country Day School.



Thanks

Representing the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, I would like to thank all of the members of WECA, ARES and RACES who participated in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday and Sunday, October 25th and 26th. In the opinions of Sandy Fried, N2SF, Liam Murphy (Director of ODES) and myself, this was a very well handled drill and although it was only a drill it proved that the amateur radio operators can handle difficult emergency conditions and provide first rate communications. If there ever is a real hurricane and the County of Westchester has to evacuate parts of the Sound Shore area or any area of Westchester County, we know that our part of the plan will be handled in a professional manner.

Thanks once again.

Ray Albanese, N2FXU.

Just a note of sincere thanks to all of you who participated in the SET this past weekend. ECs, please pass on our gratitude down to your AECs, and especially to your ARES members. All of your efforts are to be applauded. It is with your knowledge and experience that we will be able to steer ENY towards a successful future.

Part of the goal this year was to get every county in Eastern New York to participate on at least some level, even if only a response to our "paper drill." Our administrative update has been long-needed, and I thank those especially who took the time to either email or send along by post their comprehensive lists. I will have updated copies of the ENY Database available in November.

Tony and I have already discussed some plans for next year, and I am sure we'll have some surprises in store. If you have any ideas, please send them along. We'll be happy to hear from you.

Best regards,

April Stack, KA2QIG

Tony Pazzola, WB2BEJ



Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, November 24, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.

<http://hem2.passagen.se/sm0vpo/begin/componen.htm>

Latest Call Signs

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

Group A (Extra) AB2EJ

Group B (Advanced) KG2MX

Group C (none left)

Group D (General/Tech/Novice) KC2CNW

November 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31 ● NM	1 ARRL Nov. SS (CW)
2 YARC VE Session ARRL Nov. SS (CW) NYC Marathon	3 ARRL Nov. SS (CW)	4 Election Day	5	6	7 ◐ PQ	8
9	10 WECA Meeting	11 VK/ZL/Oceania (CW) Veterans Day	12 VK/ZL/Oceania (CW)	13	14 ○ PM	15 ARRL Nov. SS (Phone)
16 ARRL Nov. SS (Phone)	17 ARRL Nov. SS (Phone)	18	19	20	21 ◐ LQ	22
23 Turkey Trot	24 WECA Board Meeting	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 CQ WW DX (CW)
30 ● NM CQ WW DX (CW)	1	2	3	4	5	6