



THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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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, December 8, 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 speaker will be Brent Hailpern, N2CJN, and the topic will be "Fighting Computer Viruses." Brent works in the Internet Technology Department at IBM Research.

Brent says, "Computer viruses have pervaded popular culture at least as successfully as they have the world's computer population.

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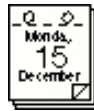
[For Sale](#)

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Capitalizing on the same fearful fascination with man-made life-forms that Mary Shelley tapped in Frankenstein, viruses have become the subject of widespread urban legends and hoaxes, popular television shows and movies. Yet they have not received much scientific scrutiny.

"We and our colleagues at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center have found the biological analogy to be helpful in understanding the propagation of computer viruses on a global scale and inspirational in our development of defenses against them. Building on decades of research by mathematical epidemiologists, we have obtained some understanding of the factors that govern how quickly viruses spread. Our efforts to find efficient methods of detecting viruses and the relations among them owe much to pattern-matching techniques developed by computational biologists. Furthermore, we have also drawn inspiration for defenses against pathological software from the vertebrate immune system and its astounding ability to repel or destroy pathogens.

"In this talk, we review the research and development that has gone into IBM's AntiVirus products and describe the design and implementation of IBM Research's immune system for cyberspace."



Blythedale

by **George G. Manning, K2RRR**

On Monday, December 15, Santa's helpers will be visiting the children at Blythedale Children's Hospital and Santa will be talking to them via ham radio on 147.060 MHz. Santa's helpers will be handing out specially chosen gifts to each child.

For the past seventeen years, WECA has played Santa Claus to the children at Blythedale. Blythedale provides long term care for children who are chronically ill or severely injured; almost all of whom have severe physical disabilities. Santa's visit via ham radio is a special event which has come to be eagerly anticipated by the children in the hospital, many of whom remember the evening from years past and have told those newly admitted about the visit.

For more information contact Robert Kantor, N2TSE, at 914-949-4231. If you would like to make a contribution towards the gifts, you may send a check payable to WECA to:

WECA / Blythedale
Andy Farber, N4OOX
29 Tarry Hill Road

Tarrytown, NY 10591

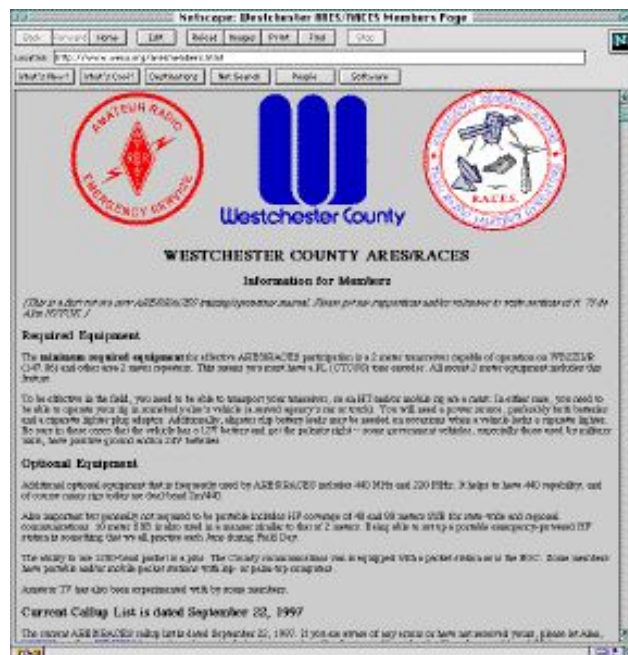
From the Editor

In the blink of an eye another year goes by. If you didn't manage to write for the *WECAGRAM* in 1997, consider a New Year's resolution to submit an article in 1998... :-) I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported this newsletter during the past year. Without your submissions, this newsletter would not exist.

Note that the January meeting has been scheduled for January 5, the first Monday of the month, to accomodate guest speaker Gordon West, WB6NOA. Hope you can all make it then!

73,

Web Sites of the Month



<http://www.weca.org/aresmembers.html>



<http://w6yx.stanford.edu/w6yx.html>



New Members

by Peter Johnson, N2TFC

Please welcome our new WECA members as of October 1, 1997:

KC2BJK Vivane Stenerson White Plains, NY
KC2BOB Warren Kumari Yorktown Hts., NY
KC2CEX Curtis Brewington Mt. Vernon, NY
KC2CMV Bill Kovari Jr. Scarsdale, NY
KC2COQ Fred Stavans Yorktown Hts., NY
W2HTN Robert Voss Tuckahoe, NY
KG2LP Earl Robinson White Plains, NY
KB2TKA Vic Forzano Bronx, NY

Behind the Scenes of the WECA Bulletins

by **Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC**

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 7 p.m. local time (more or less), official ARRL bulletins are broadcast over the WECA two-meter repeater. The stations that broadcast these bulletins are "Official Bulletin Stations of the American Radio Relay League." An OBS is an appointed position in the ARRL Field Organization. The Section Manager appoints people as OBS as required. As you know, the FCC rules that govern the Amateur Radio Service prohibit broadcasting; that is, transmitting one-way messages without the intent of engaging in two-way conversations. The rules provide an exception to this prohibition for "Official Bulletin Stations." WECA sponsors these bulletins as a service to the Amateur Radio Community. What follows is a look behind the scenes of the bulletin stations that provide all that neat news and information three times a week.

The two meter repeater is controlled by an ACC 850 Repeater Controller. This device allows the repeater to operate in many modes. The controller sits between the receiver and the transmitter with connections to the telephone lines for both voice and data. The controller monitors the transmit time of stations using the repeater and is responsible for the dreaded "repeater timeout." The controller is capable of suspending this timeout feature and does so, by automatic timer when bulletin time rolls around at 7 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This allows the Bulletin Stations to exceed the two minutes normally allowed for a single transmission without "timing out" the repeater.

Each Monday, Dwight Smith, N2FMC, reports news from the ARRL. Dwight compiles his reports from the ARRL Letter, which he receives via email. He selects the most interesting items and practices the pronunciation of those sometimes tongue-twisting names. Dwight generally does his bulletin from the comfort of his home in Chappaqua but has been known to do remotes from the Chappaqua firehouse, CAP headquarters at the airport and even occasionally from his car.

Joe Brown, KB2NBN, reports news from the Newsline service each Wednesday. Joe gets his information from his trusty bulletin board. Joe takes time out from his duties as a BBS manager to select those items of special interest to his listeners. Joe has raced home on many a Wednesday to be at his station for this 7 p.m. staple.

On Friday, Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, broadcasts announcements "of general interest to the Amateur Radio community" and plays the latest edition of Ama

teur Radio Newsline. He gets the announcements from many sources about upcoming events. Other clubs regularly send information about their activities and, of course our own activities are carried in full. Newsline is an especially interesting operation, Tom uses the data port of the controller to dial the newsline numbers and control the operation.

The Newsline operation itself has no paid staff. Everyone volunteers their time and talents to provide the latest news of importance to the amateur community. All monies received are used for recording tape, equipment maintenance, and phone lines to get the news and to disseminate it. Their bills amount to about \$1,000 per month and they continually run in the red. If the funds to pay these operating expenses are not donated, Newsline will simply disappear. There are many sources of ham radio news, but for the past 19 years, Newsline has been able to report this news quickly. WECA supports this effort with an annual donation. If you would like to contribute separately, the address of the Newsline Support Fund is "Newsline Support Fund, P.O.Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066."

Dwight, Joe, and Tom hope that you have the opportunity to tune in and that you enjoy hearing the latest happenings in ham radio. They solicit your feedback for ways to improve the bulletins and invite your comments.

Amateur Radio BBS

Joe Brown, KB2NBN, operates a landline BBS system that is Amateur Radio oriented. The system is free of charge and supports data rates from 2400 baud up to and including 33,600 baud. This BBS has been in operation since 1988, and is available all hours except between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., when it's busy processing FidoNet mail.

There are message bases covering general Amateur Radio topics, as well as specialized conferences on packet radio, ham equipment for sale and technical topics. There are also conferences where you can obtain technical help on DOS, batch files, OS/2, WIN95, hard drives, computer communications and many other issues. You will see messages from around the world in these conferences. These FidoNet conferences are tightly moderated and are much more disciplined than the newsgroups and usenet groups available on the Internet. There is no spam here.

There are over 1700 files consisting of 250 million bytes available for downloading. There are Amateur Radio related files available in the following areas: ARRL News and Bulletins, Packet Radio, Training Aids, CW, APLINK, RTTY, Ham Equipment Modifications, Scanner, TCP/IP & NOS, Antenna Design, Operating Aids, Logging, Satellite, SWL, Electronics, and TVRO.

There is an Amateur Radio call sign database which is updated quarterly.

All users are given 40 minutes and full download privileges on the first call. There is a call-back verifier that can be used to gain registered status immediately. Or, you can leave a message for the Sysop when you log off giving your call sign, and your access level will be raised to registered status.

The BBS is located in Mount Vernon and the phone number is 914-667-9385.



RACES News

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGG

RACES drill: Westchester County Medical Center

On October 22nd Westchester County RACES was requested by ODES to supply a half dozen operators to provide logistical communications support for a bombing emergency response drill at the Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla. The drill was to happen the following Saturday, October 25th, the same day several ARES/RACES members would be teaching the WECA weekend ham radio class.

RACES members helped in the ODES communications van, which was staffed by Ray Alabanese, N2FXU, and John Scaramuzo; as shadows for the Emergency Department Director and Head Nurse; EMS Director; Incident Scene Transport and Safety officers; and at the Emergency Room. Fourteen simulated victims were brought to the ER along with one real trauma patient from a traffic accident! Communications included reports of ambulance departures from the incident scene (Transport Officer) and reports of departure of ambulances returning to the scene.

Thanks to participants Joe Bruno, WB2VVS; Adam Epstein, N2DHH; Anthony Licata, N2NWZ; Phil Petrus, W2RWR; Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC; and Dwight Smith, N2FMC.

RACES drill: Indian Point

The annual Indian Point radiological emergency response drill was held Wednesday, November 19th from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Westchester RACES is written into the Indian Point plan to provide backup communications at the County Emergency Operations Center, Joint News Center, American Red Cross chapter, and in several Health Department field monitoring vehicles. Each year's drill is alternately monitored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) or the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO). This year was SEMO's turn to watch.

In order to train more Health Department staff, two large 15-passenger vans and a third small van were used for field monitoring. We took the opportunity of a larger van to send two hams--an experienced field monitoring communicator and a new RACES member. We also had a shift change at the EOC, ensuring that we know how to smoothly transfer control from one operator to the next without losing track of who is where out in the field. The WECA 147.06 repeater was pressed from backup into primary service when a public works frequency radio failed in one of the vans.

Ham "techiness" came into play twice in the field monitoring vans: One piece of radiological test equipment failed and the ham suggested opening it up to see what was wrong. Turns out a component had shorted out and the Health Department staff were able to get the unit back QRV. Also, most likely as a means of enforcing the County's no-smoking policy, the cigarette lighters in the large vans did not work. It turns out that the fuses had been removed. Of course, the Indian Point jump kits used by the field monitoring teams include a cigarette-lighter power connection for the radios and cell phone. Not a problem if you are accustomed to blowing fuses and know where to look!

In addition to playing radio, RACES hams have assumed other duties in the communications room at the EOC since we are able to perform them well. These duties include managing the information flowing through the EOC by fax. All in- and outbound faxes are logged, copied, and distributed to ensure that no traffic is lost.

If you happened to be running APRS on Wednesday and saw N2YGG-9 driving around Peekskill and vicinity, that was one of the field monitoring vans (with Anthony and Ken at the controls). We did not get a good copy at the EOC--possibly due to the high RF noise environment in White Plains and especially at the EOC--but did copy elsewhere both directly from 147.06 and on 145.79 via an APRS gateway. This is something we need to work on for next time. We also used APRS to contact the Putnam County EOC and Putnam County office at the Joint News Center.

Thanks to the following participants: Joe Bruno, WB2VVS; Alan Crosswell, N2YGG; Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP; Adam Epstein, N2DHH; Ken Gross, N2OBY; Brent Hailpern, N2CJN; Robert Kantor, N2TSE; Anthony Licata, N2NWZ; Darlana Mayo, N2DB; Marty Murphy, KB2WTN; Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC; and Dave Weiss, N2OGK.

October Board Meeting Minutes

by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ

In attendance were N2s NWZ, QZB, DVQ, FMC, SF, DB, TFC, EJI, TJE, OGK; WB2s NHC and QJA; WA2NRV; KB2NBN; KC2s BXK and BDT; N4OOX and W2RWR.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. on October 27 by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN. Joe said that because of work, he cannot always make his Wednesday bulletin, and asked if anyone else was interested in taking over.

Andy, N4OOX, handed out the latest budget report and worksheet for next year. The budget will be up for approval at the next board meeting.

Dave, N2OGK, had a conversation with Gordon West, WB6NOA, who will be in New York the first week in January and said he would be willing to be the guest speaker for the January WECA meeting.

A motion to move the January membership meeting to the first Monday if Gordon West gives a firm commitment to come to the WECA meeting was made by N2DB and seconded by N2SF. The motion passed.

Anthony, N2NWZ, reported that we were short on WECA envelopes and need to order more.

Rich, WB2QJA, reported that a minor problem with a TNC has now been fixed.

Darlana, N2DB, reported that 23 had signed up for the ham radio class and that 17 showed up. Eleven of them earned a license or got element credit.

Bob, N2DVQ, reported that he has all the equipment needed to upgrade the repeater. Once installed, people on air shouldn't hear any difference. He will sell off the old equipment that we don't need any more. PL encode for output will be installed during the upgrade in about two months. Interference from a cab company was found by Adam, N2DHH. The company has been notified and they said they will have their technician look into the problem.

Peter, N2TFC, reported that 76% of members have renewed their membership and letters have gone out about the Blythedale fund.

Bill, N2QZB, reports that a producer from WNBC was interested in doing a story about RACES volunteers.

Dwight, N2FMC, reminded everyone about the policy to ignore "TWITS" on the repeater and said they usually go away if ignored.

Tom, WB2NHC, is looking into ordering new jackets and shirts and is looking for suggestions for new items. He's also campaigning to make sure everyone wears WECA clothing at all events.

A motion to donate \$1 to Newsline for each

member as of Nov. 6 was made by WB2NHC and seconded by N2DB. The motion passed.

Peter, N2TFC, is looking for updates to the WECA manual by the next meeting.

Stan, WA2NRV, suggested a CW keyer club project. He will bring it up at the next membership meeting.

Tom, WB2NHC, reported that at JOTA about 2,000 kids visited the HF and VHF stations set up in the Comm Van. He thought that perhaps next year we could set up a tent for the stations to allow for the handling of more visitors.

Joe, WB2VVS, reported that final assignments for the Pumpkin Patrol had been made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

November Meeting Minutes

by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 p.m. on November 10 by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN. Joe announced that Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be the guest speaker at the January meeting. The meeting will be on Monday January 5, which is the first Monday of the month, to accomodate Gordon.

Tom, WB2NHC, announced that he will soon be taking orders for WECA shirts and jackets.

The following Participation Awards were given out: 1st year: KC2AOW and N2AXO; 5th year: N2TWN and N2YGK; 6th year: N2QZB, N2TFC, N2TJE, N2TSE; 7th year: KB2NBN, N2NWZ, N2OGK; 9th year: N2DB; and 10th year: N2DVQ, N2FMC, N2SF, WB2NHC, WB2QJA and N4OOX.

Vice President Dave, N2OGK, introduced the night's featured speaker, Tom, WB2NHC. The first topic was the annual event at Blythedale Children's Hospital. George, K2RRR, talks to the hospital staff to find out what gifts the kids want, and goes out to buy those gifts from the money donated by WECA members. This year, on December 15 at 6 p.m. volunteers will meet at the hospital to give out the gifts to the kids and give them a chance to talk to Santa Claus over amateur radio. Tom's second topic was a brief rundown of what happened at the marathon, and different members described what jobs they had and told interesting stories about marathon day.

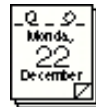
Robert, N2TSE, asked for volunteers for the Turkey Trot on November 23.

Darlana, N2DB, thanked all the instructors who taught the ham radio class. She said that other courses are being considered for the future.

Sandy, N2SF, asked for volunteers for the Indian Point drill on November 19. He had positions available with Field Teams, the EOC and at the Joint News Center.

Stan, WA2NRV, asked if club members were interested in another club project. He proposed the CW Keyer that appeared in the October QST. The cost would be about \$25. People who are interested should bring the money to the December meeting.

There were 52 members and guests at the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.



Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, December 22, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.

Latest Call Signs

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

Group A (Extra) AB2EP

Group B (Advanced) KG2ND

Group C (none left)

Group D (General/Tech/Novice) KC2CSC

HF Bands Conversion for AM Radio

Reprinted with permission from <http://hem2.passagen.se/sm0vpo/rx/rxmod.htm>

NYC Marathon, 1997



The Family Reunion Net Control Team at the New York City Marathon pauses briefly for a smile.

For Sale

Azden PCS7500H / 6 meter mobile radio, 5 hours operation use with ALL original cables, brackets, manuals and box. Will also include Cushcraft 6 meter Ringo antenna.

Original cost \$389--looking for \$300.

Please email n2tfc@weca.org or call 914-235-9194.

For Sale

Henry 2K-X console

Triex LM470

KLM 40M rotatable dipole, KT-34A

DTMF auto-call

dumb terminal

FT-23R, FT-811

optoelectronics interceptor

Low pass filters (#2)

IBM personal dictation adapters (#2) with software

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

December 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5 ARRL 160m Contest	6 ARRL 160m Contest
7  FQ YARC VE Session ARRL 160m Contest	8 	9	10	11	12	13 ARRL 10m Contest
14  FM ARRL 10m Contest	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21  LQ First Day of Winter	22 	23	24 Hanukkah	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanza	27
28	29  NM	30	31 ARRL Straight Key Night Ramadan	1	2	3

Happy Holidays!