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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, February 9, 1998 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 will be Richard Moseson, W2VU, Editor of *CQ VHF* Magazine. Rich will cover the following topics:

- 1) The VHF Amateur: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow--where we've been, where we are and where we're going as hams who operate VHF.
- 2) A Dying Hobby (Not)--subject of his March '98 editorial in *CQ VHF* --why all the gloom and doom predictions of the imminent demise of ham radio are a bunch of you-know-what.
- 3) Leading Ham Radio Into the 21st Century--WECA has a long history of producing leaders for the Hudson Division (and the Hudson Division has a long history of providing leadership for the ARRL), and for ham radio in general. As a club of leaders, where do the members see the hobby heading in the coming decade, and what is our collective responsibility to help ensure its continued growth and vitality?

[License](#)
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Rich Moseson, W2VU

Photo: N2DB

Some WECA members may remember Rich as N2BFG, his call when he was a WECA member and Publicity Director back in the early '80s. Since then, he has done time as NW2L and spent eight years as ARRL Section Manager for Northern New Jersey. Rich is also a member and past chairman of the ARRL's national Public Relations Committee, and was the Eastern New York Section's first Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Rich has been a "professional ham" for the past 6 years, working for CQ Communications as Executive Producer of the award-winning "Getting Started" CQ video series, and as 50th Anniversary Coordinator for CQ magazine, before leading the startup of *CQ VHF* in early 1996.

Prior to working for CQ, Rich was an award-winning producer and writer for CBS News, where he worked on the children's news program, "In the News," along with three different "information minute" programs on American history, health and medicine, and education. He was also a producer on CBS's 1990 documentary, "America's Toughest Assignment: Solving the Education Crisis."

Rich has been a ham since 1970, holds an Extra Class license, and is active on all bands from 80 meters to 70 centimeters.

From the Editor

WECA has been busy providing emergency communications recently. In this issue Alan, N2YGK, discusses the most recent ARES activation for a fire in White Plains. Last month Joe, WB2VVS, wrote about the Dobbs Ferry fire. Hams have also been very busy up north dealing with the ice storm. Read all about it in this issue.

Anthony, N2NWZ, has announced that he is stepping down as Secretary of WECA. Please consider volunteering for this important position.

73,

Web Sites of the Month

and an unspecified number of hard copy applications.

The Furr family of Chapel Hill, North Carolina--home of the University of North Carolina--took advantage of Gate 4 to standardize their suffixes to, what else, UNC. Mom and Dad are UNC graduates, and one of their daughters (19-year-old Mary, K5UNC) is about to graduate. Dad is Walter "Buddy" Furr III, who got his K4UNC call sign under Gate 2. Mom, Judy, is K2UNC. The couple's other two daughters are nine-year-old Cindy, K1UNC and 16-year-old Rebecca, K3UNC, a high school junior. Judy Furr says her husband is "a major UNC fan." The youngest daughter, Cindy, holds a General ticket and has passed her 20 WPM code test on her way to the Extra. The Furr family plans to debut their new call signs on a local 2-meter net this week.

In the same vein, WE4UNC went to Judy Smith of Pulaski, Tennessee.

Among the other new call signs were KB1USA, WA7AAA, and KZ8ZZZ.

Deb McKay of Hamburg, New York, formerly N2TTP, obtained WX2DEB. KA1THY went to Kathy Swann of Coventry, Rhode Island. Many other "name" and "initial" call signs were among the batch issued on January 7.

Public Service

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

I'd like to share excerpts from letters of appreciation I have received from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Southern New York Chapter and the Village of Mamaroneck Recreation Department for the communications support WECA has provided at their recent events.

Wheel & Rock to Woodstock

[...] On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to WECA for all of their hard work and dedication in support of the 1997 MS 150 "Wheel & Rock to Woodstock" Bike Tour. The event was a huge success and much of that is thanks to the donation of your organization's time and services.

[...]

Without our volunteers this event would not be the success it is today. I cannot possibly express in one letter the impact your support has had on our endeavors in completing our mission. Thank you once again for your support in the fight against MS and I look forward to working with you again.

[...]

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Laurenzano

Special Events Coordinator

Turkey Trot

Dear WECA Members:

On behalf of the Village of Mamaroneck and the Recreation Department we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for volunteering to help with our 1997 Turkey Trot Race.

We really do appreciate your help!! Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Saracino,

Superintendent of Recreation

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars. The following events are scheduled for the spring:

Sunday, April 19: Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon at Rye Playland.

Sunday, April 26: March of Dimes Walkathon in Mt. Kisco.

Sunday, June 14: American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure in Purchase.



Next Board Meeting

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

N2SKP Appointed ENY ACC

by **Rob Leiden, KR2L, ENY Section Manager**

Reprinted with permission from *The Hudson Loop*, Issue #57, Vol. 11, No. 7, December 29, 1997.

ENY Section Manager Rob Leiden is pleased to announce the appointment of Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, as the ENY Affiliated Club Coordinator, effective immediately. Shirley has been a ham since 1992 and holds a General class license. She most recently was the Coordinator of the QSY Society in Putnam County, is an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Putnam County and is an Assistant Director in the Hudson Division. Shirley is a member of the QSY Society, Mt Beacon ARC, and WECA.

Shirley has chaired or co-chaired numerous hamfests and conventions in recent years, including the ENY Convention earlier this year. It was from this "occupation" that an interest in learning about area clubs and club cooperation grew.

Shirley lives in the town of Verplanck, in Westchester County, and is the Manufacturing Manager at Appleton & Lange, a medical publisher in Stamford, Connecticut. She can be contacted on the Mt. Beacon repeater (146.97 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz) or via e-mail at shirleyd@computer.net.

Shirley relieves Assistant Section Manager Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, who continues in that position.

N2NWZ Steps Down

Anthony Licata, N2NWZ, has announced that, due to job commitments, he is stepping down as Secretary of WECA.

WECA is looking for anyone interested in the position. Please contact Joe Brown (kb2nbn@weca.org) or Anthony (n2nwz@weca.org) by email or at their home numbers (see roster).



N2NWZ at last year's Jamboree on the Air at Croton Point Park.

Photo: N2AXO



ARES/RACES Presentation

by Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, DEC Southern New York

Sandy, N2SF, Dwight, N2FMC, and I attended an ARES/RACES presentation in Putnam County. The Dutchess and Putnam ECs gave presentations about ARES in their counties, as did an AEC about Taconic Search and Rescue, and another ham about NDMS.

I was originally asked to do a presentation way back in August! The presentation got postponed once, and it was probably fortunate that it did, as there were a number of new hams, and everybody was interested in hearing about actual disaster relief efforts. It's natural to wonder sometimes why we do some of the training

that we do. It's good to see people using that training to help others.

I was fortunate to get a phone call from April Stack, K2ZCZ, our SEC's representative in dealing with the Northern NY disaster, about half an hour before I left for the meeting. [See her article below. Ed.] Therefore, I had pretty current information for my presentation. And armed with the latest SEMO incident report, I was able to provide info that nobody else knew. By the way, the State Emergency Management Office's web page has a link from the WECA page. The URL is <http://www.nysemo.gov>.

At the meeting, I read our announcement of what we were being asked for from our SEC as a "sample" of what each of our counties were looking for. We had our announcement reviewed and approved in advance, as there had been some concern about any general announcement. Our Section Manager, Rob Leiden, KR2L, was there, and added his perceptions of NNY's plight. He did a nice job of summing things up. We pointed out the hardships volunteers in NNY could expect, and added that people were to merely give their names and availability to their ARRL Emergency Coordinator or RACES Radio Officer.

Rob also stressed that before going up there, we had to know precisely the type of things that we have learned to ask: what agency will we be serving, who will we report to, what frequency are we to report in on, what duties will we be expected to do, etc. He seemed to think that going for two days was a bit short, given the travel time required. He agreed with another DEC's comment that we'd have to have a state or county crew chainsaw the debris in the roadway to wherever we were going to be assigned, and said being as self-contained as possible was important.

Rob said they don't use UHF much up that way, and many repeaters don't even use PL.

We got a lot of positive feedback about coordinating our efforts with the county ODES. I guess it's something we have begun to take for granted.

I mentioned to Sandy that I felt lucky to live in Westchester where we seem to have an excellent group doing emergency communications. (Although it felt good to hear the ECs giving basically the same message about training, traffic handling, etc.) I think Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess ECs are all very good, and seem to be on the right track. Another EC was in the hospital and unable to make it.

As a couple of us will be going to the State's EOC on Sunday to give the tired ops there a break, I hope to have more news about the disaster to our north soon.

It would be nice to have a similar presentation at a division hamfest.

Thanks

by Joe Bruno, WB2VVS

According to the ENY SEC, as of Monday January 19, NNY hams no longer need relief from outside their section. This is great news! Our SEC has asked us to continue to monitor emergency frequencies in case additional requests come in, or in case the situation worsens. In our case, listen on 147.66/06 for an emergency activation. (We hope this will not be necessary, however.)

Many thanks to those who volunteered to go up to the great white north. The stories of six inches of ice covered with a foot of snow were amazing.

A special thanks to the ARRL EC staff in Westchester (Alan, N2YGK, Dwight, N2FMC, Adam, N2DHH, Tom, WB2NHC, and Anthony, N2NWZ), who provided suggestions for our response to the disaster, at least one of which will have an impact for some time to come in our section.

See the following article by April Stack, K2ZCZ, summarizing ENY's involvement.

NNY Emergency Status

by April Stack K2ZCZ (former KA2QIG), ENY DEC Admin & Op, and Tony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, ENY SEC

After speaking with Darry Roberts, WN2F, Northern NY SEC, Sunday evening, we are comfortable in relieving Eastern New York Amateurs from active duty in the North Country. Our last crew from Dutchess County will be returning today [1/19].

We will keep ENY on notice that an emergency is in effect, however any requests for sending operators up to Northern NY are now cancelled unless new requests are issued.

Present ENY Involvement

New York State Emergency Management Office in Albany will continue to be staffed daily from 0800-2000 local time. Per Darry, Clinton County EOC will be scaling back, so we will follow suit. Operations will continue on 3993.5 kHz, with 147.12 MHz repeater being used locally as the VHF call-in frequency for NY SEMO.

ENY ECs and DECs are on notice that an emergency is still in effect for a neighboring area. Please continue to monitor emergency frequencies in your area, and maintain communications links with your local emergency staff.

Darry and I will continue to be in communications for the duration, and he will advise me if further assistance requiring travel is necessary.

Some Notes

NNY amateur Jeff, K3KYR, continues his on-air duties from up in Franklin County. Jeff was one of the first contacts we made when we started operations here in Albany. Les, WA2AEA, NNY SM has manned Essex County EOC from the start. And Darry has run operations in Clinton County. I know that notices I have put out have been from the Eastern NY viewpoint, and there are many operators that have been doing long haul duty up in NNY. Since my tasks have been mainly admin and operations under the direction of Tony, WB2BEJ, I have not gotten in much air time at all on this, but when I am in HF earshot, these two calls (K3KYR and WA2AEA) are always prominent. It will be interesting to hear their stories when they finally get the time to tell them.

Things are shaping up in the North Country, however very slowly. Darry finally has power back to his home. Not sure about the phone service. He will continue to be on board at Clinton County EOC.

After speaking to Capt. Ron Lee, head of Disaster Services for the Albany Salvation Army, he tells me that the phase of the operation has begun where they are finally able to honor direct requests--for instance, a request for three generators and two heaters to a shelter. Capt. Lee has been on duty at the NY State Warning Point down at SEMO since the emergency began. And Donna Diviney from Albany Red Cross called me yesterday from Potsdam, NY, where she is stationed, to thank us for our assistance.

Debriefing meetings are being planned, although no dates have been set. There will probably be a couple of meetings, one for local operations here and another for ENY involvement. Here's the reason: When I was paged by the Red Cross on Thursday, January 8, the initial reason was the local flooding in the Capital District. We very quickly became aware of an

escalating situation up North, so in effect we had two operations running at one time in short order. We have come a long way since I handed our Red Cross operator a piece of paper that said "K3KYR 40m." That is what was given to me by Red Cross officials locally when this began.

The list of thanks is endless, but special appreciation goes to Dave Atwell, N2FEP, Saratoga EC (and crew) for his assistance and excellent leadership in Essex County. Also to Pete Rea, WZ2X, who was the first operator I called in. He was the lucky recipient of that scribbled piece of paper from the Red Cross. And also special thanks to Jerry Murray, WA2IWW, and Craig Wood, N2UID, who have logged many hours. Craig has been on board since the operation started. He started his duty in this event at the National Weather Service, and has continued to be a valuable asset down at NY SEMO. Jerry came on board after I gave a little pep talk at one of the local club meetings.

Thanks to all of you for your concern and support. It is greatly appreciated. We will keep you all posted on further developments.

White Plains Fire

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

There was a structure fire in one of the large apartment buildings on South Lexington in White Plains. ARES was requested by the American Red Cross and has been providing communications at the fire scene (shadowing Red Cross and ODES officials), at three local churches being used as service centers, at the White Plains High School being used as a shelter, and at chapter headquarters. Activity is ongoing [on 1/24] but winding down as the service centers are closing down and remaining clients needing housing are transported to the High School.

Thanks to the following hams for coming out in the rain:

N2DHH, N2TWN, N2DB, N2TSE, N2NWZ, N2FMC, N2DVQ, KB2YHT, and WB2NHC.

We did not do a group callup as a sufficient number of operators volunteered on the air.

Reporting Repeater Problems

When you hear a recurring *technical* problem with the repeater system, we ask that you report the problem to the Repeater Operations Director, a WECA board member, or via e-mail to repeater@weca.org.

Remember, if we don't know about a problem, we can't fix it.

January Meeting Notes

by Fuat Baran, N2YGN

The meeting opened with Charlie, KB2LLV, giving out participation awards:

First year (WECA button): KC2AHS, *KC2BFW*, *KC2BFX*, *KC2BFZ*, KC2BGJ, *KC2CPU*, DL9GAV, *KG2NB*, N2SBN, *N2SKP*. (Those italicized were present to accept their awards.)

Second year (laminated WECA plaque): KC2ARX, KB2JKC, KB2WTM, *N2ZRC*.

Third year (mug): none.

Fourth year (folder): KF2QN, KB2SPC, N2YYL.

Fifth year (flashlight): none.

Seventh year: N2NQY.

Tenth year: K2RRR.

Robert, N2TSE, mentioned that WECA received a Certificate of Appreciation from Westchester County Executive O'Rourke for WECA's participation in the New York Philharmonic concert.

Tom, WB2NHC, announced that WECAFEST has been scheduled for March 22.

Shirley, N2SKP, the new ENY Affiliated Clubs Coordinator, announced the renewal of WECA's Special Service Club status.

Shirley also reminded everyone of the ENY Emergency Service net, which meets on 145.25, PL 100 (Northeast Connect) at 8 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Stan, WA2NRV, made a last call for TiCK-2B project participants.

Following the above club business, the night's guest speaker, Gordon West, WB6NOA, was introduced. Gordon made a very lively, informative, and entertaining presentation on the latest in Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Small prizes were flung into the audience in this highly interactive presentation. Gordon had several GPS receivers available for the audience to examine.

Gordon also demonstrated a "pickle-gap" transmitter.



Gordon West, WB6NOA

Photo: N2DB



Julian, WD2ADT, keying the pickle.

Photo: N2DB



Sparks flew when the pickle was keyed up.

Photo: N2DB



Two of the GPS units Gordon had on display.

Photo: N2DB

ERIC

by David S. Dobbins, K7GPS <ddobbins@localaccess.com>

Based on an article sent to the aprssid and homebrew Internet mailing lists on January 13, 1998.

I'm testing and evaluating a nifty little device called an ERIC, short for Electronic Route Information Companion. It's a semi-finished kit (nicely done PCB module) which fits inside a small Radio Shack project box and takes input from a programmable GPS (one that outputs GPRMB, for example Garmin 45, 45XL, II, III, etc, but not the GPS-20 or 30). A speaker plugs into ERIC, then when you approach an inputted waypoint it announces the waypoint audibly, "You are near Exit 7A."

If you program the repeater coverage areas along given routes into the GPS, ERIC will "read" those as well, such as, "Check radio, 146.960 service area."

I assembled ERIC in about an hour tonight. I had confirmation the unit is ready to receive GPS data to read the waypoint or coverage area. I'll configure the GPS input connector tomorrow and install ERIC in my van, which is equipped with a full-time APRS tracker (Garmin 45, KPC-3, data side of TM-V7A).

So far, I'm impressed. The audio is clear. I'll mount the speaker where I can hear it over the car noise, then add more waypoints to commonly driven routes.

I purchased ERIC from Practical Technologies, Ltd, 788 English Oak Court, Westerville, OH 43081 for \$89.95 + \$6.95 S/H. My check was processed quickly and I received my ERIC in about a week. The chap's email address is ptech@ee.net. He has a web page but I've misplaced the site address.

This device supplements my APRS interests nicely.

For APRS enthusiasts with no laptop in the car, but configured for standalone trackers, a new capability of ERIC under development will plot APRS stations on your Garmin GPS's display. I don't have all the details on this yet, but will be testing this new feature shortly. This will be particularly handy for those with the newer GPSs equipped with maps.

Latest Call Signs

As of January 21, 1998, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra)	AB2ES
Group B (Advanced)	KG2NK
Group C	(none left)
Group D (General/Tech/Novice)	KC2CXF

Are You "In the Loop?"

by Stephan Anderman, K2SMA, Editor, *The Hudson Loop*

Club newsletters across the Hudson Division are a wonderful resource, providing a wealth of pertinent information on a broad cross-section of club activities, national and international amateur radio news. But

inherent limitations of space and mail distribution can often impede the flow of fast-breaking amateur radio news. That's why you need to be "In the Loop!"

The Hudson Loop is the first and only newsletter of its kind! Delivered electronically each week, *The Hudson Loop* is offered free to subscribers in the ARRL Hudson Division who want to be kept up-to-date on amateur radio happenings in Newington, Washington, and Geneva, technology news from around the world, and stories on our Hudson Division neighbors in New Jersey, New York, and adjacent areas.

Published each Monday, *The Hudson Loop* reaches nearly 2,500 readers via internet e-mail. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to arrlHUDSON@aol.com and type "SUBSCRIBE HUDSON LOOP" on the subject line. No message text is necessary.

The Hudson Loop rapidly provides essential news of interest to active amateurs residing in the ARRL Hudson Division faster than can be achieved via packet radio or printed means, which serves to keep you in the know and "In the Loop!"

Dobbs Ferry Fire



The Red Cross Van was brought out to the scene of the Dobbs Ferry Fire on December 15. (See the article in [last month's WECAGRAM](#).)

Photo: N2AXO

Southern District Net

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

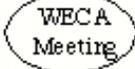
Sessions	31
Total checkins	410
Traffic brought to the net	90
Traffic passed on the net	64
Percent passed	71
Total time	506 minutes



License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, February 12, 1998 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.

February 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 YARC VE Session N. Amer. Sprint (phone)	2  PQ Punxsutawney Area ARC Spec. Event Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7 DE, KS, VT QSO Ten-Ten Winter QSO (Phone)
8 DE, KS, VT QSO Ten-Ten Winter QSO (Phone)	9 DE, KS, VT QSO  WECA Meeting Ten-Ten	10	11  FM Thomas Edison's Birthday	12 WECA VE Session Lincoln's Birthday	13 School Clubs Roundup FISTS Novice	14 YL-OM School Clubs Roundup FISTS Novice Valentine's Day
15 YL-OM School Clubs Roundup FISTS Novice	16 YL-OM School Clubs Roundup FISTS Novice President's Day	17	18	19  LQ	20	21 ARRL Intl. DX (C'W)
22 ARRL Intl. DX (C'W) Washington's Birthday	23  WECA Board Meeting	24 Mardi Gras	25 Ash Wednesday	26  NM	27	28