



THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831

Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

WECA Information Hotline: 914-741-6606

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

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, March 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 is Eastern New York (ENY) Section Manager Robert Leiden, KR2L. The title of his talk will be "Getting Your Receiver to Talk to Your PC."

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Photo: N2TSE

WECA members were recognized at the Greenburgh Town Board meeting. See story inside.



Nominating Committee

by **Anthony Licata, N2NWZ**

A nominating committee consisting of Gene, AA9LA, Mel, N2MEF, and myself was formed at the February membership meeting. Our job is to solicit and present to the membership candidates for officers and directors for the annual election in June. The offices up for election this year are President, Executive Vice President, Vice President/General Counsel, Treasurer, Secretary, Director-at-Large, Public Service Director, Digital Modes Director, Membership Services Director, Public Relations Director, and Newsletter Editor.

If anybody is interested in serving in any of the positions, please contact us. Joe Brown, KB2NBN, has announced that he is not running again for President, so we need a candidate for that office. [The position of Newsletter Editor is also open this year. - Ed.] We would like to get two candidates to run for each office. This is your chance to help the club grow into the future with new ideas and new people.

If you have any questions about any of the duties of the officers and directors, or would like to run for office, please contact me at n2nwz@weca.org, call my phone number listed in the roster, or contact Gene or Mel and let us know of your interest in running for office.

From the Editor

Another year has gone by and once again WECA elections are almost upon us. At the February meeting a nominating committee was formed to solicit candidates. Please consider running for one of the officer or director positions up for election. A little competition for the open positions and a little fresh blood on the board would be very welcome. In particular, Joe Brown, KB2NBN, has announced that he will not be seeking reelection this year, and due to other demands on my time, I will not be seeking another term as *WECAGRAM* editor, so please consider running for these two positions.

This is WECAFEST month. I hope the mild weather holds up and wish you all a great time there. If you haven't volunteered to help staff the event, please do so (see Tom's article in this issue).

73,

Upcoming Public Service Events

by **Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

Mark your calendars for the following spring and summerevents:

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.

Thursday, July 23: New York Philharmonic at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

N2OBY Appointed WECA Secretary

At the February membership meeting, President Joe Brown, KB2NBN, announced that the WECA Executive Board had appointed Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY, Secretary for the remaining term of outgoing Secretary Anthony Licata, N2NWZ. Anthony, citing job commitments, had announced his resignation effective the end of the February meeting.



New Members

by Peter Johnson, N2TFC

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

KA2BRH	Joe Carpentieri	Bronx, NY
KC2CLZ	Dana Hickey	Mt. Kisco, NY
KC2COM	Andrew Weitzner	Hartsdale, NY
KC2CON	Ray Lonergan	White Plains, NY
KC2COR	Angelina Roginski	Yonkers, NY
KC2CPU	Brian Short	Harrison, NY
N1RRA	Peter Braun	Norwalk, CT
N2WAN	Anthony DiMartini, Jr.	Bronx, NY

WECAFEST '98

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Well, it's that time again. WECAFEST will arrive on Sunday, March 22, 1998. Table sales are well ahead of last year, so it looks like another sellout. The bad news is HELP!! I lie, there is no bad news, but your help is needed. Last year, we added over \$8,000 to the treasury. This money funded new equipment for our repeater and packet systems, our communications van and our operating events like Field Day and JOTA. With your continued support, this year promises to be another great one.

As with all worthwhile things, it takes some hard work to make it happen. WECAFEST enjoys a fine reputation in the Amateur Radio community. We draw attendees from Vermont to Pennsylvania and beyond. On Saturday we set up the tables from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.. On Sunday all jobs are arranged in shifts. Although the job lasts all day, a worker only needs to work for one shift. Of course if you want to stay for several shifts, that's fine. Many of us work the entire day. There's always time to stop for a rest or take in the event. Shifts are arranged in 2 or 3 hour segments, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m..

Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, is the recruiter this year. She is calling those who helped out last year to ask for your help again. If you didn't participate last year or just can't wait to volunteer again, you may call Shirley at 914-736-0717 up till 9 p.m. or send email to n2skp@weca.org . If you are a VE, Richard Sandell, WK6R, will be calling you or you can call Richard at 914-337-5552 or send email to him at wk6r@weca.org . You may also call me at 914-769-1486 or send email to wb2nhc@weca.org .

Below is a summary of each of the jobs that needs doing on Saturday and Sunday.

Set Up Tables --On Saturday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. we set up 200 tables on the sales floor. This takes about two hours. The more people we have, the easier it is for everyone. If your back is up to it, please consider helping here.

Take Down Tables --At the end of the event, we must fold all the tables and stack them for pick up. This takes about two hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.. The more people that pitch in, the easier the task. If you're up to it, we sure could use your muscles.

Talk In --6 a.m. to 2 p.m.--This is one of the toughest jobs to fill. You must be very familiar with the roads, be a good communicator and be polite on the air even when others are not. You are the voice of WECA. You do not need to be on site. Talk in can be done from anywhere within the range of the repeater.

Staffing --6 a.m. to 11 a.m.--This person checks in the workers giving them credentials and explaining the assignment. Shirley will be doing this job. She needs assistants and relief.

Vendor Separation --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--This is the first person that the vendors encounter. This person places the vendor on the correct check in line (pre-registered and not registered). The person must be able to deal with vendors in a courteous manner even when they are not courteous

Vendor Check In --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--Check in the vendors and collect money when needed. Again courtesy and smiles are the necessary ingredients.

Vendor Entrance --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--Holds the vendors at the gate until the unloaders are ready for them. You guessed it--keep smiling.

Tailgating --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--Direct vendors to parking spaces. Keep order during the parking. This way *please* !

Vendor Unloading --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--Direct inside vendors to unloading spaces. Keep unloading operation moving. Insure that vehicles are promptly moved out of unloading spaces. Please move your vehicle.

Vendor Escorts --6 a.m. to 9 a.m.--Direct Vendors to their tables as the vendors enter the building. Each escort will have a laborer with a hand truck to carry the vendor's equipment if necessary. Watch the vendors be impressed with our service.

Vendor Security-- 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.--The task here is to prevent shoplifting from our large vendors. Some people will be assigned to specific vendors and some will walk the aisles. Wave at the vendors so they know you're watching.

Admissions-- 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.--This is the general admissions assignment. Yonkers Raceway employees take the money. WECA people greet the customers, hand out door prize tickets and stamp hands. Say good morning to our customers.

Club Sales Table-- 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.--Sell members' equipment. Make somebody's radio dream come true.

Welcome Table-- 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.--WECA welcome table. Provide information about WECA and WECAFEST. Receive returned flyers for mailing list.

Announcer-- 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.--Gets door prize tickets from admissions. Picks winning door prize tickets and announces numbers. Give door prizes to winners. Makes general announcements. These people must be well spoken and speak softly. Too much announcing is not a good thing.

Membership Statistics

by Peter Johnson, N2TFC

As of February 23, 1998:

License Class	Qty	
Novice Class Operators	4	1.4%
Technician Class Operators	98	34.1%
Technician HF Operators	32	11.1%

General Class Operators	38	13.2%
Advanced Class Operators	56	19.5%
Extra Class Operators	59	20.6%
Total	287	100.0%

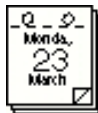
Membership Category	Qty	
Full	199	63.4%
Family	32	10.2%
Senior	28	8.9%
Honorary	7	2.2%
Student	12	3.8%
Student Under 16	4	1.3%
Handicapped	2	0.6%
Associate	2	0.6%
Life	1	0.3%
Other (Clubs, etc.)	27	8.6%
Total	314	100.0%

Laminate It!

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

I am once again reviving the lamination project. If you would like to have a copy of your wallet size FCC license, or anything else that measures a maximum of 2.25" by 3.375" laminated for 50 cents per card, please bring it to me at a membership meeting and I'll return the laminated card to you at the next meeting. Or you can send it to me with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and I'll do it by mail. (Mail it to me at 3 Bryant Crescent, Apt 2I, White Plains, NY 10605.) I also have wallet size WECA Repeater Emergency Access Code cards available.

Advance payment and exact change please.



Next Board Meeting

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

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.

What's an ACC?

by Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, ACC, ARRL ENY Section; AD, ARRL Hudson Divison

Wow! That was a great piece of PR in last month's *WECAGRAM* , introducing me as the new ACC in the ENY Section. Great, you might say, but what's an ACC and where is ENY and why do those League people talk like that?

Ok, here's what I was told: "the ACC (Affiliated Club Coordinator) is the primary contact and resource person for each Amateur Radio club in the section, specializing in motivating, providing assistance and coordinating joint activities of radio clubs."

Now, here's how I interpret that! I've seen over the past few years the difference it can make to an individual or club when people act alone, or in a cooperative venture. Have you ever seen someone trying to move into an apartment by themselves? It's a long and lonely job. You can have satisfaction at the end of the day by sitting in your "castle" and enjoying the view. But change that picture to have friends and neighbors join in--and at the end of the day you've shared experiences and made plans to raise an antenna or have a cookout.

It's the same with ham radio, and amateur radio clubs. It's true that you often get out what you put in, no matter what the picture--whether it be yourself as a single ham, or the club as a whole. Talk to others, share experiences, and you can only learn and grow.

I hope to encourage people and clubs to do that--talk to each other, share ideas--on the air, at club meetings, at community meetings and events.

At the January meeting I distributed a fact sheet listing ARRL affiliated clubs in the Eastern NY Section, with place, time of meetings and a club liaison. (See the next page for a copy of the fact sheet.) If you are able, *Go* to another club meeting. You don't need to be a member to attend a meeting (I attended WECA for two years before joining!). Wear your WECA badge, and introduce yourself to at least one person. Or go to a community meeting or event, wearing your badge. It's amazing how many people will ask you what it means!

Share experiences and ideas with others, and you and your club *will* grow.

ARRL Affiliated ENY Section Club Fact Sheet

Interested in learning more about amateur radio, electronics, computers, communications, public service? Want to attend a meeting? How can you contact a club representative with a question or comment? Here's how to get in touch with these great clubs in the Eastern NY Section!

Adirondack Amateur Radio Club - WB2SCC

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Boy Scouts Bldg, 15 Pearl St., Glens Falls NY,
Jim Johnson, KB2CJX

Albany Amateur Radio Association - K2CT

2nd Friday, 7:45 p.m. except July & August, Colonie Community Ctr, 1653 Central Ave, Colonie

Blue Mountain Middle School Amateur Radio Club - KB2VHH

meets every school day, Montrose, NY
Bill Machonis, AA2NU, 914 896-8392

Communications Club of New Rochelle - K2YCJ

3rd Sunday at 7:00 a.m., Northway Diner, New Rochelle, Richard Sandell, WK6R, rsandell@aura.com

Crystal Radio Club - W2DMC

1st Wednesday except July & August, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockland Fire Training Center,
Steve Koeper, KF2JA, 914 357-0712

Hudson Valley Contesters & DX'ers

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Hudson Bldg, Rt 28 Kingston (varies occasionally)
Peter Dziomba, N2MCI, n2mci@mhv.net

Maple Hill High School Amateur Radio Club

2nd Wednesday, when school is in session, Room 202A, John Kienzle, jkienzle@albany.net

Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club - WR2ABB / 146.97(-)

all Monday nights, 8 p.m., on the 146.97 repeater (100 Hz PL),
Bob Harris, N2BZP, 914-297-4238

Orange County Amateur Radio Club - W2HO

last Friday except July & August, 8 p.m. at the Munger Cottage, Cornwall
Al Avery, KB2WHG, 914 469-9091, kb2whg@frontiernet.net

Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club - WA2MJM / 147.255

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the Hurley Reformed Church, Bill Ferguson, N2VOT, 914 626-0156, n2vot@aol.com

Pearl River DX Association - KB2VKR

1st Thursday, Pearl River Library, Franklin Ave, Pearl River, NY,
Henry Borawski, KB2PFP

Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Club - W2CVT

3rd Tuesday except December, 8pm at the Dutchess County Fire Training Center
Gregg Liguori, WA2JPU, 914-299-0199, vmcf25c@prodigy.com

QSY Society

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the Kent Fire House, Carmel,
Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, 914-736-0717, shirleyd@computer.net

Putnam Emergency and Repeater League / 145.130 PL 114.8

3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. at the Putnam County EOC, Carmel, NY

Ridge Top Amateur Radio Club

3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Country Inn, Rt 2, Krumville
Robert Ridgely, KB2UZZ, kb2uzb@aol.com

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society - KB2UUU

3rd Monday, 7 p.m. except July & August, John L. Edwards School, State St, Hudson NY
Ken Goetz, N2SQW, kenn2sqw@aol.com

Rockland Wireless Radio Club - KB2UYH

1st Thursday, Pearl River Library, Pearl River NY
Tom Bittner, N2ONK

Saratoga County RACES - WA2UMX / 147.00

2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m. at the Wilton Emergency Squad, Dave Atwell, N2FEP, 518-882-6196 / Jim McNight, WA2UMH, 518-695-6462

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association - K2AE / 147.06

1st Monday, 7 p.m. at Schenectady High School
Richard Arthur, WV2F, 518-399-4473, arthurw@aol.com

Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association - WB2CRZ

3rd Wednesday, Schenectady Museum
Wendy Helm, N2XXX, wendysue@global2000.net

Southern Catskill Amateur Radio Society Inc - N2APX

2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m., BOCES, Liberty NY
Robert Clarke, KB2TZY, clarkespl@maila.zelacom.com

Spring Valley Repeater Service Inc - WA2ZAR

meets various places, 8 p.m. in Rockland County
Stanley Teich, K2IRS

Warren County Races Association

2nd Saturday, 9 a.m, SEMO Region II Headquarters, Fox Farm Rd, Queensbury
Tom Harig, KT2M, harig@netheaven.com

Westchester Amateur Radio Association

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. at the Red Cross, White Plains, George Berger, N2UJI, 914-699-3524

Westchester Emergency Communication Association - WB2ZII / 147.06 PL 114.8

2nd Monday except July & August at the Westchester County Center, White Plains
Joe Brown, KB2NBN, 914-699-4318 / Peter Johnson, N2TFC, 914-235-9194

Yonkers Amateur Radio Club - W2YRC / 146.865

2nd Sunday, 9 a.m. at the 1st Police Precinct, Yonkers
Robert Newman, WA2IES, 914-359-6147 / Ray Nahl, WA2ZPD, 914-761-4661

Some clubs have their own home pages on the Web and can be found easily through links at the ENY Home Page and Hudson Division Homepage at <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org> .



Another Fire

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

The second major fire in White Plains, NY in three weeks involved an apartment building on February 10th. The Westchester County Chapter of the American Red Cross called on Westchester County ARES for communications assistance. Hams shadowed Red Cross officials and provided communications at the Chapter headquarters and a shelter set up at the White Plains High School.

Thanks to the following ARES members who participated directly: Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, Anthony Licata, N2NWZ, Adam Epstein, N2DHH, Dwight Smith, N2FMC, Robert Kantor, N2TSE, and Joseph Bruno, WB2VVS. David Weiss, N2OGK, Stan Rothman, WA2NRV, Bob Wilson, N2DVQ, and others made themselves available but were not called upon.

Westchester County ARES/RACES is a joint group with over 100 members, which primarily serves the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services in the Department of Public Safety and the American Red Cross, Westchester County Chapter. Two members of the group-- Dwight Smith, N2FMC, ARES AEC and Repeater Operations Director for the Westchester Emergency Communications Association and Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, ARES DEC for Southern ENY, and RACES Radio Officer--along with many volunteer fire and EMS personnel, were awarded citations for their help in the Northern New York ice storm recovery, by Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano at a ceremony at Westchester Community College on Wednesday, February 11, 1998.

More information about Westchester County ARES/RACES can be found at <http://www.weca.org/ares.html>



Southern District Net

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

Sessions	31
Total checkins	428
Traffic brought to the net	65
Traffic passed on the net	55
Percent passed	85
Total time	428 minutes

Greenburgh Recognizes WECA Members

by **Bill Hertwig, N2QZB**

On Wednesday, January 28th, at the Greenburgh Town Board Meeting, Town Supervisor Paul Feiner officially recognized WECA and its members for their efforts in providing special event and emergency communications services to the community. At the meeting, which the entire WECA membership was invited to attend, Mr. Feiner gave each WECA member who was a Greenburgh area resident, as well as each WECA board member, a special Certificate of Appreciation.



Photo: N2TFC

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner and WECA President Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Latest Call Signs

As of February 26, 1998, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra)	AB2EY
Group B (Advanced)	KG2NR
Group C	(none left)
Group D (General/Tech/Novice)	KC2DBG

WECA-WEAR

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

WECA what? Some people call them uniforms, we call them WECA-WEAR. The Executive Board has authorized a new line of clothing that can carry our logo and name. We will show the entire line at the March meeting and take orders. Delivery will be in time for our spring events and maybe even for WECAFEST (can't promise that one).

There are two jackets, three shirts, a pullover and a hat. Here's the line up:

All shirts and jackets will have a WECA emblem embroidered on the left breast and your first name and callsign embroidered on the right breast.

As an option, the words "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS" can be printed on the backs of the shirts or jackets. We recommend that all jackets have this printed on the back.

Hats are Navy Blue with a WECA emblem embroidered on the front and your call sign on the back.

Also, you may supply a garment and have the emblem, name, call sign and "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS" applied. The garment must conform to the look of the items below. That is, jackets and pullover sweatshirts must be Navy Blue, shirts must be White. Epaulets, sewn in seams and patch pockets are not permitted.

Lightweight Jacket --Navy Blue, Nylon Windbreaker. Cotton lining, outside two front slash pockets, snap front. As an option, two inside pockets can be added to carry your HT and papers. Sizes M to XL, plus XXL and XXXL.

Hooded Survival Parka --Navy Blue, shell of 80% polyester, 20% cotton poplin with Teflon. Thinsulate thermal insulation, nylon lining. Three patch pockets, two lower double entry pockets. One vertical zipper map/HT pocket. Concealed zipper and removable hood. Sizes S to XL, plus XXL and XXXL.

Golf Shirt --White, short sleeve, with or without left breast pocket. 50% cotton, 50% polyester Sizes M to XXL.

Tailored Shirt --White *short sleeve* button front, button down collar, left breast pocket. 60% cotton, 40% polyester. Sizes M to XXL.

Tailored Shirt --White *long sleeve* button front, button down collar, left breast pocket. 60% cotton, 40% polyester. Sizes M to XXL.

Pullover Sweatshirt --Navy Blue, long sleeve, medium weight, 100% polyester fleece. Half zipper front, with left chest pocket. Sizes M to XXL.

Hat --Navy Blue baseball style cap. One size fits all.

All of the clothing will be demonstrated at the March 9, 1998 WECA meeting and I will be taking orders at that time. You must pay in full when placing the order. If you can't attend the meeting, you can use the order form below. Send the order form and full payment to me (544 Manhattan Ave., Thornwood, NY 10594) before March 10, 1998. Checks should be made out to me. I will place the order on March 10, 1998. Delivery is expected by April 1, 1998.

Item	Size	Price	XXL-XXXL Add \$5	Inside Pockets Add \$5	E.C. on Back Add \$3	Quantity	Item Total
Lightweight Jacket		\$40					
Hooded Survival Parka		\$60					
Golf Shirt		\$15					
Tailored Shirt, Short Sleeve		\$20					
Tailored Shirt, Long Sleeve		\$25					
Pullover Sweatshirt		\$40					
Hat		\$15					
Embroidery on Provided Garment		\$7					
Name:		Call sign:			Total		
Home Phone:					<i>Date Paid:</i>		<i>Check #:</i>
Name to Embroider:							

For Sale

Henry 2K-X console
 KLM 40M rotatable dipole, KLM KT-34A,
 Yaesu FT-811(440 rig),
 Larsen 440 base station antenna,
 Ringo Ranger 2m base station antenna,
 DTMF auto-call, Dumb terminal,
 Optoelectronics interceptor,
 Low pass filters(#2)

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

March 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 YARC VE Session	2	3	4	5 ☾ FQ	6	7 ARRL Intl. DX (Phone)
8 ARRL Intl. DX (Phone)	9 WECA Meeting	10	11	12	13 ☉ FM	14 QCWA QSO WI MO QSO
15 QCWA QSO WI MO QSO	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 1st Day of Spring	21 ☾ LQ AK, VA QSO
22 WECAFEST AK, VA QSO	23 WECA Board Meeting	24	25	26	27	28 ● NM
29	30	31	1	2	3	4