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THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831

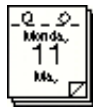
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

WECA Information Hotline: 914-741-6606

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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 22, Issue 5 May 1998



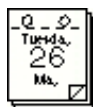
Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 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 speakers are William A. (Liam) Murphy, Director of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management, and Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, the new ARRL Section Traffic Manager for ENY.

Liam will discuss the upcoming Indian Point Drills, including the June drill which will be attended by FEMA. He will also provide a brief overview of radiological training.

Pete will discuss traffic handling.



Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.

Note: This month's meeting is on Tuesday. Monday is Memorial Day.



Radiological Training

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

Liam Murphy will provide an overview of radiological training for RACES participation in the Indian Point disaster plan at the May 11th WECA meeting. All ARES/RACES members are encouraged to attend.

In-depth training for those interested in qualifying for the Field Monitoring Teams will be given the evening of May 6th with a second date of May 19th only if needed. If you are interested in this additional training, please let me know ASAP.



Photo: KD6IRE

N2SKP and KB2NBN at WECAFEST

From the Editor

The next few months are chock full of public service events, from walkathons to Indian Point drills. If you haven't volunteered yet, please contact Robert Kantor, N2TSE, or Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, and help WECA do what it does best. And while you have your date book out, don't forget to pencil in Field Day at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck, on Saturday and Sunday June 27-28.

A few board positions are still lacking candidates in the upcoming elections. Please consider running for one of these positions. Please contact Anthony, N2NWZ, Gene, AA9LA, or Mal, N2MEF if you're interested, or know of someone who is.

73,

Spectrum Protection Bill Introduced

ARRL Bulletin 22 (ARLB022), March 30, 1998

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably" provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure.

The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572:>

Correction

YARC meetings start at 10:30 a.m., with a social half hour at 10 a.m. (not 9 a.m.), second Sunday of the month at the Yonkers Police 1st Precinct.

March Board Meeting Minutes

8:08 p.m.--Meeting called to order by Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

In Attendance: N2OBY, N2TFC, N2AMP, WA2NRV, N2SKP, N2YGK, N2TSE, N2DVQ, N2FMC, N2TJE, KB2NBN, N2OGK, N2SF.

Reports

Dave Weiss, N2OGK (vice-president):

Commented on the positive reaction to the speakers at the APRS seminar during WECAFEST 98.

Made a request for suggestions regarding guest speakers. He had two lined up at the time of the meeting.

Shirley, N2SKP, offered to provide some names/topics. She also suggested another APRS speaker.

Sandy, N2SF, said he has a speaker for the first week in May.

Andy Farber, N4OOX (treasurer):

Submitted final report for 1997.

WECAFEST 98 - Due to weather, only 771 paid admissions at gate. The hamfest only generated revenues of about \$2,000.00, vs. \$10,000.00 projected. Club only cleared \$300.00 (Possible \$500.00 more forthcoming).

The question was raised as to how there could be expenses of \$8,000.00. A rough breakdown of expenses followed: Rent \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00, Security \$750.00, Tables \$2,000.00, Printing \$900.00, Postage \$1,400.00, etc...

Stated that "We're going to have to watch it." Hopes for a "comeback" after August WECAFEST.

Commented that the loss due to WECAFEST ate up most of the surplus. Reminded board that club should strive to maintain a minimum of \$5,000.00.

Sandy Fried, N2SF (county liason):

Went over upcoming drills. (See page 7.)

Bob Wilson, N2DVQ (engineering):

Reported that the repeater had stopped functioning for half-an-hour during WECAFEST, requiring a reset. He stated that this incident emphasizes the need to upgrade the system. Currently no work is planned.

Dwight, N2FMC, related that one reported incident of the repeater malfunctioning was actually the result of a user's faulty radio.

The two-meter antenna on the tower at the main site is loose again, in turn affecting the UHF repeater. He asked Sandy, N2SF, to have the county check the bracket during the next tower inspection.

Sandy replied that Mid-State, a private company, is now servicing the tower, but that he would forward the request.

Stan, WA2NRV, asked about the drop-outs on the repeater during the WECAFEST talk-in/talk-out. Bob, N2DVQ and Dwight, N2FMC, replied that this was due to a TWIT.

Peter Johnson, N2TFC (membership):

Reported that membership has decreased to approximately 285 members.

Question: Which is a greater source of inquiries, the Internet site or the voicemail system? N2TFC: "The reflector (60% of all inquiries). People are choosing the web over the phone. Use of the phone line is rarer."

Question: Is Darlana, N2DB/Southern District Net sending traffic to new hams? N2TFC: "Yes, but sometimes she cannot if Fuat (Baran, N2YGN) is delayed in forwarding information." (SDN had passed 16 pieces of traffic for new/upgraded hams.)

Question: What is the feasibility of an online membership application? N2TFC: "The details need to be worked out, but a PDF (Portable Document Format) conversion is progressing."

Peter stated that the WECA telephone line was advertised through the website, the *WECAGRAM* and by word of mouth.

Shirley, N2SKP pointed out the benefits of advertising, including supplying information to Radio Shack and other stores. Dave, N2OGK replied that it was a good idea. Dwight, N2FMC, suggested the Pennysaver, as well as bumper stickers. Joe, KB2NBN, stated that items are being submitted, but not published.

While attributing most of the attrition to new hams, Peter went on to say that the combination of "...youth and new hams" has resulted in the popularity of the website over traditional means of advertising/recruiting.

Robert Kantor, N2TSE (public service):

Went over the list of upcoming events.

Ken Gross, N2OBY (secretary):

Requested that all officers and directors submit their correct addresses as apparently some members have an outdated Executive Board roster.

Agenda Items:

Alan Crosswell, N2YGK:

Reported that Rich Benda, WB2QJA, had ordered a radio for the APRS digipeater.

APRS QSY to 144.39 MHz. Should a pre-QSY announcement be made? He would check with Rich.

Opposed to the frequency change, KD1DU has suspended his APRS operation; taking the position that the new frequency is too close to AM and weak-signal inputs.

Proposed idea of stand-alone trackers for sweep-buses during public service events. Has investigated purchase. Each unit would consist of a GPS unit, TNC, 2-meter radio, antenna and gel cells. A ballpark figure for each unit was \$1,000.00.

Concerns about the use of an unattended unit were voiced. Dwight, N2FMC, stated that he believed it was legally OK since the units would be considered "An automatic station sending telemetry."

There followed a brief discussion of the effectiveness of APRS to date.

Shirley, N2SKP, suggested the possibility of club members serving as guest speakers, especially regarding APRS.

Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP:

Stressed the need for up-to-date email addresses and the need to correct those which are no longer valid. Pointed out that email is very helpful for the dissemination of information and augments the telephone. It can be used to recruit, alert and prepare. Joe, KB2NBN, replied that the club already performs these functions.

In her role as the ARRL's ENY ACC (Affiliated Club Coordinator), she is currently working to expand the communication between clubs. She is also collecting information regarding club officers from the surrounding area. Joe, KB2NBN, stated that this had been tried several years ago, resulting in only one response. He also added that a 3% response to direct-mail advertising is considered great.

Shirley volunteered to collect and collate information from the club members, and was requesting input from others.

Shirley finished by encouraging the wearing of club IDs at meetings, as this would primarily benefit new/prospective members.

Other Business:

Stan Rothman, WA2NRV: "Would WECA be holding a General/Advanced licensing class?" He was asked to direct that question to Darlana, N2DB, Education Director (not present).

Liam Murphy, Director of the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES), discussed the upcoming Indian Point drill.

Stan, WA2NRV, asked about conducting a

First Aid & CPR refresher session. Joe, KB2NBN, replied that it could be done, but will incur a cost to each participant. It may be possible for Peter Cann at the American Red Cross to provide the training at cost, but the participants would still have to pay for materials.

10:26 p.m.--Motion to adjourn by Joe, KB2NBN. Second by Ken, N2OBY.

Respectfully submitted by Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY.

April Meeting Minutes

4/13/98 8:18 p.m.--Meeting called to order by Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Charlie, KB2LLV, helped Joe, KB2NBN, present participation awards:

Joe, KB2NBN, stated that he was ready to appoint an election committee. He explained the duties of the committee and asked for volunteers. The three volunteers were Bill Hertwig, N2QZB, (Chairman), Dana Hickey, KC2CLZ, and Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP.

Nominating Committee Chairman Anthony, N2NWZ, reported that as of the meeting, the following offices

still were without nominations: President, Newsletter Editor and Membership Director. The remaining officers were all running for reelection except for Public Relations Director, which is being sought by both Darlana, N2DB and Stan, WA2NRV.

Shirley, N2SKP, announced a proposed bill in Congress, backed by the ARRL and of bi-partisan support, called the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act." The bill would protect amateur radio frequencies from reallocation without providing for replacement. She distributed a letter which amateurs can send to their representatives in Congress.

Dave Weiss, N2OGK, introduced the evenings' guest speaker: Sam Daskam, K1POK, of Information Security Associates, Inc., Stamford, CT. The title of his talk was "Electronic Eavesdropping and Counter-Intelligence."

Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, gave a short talk - "What Is Public Service In Westchester County?" In his presentation, Tom described the organization of the county's volunteer radio organizations: ARES/RACES/WECA. He discussed how Westchester is unique in that all three groups are treated as a single entity. Tom also illustrated how the ARES/RACES roster of over one-hundred names is organized by geographic area. He then distributed a handout prepared by Alan, N2YGK, listing the upcoming public service events (see page 7).

Robert, N2TSE, announced that a training session for public service/Indian Point operations would be held during the coming Wednesday's ARES/RACES training net. He requested volunteers for the upcoming public service events.

Joe Bruno, WB2VVS, mentioned that the Rockland County Bicentennial Riverfest is looking for ham volunteers during the three-day event. Participants will receive T-shirts.

Jeanne Raffaelli, N2NQY, thanked those club members who helped during the snowstorm at WECAFEST.

Joe, KB2NBN, reiterated the need for candidates.

10:10 p.m.--Motion to adjourn made by Joe Brown, KB2NBN. Second by Dave Weiss, N2OGK

Respectfully submitted by Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY.

K2SMA to Resign ENY Section Positions

From *The Hudson Loop* , April 6, 1998.

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ARRL Eastern New York Section Manager Rob Leiden, KR2L, has accepted the resignation of Stephan M Anderman, K2SMA, as ENY Bulletin Manager effective May 1, and as ENY Public Information Coordinator effective July 1. Anderman opted to stay on as PIC through completion of promotional efforts for this year's Field Day event and other related activities.

KR2L has announced that Ed Rubin, N2JBA, of Amenia, New York, will be appointed to take over section Bulletin Manager duties on May 1. Anderman's replacement as Public Information Coordinator has not been announced.

K2SMA was named ENY Bulletin Manager in 1993 and has served as Public Information Coordinator for nearly six years. His *CDARC Bulletins* service has aired on a dozen Albany-area repeaters since 1990. Anderman is executive producer of the national *This Week in Amateur Radio* bulletin service and editor of

The Hudson Loop .

Ed Rubin, N2JBA, is active with several of the "downstate" clubs in the section, including The QSY Society. He has been active in promoting the ENY Section Convention, the Mt Beacon Hamfests, and other club and section activities. Rubin has also been instrumental in the airing of *Newsline* and *ARRL Audio News* each Monday evening on the 146.97 Mt Beacon repeater.

KL7JCQ New ENY SEC

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

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Akasofu, KL7JCQ, as Eastern New York Section Emergency Coordinator, effective Friday, April 3, 1998. Ken succeeds Tony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, who held the position for nearly a decade. Tony is retiring to provide an opportunity for ENY leaders to gain experience in senior section positions and bring new amateurs into the organization. Similar changes have taken place recently in other ENY staff positions. Tony has our thanks for years of dedicated service.

Ken, an Amateur Extra-Class licensee, is 32 years old and has been a ham for 22 years. He is employed as a programmer for the IBM Corporation. Ken has 11 years experience in public service and is a licensed Volunteer Examiner ('91-Present). He was Educational Director at Harvey Mudd ARC (Los Angeles area), President of Case ARC (Cleveland, OH), Recording Secretary for the Mt. Beacon ARC ('91-'93), Chairman of the Mt. Beacon Hamfests in Poughkeepsie, NY ('92-Present), Co-chair of the 1997 ENY Convention and most recently has been the Emergency Coordinator for Dutchess County ARES.

Ken is an outstanding radio amateur and emergency communications leader, and I consider myself both honored and fortunate to have him join the ENY team. Please join me in congratulating him on his new appointment.

John MoDavis, KA2VZX, SK

by **Lester W Quackenbush, KB2ZHF**

From *The Hudson Loop* , April 20, 1998

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As many of you may know by now, those of us on the Suffolk County VHF NTS Voice Net lost our good friend and Elmer a few weeks ago. John MoDavis, KA2VZX, passed away on Sunday, March 29, at the age of seventy-five, due to complications from a number of long-term ailments. He left behind his wife as well as his grown children and grandchildren. As word of John's passing spread via packet radio and various other forms of amateur communications, messages of condolence were received from across the United States as well as from people in foreign countries who knew of John's work in the NTS. I am sure John would have been pleased to know how many of us, from near and far, that his work had touched. May he rest in peace.

ARRL Asks FCC to Support Voluntary Band Plans

From the *ARRL Letter Online* , April 10, 1998.

Following up on action taken at the January ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, the League has formally asked the FCC to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." In a request for a declaratory ruling filed April 3, the League asks the FCC to affirm that amateur operation that conflicts with

established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would violate FCC rules.

Specifically, the League wants the Commission to confirm that hams should be familiar with--and should abide by--voluntary band plans applicable to the bands they operate and to state that those who don't operate in harmony with those plans are not operating "in accord with good amateur practice." The League's filing builds on a 1983 declaration by the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau that simplex operation on a recognized repeater frequency was contrary to good amateur practice.

The League argues that a declaratory ruling that provides clear support for accepted voluntary band plans would highlight the importance of band plans in the amateur community and set "a standard of cooperative behavior which is expected of licensees." It also would make it easier to resolve interference complaints without having to resort to FCC action, the petition said.

The League requests the Commission "at an early date" declare that good amateur practice "anticipates compliance with the accepted voluntary international, national, and regional band plans adopted by cooperation and coordination" within the Amateur Radio Service. A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>. (38,902 bytes, requires Adobe Acrobat viewer.)

Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon

by **Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

Twenty-one hams participated in the Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon at Rye Playland on Sunday April 19, 1998. My thanks to all of you: N2s TSE, AMP, UXJ, TWN, TJE, SF, OBY, FMC, and QZB; KC2s DDI, BFX, BFW, and ARX; KG2s KO and NB; KF2QO, WB2LNB, WA2NRV, KB2NBN, W2/DL9GAV, and W2RWR.

The Ian Varley Fund

by **Brenda Lee Spagna, N2TTO**

Ian Varley, N2XUB, a local Amateur Radio Operator is in need of our assistance. Ian, who has suffered with epileptic seizures since childhood, is suffering from failing eyesight and frequent seizures. With the help of "Sheppy's for Dogs," a puppy is being trained to act as Ian's companion and come to his aid in time of an epileptic seizure by pressing an alarm pedal which will be placed in his home. This pup will also stay by his side till help arrives.

Having a dog like this will give Ian back his independence so he can go back to enjoying his club meetings, and helping out with radio communications with the various charity events that he has been so active in, in the past.

The price of this dog is \$4,300; any help Ian and his parents can get financially to help pay for the dog, would truly be appreciated. All donations would go directly to "Sheppy's for Dogs" marked as the "Ian Varley Fund" and are tax deductible .

On behalf of Ian Varley his friends are asking you to please make a donation and help this young man who has always tried to help others in the past.

For more information about the Ian Varley Fund, you can contact me:
Brenda Lee Spagna

914-471-7571. pager: 914-465-3378

e-mail kf2sb@bestweb.net

or to send a donation directly to the fund:

Ian Varley Fund
c/o Sheppy's Disability Dogs Inc.
125 Marie Drive
Clarksville, TN 37042

FEMA Offers Online Courses

From the *ARRL Letter Online* , April 3, 1998.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a series of self-taught courses that might be of interest to amateurs involved in public service disaster response. Course titles include Emergency Program Manager: An Orientation to the Position; Emergency Preparedness, USA; Radiological Emergency Management; Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation; A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance; and Basic Incident Command System.

Course materials are provided as Adobe Acrobat PDF files. See <http://www.fema.gov/emi/ishome.htm> for details on how to enroll.

Latest Call Signs

As of April 23, 1998, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra)	AB2FE
Group B (Advanced)	KG2OE
Group C	(none left)
Group D (General/Tech/Novice)	KC2DKL

Southern District Net

Darlana Mayo, N2DB, net manager of the Southern District Net, reports March SDN stats as follows:
Sessions 31

Total checkins	449
Traffic brought to the net	97
Traffic passed on the net	94
Percent passed	97
Total time	514 minutes

Darlana wishes to thank Assistant Net Manager Alessandro, N2TWN, for all the work he has done.

For Sale

One 486 DX66 computer with 4 Mb RAM, 14.4 modem, a Canon bubble jet black-and-white printer, and a set of speakers. Makes a great starter computer.

One Kenwood 241 2-meter radio, in the box.

Best offer. Contact Fran, N2OLU.

May 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 ● NM	27	28	29	30	1 May Day	2 CT, MA QSO Ten-Ten (CW)
3 ● FQ YARC VE Session CT, MA QSO Ten-Ten (CW)	4	5	6 National Nurses Day	7 Skywam Training	8	9 ARRL VHF/UHF IN, NV, OR QSO
10 ARRL VHF/UHF IN, NV, OR QSO Mother's Day	11 ○ FM WECA Meeting	12 Indian Pt. MS 1	13 Indian Pt. Field Monitoring Training Jefferson's Birthday	14	15	16 ARRL VHF/UHF/ 50 MHz Armed Forces Day
17	18 Victoria Day (Canada)	19 ● LQ	20	21	22 Indian Pt. Eastchester Rcpt. Ctr training	23 TX QSO Rockland Bicentennial Riverfest
24 TX QSO Rockland Bicentennial Riverfest	25 ● NM Rockland Bicentennial Riverfest Memorial Day (Observed)	26 WECA Board Meeting IP Eastchester Rcpt. Ctr drill	27	28	29	30 Memorial Day
31	1	2 ● FQ	3	4	5	6