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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

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

Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 22, Issue 6 June 1998



Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 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.

Tom, WB2NHC, will discuss the upcoming Field Day event.



License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, June 11, 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.



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Field Day

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Ahh! Field Day at Harbor Island. Sunny skies, good food, friendly faces, and good DX. That's what's on tap for June 27 and 28, 1998.

Plans are moving along nicely for our joint Field Day with the Westchester Amateur Radio Association (WARA). We will have four HF stations (two CW and two SSB), a VHF station, a novice station and a packet station. Does anyone want to do a natural power or satellite station? Check the June QST for the rules. The more the merrier.

We have station captains for four of our seven stations so jump in if you want to organize a station. The station captain's job is to be sure that all equipment needed for the station is supplied. It does not mean that the captain must supply it himself or herself; just be sure it is there. If you would like to supply equipment, we will be making a list at the June meeting.

The chefs are signing up as well. If your talents are culinary why not show off a little for your friends? You don't need to supply the food, just cook it.

So come to the June meeting and hear all about it.

CQ Field Day, CQ FD. 4A ENY, 4A ENY. See you all at Field Day: June 27 & 28, Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck!

From the Editor

With this issue, my term as editor of the *WECAGRAM* comes to an end. Due to other demands on my time, I am not seeking reelection. Thanks to everyone (see below) who submitted material for publication in the past 24 issues of the newsletter. I only wish more WECA members had written too (only 12% of the membership are listed below--and many were frequent contributors). I wish the new editor (presently undetermined) lots of luck and hope you continue to support and contribute to *your* newsletter.

June is going to be a busy month, with all the Indian Point Drills. And to cap it all, there's Field Day. Hope to see you all at Harbor Island Park!

73,

Contributors

I'd like to thank everyone who wrote or submitted items for the *WECAGRAM* during my tenure as editor these past two years:

Ray Albanese, N2FXU
Richard Benda, WB2QJA
Joe Brown, KB2NBN
Alan Crosswell, N2YGK
Ron Devenuti, N2TJE

Will Austen, N2UXJ
Arte Booten, N2ZRC
Joe Bruno, WB2VVS
Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP
Adam Epstein, N2DHH

Sandy Fried, N2SF
Bill Hertwig, N2QZB
Robert Kantor, N2TSE
Fran Lasorsa, N2OLU
George Manning, K2RRR
Darlana Mayo, N2DB
Charles Patterson, N2AXO
Stan Rothman, WA2NRV
Bob Shore, KB2WQB
Allan Sniffen, WB2IXR
Russ Stevenson, N2AMP
Bob Wilson, N2DVQ

Kenneth Gross, N2OBY
Peter Johnson, N2TFC
J.P. Kleinhaus, W2XX
Anthony Licata, N2NWZ
Edward Maselli, KB2NBO
Emily Maytan, AC2V
Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC
Ed Rubin, N2JBA
Alessandro Sicilia, N2TWN
April Stack, K2ZCZ
David Weiss, N2OGK
Stan Zak, K2SJO

My apologies if I inadvertently left anyone out. I couldn't have done it without you all.

Upcoming Public Service Events

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

Mark your calendars for the following:

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

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

Friday, September 25 Sunday, September 27: Multiple Sclerosis Wheel & Rock to Woodstock Bike Tour, Sullivan County.



Now You're Operating

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Our summer seminars have become a tradition. The famous WECA Elmer Corps reveals all its operating secrets and provides a night of fun and learning for all Amateur Radio operators. This year the seminar will be held at the Westchester County Center on Monday, July 13, 1998 starting at 8 p.m.

Topics to be covered include proper repeater operating practice, HF operating, contesting, mobile installation, QSL bureaus and many more. The elmers will answer your questions about anything in Amateur Radio and a fun time will be had by all. Come join us and invite everyone you talk to.



WECAFEST Mailing Party

by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Summer WECAFEST will take place on Sunday, August 30, 1998 at Yonkers Raceway. This is an all outdoor tailgating event. Vendors are admitted starting at 6 a.m. and buyers are admitted at 8 a.m.

Our main advertising effort is the mailing of flyers to ten thousand of our closest friends. The mailing party will take place on Saturday, July 11, 1998 starting at 10 a.m. at the American Red Cross located at 106 North Broadway in White Plains. If you would like to help with the mailing, please sign up at the June meeting or call Tom Raffaelli at 914-769-1486.

Camporee

by **Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

The Boy Scouts' 1998 Westchester/Putnam Camporee was held at Croton Point Park on Saturday, April 25. WECA brought the Red Cross Communications Van to the event and was on the air on 2 meters and HF.

Many Boy Scout troops came by to see the equipment, say "hi" on the WECA repeater, see the HF station in action, and send a little CW.

WECA communicators at the event were N2TSE, WB2NHC, N2AXO, K2ZVI and N2YGN.

Six Months Later

by **Darlana D. Mayo, N2DB, Education Director**

Six months has passed since WECA taught its first ever No Code Technician weekend class. How are the graduates doing? What about the non-graduates? Let the members do the talking.

"I love [ham radio], it's a beautiful hobby," says Charles Daescher, KC2COP, of New York City. "A lot of people are on it. I'm meeting more and more people in my area who I never knew were licensed. I made many friends," he further continues. Charles is a member of NYC ARES and WECA, and has participated in public service events.

In his military days, Irving Burstein, KC2COL, of the Bronx, learned Morse code. When he took the Technician theory, he passed the 20 WPM code with flying colors. Shortly thereafter, he upgraded to General. He enjoyed the winter in Florida with his new privileges.

"It's convenient and rewarding," says Angelina Roginski, KC2COR, of Yonkers. "I've learned something new and gotten more involved in electronics," she states. Angelina has added to her companionship with John N2GGY. "We communicate better," she adds. Angelina has also joined WECA and helped out with WECAFest.

Ted Fisch, New York State's State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), Region One Coordinator, received his Novice theory credit. He has set up a ham radio station with assistance from local hams. The Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Club (PARC) now meets regularly in the SEMO office. "Amateur radio is a wonderful service. It's a positive reflection of society," Ted says. Further commenting, "It provides extraordinarily valuable service to society. The average community doesn't understand what amateur radio does in emergencies." Ted intends to make ham radio an "integral part of providing emergency communications in a disaster."

The above are but a few of the comments made from the class participants. All intend to upgrade and those who did not receive their licenses are still very much interested, have attended some WECA and other

clubs' meetings, and have taken part in some events.

Lessons were learned from the first weekend course and some adjustments will be made in future classes so that the material can be digested more easily.

Efforts are in progress to develop an elmer program, a mentor program for youth in school, further Technician courses, and upgrade classes. More information will be forthcoming.

Wheel & Rock to Woodstock

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

WECA has been asked to help provide communications for the Multiple Sclerosis two-day bike tour in Sullivan County, called Wheel & Rock to Woodstock. This non-WECA event will take place on Friday, September 25 through Sunday September 27, 1998.

Sullivan County RACES will be handling communications at rest stops, will be net control, and will provide some communicators in vehicles, but they need about 17 more hams from outside the area to help out in other vehicles and positions.

Rooms and meals will be provided to volunteer communicators. You must bring your HT and mobile rig capable of at least 35W output, mag-mount antenna, power cables (to vehicle battery), extra batteries, charger, headset, clipboard, pad, pen, etc. Also bring clothes for all sorts of weather (hot, cold, rain, snow) and a thermos for hot or cold beverages.

If you would like more information, please call me in the evenings at 914-949-4231. First come, first served. This event is a lot of fun.

March of Dimes WalkAmerica

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

Fourteen hams participated at the March of Dimes Walkathon held in Mt. Kisco on Sunday, April 26, 1998: N2s TSE, YYL, OBY, QZB, AMP, TWN, TJE, UXJ, NWZ; WB2s BTJ, IAE, NHC; KC2CPU; and KA2CFB.

I received a letter from the Director of WalkAmerica, thanking the WECA volunteers (see next column).

See also the photos on this page.

Dear WECA Volunteers

from Jacqueline Corbitt

Director of WalkAmerica.

Hello! Thank you all for all of your help at this year's 28th Anniversary WalkAmerica event. While we had awful weather, we still had a great turnout and I hope you enjoyed the day.

The day could not have run so smoothly without your help with our communications! I'm excited to let you know that with more money coming in every day, we are looking forward to exceeding \$1,000,000 in our

chapter area. This is terrific news for our Campaign for Healthier Babies, aimed at reducing the devastating rates of low birthweight, birth defects and infant death.

I look forward to working with you on the 1999 WalkAmerica, which will be held on Sunday, April 25th. Let's hope for a sunny day and together we can continue to save America's babies.



Robert Kantor, N2TSE, at WalkAmerica

Photo: N2TFC



Russ Stevenson, N2AMP

Photo: N2TFC



Frank Fabozzi, WB2BTJ, in the Comm Van.

Photo: N2TFC



Indian Point Drills

by Joe Bruno, WB2VVS

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to participate (and/or already operated) in the Indian Point drills. This is probably the most important thing we do for our county, from their perspective.

As you probably know, this year the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Emergency Management Office are overlooking the drills. This is an opportunity for us to show our skills and capabilities locally.

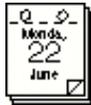
During the first drill, after we communicated with the SEMO "bunker" in Albany via 75 meters, 2 meters

(via repeater), packet, and state radio, the NYS Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Radio Officer complimented us on our capabilities. Those little upgrades we do throughout the year do pay off in our emergency capabilities. The fact that the county now uses a ham repeater as the main communications means for the field monitoring teams is yet another demonstration of this.

On occasion, one might be assigned to a "slow" area. While it may not feel like you are doing anything important, the demonstration of the ability to man that area is, and probably contributes more to the future of ham radio than you might imagine. As technology advances, we will find ourselves utilized in new and different ways. This is one of the purposes of amateur radio, as are providing communications during emergencies, and providing a pool of trained operators.

A word about prolonged "real" emergencies: If a real disaster should occur in our area, we would need communications for an extended period of time. Do you have sufficient batteries for a three or four day operation? If not, perhaps consider as a future "toy" some means of charging batteries. (Generator, solar array, or even a windmill, etc.) I keep a stock of AA batteries for such a purpose. (My HT can use them.)

If you haven't volunteered yet, the drills present a wonderful opportunity. All participants *must* have the appropriate photo ID card. (Contact Sandy, N2SF, for one.)



Next Board Meeting

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

ICOM's Funmobile Visits Ham Central

ICOM America, Inc. heads to Ham Central in Poughkeepsie, NY on Saturday, June 13 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. with its amateur (ham), avionic, land mobile (business band), marine and communications scanner and receiver equipment.

Meet ICOM's biggest rig yet! The ICOM Funmobile is over 29 feet of rolling ham shack and other ICOM communications gear. Whether you're a pilot, boater, public safety worker, ham, avid SWL listener, or wannabe of any of the above, this is one bus you won't want to miss! There will be an open house and opportunity to work the Funmobile's radio gear.

For more information call Jack at 914-462-0415.



ICOM's Funmobile



Southern District Net

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

Sessions	30
Total checkins	351
Traffic brought to the net	128
Traffic passed on the net	122
Percent passed	95
Total time	560 minutes

League Calls Members to Action on 70 cm Petition

Reprinted with permission from *The ARRL Letter*, Volume 17, Number 20 (May 15, 1998).

The ARRL says the recent Land Mobile Communications Council petition seeking access to 70 cm is "incompatible with continued amateur use of the band" and urges members to comment in opposition--not only to the FCC but to the LMCC's members. The LMCC has petitioned the FCC for immediate reallocation of 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 70 cm on a secondary basis to government radiolocation (military radar). The LMCC has proposed to share the two subbands with Amateur Radio, but has not said how sharing would be possible. The LMCC also seeks additional UHF reallocations in the intermediate and long term.

For those planning to file comments, specific information and recommendations plus a copy of the LMCC petition and a list of LMCC members are available on the ARRLWeb page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267/>.

Commenters should explain how the loss of access to 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz would affect them personally and how it would affect the ability of hams to provide needed public service. "Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference

in the part of the band, or in another band, that you do use," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments."

Additionally, amateurs involved in public service communication can ask the government and nongovernment agencies they assist for written statements of support. Hams also should urge Amateur Radio organizations, especially those with interests in the 420 to 450 MHz band, to comment as well.

The LMCC, a nonprofit association, includes several well-known organizations such as the American Automobile Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), a frequent Amateur Radio supporter. The League suggests that ARRL members who also belong to one of the LMCC member organizations consider writing to inform the organization that the LMCC is acting contrary to your interests and requesting them to dis

avow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio.

Sumner says ARRL members should not complain to members of Congress nor write angry letters to the FCC. "The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal," Sumner said. "By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it." Sumner says that criticizing the FCC at this stage would be "inappropriate and counterproductive."

Sumner reminds members that nothing is going to happen overnight with the LMCC petition, and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment. "Before the FCC can take the next step to reallocate this spectrum, it must get the federal government to agree," he explained, because the government is the primary occupant. Then, the FCC would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and solicit public comments on its proposal.

The FCC is accepting only written comments in response to RM-9267. Comments are due by June 1, and reply comments are due by June 15. Address comments to RM-9267, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St NW, Washington, DC 20554. Formal comments must be submitted with an original and four copies.

1998 Dayton Hamvention a Hit

Reprinted with permission from *The ARRL Letter*, Volume 17, Number 21 (May 22, 1998).

Three days of fair weather and a largely enthusiastic crowd highlighted the 1998 Dayton Hamvention. By most accounts, attendance was, at best, no better than last year's, but the jury's still out on whether the crowd was in a buying mood. It depends on whom you ask. According to Chris Lougee, N7TJM, of ICOM, buying was up this year. "The biggest change [from last year] was the interest in new HF products," he said. Weather was in the mid-80s for the first couple of days of Hamvention, and it was on the humid side as well. Lougee thinks that might have held down the amount of traffic inside Hara Arena.

Also on the optimistic side was Alinco's Doug Wynn, KB6YZD. "It was the best Dayton Hamvention ever for Alinco," Wynn said. Alinco introduced its DJ-C5T dual-band "credit card" radio at Dayton. Wynn called it "a big hit" and said "hundreds and hundreds of them were sold."

Kenwood's Paul Middleton, KD6NUH, felt sales in general were down. "Fewer boxes were seen in the hands of customers," he said. Middleton said Kenwood's "Easter Island QSL" picture booth, featuring Kenwood's new hand-held VC-H1 Visual Communicator SSTV system, "remained very popular throughout the event." The company's classroom sessions to introduce visitors to its new products also were "booked solid," he said.

Most observers felt the Sunday crowd was down substantially. By then, the weather was somewhat cooler and a lot less humid. At week's end, manufacturers still were tallying sales data from retail outlets to see if the hard numbers match up with their perceptions of the show. Dayton Hamvention officials have not released an official head count.

While there was no "killer" product debut this year to compare with last year's Kachina 505DSP transceiver, Yaesu may have trumped ICOM's popular IC-706 with its new FT-100 "Field Commander" transceiver. While not expected to be available until late summer or early fall, the FT-100 covers all amateur bands and modes from 160 meters through 70 cm, with the exception of 222 MHz--all inside a box that's slightly smaller than the '706. It includes a detachable front panel, CW keyer, DSP features, and slots for optional filters. Like the competing '706, the FT-100 will not operate full duplex for satellite work.

To sort of even things out, ICOM reported a lot of interest in its new IC-Q7A mini H-T, intended to compete with the VX-1R that Yaesu debuted at Dayton last year. The IC-Q7A offers wideband receive capability, from 30 to 1300 MHz in a very small package.

Several small HF transceivers priced well below the \$1000 mark also turned up at Dayton this year. One, the EleCraft K2, will be a kit. Noted QRPer Wayne Burdick, N6KR, of Wilderness Radio and NorCal renown, is one of the rig's designers. It's expected to be on the market by fall. SGC's long-awaited SG-2020 HF compact transceiver also was on display at Dayton. The unit has recently become available from dealers. Patcomm's new PC-9000 also was on display, although it's not yet available. The new, compact 40W box will cover 160 through 6 meters. Premier/ADI also plans to market an economy priced HF transceiver under the Pryme label. (ADI also had new 6 meter and 1-1/4 meter hand-helds.)

Ameritron had its new "true legal limit" antenna tuner, the ATR-30, on display at Dayton, plus a new precision SWR/wattmeter, the AWM-30.

Also popular were computer-operated "black box" receivers. Following on the heels of ICOM's successful PCR1000 which debuted last year, Ten-Tec will offer its own "black box" radio, the RX-320. Ten-Tec also debuted its new Titan II (Model 416) linear amp, a single-tube design that provides full legal limit and has a self-contained power supply.

Antennas were everywhere, including a new trapless tribander from Bencher, the Skyhawk. Time

wave and Kantronics were among those offering new multimode data controllers. Kantronics President Phil Anderson, W0XI, said the new KAM '98 TNC was well received. "I think it's safe to say that digital is making a huge comeback." he said.

But vendor Walter Spieth, DK9SQ, of Ebersbach, Germany hit one clean into left field with his telescoping fiberglass antenna poles. Spieth and his entourage, decked out in traditional Bavarian costume for their first-ever Dayton appearance, sold out of the 33-foot long lightweight masts that are designed for temporary or portable antenna use. While at Dayton, he also made arrangements for US dealers to handle the product.

Upcoming Indian Point RACES Events

Monday, June 1, 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. : Indian Point Decon Center training at Fire Training Center. 2 RACES operators needed. Note: date moved up from June 2.

Tuesday, June 2, 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. : Indian Point Decon Center FEMA-observed drill at Fire Training Center. 2 RACES operators needed. Note: date moved up from June 3.

Wednesday, June 10, 8:30 a.m. 2 p.m. : Indian Point Field Monitoring training.

Wednesday, June 24, 8:30 a.m. 2 p.m. : Indian Point Field Monitoring drill. Observed by FEMA. Must have participated in one of the two training drills (May 13 or June 10) and be current on radiological emergency response training (personal dosimetry, etc.).

For Sale

Kenwood TH78A HT with 2 cases, AC adapter/ charger, DC adapter / charger, remote mike, two nicad battery packs, AA alkaline battery pack, original box and instruction book. Asking for \$225.

Radio Shack HTX-202 HT with nicad pack, alkaline pack, AC adapter / charger, instruction book. Asking for \$125.

MFJ Packet 5 watt transceiver with 145.05 xtals. \$50.00.

Please either send email to Peter Johnson, N2TFC, at n2tfc@compuserve.com or give a call at 800-285-6422, ext. 255 during business hours.

Latest Call Signs

As of May 22, 1998, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra)	AB2FI
Group B (Advanced)	KG2OL
Group C	(none left)
Group D (General/Tech/Novice)	KC2DPU

Colophon

This issue of the *WECAGRAM* was produced on an Apple Power Macintosh 7500/100 with 48 Mb of memory using Canvas 5.0.3 by Deneba, GNU Emacs 18.59, Apple SimpleText 1.3.1, and JPEGView 3.3 by Aaron Giles.

Fonts used were Times and Helvetica.

It was printed on an Apple StyleWriter 1200 printer and photocopied at the Village Copier in Morningside Heights, New York City.

HTML output was created using a WWW XTND translator from Claris and touched up by N2YGK using GNU Emacs running under Linux on a NEC VERSA laptop on a MetroNorth Hudson Line train.

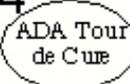
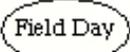
For Sale

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.

June 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2  FQ	3	4	5	6 Ten-Ten (CW)
7 YARC VE Session	8 	9	10 	11 	12	13 ARRL VHF QSO
14  ARRL VHF QSO	15 ARRL VHF QSO	16	17 	18	19	20 SMIRK 6m QSO
21 SMIRK 6m QSO WV QSO Father's Day	22 	23	24 	25	26	27 
28 	29	30	1  FQ	2	3	4