

[Masthead](#)

[Next Meeting](#)

[New APRS](#)

[Digipeater](#)

[From the Editor](#)

[Santa at Blythesdale](#)

[Its Official...](#)

[November Board Meeting](#)

[December Member Meeting](#)

[WECA upcoming events...](#)

[Call Signs:](#)

[WECAFEST Mailing Party](#)

[Southern District Net](#)

[SWAP & SHOP...](#)



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 on Monday, January 11th, 1999 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, beginning at 7:30pm with a social half hour followed by the main presentation at 8pm.

This months speaker had not been picked by the time this paper went to press. Listen to 147.060 for updates or announcements...

New APRS Digipeater

By Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

Monday, December 7, 1998, a new APRS "wide" digipeater was installed at WECA's main repeater site in Valhalla, NY. The digipeater, operating on 144.39, is running 50 watts into a 5 dBd omnidirectional antenna at 250 feet up the Bill Knott Memorial Radio Tower.

This digipeater should aid connectivity of local APRS users in Westchester to our friends in neighboring areas. Local APRS users should change their UNPROTO digi path to use WB2ZII. At the same time, an APRS Mic-Encoder (MIC-E) gateway was installed on the WB2ZII 147.06 voice repeater. This gateway monitors the repeater voter audio and gateways all decoded packets onto the 144.39 APRS network using an interconnection to the WB2ZII APRS digipeater.

Mobile users of a GPS receiver in conjunction with the TAPR APRS Mic-Encoder, Kenwood TH-D7A handheld, or even a conventional TNC when correctly wired into a microphone circuit, can transmit short packet bursts on the tail of their voice transmissions. These bursts encode current geodetic position (latitude and longitude), heading, speed, and optional additional telemetry such as a canned status message (out of service, enroute, returning, committed, priority, emergency), battery voltage, temperature, etc.

APRS automatic vehicle location and telemetry is used in many parts of the country for tracking resources during public service events and emergency responses. The WECA MIC-E gateway couples the excellent coverage of the WB2ZII 2 meter voice repeater system with the mapping capabilities of the several APRS programs now available for DOS, Mac, Windows, and Street Atlas USA.

**The WECAGRAM needs you! The WECAGRAM
needs writers.**

**If you have any story relevant to Amateur Radio,
please feel free to send it for inclusion.**

Send your submissions by E-mail to:

wecagram@weca.org

From the Editor

With this short edition of the WECAGRAM, we enter the slow months of January and February. With out public service and Hamfests, now is probably a good time to work on our respective shacks, and organize our jump bags, for the busy months that will arrive with the spring.

Included in this issue is the 1998-99 Membership Roster. If you are a member and do not receive this, please contact the Membership Director

With that, its on to the news...
Your Acting Editor, Will N2UXJ

Santa at Blythedale

By Robert Kantor, N2TSE

This years event took place on December 16th starting at 7:20 pm EST. Over the coerce of an hour and a half, fifty young people received gifts and were able to talk to Santa via Amateur radio. The children received; stuffed dolls, sweat shirts, R.C. cars, and portable AM/FM cassette players. The Hams operated on 2 meters and 440 to communicate with the North Pole. The kids and the operators had a great time. Participating at this event were; N2-TSE, MEF, OBY, NQY, TFC, SKP, TJE, AMP, K2-RRR, ZVI, KB2JKC, KC2CLZ, W2RWR, WB2NHC.

Its Official...

By Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

Our meeting rooms have been confirmed with the County Center for the following dates:

January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 4, November 8, December 13.

These dates are now the official Membership Meeting dates for 1999. Check the WECAGRAM, the WECA home page on the Web, and listen to the repeater for

updates and meeting news.

November Board Meeting

By Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

In Attendance was:

N2OBY, KB2NBN, N2OGK, N2UXJ, KC2COR, N2GGY, N2TFC, N2FMC,
N2DHH, WA2NRV, WB2QJA, N2TSE, N2YGK, N2SF, N4OOX

8:12 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Joe Brown, KB2NBN

Directors Reports:

Treasurer - Andy Farber, N4OOX: Presented the proposed 1999 budget. The budget will be approved for presentation to the membership where it will be voted on by the membership.

Membership - Peter Johnson, N2TFC: Reported three new members this month.

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: Reported that there are no P.S. events scheduled until April.

Digital Modes - Rich Benda, WB2QJA: The digital facilities have been converted to the Flexnet operating system, which should result in much faster operation. This new system can provide both TCP/IP addresses and links.

Public Relations - Stan Rothman, WA2NRV: Meeting notices have been going out to the media. He has been coordinating with the Education Director regarding classes.

Announcements:

Alan, N2YGK, discussed the EMS Council meeting he recently attended.
Stan, WA2NRV, discussed another idea for a club project - a touch-tone decoder relay that he saw in QST magazine.

The meeting ended at 9:26 p.m.

December Member Meeting

By Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

At 8:12 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Joe Brown, KB2NBN

Joe Brown, KB2NBN & Charlie Savilla, KB2LLV: Began the meeting by presenting the annual special participation awards, and monthly awards.

1998 WECA Special Participation Awards:

KB2LLV, N2DVQ, N2DHH, N2FMC

1998 WECAFEST Special Participation Awards:

WK6R, KB2NBN, N2FMC, N2GKM, N2GDY, KB2MGM, N2NQY, N2NWZ, N2TSE, N2AMP, N2THE, N2QZB

Monthly Participation Awards:

1st Year: AB2BX, N2NAA, A1TKT, KB2WAR, N2WQG

5th Year: KB2SPC, N2UXJ

8th Year: KB2LLV, N2OLU

9th Year: WB2LNB

11th Year: K4ZGE

Directors Reports: Robert Kantor, N2TSE: announced that for our participation on Pumpkin Patrol, WECA Received a certificate of appreciation from NYS Police Troop T.

Guest Speaker(s): Bob Wilson, N2DVQ, Reported on the current state of WECA's technical facilities. Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, added to the presentation with a brief description of the recently installed APRS station. Don Toman, K2KQ, gave a lecture on electrical grounding and lightning protection

Business: N4OOX presented the 1999 budget, which was approved by the Executive Board A Motion was made and the membership approved the Budget.

Announcements: Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: Announced that WECAFEST 1999 will be held 3/21/99 at Yonkers Raceway.

The meeting ended at 9:58 p.m.

WECA upcoming events...

Membership Meeting On January 11th

WECAFEST Mailing Party on January 31st

Call Signs:

*** From ARRL Bulletin 99 (ARLB099) November 16: The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of August 3, for the second call district:

Group A (Extra) AB2FV;

Group B (Advanced) KG2PI;

Group D (Novice) KC2EGH.

Group C (Technician/General) all call signs have been issued.

WECAFEST Mailing Party

By Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

On January 31st at 10am at the Red Cross in White Plains will be the annual WECAFEST mailing party. Coffee and Dounuts will be served. So sign up at the January 11th membership meeting or call 914-769-1486 to confirm.



Southern District Net

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

Check-Ins 343

Traffic 87

Passed 84

Time 464

Sessions 30

SWAP & SHOP...

Yaesu HT FT-51R Dusb band MINT with all papers and box. Extra batt plus
Yaesu rapid charger NC-50. A steal \$325 FIRM. Call Dick Knapp N2VVJ 914-
739-4232