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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 23, Issue 5 May 1999

Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be on Monday, May 10th, 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.

There will be a speaker (not known by the editor at this time).

Membership Services:

By Peter Johnson / N2TFC

This month please welcome our newest WECA members:

KB2TJJ Frank Rufino LaGrangeville, NY KC2EOG Klaus Floer White Plains, NY KU2V Bob Gagatch Brewster, NY

Need an updated electronic roster, please email n2tfc@weca.org. Coming soon, the electronic WECA operations manual on disk.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

POSITION NOMINEE CALL SIGN
President Stan Rothman WA2NRV
Exe. Vice President Dave Weiss N2OGK
Secretary Ken Gross N2OBY
Treasurer Andy Farber N4OOX
Repeater Operations Dwight Smith N2FMC
Engineering Bob Wilson N2DVQ
Education Rich Anderson W2RJA
Social Director Tom Raffaelli WB2NHC
Publicity Director Shirley Dahlgren N2SKP
Director at Large Fran Larsorsa N2OLU

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

Anthony Licata, N2NWZ Jim Faulkner, N2W2QG Mal Ochs, N2MEF, Chairman

Nominations will be closed during the May meeting. If you want to run for any of these positions, please contact the nominating committee before May 10th.

From the Editor

Come to the May meeting and let your voice be heard. Now is the time for the membership to express there will. Pick a candidate that you think reflects your interests in Amateur Radio. Be active and help support your club.

If you have any suggestions about what you like or dislike about the

WECAGRAM, send me a note. If you have any stories you would like to write, please send it along. Don't be to concerned by spelling or grammar, I can help you fix it up. Just let me know.

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

Public Service

By Robert Kantor, N2TSE

Mark your calendar for these up-coming events. And if you want to volunteer, you can sign up at the membership meeting or you can contact me on the radio during SDN, or by phone at home. Or you can E-mail me!!!

E-Mail: n2tse@weca.org

Call: 914 949-4231

June 13, 1999

American Diabetes Association Bike Tour at SUNY Purchase

July 24, 1999

The NY Philharmonic Concert at WCC with a 4:30-5:00 PM. start time. Also bring bug spray, flash light, and extra battery's! PS. Free fireworks.

Please watch this space in the future for details.

March Board Meeting

By Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

On 3/22/99 at 8:06 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Joe Brown, with KB2NBN N2OBY, KB2NBN, KC2COR, N2GGY, N2TFC, N2TSE, N2YGK,

N2DB, N2EJI, N2FMC, N2DVQ, WB2NHC, WB2QJA, N2TJE, in attendance:

Committee Reports:

Participation Awards - Robert Kantor, N2TSE, brought in a sample of the mouse pad which is part of the expanded line of participation awards. He also reported on the supply of existing awards for years 1-5

WECAFEST - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, reported that there were no major problems or complaints during the hamfest. Some preliminary statistics are: 25 tests given, 3 forums held (light attendance), 997 attendees "through the gate" Tom also confirmed that the summer edition of WECAFEST will be held on 8/29. Tom also remarked that the club sales table was cleared quickly upon the announcement that all items were free for the taking.

Directors Reports:

Engineering - Bob Wilson, N2DVQ: Reported on the pending purchase of a preowned 300-watt UHF repeater. This unit will replace the primary UHF repeater, which is owned by the county, relegating it to secondary (backup) status. Adam Epstein, N2DHH, found a repeater controller in NJ free for the taking, from which Bob took and refurbished the cabinet. Bob also announced that he'd like to setup a "DX Packet Cluster," as there are currently none operating in Southern Westchester.

Membership - Peter Johnson, N2TFC: Reported five new members during the last month. Twenty-five information/application packets were taken at WECAFEST. Membership is currently at 241.

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: The Westchester/Rockland ADA Tappan Zee bike tour was discussed. As more details become available about the event, it will be reported.

Social - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: Reported that WECA has been asked to participate in the ENY section convention, to be held in conjunction with Beaconfest '99 on 4/25..

In lieu of the July membership meeting (July/August meetings are not held), WECA will hold another "Now You're Operating" seminar. Per suggestions received, the seminars' subject matter will move towards more intermediate subjects.

Other Business:

Joe Brown, KB2NBN, informed the board that no equipment exists at the moment for the "loaner program" suggested by Stan, WA2NRV.

Joe also solicited three volunteers for the election committee, which will count ballots (and mail those necessary) for the upcoming elections. Peter, N2TFC volunteered and will chair the committee. KB2NBN will solicit/appoint two more members at the membership meeting.

Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, reported that the latest ARES/RACES roster is being mailed. This edition of the roster will include a cover letter requiring a reply to confirm the members' desire to remain on the active list.

9:04 p.m. - Motion to adjourn by Darlana, N2DB. 2nd by Ken, N2OBY.

April Member Meeting

By Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

On 4/12/99 at 8:11 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Joe Brown, KB2NBN

Participation Awards - Presented by Joe Brown, KB2NBN & Charlie Salvilla, KB2LLV

1st Year: KC2COP, KC2COQ, K2DFJ, KC2ESU, KB2GTD, N2KIM, KD2OG, KB2UAF, N2UNZ, N2YHK. 2nd Year: KC2BXK, W3EH, W2IRL, KD2IX, N2KBC, KB2UCN. 3rd Year: N2IYR, N2VQP, N2ZRC. 5th Year AC2T, AC2V 7th Year: AA2HX. 9th Year: KB2MGM 10th Year: N3EMF, KB2GTE.

11th Year: KB2APX, WA2ATY, N2DHH, N2GDY, N2GKM, NJ2J, WK6R. Special Award - "Participation Above & Beyond" during WECAFEST '98: Bob Casino, N2GDY

Joe Brown, KB2NBN: Appointed an Election Committee for the upcoming election in May. The committee will count the ballots, and if needed conduct a special election and or mail ballots in case of a tie or dispute. The committee is comprised of Peter, N2TFC, Sandy, N2SF & Nick, K2ZDY. The Nominating Committee is still looking for more candidates. As yet there are none for President.

Guest Speaker - Steve Weinstein, K2WE: Steve gave a lecture (accompanied by slides) describing his 1997 trip to Vietnam, during which he was the first American ham to operate from that country since the war.

Other Business -

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: Reported on the upcoming PS events. (see page 2)

ARES/RACES - Alan Crosswell, N2YGK: Reported sending out flyers to ARES/RACES members requiring return to him confirming desire to remain on roster, as well as changes to member information. Deadline for return is the end of April.

Field Day '99 - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, announced that Field Day '99 would again be held at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck (weekend of 6/26 & 6/27). Seven stations are planned: 4 HF, 1 Packet, 1 Novice & 1 VHF/UHF. Station captains are needed to coordinate equipment & supplies for each position; CW operators and cooks are also needed. Volunteers should contact WB2NHC.

50/50 - Won by Rich, W2RJA and Door Prizes - Winners: Frank, AA2BQ; Les, K4ZGE; Paul, WA2ATY; Shirley, N2SKP; Robert, N2TSE.

9:33 p.m. - Motion to adjourn by Ken, N2OBY. 2nd by Robert, N2TSE

Hudson Happenings By Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP

OTHER AREA MEETINGS:

CARA: (Candlewood ARA) Fri May 14, (2nd Fri), 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, Brookfield, CT (147.120+) Program: Project Group Reports

MBARC: (Mt. Beacon ARC) on the air meetings - 8pm Monday evenings, 146.97 (PL 100)

QSY Society: Wednesday May 12, (2nd Weds) 7:30pm, Kent Fire House on Rt 301 in Carmel

WARA (Westchester Amateur Radio Association) (note change) Sun May2, (usually 1st Sunday) 1:30pm, No.Yonkers Community Church, N.Broadway/Thompkins Ave, Hastings. May 22: will be a trip to ABC TV, call Lou WA2UIJ 779-2969 for info

YARC (Yonkers Amateur Radio Club) Sun May 9 (2nd Sunday), 10:30 am at the 1st Police Precinct, E Grassy Sprain Rd. between Jackson Ave and Tuckahoe RD. Yonkers. Talkin 146.865

DACS: (Danbury Area Computer Society) Tues, May 4 (1st Tues), Topic: Year 2000 Seminar; Danbury Hospital Auditorium, 7pm Q&A, 8pm program: Visit their Web page: DACS.org. Special on May 20: Computer Virus Prevention Seminar at the club's Resource Center.

MHCUG: (Mid Hudson Computer Users Group) Thurs May 13, (2nd Thurs) Topic: PowerQuest ñ a real-time backup system that will also recover lost data. 7pm at the Best Western, Rt 9, Poughkeepsie. Visit their Web page: http://www.idsi.net/mhcug/

VE EXAMS

Sun 5/2 Yonkers (YARC) 9am, 1st Precinct, Yonkers Police Station, info AC2V 237-5589

Sun 5/2 Yonkers (Metro 70cm) Lincoln HS, info Otto 969-1053 (NO walk-ins)

Tues 5/11 Pomona (Crystal RC), 7pm Rockland Cty Fire Training Center, info KF2JA 357-0712

Sat 5/15 Corona (Hall of Science ARC, 9:30am, info (718)353-3734

Tues 5/18 Pelham (W5YI), 7:30pm, info Mike W2MAC (914)738-5775

CONTESTS

May 8: Spring VHF/UHF Sprints

June 12-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 26-27: Field Day!

HAMFESTS

Sun May 2 METRO 70cm, Yonkers, Lincoln HS May 14-16 DAYTON Hamvention May 29 VERNON CT Sat Jun 5 TEANECK NJ, BARA Sun Jun 6 NEWINGTON CT Sun Jun 6 QUEENS, Hall of Science ARA

COMPUTER SHOWS

Sat May 8 Poughkeepsie, Casperkill Country Club 10-3:30

Sat-Sun May 8-9, White Plains, Westchester County Center 9:30-4

Sat May 15 Poughkeepsie, Mid-Hudson Civic Center 9:30-4

SPECIAL EVENT

Poughkeepsie, NY: Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Club, W2CVT, 1200Z May 15 to 2200Z May 16, operating from the Samuel F. B. Morse Home. 7.120 14.270 21.120 28.375. Certificate. Info: Don W2PTF, 3 Little Rd, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

The HUDSON LOOP is a weekly online newsletter containing information of interest to amateurs in the ARRL Hudson Division. To subscribe, send an Internet e-mail message to: subscribe@hudson-loop.org and type "SUBSCRIBE HUDSON LOOP" on the subject line. You may also read past issues online at: http://www.hudson-loop.org

AH, SWEET VANITY

(callsigns, that is!!)

By Shirley Dahlgren N2SKP

formerly

AE2F Gene Skopal AA9LA

K2DFJ Judyth Stavans KC2DFG

N2DB Darlana Mayo KB2EPU

W2IRL Pat Murphy KC2BTR

W2RJA Rich Anderson KB2MGM

WB2WB Wayne Bogert KE2RA

WP4KXX Joaquin Curate KB2ZLM

WT2JG Joe Giasi Jr KB2VWA

If you or someone you know has changed their callsign, let me know, and we'll include it in the next WECAgram!

Shirley Dahlgren N2SKP@weca.org

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR (email) ADDRESS?

if so, let others keep in touch with you!

Keep your Weca.org email address current by telling Alan N2YGK

(n2ygk@weca.org) your new address. Post it online at www.qrz.com

Visit your favorite Radio Vendor Online!

Ham Central: http://hometown.aol.com/n2kuo/prof2/index.htm n2kuo@aol.com/n2kuo/prof2/index.htm n2kuo@aol.com/n2kuo/prof2/index.htm <a href="mailto:n2kuo/prof2/index.h

KJI Electronics: http://www.kjielectronics.com/ k2kji@aol.com

Lentini Communications: http://www.lentinicomm.com/

radio@lentinicomm.com



ARRL Flag quiz: What do the stripes signify?

(answer: they spell out QST)

BACK TO BASICS

by Dave Patti KB2HPW

Reprinted w/permission from the Albany Amateur Radio Assoc. B-Plus, Feb 1999

Here's a "neat trick" to measure current with a voltmeter and a 1 ohm resistor. We all know from Ohm's Law that current is obtained from dividing voltage by resistance (I= E/R). By measuring a voltage across a known resistance we can calculate the current through that resistor, and also through that part of the circuit. For example: the circuit I want to measure is supplied by 5 volts dc. I connect a 1 ohm, 10 watt resistor in series between the dc source and the circuit, and measure the voltage across the resistor. If I measured 2 volts, then 2 volts divided by 1 ohm is 2 amps, the current through the circuit. We can go further

and find the DC resistance of the circuit under test by again applying Ohm's Law. We'll divide our supply voltage by the circuit current,

5volts/2amps = 2.5 ohms, now subtract our 1 ohm from 2.5, and find the circuit under test

exhibits 1.5 ohms. All that from one simple measurement! Since power (Watts) is the product of

current times voltage (P= I x E), then 2v (volt drop across 1 ohm resistor) times 2amps equals

4 watts, below the 10 watt rating of the resistor. Even though one ohm is small and almost unnoticeable, it does have a voltage drop and will get hot if the rating is too small. Also the tolerance of the resistor will affect the accuracy, but the point is to show how the math and some basic concepts can help in designing or troubleshooting circuits. So keep a 1 ohm resistor and a calculator in your tool box and you'll be all set!



Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon

Here are some pictures of the Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon which toke place at Rye Playland on Sunday April 18th. There were about 1100 walkers and thanks goes to these participating stations; n2tse, oby, wqg, amp, tje, mef, sbn, fmc ,k2dfj, zvi, kb2spc, kc2bxk. w2rwr, k4zge, ka2kcr, brh, ab2bx, dl9gav, wb2nhc, wa2nrv (Photos by Russ N2AMP)





Skywarn Training By Darlana Mayo, N2DB

A Skywarn training session has been arranged for;

Thursday May 6, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Yonkers Public Library Yonkers, NY

It's being sponsored by Metro 70.

Please contact me via phone, airways, fax, email, etc., etc. and let me know.

Darlana D. Mayo - Skywarn Coordinator 914-699-4191 n2db@compuserve.com

On that same note, WABC Channel 7 is sponsoring a new program called the The ABC/7 Skywarn WeatherWatcher Program. The following are edited excerpts they provided. If you are a trained Skywarn spotter and are interested, please let me know and I will forward the appropriate application.

ABC/7 thanks you for your interest in becoming an Eyewitness News Skywarn Weather Watcher.

As Skywarn volunteers, you've been trained to provide timely, precise observations of severe weather conditions. By participating as an Eyewitness News Skywarn WeatherWatcher, you'll have the chance to help your neighbors prepare for severe weather by sharing your information with our vast audience of more than a million viewers nightly.

Remember, as a Skywarn volunteer, your first obligation is to report your observations to the nearest National Weather Service office or your local Skywarn coordinator. Then, call ABC/7 Eyewitness News. You'll be credited on the air, your observations will allow our weathercasters to present more accurate and current forecasts, and the Skywarn program will benefit from increased public awareness of its vital mission.

Whenever and wherever you observe severe weather in the greater New York area, please call our newsdesk, anytime around the clock, toll-free, email, or regular number, (Editor: this will be provided to you),

Either way, you'll be providing critical information to ABC/7 viewers spanning more than two dozen counties in three states. You'll get the satisfaction of providing a great public service -- and you may even get to hear us mention you

by name on the air!

To enroll in the ABC17 Skywam WeatherWatcherprogram, simply let me know and I will provide you with the appropriate information and application.

Thanks again for your commitment to Skywarn, and for your interest and participation in the ABC17 Eyewitness News Skywam Weather Watcher program.

Darlana Mayo N2DB - Westchester County Skywarn Coordinator 914-699-4191

n2db@compuserve.com

SWAP & SHOP

For Sale, TAPR/PacComm Mic-Encoder for APRS.

All documentation, software, and hardware.

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Contact Dwight

E-Mail: N2FMC@WECA.ORG

or

Phone: 914-238-3853

Southern District Net

Sandro Sicilia N2TWN,

Net manager of the Southern District Net, reports March 1999 SDN stats as follows:

Check-Ins 326

Traffic 92

Passed 84

Time 452

Sessions 31

*** From ARRL Bulletin 25

(ARLB025) April 9:

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of August 3, for the second call district:

Group A (Extra) AB2GA;

Group B (Advanced) KG2QD

Group D (Novice) KC2EWP.

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

For more information about the sequential call sign system, see FCC Fact Sheet PR5000, #206S or contact the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

The e-mail address is fccitd@fcc.gov.

WECA upcoming events...

Monday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. Membership meeting.

Monday, May 24, 8:00 p.m.Board meeting.

Sunday, June 13, American Diabetes Bike Tour

Monday, June 14, 7:30 p.m. Membership meeting.

Sat/Sun, June 26-27Field Day.

Monday, June 28, 8:00 p.m.Board meeting.

Monday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.Membership meeting.

Saturday, July 24, The NY Philharmonic

Monday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.Board meeting.