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THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

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

The program for the November meeting will include Ray Sass who will demonstrate a noise reduction system. It would be good if people who attend have their HT's so they can try it out for themselves. ([See product insert PDF FILE](#))

From THE PRESIDENT

TRICK OR TREAT . . . What an appropriate question for amateur radio. As hams we become involved in the aftermath of " Mother Natures " tricks. Our job is to go in during and after the tricks, and treat the local communities communications needs. We assist at hospitals. evacuation centers, Red Cross facilities police departments, etc. We do this because we are HAMS. In addition to the practice events that Robert, N2TSE, has coming up such as Pumpkin patrol, the New York City marathon, and the Mamaroneck Turkey Trot, We have the Y2K request from the County ODES to provide communicators New Year's Eve,... just in case. Also the day before, they would like to know what is happening around the world where the date changes before here. This is a perfect opportunity for you DXers. Treat the communities as you volunteer your services.

Congratulations to Sandy N2SF who retired as the County communications officer in October. Now he will have more time to play radio.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting.

Stan WA2NRV

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

Turkey Trot in

Mamaroneck, NY. On Nov. 21 Sunday morning (see below)

NINTH ANNUAL N2OLU BREAKFAST GATHERING

By Fran, N2OLU

COME ONE COME ALL...NEWCOMERS MEET THE OLD TIMERS

AND VISA VERSA...PLACE: MC DONALDS - POST ROAD - MAMRONECK...TIME: 8AM

THE TURKEY TROT IS AN EASY EVENT, IT'S A GREAT INTRODUCTION INTO PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES ALL YOU NEED IS AN HT AND PAPER & PENCIL COME EARLY FOR COFFEE AND MEET WITH OTHER WECA MEMBERS, EVENT MAPS AND POSTS WILL BE HANDED OUT THERE ALSO NOTE: IF YOU OWN A DIGITAL CAMERA PLEASE BRING IT ALONG. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.



Worcester Polytechnic Students to Hold Demonstration of Ham Radio, Still Vital Wireless Device in Computer Age

Submitted By: John J. Ruggiero, N2YHK

WORCESTER, Mass., Oct. 12 (AScribe) -- Long before chat rooms and Instant Messenger, people could communicate with friends all over the world for free. Ham radio is still a good way to keep in contact, according to John J. Ruggiero, a Worcester Polytechnic Institute student who is doing all he can to keep this wireless communication alive.

As president of WPI's Wireless Association, Ruggiero is organizing a demonstration of ham radio for Boy Scout troop 140 from Southbridge and Sturbridge, Mass., Sunday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event takes place in WPI's Salisbury Laboratories on the Worcester, Mass., campus. The demonstration is in conjunction with the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), in which scouts around the world get on the radio to communicate with each other.

Demonstrations will include making contact with local radio operators; making contacts in the U.S. and worldwide on shortwave; demonstrating Morse code, which is a requirement for the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge; a possible radio satellite demonstration; the origination of radio telegrams to family and friends in the U.S., and the design of a postcard to send to other scouts we've made contact with," said Ruggiero.

Ruggiero, 20, a junior electrical engineering major from Ferrisburgh, Vt., is also a member of the WPI

emergency medical service. Here's an interview with Ruggiero about wireless radio and its place in the computer age:

Question: How active is the WPI wireless radio club?

Ruggiero: We hold weekly meetings Thursday afternoons and participate in events throughout the year. Some of these events include teaching amateur radio classes to help interested parties earn their licenses, participating in various radio contests throughout the year against other colleges in a collegiate championship, helping out with communications at the Boston Marathon, maintaining local radio resources for use by students and organizations such as the Red Cross and the National Weather Service in times of need, and regular operations from our club station in Salisbury Labs.

Q: How many people are currently members of the WPI Wireless Association?

Ruggiero: Approximately 25.

Q: Is it true that WPI's club is one of the oldest in the nation?

Ruggiero: It is actually the third oldest college radio club in the nation. MIT was first and Harvard was second. But we were the first to actually have a station on the air, as MIT lacked the physical support for antennas.

Q: When was the WPI club established?

Ruggiero: In 1909. We were issued our first license in 1913, when the government began issuing licenses, and the callsign was 1YK, which is now W1YK. We became affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (<http://www.arrl.org>), the national organization of radio amateurs, in 1920.

Q: Why did you get involved in the WPI Wireless Association?

Ruggiero: I am involved because I have been interested in ham radio since I received my first license as a freshman in high school. I enjoy operating contests against other schools and amateurs. I enjoy helping the public by providing communications where I can, such as in parades, marathons and in times of emergency when normal communications are disrupted. I also enjoy maintaining the equipment associated with amateur communications. The best thing about wireless radio is the ability to pick up a microphone and have a random person from Kuwait or Australia start telling you about his day, all without having a wire between the two places.

Q: Does wireless radio still have a place in the computer age?

Ruggiero: Absolutely! Computers and the Internet are perfect complements to amateur radio. The Internet allows the exchange of useful ideas and data, such as programs related to amateur radio for tracking amateur satellites and coordinating on-the-air activities such as the Jamboree On The Air. Computers are also used in amateur radio itself. For example, the WPI Wireless Association maintains a radio gateway for a service called APRS, the Automatic Position Reporting System. APRS stations use GPS units connected to radios to send location information. This information is received by radio and displayed on a map at the receiving station. In addition to being fun, the service has practical purposes. For example, it can be used to track supply vans in a marathon.

To find out more about the WPI Wireless Association, go to the Web page at <http://www.wpi.edu/~wpiwa>

or contact Ruggiero at 508-831-6774 or by e-mail at n2yhk@wpi.edu.

More information about JOTA can be found on the Web at <http://www.arrl.org/ead> under JOTA.

WPI, founded in 1865, is renowned for its project-based curriculum. Under the WPI Plan, students integrate classroom studies with research projects conducted on campus and around the world.

WECA upcoming events...

Sunday, November 7th, NYC Marathon

Sunday, November 21st, Turkey Trot in Mamaroneck, NY

The Westchester County ODES is looking for members for a Y2K exercise on New Year's Eve, Contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS.

HAM RADIO LINK LIST GROWS TO OVER 4,500

Reprinted from the Hudson Loop

Selden, NY - September 24 - The K1DWU collection of ham radio links -- <http://www.ham-links.org/> -- has grown to over 4,500. This collection is unique from many other collections in three ways: 1) each link is verified every week, 2) each link is only listed once, and 3) the collection is distributed to over 350 other hams on a weekly basis.

The original list was started in 1997 and was a collection of 10 different lists from around the net. After validating and re-classifying, the list began at just over 1,000. The original list was kept as a text file, it is now kept in a MySQL database.

One of the original objectives was to share the list with other hams around the world. The distribution of the list is now over 350. It is available in 3 formats, Single Page Compressed, Three Page Compressed and Single Page uncompressed.

The software to validate the list has evolved over time and is currently a custom written application that validates a portion of the list every day. As soon as we are unable to reach a site, it is removed from the list. We continue to try the site for 26 days and, if we're still not able to reach the it, it is put on our permanent block list. In the past 6 weeks, over 500 sites have fallen into this category.

We are committed to offer the highest quality collection of amateur radio related links at any site.

-- submitted by John Woodstock, K1DWU

woody@woody.org)

Southern District Net

Sandro Sicilia N2TWN,

Net manager of the Southern District Net, reports for September, 1999

Stations checked in 330

Traffic Brought 69
Traffic Passed 57
Total Net Time in Minutes 419
in 30 session