



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



Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 24, Issue 1

January 2000



## Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be Monday January 10th 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 main presentation will be by George Pataki. He is speaking on his DX peditions. For a look at writings on his travels, go to the link at: <http://www.qsl.net/yo4aul/hamstories.html>

selves to broader horizons, meeting people with varied backgrounds and experiences. It broadens our knowledge allowing us to grow as men and women. Thank you amateur radio and WECA.

As we begin the new century, WECA will offer you many options, grab hold and run with the thrill of being involved. Volunteer for WECA functions. Become involved and grow.  
Stan WA2NRV

## From The President...

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Congratulations WECA members. We have all survived the Y2K and are starting on to a new century of trials and tribulations. We of the amateur community are leading the way into this new life style. CQ DX, QRZ, QSY, QTH. These are part of the language amateurs use when speaking with each other. The knowledge we acclimate from our " ham radio " hobby, leads to much more than radio talk. It allows us to open our-

## Write for the WECAGRAM

Send your story by the deadline, which is on Monday, one week before the Board Meeting each month, except July and August

BY E-Mail to [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org)

Please include your name and call sign for publication. Please put the body of your story in the E-mail to prevent cross platform, and other layout problems

Listen on 147.060 at 7pm Monday-Wednesday-Friday for Amateur Radio related news and Announcements

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

Next Meeting	1	November Board Meeting	3
From The President	1	WECAFEST in the 21st Century	4
From The Editor	2	From The ARRL Letter 11/19	5
Public Service	2	WECA upcoming events	6
December Membership Meeting	3	WECAFEST Mailing Party	6
		SDN & Thanks	6

## THE WECAGRAM

Editor: Will Austen N2UXJ

The WECAGRAM is the official newsletter of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc., a Special Service Club affiliated with the ARRL, ARES, the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, RACES, an affiliate of the American Red Cross, and a member of the Westchester County Emergency Medical Services Council.

Any questions, comments, items for Swap and Shop, commercial advertising, suggestions, contributions and letters for inclusion should be sent to the editor at:

58 Ellis Place  
Ossining, NY 10562

Submissions via E-Mail to [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org) would greatly be appreciated. Submissions may be edited for style and space.

**The DEADLINE for INCLUSION in the newsletter is the 2nd Monday of the preceding month.**

All submissions are expressly the opinion of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of WECA, its officers, directors, or the editor.

Copyright © 2000 Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc. The WECAGRAM may be quoted without prior permission, provided proper credit is given to: WECA, the WECAGRAM, and the author of the article if indicated. A copy of the publication containing the quote from the WECAGRAM would be appreciated.

The WECAGRAM would like to exchange newsletters with other clubs. If you are interested in receiving the WECAGRAM through such an exchange, please contact the editor.

### WECA Officers and Directors

#### OFFICERS;

**President:** Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV  
**Executive VP:** David J. Weiss, N2OGK  
**VP/General Counsel:** Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI  
**Treasurer:** Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX  
**Secretary:** Ken Gross, N2OBY  
**Trustee:** Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK  
**President Emeritus:** Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

#### DIRECTORS;

**County Liaison:** Sanford H. Fried, N2SF  
**Digital Modes:** Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA  
**Director At Large:** Fran Larsorsa, N2OLU  
**Education:** Rich Anderson, WA2RJA  
**Engineering:** Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ  
**Membership:** Peter A. Johnson, N2TFC  
**Newsletter Editor:** Will Austen, N2UXJ  
**Public Relations:** Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP  
**Public Service:** Robert Kantor, N2TSE  
**Repeater Operations:** Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC  
**Social:** Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC

WECA gladly accepts donations of equipment new or used (such as from estates). Please write, call, or E-mail WECA at the addresses etc.. on the cover

#### WB2ZII/R

WECA operates the following repeaters:

147.060(+)-MHz	PL 2A(114.8 Hz)
224.400(-)-MHz	PL 2A(114.8 Hz)
447.475(-)-MHz	PL 2A(114.8 Hz)

#### WECAGRAM Online:

<http://www.weca.org/wecagram>

## From The EDITOR...

As we head in to the new year, the WECA gram has been going through a few changes. In our efforts to reduce costs and create easier distribution to our membership, we now have an electronic version of the WECAGRAM. Decemblers' issue was the first published for page and electronically, and was posted on the web at WECA's home site. To see the E-WECAGRAM go to: <http://www.weca.org>, and follow the links to the news letter. To view or print the WECAGRAM you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader which is FREE. You can find a link for Adobe there as well.

For those of you that are interested in knowing how the WECAGRAM is put together, here is the scoop. On a Macintosh Performa using Quark Express 3.1 I take your e-mails, documents, and e-photos, and work out the layout. Some documents are first opened in word, and most e-photos must be resized and converted using Photoshop. After that is complete, I output a Post Script file and e-mail that to Kinkos for the final printing. I also send the Post Script file to Peter N2TFC, who converts it to a PDF file for distribution to the WEB.

I want to thank all the people who send in stories and photos for publication. With out them there would be no WECAGRAM. These people who have sent in articles are the ones that deserve the credit for a successful newsletter. Again I thank them for there continued support...

With that its on to the news...  
Will N2UXJ/ Newsletter Editor

## 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](mailto:n2tse@weca.org)  
Call: 914 949-4231

The members who helped out at Blythedale were, Robert N2TSE, George K2RRR, Florence KB2JKC, Mal N2MEF, Russ N2AMP, Ron N2TJE, Phil W2RWR, Ken N2OBY, Grant KC2FNU, Tom WB2NHC, Jean N2NQY, Peter N2TFC, and Bob WB2NVR. Thanks to all it was a great program put on by WECA for the children of Blythedale.

Upcoming events include:

4/9/00 - Multiple Sclerosis Society Walkathon at Rye Playland  
4/23/00 - March of Dimes Walkathon  
6/3/00 - American Diabetes Association "Tour de Cure"

## December Membership Meeting

On 12/13/99 at 8:07 p.m. the meeting called to order by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV.

Participation Awards were presented by Charlie Salvilla, KB2LLV. Those receiving awards were:  
1st Year - WD2ADT, K2DCL, KB2PMD. 2nd Year - N2NAA, KA1TKT, N2WQG. 9th Year - N2MEF. 12th Year - K2ZVI

### Business -

The 2000 Budget, approved by the Executive Board at its' previous meeting, was approved by the membership.

### Guest Speaker -

Norm Krajkowski, N2GKM: Norm, a WECA member, gave a presentation on VHF contesting.

### Director's Reports -

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: Robert reported on the annual Mamaroneck "Turkey Trot", and that he had received a letter of thanks from the town.

He also reported receiving a "Thank you" letter from the NYS Police for WECA participation during the Halloween "Pumpkin Patrol".

Social/WECAFEST - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: Reported that WECAFEST 2000 will be held on 3/19. The mailing party will be held at 10:00 am on Superbowl Sunday at the White Plains chapter of the Red Cross.

Repeater Operations - Dwight Smith, N2FMC: Reported receiving an email from KC2FNU regarding a TWIT heard on the repeater. A discussion took place regarding actions to take when a TWIT is heard. Besides the standard procedure of ignoring them, it was generally agreed that when a TWIT is heard the first thing that should be done is to listen for them on the repeater's input frequency to determine whether the offender is within the local area, and if possible determine the compass heading from the receiving location. If direction information is gathered from enough listeners, it may be possible to triangulate the TWIT's location.

### Announcements -

Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: Reported that Smith-Cairns Ford has offered to perform all of the necessary bodywork on the tower truck at no cost.

Dave Weiss, N2OGK: Asked the membership to contact him with suggestions for possible guest speakers.

Joe Carpentieri, KA2BRH: Took part in a recent Yonkers Amateur Radio Club (YARC) transmitter hunt. If any WECA members are interested in such an activity, they should contact him.

Stan Rothman, WA2NRV: Announced that he is still looking for someone to coordinate club projects. He also announced that Education Director Rich Anderson, W2RJA, could use an assistant, as he is currently very busy with work commitments. Tentative plans are underway for a General-class license course.

50/50 - Winner: KB2NBN

Door Prizes - Winners: N2TFC, K2DCL, N2DHH, and WA2NRV.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

## November Board Meeting

On 11/22/99 at 8:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV.

Treasurer's Report - Andy Farber, N4OOX: Proposed 2000 Budget was presented. It was suggested that funds be budgeted to allow for the purchase of dinner for the guest speakers. The speaker expense line item was changed to \$100.00. The 2000 Budget as amended and carried unanimously.

### Directors Reports:

Social/WECAFEST - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: The club has received some radio equipment and a computer. The computer, a Compaq 486, will be put into service in the Communications Van. The sellable radio equipment was sold at the Radio Central hamfest for \$225.00. The Red Cross has donated nine computers (Dell 486/33's) and four VGA monitors to WECA. The club has also received the long-term loan of an HP4 printer courtesy of Joe Brown, KB2NBN.

Awards Committee - Rich Benda, WB2QJA: Solicited candidates for awards to be presented at the January membership meeting.

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: Discussed the recent Turkey Trot and the upcoming Blythesdale events.

Engineering - Bob Wilson, N2DVQ: Reported that he is trying to complete the purchase of the replacement UHF repeater before the end of the budget year. He also reported receiving many favorable comments regarding the new South receiver.

ARES/RACES - Alan Crosswell, N2YGK: Director's reports were interrupted while discussion was held regarding ARES/RACES support of the County's Y2K operations

Membership - Peter Johnson, N2TFC: Current membership is at 216. 62 memberships have expired. There have been 6 new applications and 1 renewal after a 3-year lapse.

### New Business

Computer Net: Grant, KC2FNU, proposed the creation of a narrow-focus computer net, along the lines of the YARC Tech Net. The consensus of the board was that when KC2FNU is ready, it will be considered.

Hudson Division Convention 2000 - Dave, N2OGK, has been researching possible Internet domain names for the upcoming convention. Discussion followed regarding possible names, to be continued.

Y2K - Liam Murphy, Director, Westchester County ODES, reminded all present of the importance of the pending Y2K plan and the need for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 21:31 p.m.

Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

## **WECAFEST in the 21st Century**

**By Tom Raffaelli WB2NHC**

WECAFEST started in 1984 with the vision of becoming a hallmark event in the tri-state area. WECA leadership at that time identified the need for an Amateur Radio forum that would promote fellowship in the Amateur Radio hobby and participation in the Amateur Radio service. Over the years, WECAFEST has met and exceeded these expectations and shines today as a beacon calling the Amateur Radio community together twice yearly. The hard work and dedication of the WECA membership and that of our friends and colleagues who give of themselves each year continues this tradition. From its humble beginnings in the basement of the County Center through the growing years at the Westchester Community College and the Westchester Armory to its heyday in the old Yonkers Raceway building, this event captured the interest and attendance of a widening audience.

Recently, the proliferation of local hamfests, the decline in the growth of Amateur Radio and the rise of internet trading have cut into the size of our events. Still WECAFEST is one of the most talked about and anticipated events on the ham calendar. We continue to fill the hall and the parking lot with quality sellers and eager buyers. Our continued success is due in large part to the hard work of our great staff. Year after year the stalwarts return to stand in the cold and heat, direct and manage the crowds, educate and license the masses and do all of the myriad of tasks that make WECAFEST a top quality hamfest.

As we begin our preparations for both the traditional March event and the Hudson Division Convention in September, Jeanne and I pause to reflect on our personal involvement. We have been a part of WECAFEST since its beginning. It was our pleasure to take the reigns from Bob and Sarah Wilson eight years ago and keep the tradition going. Now we see the day when we will hand off the helm to others to carry on. Let me say here that we are not bowing out. Rather

we want to encourage others to come forward, pick up some of the advance work and someday (not to far off) become the next team to have the pleasure of being called Chairpersons of the finest event in the area. To be sure, it is a big task but, in the WECA tradition, lots of hands make light work. So don't be bashful, step up to one of the most satisfying assignments our association has to offer. The advance planning and work that Jeanne and I do is listed below. We are seeking people to become trained and take over parts of this work as we were so ably coached to do by those before us.

March and September for the following year  
Obtain approval of Executive Board for dates and prices

Contact and negotiate site with Yonkers Raceway  
Update customer and vendor databases  
Register event with ARRL

November and April  
Reserve mailing party location  
Consult with Public Relations Director about publicity  
Submit budget to Treasurer (November only)

December and May  
Obtain CDROM and extract new customer list.  
Update flyer graphics and vendor letter  
Copy flyer and print vendor letters

January and June  
Mail 500 vendor letters  
Print 10, 000 labels  
Obtain postal supplies for mailing party  
Conduct mailing party  
Reserve tables and chairs  
Consult with Education Director about forums (March only)

January through March and June through September  
Listen to WECA Infoline daily  
Receive and record vendor registrations

Cont...Page 5

Mail vendor confirmations  
Work with Staffing Manager on assignment of staff  
Assign tables to vendors

February and July  
Get insurance certificate  
Arrange for portable toilets  
Arrange for food vendor  
Check readiness with Raceway including admissions and security people

Event minus one week  
Turn off vendor registration on Infoline  
Prepare vendor check in sheets and files  
Check readiness with Raceway including access on Friday and Saturday  
Obtain traffic cones from EOC (September only)

Friday before event  
Receive tables and chairs (March only) and portable toilets at Raceway

Saturday Before Event  
Mark floor or parking lot  
Direct table placement (March Only)

WECAFEST Day  
Arrive 5am  
Get gates and doors opened  
Check in vendors  
Direct personnel in assignments  
Find substitutes for no-show or late staff  
Solve problems  
Rely on the staff  
Schmooze with vendors and buyers  
Supervise table take down and clean up

### \*\*\* From "The ARRL Letter"

**November 19:** Even though registration has been available for approximately two years now, most Amateur Radio licensees have yet to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The ULS Task Force reports that, as of mid-November, 682,212 amateurs still have not registered. This figure includes individuals whose licenses have lapsed but remain in the two-year

grace period. The FCC recently said approximately 3% of US licensees had registered with the ULS.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC -- including renewals, modifications, and vanity call sign requests.

Meanwhile, the latest "good news/bad news" scenario from the ULS could go something like this: "Dear Amateur: The good news is that we have granted your requested Group C vanity call sign which you sought 10 weeks ago when you were a General class licensee. The bad news is that when we granted your long-awaited vanity call, we also undid the Advanced and Extra class upgrades you accomplished while your vanity was pending. So, congratulations! You're a General once again."

The ULS Task Force says it recently discovered that the bug occurs when several applications are pending (eg, a vanity application and an upgrade application). The FCC is attempting to straighten out the unintended downgrades and says it will have the operator class of affected licensees corrected within a week.

FCC personnel are currently testing the processing for club, military recreation, and RACES applications and hopes to act on pending applications before the end of the month. Up until now, those applications have been filed on paper and still must be manually keystroked into the ULS prior to processing.

The ULS Task Force also wants amateur applicants to know that if they apply too early for license renewal, their applications will be dismissed. A license renewal must be filed no sooner than within 90 days of expiration, even if coupled with a license modification. This is only an issue for those filing paper applications; the electronic filing system will not let applicants file prematurely.

To register for the ULS, visit <http://www/fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration". Paper registration also is possible. For more information, call toll-free 888-CALL FCC (225-5322).

## WECA upcoming events...

Monday 1/10/00. WECA Membership Meeting

Monday 1/24/00. WECA Board Meeting

Sunday 11/30/00. WECAFEST Mailing Party.

## WECAFEST Mailing Party By Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

WECAFEST will be held on Sunday March 19, 2000. To Prepare for this we will mail out 10,000 flyers. Our mailing party will be held on Sunday January 30, 2000 at the red cross building starting at 10am. The red cross is at 106 North Broadway, White Plains. If you want to help, please call me at 914-769-1486 or sign up at the January WECA meeting.



## Southern District Net

Sandro Sicilia N2TWN, Net manager of the Southern District Net, reports

November, 1999

Stations checked in	350
Traffic Brought	68
Traffic Passed	49
Total Net Time in Minutes in 30 session	334

I wish to take this opportunity to send to all of you the best and greetings for the New Year. My special thanks to WECA. for a great repeater system, where we all can all stay in touch. We, traffic handlers had a very busy year between the; drills, traffic nets, Ares Races, American Red Cross and all the real Emergencies we did. Thanks to all the liaisons, and individuals that check in and give S.D.N the support we need To the great NET CONTROLERS as a wonderful example of what a good amateur radio operator can become. Special thanks to N2DB for passing to me the honor to be the net manager and the joy she brought in all these seven years teaching me the ways of NTS. Alan N2YGK thank you very much from all the net for Ares Races we still need your help and can never thank you enough for your hard work and commitment.

I can not name everybody but this special thanks is for you too and I wish the best for a very good millennium full of everything you wish.

Best regards to all of you Alessandro N2TWN



## Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831  
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

Place  
Postage  
Here

**RUSH - DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**