



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

Volume 24, Issue 3

March 2000



Next Meeting

The next WECA meeting will be Monday March 13th 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 main speaker will be by Tom, WB2NHC, who will be doing his annual WECAFEST presentation.

From The President...

Greetings,
March will be coming in like a lion and by March 19th it will be a LAMB. That is a WECAFEST lamb. Call Fran N2OLU to offer assistance with wecafest. He will be working with another member, It could be you if you volunteer soon, to set up the man/woman work schedule for members. We need your help to make it another successful day for all. And it is fun. Everyone is talking about the new amateur license program. It is less confusing with all the programs geared toward enlightening all of us. We will have a VE session at wecafest and expect a lot of upgrades at that time. Others will be back at our April 13th session at the EOC. On April 15th at the EOC, thanks to the Westchester County OEM, we will be giving the NEW tests and doing the paper upgrades for those who have passed new elements, but must complete the paperwork to make it legal. See Sandy N2SF for details.

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

Don't forget to contact Nick K2ZVI with ideas for a club project. Contact Rich K2RJA with your interest in upgrade classes.

I remind you that we are interested in finding a location for a WECA club station. It should be in the middle of the county so it is a reasonable drive for all members. Donated property with room for classes would be ideal. Talk to any board member if you have any suggestions. Fran N2OLU is also working on a " Elmer " program for WECA. This can help all of us. New and long time members, alike.

See you at the WECA meeting, Monday, March 13th. " 73 ". Stan, WA2NRV

Westchester County RACES activated for Indian Point Alert

As part of the Indian Point emergency response plan, which we have drilled and drilled and drilled for, Westchester County RACES was activated by the County Warning Point on Tuesday evening February 15, 2000. RACES hams were dispatched to the Emergency Operations Center in White Plains and the Joint News Center at the Westchester County Airport. RACES provided continuous staffing through three shift changes until the end of the Alert declaration around 9pm Wednesday evening.

Alan Crosswell, Assistant RACES Radio Officer
ARES Emergency Coordinator, Westchester County, NY

Write for the WECAGRAM. Send your submissions to wecagram@weca.org

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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 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.

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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...

A sure sign that spring is in the air is the annual spring WECAFEST, this month on Sunday March 19th at Yonkers Raceway. Come on down and find that "one of a kind" bargain that you been dreaming of all year. Or try your hand at going for that upgrade before license restructuring takes effect on April 15th. Maybe you might want to sit in a forum and learn about some aspect of Ham radio that you never had considered. Or come on down to have a eye ball QSO with some old friends. What ever your interests are you will not be disappointed to be part of the spring WECAFEST.

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
Call: 914 949-4231

Upcoming events include:

4/9/00 - Multiple Sclerosis Society Walkathon at Rye Playland
4/30/00 - March of Dimes Walkathon
6/3/00 - American Diabetes Association "Tour de Cure"

Replacement HT Belt Clip By Grant Nishanian, KC2FNU

About 5 months ago, the screws for the belt clip on my Icom IC-W32A stripped out. Sending the unit back to ICOM for repair would have put me without an HT for a few weeks. I went on my computer and found a company that makes a swivel belt clip, commonly used for cellular phones, but perfect for a lightweight HT. The Swivel Clip package contains 1 clip and 2 different sized buttons with 3m adhesive pads (the adhesive is very strong). The company also makes a product called the *Mount*, which is a stationary mount for the swivel tabs. It is perfect for mounting to your dash, or to your wall. Ordering information and pricing can be found at *The Clip* website at <http://www.theclip.com> or by calling/faxing (858) 549-9244.

Feburary Membership Meeting

On 2/14/00 at 8:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV.

Membership awards were presented to:

1st Year - N2CAV, WA2PYZ
11th Year - N3EMF
12th Year - AC2T, AC2V, N2DHH, N2GKM, WB2VVS

The Guest Speaker was Eugene Skopal, AE2F: The subject of Gene's presentation was "Antenna Modeling". He described the theory behind antenna modeling and the use of computers to aid in antenna design /evaluation.

Director's Reports -

Stan Rothman, WA2NRV: Stan reported on the VE Session held the previous Thursday, during which N3EMF upgraded to Advanced Class; while WB2NHC, N2OLU and WA2NRV obtained their CSEC's which will promote them to Extra Class effective April 15th.

Upcoming WECA-sponsored VE Sessions will be held on 3/19 (WECAFEST), 4/13 (EOC) and 4/15 (EOC). The Yonkers Amateur Radio Club holds VE Sessions the 1st Sunday of every month. On 4/16, beginning at 8:30 am, YARC will be holding a full testing session.

Nick Gallo, K2ZVI: Club Project Coordinator, Nick solicited suggestions from the membership for possible projects.

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE presented Certificates of Appreciation from the NYS Police to the following members for participation in the 1999 "Pumpkin Patrol": KB2LLV, KC2COR, N2GGY, KA2BRH, KA2KCR, N2TWN, KC2CLZ, N2AMP, N2TSE, WA2NRV, W2RJA.

Social/WECAFEST - Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC: Reported that due to an increase in the cost for vendor spaces, many vendors have chosen to setup in the tailgater area. Tom suggested places for members to distribute flyers, then answered questions about the procedures for generating the mailing labels.

Jeanne, N2NQY, asked for volunteers to begin assisting her and Tom with organizing WECAFEST, as after running the event for many years they are looking for a well-deserved break. Signup sheets for this year's event were available.

Education - Rich Anderson, W2RJA: Rich asked for a show of hands to indicate how many members really want a licensing class. It was suggested that perhaps classes could be held on portions of the theory tests, which might help those who are studying on their own pass the exams.

Announcements -

Robert, N2OBY: Reminded everyone that he can laminate licenses, autopatch cards, etc... for \$.50/item.

50/50 - Winner: Julian, WD2ADT.

Door Prizes - Winners: WB2NHC, N2GGY, K2ZVI, N2TSE, KC2FOR, N2NQY (Declined), and WD2ADT.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

January Board Meeting

On 1/24/00 at 8:15 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV, who began the meeting by announcing that Steve Mendehlson, W2ML, lost the recent election for ARRL President.

In light of the FCC's recent license reclassification, Stan proposed that one-day courses be held for those who are already working to upgrade their licenses.
Directors Reports

President - Stan Rothman, WA2NRV: Reported that he attended the "Ham Radio University" on Long Island, and found it to be very informative. While discussing the possibility of such an event in Westchester, it was suggested that a forum for new hams be held during WECAFEST. Stan reminded those present that a Forum Director and ideas for forums are still needed.

Public Service - Robert Kantor, N2TSE: reported on the Y2K operation, in particular the results of the hospital-to-hospital simplex tests. Robert suggested that the ARES/RACES coordinators send a letter to Mr. Murphy at the county ODES regarding the results of the operation and any problems encountered.

Engineering - Bob Wilson, N2DVQ: W2XX agrees with the idea of moving his DX Cluster node to the old site, which would require the reconnection of a telephone line and it's associated cost.

Regarding the new UHF repeater, work is continuing on the controller cabinet.

Membership - Peter Johnson, N2TFC: Reported five new members and a couple of renewals. Membership is currently at 202 members. There was discussion regarding the interest in an electronic version of the WECAGRAM. Peter replied that only 25% of the responses were favorable, but he will continue to study the issue in the hope of making the option available to interested members.

New Business

Stan, WA2NRV, stated that the club has a HF rig available for loan to WECA members who are interested in operating on the HF bands. Any interested members should contact him or any other Board member. Assistance will be provided in setting up the equipment.

Stan, WA2NRV, reported sending a donation to the Elmsford Animal Shelter in memory of N2YGK's father-in-law, who passed away recently and whose family requested that donations in his memory be made to animal rights organizations. Another "Silent Key" is Bob, K2LV. WB2NHC will send a card on behalf of WECA.

Grant, KC2FNU, withdrew his earlier commitment to manage a computer net.

Tom, WB2NHC, asked about the "Elmer Corps". After some discussion WA2NRV requested that the Director-at-Large look into the subject further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by Kenneth F. Gross, N2OBY

Additional VE Exam for License Restructuring Submitted by Sandy, N2SF

We have scheduled an additional VE Exam for Saturday April 15th 9 am in the EOC. We will have the NEW exam elements 1, 2, 3, and 4. This will be in addition to the exam scheduled for April 13. April 13 will be last chance to take the old exams. Call Sandy Fried at 273 2741 or e-mail to n2sf@weca.org to register.

This session will also be used for those who passed old exams but need to submit new paperwork to the FCC to upgrade to the new license structure.

Enclosed info from QST:

A Summary of Restructuring Upgrade Possibilities We emphasize that no one will lose any current Amateur Radio privileges as a result of the FCC's "restructuring" order of December 30, 1999. There is no need to upgrade if you are happy with your current privileges, and no one's license class will be "downgraded" if that individual chooses not to upgrade now or later. Also note that there are no automatic upgrades. All who claim prior test element credit (eg, with a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination or CSCE) must present their credit(s) to a VE team at an exam session and pay the appropriate processing/application fee, if required.

Below is a summary of some of the upgrading possibilities afforded by the FCC's Report and Order of December 30, 1999.

Upgrading to Amateur Extra Class Without 13 or 20 WPM Morse Code Testing

Advanced: With no further code testing, to be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15, you must pass Element 4B now and present your Element 4B credit to a VE team on/after April 15. Or, take Element 4 on/after April 15.

General: With no further code testing, to be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15 you must pass Elements 4A and 4B now, thus getting your Advanced upgrade before April 15. Then, take your Advanced upgrade and your Element 4B credit to a VE session on/after April 15. You also can take both Element 4A and 4B credit to a VE session on/after April 15. You also may pass Element 4 after April 15 (Element 4A cannot be bypassed; if Element 4B is not passed in this scenario before April 15, on/after April 15 the Element 4A credit previously earned would have no value toward any future upgrade under the new system).

Technician Plus or Technician with 5 WPM or higher Morse code credit: To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April

15 with no further code testing you must pass Elements 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 3 and 4 on/after April 15. (Technicians able to document passing the Technician/General written examination before March 21, 1987, can present this proof as credit for Element 3B before April 15, or as credit for Element 3 on/after April 15).

Technician (no Morse code credit): To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15 you must pass Element 1A, the 5 WPM Morse code test, and you must pass Elements 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 1 (the 5 WPM Morse code test), 3 and 4 on/after April 15, to qualify under the new system.

Novice: To be ready to upgrade to Extra on/after April 15, you must pass Elements 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 2, 3 and 4 on/after April 15.

Other Upgrade Examples

Technician Plus or Technician with 5 WPM or higher Morse code credit desiring to upgrade to General: With no further code testing, you must pass Element 3B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 3 on/after April 15. Grandfather credit is also acceptable, per above.

Technician desiring to gain Novice/Tech HF privileges: You may pass the 5 WPM code test at any time, before or after April 15, 2000.

Novice desiring to upgrade to General: You must pass Elements 3A and 3B before April 15, then take this credit to a VE session on/after April 15. Or, you must pass Elements 2 and 3 on/after April 15.

Novice desiring to upgrade to Technician with HF privileges: You must pass Element 3A before April 15, or pass Element 2 on/after April 15.

WECAFEST 2000 Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Well, its that time again. WECAFEST will arrive on Sunday March 19, 2000 at Yonkers Raceway's Old Glory Building. Table sales are rolling in, so it looks like another sellout. The bad news is HELP!! I lie, there is no bad news but your help is needed. WECAFEST adds big bucks to the treasury. This money funds new equipment for our repeater and packet systems, our communications vans and our operating events like Field Day and JOTA. In addition, WECAFEST is a place to meet friends, new and old, have some radio fun and serve the hobby. With

your continued support, this year promises to be another great one.

WECAFEST enjoys a fine reputation in the Amateur Radio community. We draw attendees from Vermont to Pennsylvania and beyond. As with all worthwhile things, it takes some hard work to make it happen. On Saturday we set up the tables from 2 PM to 4 PM. On Sunday all jobs are arranged in shifts. Although the job lasts all day, a person only needs to be on duty for one shift. Of course if you want to stay for several shifts, that's fine. Many of us stay for the entire day. There's always time to stop for a rest or take in the event. Shifts are arranged in 2 or 3 hour segments, 6 AM to 9AM; 9AM to 11AM; 11AM to 2 PM, 2 PM to 4 PM.

You can sign up at the WECA meeting. We will call those who helped out last year to ask for your help again. If you didn't participate last year or just can't wait to volunteer again, you may call me 914-769-1486 or send e mail to wb2nhc@weca.org. If you are a VE, Richard Sandell, WK6R will be calling you or you can call Richard at 914-337-5552 or send e mail to him at wk6r@weca.org.

Below is a summary of each of the jobs that needs doing on Saturday and Sunday

SET UP TABLES - On Saturday from 2 pm to 4 pm we set up 200 tables on the sales floor. This takes about 2 hours. The more people we have, the easier it is for everyone. If your back is up to it, please consider helping here.

Take Down Tables - At the end of the event, we must fold all the tables and stack them for pick up. This takes about two hours from 2 pm to 4 pm. The more people that pitch in, the easier the task. If your back is up to it, we sure could use your muscles.

TALK-IN - 6AM to 2PM - This is one of the toughest jobs to fill. You must be very familiar with the roads, be a good communicator and be polite on the air even when others are not. You are the voice of WECA. You do not need to be on site. Talk-in can be done from anywhere within the range of the repeater.

STAFFING - 6AM to 11AM - This person checks in the staff giving them credentials and explaining the assignment. Fran will be doing this job. He needs assistants and relief.

VENDOR SEPARATION - 6AM to 9AM - This is the first person that the vendors encounter. This person places the vendor on the correct check in line (pre-registered and not registered). The person must be able to deal with vendors in a courteous manner when they are not courteous.

VENDOR CHECK IN - 6AM to 9AM - Check in the vendors and collect money when needed. Again courtesy, patience and smiles are the necessary ingredients.

VENDOR ENTRANCE - 6AM to 9AM - Holds the vendors at the gate until the unloaders are ready for them. You guessed it - keep smiling.

TAILGATING - 6AM to 9AM - Direct vendors to parking spaces. Keep order during the parking. This way PLEASE!

VENDOR UNLOADING - 6AM to 9AM - Direct inside vendors to unloading spaces. Keep the unloading operation moving. Insure that vehicles are promptly moved out of unloading spaces. PLEASE move your vehicle.

VENDOR ESCORTS - 6AM to 9AM - Direct the vendors to their tables as they enter the building. Each escort will have a laborer with a hand truck to carry the vendor's equipment if necessary. Watch the vendors be impressed with our service.

VENDOR SECURITY - 6AM to 2PM - The task here is to prevent shoplifting from our large vendors. Some people will be assigned to specific vendors and some will walk the aisles. Wave at the vendors so they know your watching.

ADMISSIONS - 7AM to 1PM - This is the general admissions assignment. Yonkers Raceway employees take the money. WECA people greet the customers, hand out door prize tickets and stamp hands. Be sure to say good morning to our customers.

CLUB SALES TABLE - 7AM to 2PM - Sell members equipment. Make somebody's radio dream come true.

WELCOME TABLE - 7AM to 2PM - WECA welcome table. Provide information about WECA and WECAFEST. Receive returned flyers for mailing list. You are WECA!

ANNOUNCER - 7AM to 2PM - Gets door prize tickets from admissions. Picks winning door prize tickets and announce numbers. Give door prizes to winners. Make general announcements. These people must be well spoken and speak softly. Too much announcing is not a good thing.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS - 8AM to 2PM - Register the examinees, administer the tests, play the code tapes, mark the answers, congratulate the new hams. WECA VE's are the best of the best. Friends from other clubs come to help newbees embark in our great hobby. It's a tough job with big rewards.

WECA upcoming events...

Monday March 13th, Membership meeting

Sunday March 19th, WECAFEST

Monday March 27th, Board Meeting

Membership Tidbits

By Peter Johnson, N2TFC

ASSOC7, Bob Mueller of Mamaroneck is now KC2FYZ - congrats on the ticket!

KC2DHT, Marion Brown of Peekskill is a new club member - welcome!

KB2YTX, Andrew Kaplan of Amawalk is a new WECA member - welcome !

WB2DSO, Arthur Miller, former WECA member has rejoined the club - welcome back!

N2DSK, Karl Westerville - longtime WECA member has moved to Line Lexington, PA.



Southern District Net

Sandro Sicilia N2TWN, Net manager of the Southern District Net, reports for January, 2000

Stations checked in	360
Traffic Brought	71
Traffic Passed	67
Total Net Time in Minutes in 31 session	392

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

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



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