



# 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 25, Issue 1

Summer 2000

## **WECA Members Rally and Testify Against Restrictions on Emergency Power Generators in New Rochelle**

WECA members were out in force on Tuesday evening, July 11, at the New Rochelle City Hall for a Public Hearing on a proposed bill to restrict the use of emergency power generators in residential zones in the City of New Rochelle.

The proposal, drafted by Councilwoman Marianne Sussman of the New Rochelle City Council, would have restricted the installation and use of emergency power generators in residential areas to permit holders only. Permits would be granted only to persons requiring emergency power for medical reasons, and able-bodied amateur radio operators would have been ineligible to obtain such permits.

WECAGRAM editor Mike Arrow, K2NR, a resident of New Rochelle and a constituent of Councilwoman Sussman's district, testified against the bill. Mike indicated the important emergency communications work performed by hams, particularly WECA members, emphasizing how vital--and how common--the need for emergency communications is. He noted the importance of emergency power for such amateur communications, and for other purposes in a residential environment by amateurs and non-amateurs alike.

Also testifying against the bill were WECA President Stan Rothman, WA2NRV and (on behalf of the American Red Cross) Social Director Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC. Stan noted the role of WECA working in conjunction with Westchester and local agencies in emergency management, and discussed the role of members, including New Rochelle residents, who provide these services at no cost to the community. Tom reinforced these points by reminding the Council of the cooperative role amateurs have played with well-known Red Cross emergency efforts, including during past emergencies in New Rochelle.

On hand at the hearing to lend support were the following WECA members: AB2JD, K2NR, KC2 COR/FNU/FYZ, N2 AMP/GGY/TFC/TJE, W2RWR, WA2NRV and WB2NHC. Besides WECA members, W2GLA of New Rochelle and W2MAC of nearby Pelham also testified against the bill.

The Council held over the bill until September, when it will be reconsidered. New Rochelle Mayor Timothy Itoni indicated that the bill considered at the hearing was not a final draft and would be modified before being put to a vote. WECA will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and report to the membership in the WECAGRAM.

## **Get Together with Your WECA Friends in the Good Old Summertime...**

### **Come to the 2nd Annual WECA Picnic!**

**Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon 6 5 pm**  
**George's Island Park, Montrose**

**Family Fun!**  
**Relaxation!**  
**Camaraderie!**

You're going to love this beautiful riverside park! We have a covered pavilion. We're close to parking, restrooms, and game area. It will be a great time, but not without you!

We need people to do very small jobs. For example, if you can come early, help us set up. Also, we need food, utensils, game equipment, etc.

*Be part of this picnic to  
remember!*

Contact Judyth Stavans, K2DFJ for further information at  
<[k2dfj@weca.org](mailto:k2dfj@weca.org)> or (914) 245-0844.



**Next Membership Meeting:  
September 11 at 8:00 pm**

Come join your WECA friends after the summer break and get some valuable training at the same time. The highlight of the meeting will be a radiological emergency preparedness training session by Liam Murphy. Westchester County (as well as WECA) needs you! If you need more information, please contact Alan N2YGK.

## Views from the Shack #1: Introducing Your New Editor

### THE WECAGRAM

**Editor:** Mike Arrow, K2NR

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, and the American Red Cross, and is 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 [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org) or via postal mail at 2 Edna Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2516.

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

**The deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the second Monday of the preceding month. Timely publication relies on prompt submissions.**

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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WECA wishes to exchange newsletters with other clubs. All clubs wishing to receive the WECAGRAM in exchange for copies of their publications should contact the editor.

#### **WECA Officers and Directors: July 2000-June 2001**

##### **OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b>	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
<b>Executive VP</b>	Philip Petrus, W2RWR
<b>VP/General Counsel</b>	Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken Gross, N2OBY
<b>Trustee</b>	Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK
<b>President Emeritus</b>	Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

##### **DIRECTORS:**

<b>County Liaison</b>	(vacant)
<b>Digital Modes</b>	Richard L Benda, WB2QJA
<b>Director at Large</b>	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
<b>Education</b>	Efrem Acosta, KC2FOR (acting)
<b>Engineering</b>	Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ
<b>Membership</b>	Angelina Morgante, KC2COR
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
<b>Public Relations</b>	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
<b>Public Service</b>	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
<b>Repeater Operations</b>	Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC
<b>Social</b>	Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC

WECA gladly accepts donations of equipment in new or used condition (e.g. from estates). Please contact WECA by e-mail, postal mail or telephone for further information.

WECA operates the following repeaters under call sign **WB2ZII/R**. All repeaters use PL 2A (114.8 Hz).

**147.060(+), 224.400(-) and 447.475(-) MHz**

The WECAGRAM is available on-line at:  
<http://www.weca.org/wecagram>

I'm honored that WECA has voted to entrust me with one of its important functions: preparing its redoubtable newsletter, the WECAGRAM. Thank you for your confidence, which I hope to fulfill by preparing a literate newsletter for the thinking ham. My thanks also go to Will N2UXJ, for his able stewardship of our treasured publication.

The WECAGRAM will continue to announce the events that are the lifeblood of our club: public service activities, social and operating events, hamfests and the like. Notwithstanding, I intend to add some new things. For example, I will comb the Internet, as well as our membership and local dignitaries, and bring to you some collective wisdom from around the ham radio world. Hams are known for being big talkers (excuse me, that should read 5effective communicators4) and have been eager to express themselves, forcefully and at length, around the 2net as well as on the bands. I hope to bring you some of the best commentary from the wide world of hamdom that is available, and to generate discussion within the membership.

I promise to help you with some thought-provoking material from the Editor's chair, in a new editorial column entitled, 5Views from the Shack.4 Perhaps the WECAGRAM will become a little different from the way it has been traditionally, but I will always be ready and eager to receive your comments and guidance.

CQ, my WECA friends. Send me your stories by e-mail to <[wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org)>. I can handle WordPerfect 6, Microsoft Word 97 or ASCII formats on a Windows computer. Brief articles or submissions may also be sent by postal mail to 2 Edna Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2516. Please make sure to include your name and call on anything you send. The name and/or call may be withheld from publication on request. If you need some help getting your thoughts written, please let me know--I'll be glad to assist. I look forward to continuing to deserve your trust as Editor and, most of all, to hearing from you.

73, Mike K2NR

**Hams have opinions about everything.  
(That's why we became hams!)**

**Why not write them down and share them with your  
friends in WECA? You'll be glad you did!**

**Send them to <[wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org)> along with your  
name and call (withheld on request).**

**Thanks from your Editor, Mike K2NR.**

## From the President...

Welcome to the special summer WECAGRAM. This is the first issue from our new editor, Mike K2NR.

For those members who have not heard the results of the June club elections, the following are the newly elected officers and directors. Remember only half of our directors are elected each year.

Pres.	Stan WA2NRV
Exec. VP.	Phil W2RWR
VP General Counsel	Mike N2EJI
Secretary	Ken N2OBY
Treasurer	Andy N4OOX
Director at Large	Sandy N2SF
Public Service Dir.	Robert N2TSE
Digital Modes Dir.	Rich WB2QJA
Membership Services Dir.	Angelina KC2COR
Public Relations Dir.	Dave N2OGK
Newsletter Dir.	Mike K2NR

We all express our appreciation to the members who have served in these positions during the past years.

Director at large	Fran N2OLU
Membership Services Dir.	Peter N2TFC
Public Relations Dir.	Shirley N2SKP
Newsletter Editor	Will N2UXJ
Vice Pres.	Dave N2OGK

We have had a few members take advantage of our  $\text{ELMER}$  program. Remember, if you have questions about any area of amateur radio, and want to learn more, ask for help through our WECA Elmer program. Call Fran N2OLU, who will match you up with an Elmer. A member, who had recently upgraded, is taking advantage of our WECA loan closet. You will hear that member on the HF bands shortly. A few members will help set up the station and teach the WECA member how to use it properly.

Robert N2TSE has scheduled a variety of public-service activities in the near future. The NY Philharmonic concert at Westchester Community College will be held on August 5. Call him to become actively involved. Remember that these are the events that hone our capabilities for emergency situations, such as the Indian Point event recently. Speaking of Indian Point, Liam Murphy, OEM director for Westchester County, asked that I thank each and every member whom participated or was on stand by during this event. Without our membership involvement, they would have had a problem coordinating all activities. The County Executive, Andy Spano, also said  $\text{Well done}$  with respect to our communications capabilities.

You might want to start working on your appetite and/or water balloon throwing arm, because we will have our annual club picnic again this summer. Judyth K2DFJ, is heading up the committee. She is planning on making this  $\text{Family style picnic}$  a fun event, even better than last year, if that's possible. The picnic will take place on August 13th at the George's Island Park Montrose, NY. We have

the Pavilion #1. The grills are there, just bring food and the family. We will have games and prizes for children and adults. Contact Judyth K2DFJ, John N2GGY or Angelina KC2COR.

I would like to thank Sandy N2SF and all the VE team members who have been conducting testing sessions during the year. During April, alone we processed over 75 exams. You will hear a lot of those calls on the air shortly.

We should all thank Bob N2DVQ and the other members of the technical committee. They are some of our unsung heroes. The members you do not always see at each activity even though they are there. They are frequently working at the repeater sites all hours of day and night. It is because of these members that we enjoy the machines we use each day.

Thanks also to the members of the nominating committee (Mal N2MEF, Fred KC2COQ, Dana KC2CLQ) as well as the Elections committee (Bob N2KIM, John N2GGY, and Nick K2ZVI) for a job well done in handling the election process last June.

It was good seeing Bob (RADAR) N2GDY at the last few meetings. Most of us see Radar on top of the bucket truck at field day. He joined that limited WECA heart club with a sextuplet (6) section by-pass. Some people will go to any length to join an elite group.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Summer WECA functions. Who is N2 Smelly Feet? I am continuing to write this after Field Day and now can tell you that not only did Sandy's feet smell during field day, but he had a lot of company calling  $\text{CQ Field Day}$ ,  $\text{CQ Field Day}$ ,  $\text{DE N2SF}$ ,  $\text{N2 Smelly Feet}$ . We had members work the stations through out the 24 hour period. Nevertheless, Tom and Bob would have appreciated seeing more members for set up and take down.

Unfortunately, due to a difficult workload and other problems that will require all his attention, Rich WA2RJA has regrettably tendered his resignation as the WECA Education Director. I'm sure all of WECA joins me in thanking Rich for the time and effort he provided to WECA, and hoping he will continue to participate. In the meantime, Efreem KC2FOR has been appointed by the WECA board to fill the position. This will be until we can conduct a special election to fill the position as per our by-laws. If you or anyone you know would like to add their name to the nominees for the position, see one of the members of the elections committee listed above.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Philharmonic and WECA picnic during the summer.

73, Stan WA2NRV

**From the Public Service Director...  
By Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

Besides the New York Philharmonic concert on August 5, don't forget these upcoming fall events. Mark your calendar, and if you want to volunteer, contact me on the radio during SDN, by e-mail at <n2tse@weca.org> or by phone at (914) 949-4231.

Upcoming events include:

- Sat 8/5 NY Philharmonic at WCC - 3:00 pm
- Fri 9/22 Leukemia/lymphoma Walk, White Plains, 5:00 pm
- Sun 9/24 American Heart Association, WCC Plaza at Kensico Dam
- Sat 10/14 Boy Scout Jamboree, Croton Point Park, 8:30 am *(note corrected date)*

**Upcoming WECA Events**

- Sunday, August 13 WECA Picnic, George's Island Park, Montrose  
12 noon - 5 pm
- Monday, August 28 WECA Board Meeting, EOC,  
8:00 pm White Plains
- Monday, September 11 WECA Membership Meeting,  
8:00 pm County Center, White Plains

**From the Education Director...  
By Efrem Acosta, KC2FOR**

I would ask that any ham or non-ham wanting to be part of a class on amateur radio to please let me know their subject of interest. Perhaps a Technician course for non-hams or maybe a Morse code class for those looking to upgrade would be in order.

The number of interested persons will help me determine which class(es) should be held.

I am looking at a target date of mid-October to get this project up and running.

Anyone who is interested in a class can e-mail me at <KC2FOR@weca.org>.

**From the Membership Director...  
By Angelina Morgante, KC2COR**

WECA would like to welcome the following member(s) who rejoined WECA:

**WA2UIJ** LOUIS G. LEONARD

WECA would also like to welcome the following new members:

**KA2ZFE** CARL M. PATRICK

**N2DRO** ALAN L. JANOVER



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