



THE WECAGRAM

Newsletter of the
Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831
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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and Serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 25, Issue 2

September, 2000

Hudson Division Convention Comes to Westchester; WECA Engineering Director to be Honored By Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

By now, I am sure you all know that the biennial Hudson Division Convention will be hosted this year by WECA and that it will be held at the Westchester County Center on Saturday, September 16, 2000. A convention awards dinner will precede the convention on Friday, September 15 at the Elks Lodge in New Rochelle. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, will present the Hudson Division Technical Achievement Award for 2000 to WECA's own Engineering Director Bob Wilson, N2DVQ for his outstanding efforts in designing, building and maintaining the WECA VHF/UHF repeater system. For over ten years, Bob has led a team of dedicated hams in making and keeping the WECA system one of the best in the country. I urge everyone to attend the dinner to share in this important event with Bob.

But that's not all that's happening at the convention. Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL President and Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement (who prefers not to be known by the acronym, "SCARE") will be at both the dinner and the convention. A full day of dynamite forums is planned and the flea market is filling with vendors. It is a combination of events that should not be missed. I urge you all to attend both the dinner and the convention.

Of course, there's lots of work to be done to make this another top notch WECA event. Our team of recruiters are making calls to sign up staff for the day. Just a few

hours of your time gets you free admission to the hamfest on Saturday. Please sign up to help out. If you have participated in the past, you should get a call from one of the recruiters. If you haven't received a call, you may sign up for your usual assignment with Joe Brown for Admissions, Ron Devenuti for Club Tables, John or Angelina Morgante for Security, or Dwight Smith for Vendor Operations. If you have not served before, please call me at (914) 769-1486 to sign up, or you can sign up at the WECA meeting.

Tickets for the dinner are \$35 per person. Make your check payable to WECA and send it to Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC, 544 Manhattan Avenue, Thornwood, NY 10594.

CQ Marathon Men (and Women)... By Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

So that's the headline, here's the scoop. HAMS MAKE IT WORK! YOU MAKE IT WORK! From the early morning start at Fort Wadsworth to the late night family reunion tent, hams "Do It With Frequency" at the NYC Marathon, and no club does it better than WECA. We send over 60 members to the Marathon each year. We have net controls, mile captains, shadows, course monitors, medical coordinators, communications supervisors, the race starter (I bet you thought the Mayor did that); the list goes on and on. If you are not a part of the WECA Marathon team, you are missing a great time and a great T-shirt (not to mention the hat). Come join us for another fun day this year on Sunday, November 5. To sign up, see me at the WECA meeting or call me at (914) 769-1486.

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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 or via postal mail at 2 Edna Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2516.

Submissions via e-mail to 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:

President	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
Executive VP	Philip Petrus, W2RWR
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	(vacant)
Digital Modes	Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA
Director at Large	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
Education	Efrem Acosta, KC2FOR (acting)
Engineering	Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ
Membership	Angelina R. Morgante, KC2COR
Newsletter Editor	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
Public Relations	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
Public Service	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
Repeater Operations	Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC
Social	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>

Views from the Shack #2: Why Are We Hams?

This month's column focuses on a favorite topic: *why and how our members decided to become hams, and for those of us returning to the hobby, why we came back*. I think that exploring why and how we came to be hams--and how and whether we stuck with it-- will tell us a lot about the number one question in hamdom today: how do we generate more interest in amateur radio and a growing number of active, responsible ham operators.

It's only fair that I start the ball rolling with my own story:

I was first licensed as a Novice in 1963, just before my 14th birthday. I was one of those non-athletic kids from New York City who took pleasure in the respite of cool evenings of a rural Connecticut summer camp, but wondered how to fit in at the intensely athletic environment of early '60's summer camps. The camp had an electronics counselor, an electrical engineering student so brilliant that his nerdiness could be forgiven by even the most hard-bitten jock at camp, and both he and a bunkmate of mine held Technician Class licenses of the 5 wpm kind. I had found my niche, and by mid-September, 1963, WN2KRR was issued to me. Within a year, I passed the Tech and General exams, and over time I passed some more tests and ultimately removed some letters and rearranged the remaining ones in my original call to metamorphose only last summer into K2NR, from New Rochelle.

In the meantime, I grew up, went to work "for real," and became a father. I had time only to keep up the slimmest relationship with amateur radio: my sole connections with hamdom throughout the 1980's and '90's were possession of an Extra Class ticket, faithfully renewed when required, and call-letter license plates on my car. My trusty rig was neatly packed into a closet while I raised my kids and fulfilled my communications wanderlust by working at a job requiring worldwide travel. Publicly, I announced to every roadhog and traffic cop that I was a licensed amateur, but privately, was I the kind of ham I should have been?

It was only after nearing age 50 that I realized that work and even family were not enough in life--the desire for comradeship, public service and a renewed sense of fun turned me back toward the noble traditions of amateur radio. I got a new call-sign identity and joined WECA last fall. Thank goodness for such a midlife experience and the presence of WECA, our pre-eminent public-service radio club, to bring me back from being a living "silent key."

OK, OK, so every ex-ham and inactive ham does not have such a midlife epiphany, yet I suspect my situation is more common than many think: a guy with fire in the belly and a bug in the fist, who somehow went astray from the flock.

(continued on page 4)

From the President... **By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV**

Monday, September 11 will be our first meeting since the summer vacation. We will have an interesting meeting with the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management that is to provide a training program that will certify our members for radiological monitoring. We need this training for the Indian Point drills.

During the summer, we had a couple of interesting events. On August 5 was the NY Philharmonic concert at Westchester Community College. Most of us not only enjoyed the special sounds of the evening, but also saw the skies explode with a fantastic fireworks display. We also held our annual WECA picnic on August 13. You will notice the extra pounds I acquired at the picnic, even though I played badminton, Frisbee, and other games. I sat in the seat in front of the HF rig, set up for the picnic, and continued to eat and eat and eat. Darn you, Judyth and Angelina, and you too, John.

We are about to start another exciting WECA year. Our first BIG PROJECT this year will be the sponsorship of the Hudson Division Convention on September 15-16. On Friday night will be the dinner, followed by the convention on Saturday. There is still time to sign up to help and attend this affair.

This meeting will be a perfect opportunity to see Angelina and pay your dues. Please do it early since WECA runs on our membership's support, both physical *and* fiscal.

Due to business and personal reasons, Rich W2RJA requested that we accept his resignation as WECA's education director. EfreM KC2FOR volunteered to fill that position. The board has installed him as our acting WECA education director pending a special election. EfreM has been in touch with the ARRL regarding updating our classes under the new license program. He has also requested our members return a form with their preference for the next WECA-sponsored class. The elections committee will be asking for additional nominations at the September meeting.

I learned that J.P. W2XX will be running this year to retain his position as Hudson Division Vice Director. Steve W2ML will be running against him. Since both candidates are well-qualified and competent, I can only ask that you vote for the man of your choice. No matter who wins (I wish they could both win), it is a winning situation for WECA members. Frank N2FF is running unopposed. If you are not a member of the ARRL, I urge you to join and support the largest amateur radio organization, supporting our best interests. You can join or renew through WECA at no additional cost, with the club receiving a small amount of financial supporting.

If you start hearing "Ho, Ho, Ho" on the air, it is probably a reminder that Blythdale is not that far away. Look for more details from George K2RRR in the near future.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on Sept. 11th at the County Center in White Plains.

73, Stan WA2NRV

WECA Picnic 2000 was Fun for All... **By Judyth Stavans, K2DFJ,** **WECA 2nd Annual Picnic Chairperson**

Despite a run of truly damp weather, the only water that fell from the sky at the WECA 2nd annual picnic on Sunday, August 13th was contained in water "cannon balls". The sun even took the time to shine down on our idyllic location for a minute or two!

Besides eating, we played badminton, worked HF, had something to eat, played Frisbee, rag chewed eyeball to eyeball, tasted a bit of this and that, relaxed, ate cake, and just plain had fun.

A tip of the hat and a deep bow go to those who slipped a few coins into the picnic fund. Deep appreciation goes to all those who brought what was needed and much more. Special thanks go to Stan WA2NRV for all his assistance; and to Angelina KC2COR and John N2GGY, a picnic committee with brains and energy.

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

Perhaps "studying for a ham license" should be called something else. I, too, had nightmares of my high school math teacher, as I studied over the summer for an upgrade. Studying for me has a connotation of work, sacrifices and deadlines. I think going for an upgrade should be more than that: it should open doors and hopefully point your interest to some new facet of the hobby you may have not considered. I guess my own experience came with CW after learning enough to pass a VE test. I found out that it was actually kind of fun and to this day I still try to get in my three code practice sessions per day!!

Our challenge for the new millennium is to learn, explore and make better use of our precious spectrum. Fascinating new modes, such as PSK 31, offer hams new ways of making our world a friendlier place. Let's all take the time to bring someone new into Amateur Radio this year. Of course, if you find a likely candidate, please have that prospective ham e-mail me at KC2FOR@weca.org if they are interested in learning more about how to get licensed. Lastly, let me know what classes or educational services you'd like to see from our club.

73, EfreM KC2FOR

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

I would like to thank all the people who helped out at the NY

Philharmonic concert held at Westchester County College on August 5th, which had an attendance of 10-15 thousand people that listened to the Philharmonic and watched (and heard) the fireworks. Those dedicated members were: K2DFJ, N2 AMP/DB/DVQ/FMC/FXU/OGK/SF/TSE/TWN/WQG/YL, KA2 BRH/KCR, KB2 LLV/NBN/VBY, KC2 CLZ/CUO/CUR/ESU/FNU/FUU/FYZ, W2RWR, WA2NRV, and WB2NHC.

Don't forget our upcoming events:

- the Leukemia & Lymphoma walk in White Plains on September 22,
- the American Heart Association walk, also in White Plains, on September 24,
- Boy Scout Jamboree at Croton Point Park, 8:30 am, and, of course,
- the NYC Marathon on November 5.

PLEASE SIGN UP and help out. Call me at (914) 949-4231, see me at the membership meeting or e-mail me at n2tse@weca.org.

Finally, I would like everyone to know that WECA has some very dedicated members who give a lot of themselves by coming out and supporting the public as volunteer communicators. They participated in 50% or more of WECA public-service events, and will receive the WECA Public Service Award Certificate. These special people are:

KA2BRH	Joe Carpentieri
KA2KCR	Jose Cruz
KC2CLZ	Dana Hickey
KC2CUO	John Scaramuzzo
KC2FNU	Grant Nishanian
N2AMP	Russ Stevenson (7 of 8 events!)
N2FXU	Ray Albanese
N2TWN	Sandro Sicilia
N2WQG	Jim Faulkner
W2RWR	Phil Petrus
WA2NRV	Stanley Rothman
WB2NHC	Tom Raffaelli

Congratulations to all!

WRITE FOR THE WECAGRAM!

**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 along with your name and call (withheld on request).

Thanks from your Editor. Mike K2NR.

Signed, sealed and delivered...

Sign your wallet-card license, then bring it to Robert N2TSE for lamination (for you, a bargain at only 50 cents).

He'll deliver it back to you at the next WECA meeting or event.

From the Director at Large... By Sandy Fried, N2SF

Brother George is hosting a picnic at Graymoor in Garrison on September 9th. Originally, it was for QCWA, but Brother George is inviting ALL hams. George is going to talk about his holy work with the Japanese internees during WW II. There are no grills, so anyone who wants to cook must bring a grill. Running water, tables and bathrooms are available. The hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Views from the Shack (continued from page 2)

Sadly, there are lots of 50-somethings (as well as 40-, 30- and maybe even 20-somethings) who started out in amateur radio with the best of intentions and somehow got diverted, perhaps by becoming Governor of this state or for some less lofty reason. And I could not have even blamed the Internet for my jilting of the hobby, as younger people can so conveniently do now.

There is a lesson in experience, and the lesson may become clearer as more of you come out of the closet and share your personal stories with our brothers and sisters in hamdom. Maybe you are still in the bright-eyed stage and maybe you are have gotten a bit jaded. If you belong to WECA, you demonstrate your respect for the hobby. Maybe your experience can be shared and, who knows, provide a case study for a prospective new or returning ham who might otherwise become a loss statistic.

I'm fortunate to be a WECA VE, and one of my greatest pleasures is to congratulate the new hams upon qualifying for their first license as well as witnessing the joy of the upgraders. I remember the light in their eyes, in spite of the siren-song of the Internet, cell phones and e-mail. Remember and retell your stories so that we never forget why we are hams. We know why we like being hams; let's not forget the new hams and the burning-out older hams, and help *them* keep the light in their eyes and the sparkle in their QSO's.

73, Mike K2NR

Upcoming Meetings...

Monday, September 11: Membership meeting, County Center, White Plains

Speaker: Liam Murphy on Radiological Training

Monday, September 25: Board meeting, EOC, White Plains

Field Day Summary by Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Field Day 2000, which took place on June 24-25, found WECA at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. This is a brief report of our operation. I plan to have a feature article ready for an upcoming issue of WECAGRAM.

We again operated under Sandy Fried's call sign, N2SF. Over sixty people participated, including Liam Murphy, Westchester County Director of Emergency Management; Pat Kelly, Westchester County Commissioner of Emergency Services; Peter Cann, American Red Cross Director of Emergency Services and Deborah Chapin, Mayor of the Village of Mamaroneck.

We operated as a Class 4A station, which means that we used four main HF stations simultaneously as a club operation on emergency power. We also operated a VHF station, a satellite station and a Novice station operated under the call sign of Cliff Shapiro, KC2FKY.

We qualified for all 1,000 bonus points by successfully completing the requirements in the following ten categories:

- Operated with 100% emergency power,
- Originated a message to the ARRL Section Manager,
- Completed a contact via satellite,
- Sent event publicity to the media,
- Copied the W1AW Field Day message,
- Made 5 contacts using natural power,
- Located in a public place,
- Relayed 10 messages through the National Traffic System,
- Demonstrated a non-traditional mode, and
- Set up a public information booth.

Details of all these exciting endeavors will be included in the forthcoming feature article.



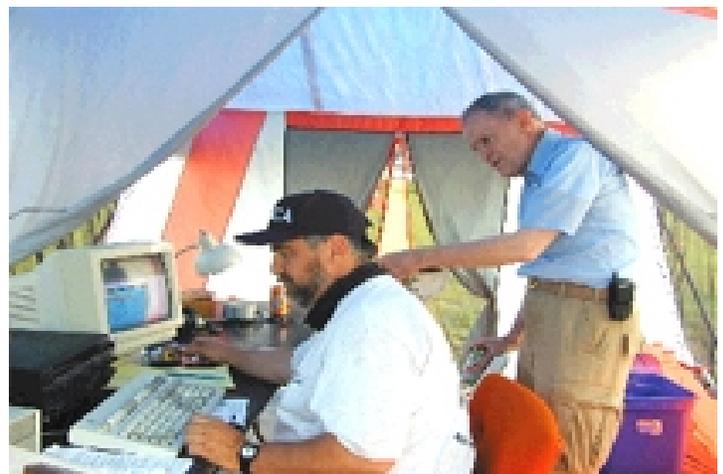
The Novice Station was kept humming by Cliff Shapiro, KC2FKY, Novice Station Captain, at the keyboard and Jason Kaufman, KC2BFX, at the microphone.

Our score was 7,124 points with 2,625 contacts. I'll show the math in the feature article. The following table shows the contacts by band and mode.

Band	CW QSO's	Phone QSO's
160	1	3
80	146	356
80 Novice	5	0
40	389	424
40 Novice	7	0
20	348	498
15	22	179
15 Novice	2	0
10	0	48
10 Novice	6	55
6	2	90
2	2	31
Satellite	0	4
TOTAL	937	1688

CQ all ARRL members that belong to WECA: Do you know...

You can help WECA by helping ARRL, and (best of all) it won't cost you any more! **Simply renew your ARRL membership (or begin a new one) through WECA!** When your ARRL renewal reminder notice comes, make a check payable to WECA (*not ARRL*) for the normal ARRL renewal fee. Send it (along with the ARRL renewal notice) to the WECA treasurer, *Andy Farber, N4OOX, 29 Tarryhill Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.* Andy will forward your payment to ARRL and both WECA and you get credit for ARRL support. For more info, please contact Andy at



Bob Wilson, N2DVQ, Field Day RF Director, works the 40/80 Meter CW station, as Liam Murphy, Westchester County Director of Emergency Management looks on.



**Next Membership Meeting:
September 11 at 8:00 pm
County Center, White Plains**

Angelina Morgante, KC2COR, our Membership Director, says: Dues Due!

Another productive year for the members of WECA has come to an end. In a short while, you will receive your annual renewal letter. Just a quick reminder: **Please review the information that is mailed to you and help me update the database for the upcoming roster to be distributed on or before November 1st.**

It would be most helpful if I could have all dues and all updates no later than October 15th. If you need an extension on getting your dues in, please contact me directly by email: Angelina2@msn.com
Please feel free to contact me regarding questions on your membership at the above e-mail address. Please distribute this email to prospective members. Thank You!

Looking forward to a fulfilling year,
Angelina R. Morgante, KC2COR
Membership Services Director
PO Box 253
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-0253

OK, now that the bad news is out of the way, here's news that's more cheerful from our Membership Director...

Congratulations to Randy Davis, WA2OMT, who has upgraded his license class to General.

Congratulations also to the following members on their new call signs:

- Carl M. Patrick, who was KA2ZFE, is now N2CMP. Carl is a new member who was introduced in the WECAGRAM last month.
- Klaus Floer, who was KC2EOG, is now AB2JD.

Also, please welcome our newest WECA members, Paul W. Haczela, K2BQ, and Brenda Lee M. Spagna, N2TTO.

Vanity, thy name is carroll-usa.com...

Michael Carroll, N4MC, operates a sensational website for vanity-call applicants, www.carroll-usa.com/vanity. The site is filled with helpful tips, including available calls from all call-sign groups, arranged by district or prefix, as well as calls that will soon become available. A companion website, www.n4mc.com, also offers amateurs a place to leave a record of their call-sign history: look there for "Operation CQ" and tell 'em who and where you have been as a ham! (de K2NR)



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