



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

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WECA Members Participate in Indian Point Drills in Westchester County

WECA members turned out to work with Westchester County officials on October 11 and November 1 in drills to prepare for the Indian Point Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise scheduled for November 15. The exercise is a full-dress simulation of the necessary activities that would take place should an emergency involving the emission of radiation from the Indian Point nuclear power station in Buchanan occur. The exercise on November 15 will be formally evaluated by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for response to real-life nuclear emergencies.

The drills were a warm-up to the actual exercise, so that any problems with deployment and implementation could be identified and corrected. Besides WECA, officials from the New York State Emergency Management Office provided assistance, and participation included not only Westchester but Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland county officials as well.

WECA had its communicators in place at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in White Plains, at the Joint News Center (JNC) at the Westchester County Airport, on Field Monitoring Team vehicles deployed in northern Westchester where radiation might be detected and in other remote locations. Members established a network using the WECA 2-meter repeater as an extension of the Westchester County radio network, and were instrumental in relaying emergency messages using the WECA repeater. WECA members were also active at off-air communications, manning and tending to the County's temperamental emergency fax machines.

Members participating included: K2NR; KC2 BUV,CLZ, FYZ; N2 AMP,DB,DHH,HTT,NWZ,SLA,TJE,TSE,VQP,WQG,YGK; WB2NHC. With the help of WECA volunteers, Westchester can be assured of the ability of vital communications to get through in a nuclear power plant emergency as well as in natural disasters.

Being an "Elmer" is Not "Bull:" Your Club is Working for You By Fran LaSorsa, N2OLU

Well, a new year has begun and the cool fall season to come is the perfect time to put up antennas that will get you through the winter months. If you're a new ham and all you have is an HT with a rubber duck, you can boost your signal with a vertical antenna on the roof. You'll be amazed at the distant repeaters and simplex stations out there that can be reached. Winter months are great for repeater hunting.

In order to avoid the typical newcomer mistakes, WECA has an Elmering program to help you through the newbie stage. The WECA Elmering program has experienced hams, located all over Westchester, who have volunteered to help out their fellow hams when a problem arises or when you just need advice. Part of the program is the famous "loan closet," a little cache of radio gear to try out. At this time, we only have one radio to lend out and it's an old tube job. Hopefully, the new year will net us a newer, solid-state transceiver with a power supply and an SWR meter.

There are so many different things going on in amateur radio these days that I'm sure you will find a few niches of interest to enjoy. In the next few months, there will be a few HF contests going on. If you don't like HF DX contesting, you might want to try it on VHF. Digital modes have a few new projects to play with, or you can get into slow-scan TV. Whatever your pleasure, just be active and have fun. Remember: WECA Elmers cover all the bases and somebody should be able to offer the help you may need.

If you need help, we're here for you; just send off an e-mail to n2olu@weca.org, indicating your name, call, location and type of problem. We will find an Elmer to give you a helping hand.

73, Fran N2OLU

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

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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 #4: Why We're NOT the Internet

As I learned it, one of the prime protocols we amateurs follow is to refrain from discussing politics and religion on the air. Since the WECAGRAM is not the air, please let me refer to a lesson I discovered during the recent Jewish high holy days that is germane to us hams. Read on; this is not really a religious story.

In traditional practice, a Jewish religious service may only be conducted if a quorum of ten men is present. Some thinking individual recently asked a group of learned rabbis whether assembling a chat room of ten men over the Internet, to conduct a service and discuss religious subjects, constituted the required quorum. The rabbis ruled that no, a chat room or other assembly that was not a physical gathering of persons in the same room could not be recognized for the purpose of establishing a quorum for services. The rabbis' point was that an ethereal assembly is not a satisfactory alternative to a physical assembly. The ethereal assembly does not represent *community*, the sense of belongingness that enriches human experience and results in beneficial effects on the larger society.

I thought a lot about that message, because the active amateur may carry on rich relationships with others while perhaps never meeting them at all, much less being physically present in the same room from time to time. If that were the case, following the rabbis' logic, amateur radio is not a full-fledged community. Of course, we know that is not so, but how can this be reconciled?

Then it dawned on me: an Internet chat room is filled with people hiding behind pseudonyms and computer "handles," who not only may not reveal themselves but sometimes actively try to create a fantasy existence. On the other hand, amateur radio's handles are generally people's real names, and we use real QTH's and we relate real experiences. QSO's are revelations of our true selves and not masquerades.

And so I realized a key difference between amateur radio and the Internet: hams are a *community* that does not hide in the cloak of the Internet. All hams are proud to identify themselves by call sign, which is easily traceable and which clearly reveals them to the world. Sure, it's great when we have eyeball QSO's. It's even greater when we physically get together in our club, particularly for a public-service function, a community activity if ever there was one.

When an inquiring youngster asks you why to become a ham when the Internet is there for the taking, tell him that becoming a ham is not logging on: it is joining a *community* and not just broadcasting one's loneliness and yearnings to anonymous correspondents out there in cyberspace.

73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

This is the meeting where we traditionally offer a treat because we don't trick our members. For those who have asked, NO ! , I do not remove the mask.

Robert N2TSE has a full plate for us this month. We will have completed a few events before the meeting, but on November 19th, we have the Mamaroneck Turkey Trot. It is important that we put on a good show for this function because the availability of our Field Day location is enhanced by our participation. The other event of importance this month is the round of Indian Point drills and exercise. It is important that we provide our usual above-average quality communications for these events. This year, the exercise will be monitored by Federal authorities and we must do our share to make Westchester County look good. The date is Wednesday, November 15th, and I urge all RACES members to contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS and volunteer for at least part of the day. They will try to fit you into a position to accommodate your schedule.

At the October board meeting, it was decided *not* to hold the March WECAfest this year. If a location can be found where the expenses are considerably lower than those at Yonkers Raceway, this issue could be reconsidered. We also feel that we should continue our leadership into electronic age by sending out the WECAGRAM via E-mail. Our club is known as one of the leading clubs within the tri-state area and this presentation should help continue our being at the forefront of modern technology.

Don't forget to contact Nick K2ZVI or Efrem AB2KJ with your ideas for a club project. These are the areas that make our club " special " while we have fun and learn.

We all offer our condolences to Darlana N2DB for the loss of her mother. It is always a difficult time.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the County Center at 7:30PM on Monday November 13th. As usual it will be a fun time for all.

73, Stan WA2NRV

*"Emergency Communications" is WECA's middle name...
Train for emergency communications readiness and
continue the proud WECA tradition. Contact Alan N2YGK.*

**Check your QST mailing label, and renew your
ARRL membership through WECA!**
*Help WECA while helping ARRL. And, best of all, it
costs you no more! Contact our Treasurer,
Andy Farber, at n4oox@arrl.net for details.*

Angelina's Antenna Party By Angelina Morgante, KC2COR

On October 14, a fine Indian Summer day Ham-radio buddies came out to play. A tribander antenna they did put up, Ready to meet the challenge, never giving up.



N2GDY, N2GGY and K2WE assembling the beast



Strongmen N2GDY and KC2GNL prepare to hoist away



The finished product...

Who was there?
Steve K2WE-Director of project and ladder-climber.
Bill KC2GNL-Ground Crew.
John N2GGY-Ground Crew.
Radar N2GDY-Ground Crew.
Angelina KC2COR-Photographer and go-fer.



**Next Membership Meeting:
November 13 at 8:00 pm
County Center, White Plains**

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

WECA is pleased to welcome its newest member, William T. Baldwin, WG1HM.

Congratulations to Fuat Baran, N2YGN, who recently upgraded to EXTRA CLASS. Congrats also to Joe Ellman, KC2DWP on his new call KR2V after his recent achievement of an upgrade to EXTRA CLASS.

Keep those updates coming in so you can be recognized in the WECAGRAM!!

**Want to see your name on this page?
Upgrade your license!**

WECA sponsors VE exam sessions every other month. The next WECA VE exam session will be held on: **Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm**, at the Westchester County Emergency Operations Center Sub-Basement, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains. Good luck from Sandy N2SF and the WECA VE team.

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

On October 14th, WECA attended the Boy Scouts' Thunderbird Games at Croton Point Park. We had both the fieldcom and tower vans and set up a mini-Field Day demonstration at the event. There were over 3,000 people there, and many of them were interested in what WECA and amateur radio are about. I would like to thank those members who helped out at the Games: N2 AMP, DHH, TJE, TSE, XRC, YGK, YGN; AB2KJ; K2ZVI; KC2 CLZ, DYT, ESU, FNU, FYY; KR2V

On October 31st, nine members of WECA helped the NY State Police with the Pumpkin Patrol, to deter vandalism danger to passing traffic. Participating in this event were: KA2 BRH, KCR; KB2LLV; KC2 CLZ, GWK; N2 GGY, TSE, TWN; WA2NRV

Thanks to all these dedicated members!

Don't forget our upcoming events:

- Sunday, November 19: The Mamaroneck Turkey Trot at Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
- Wednesday, December 20: Santa-Claus-on-the-Air at Blythedale Children's Hospital, Valhalla.

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.



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