



# 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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## *Darlana D. Mayo, N2DB becomes Silent Key on December 16*

Darlana D. Mayo, N2DB, a prominent and active WECA member, unexpectedly and quietly died in her sleep early Saturday morning, December 16, 2000, at the age of 36 after suffering a variety of ailments. Many of her friends from throughout the metropolitan area, including WECA members, said a final farewell during a memorial service on December 22 at the Kingdom Hall in Mount Vernon, NY.

Her exemplary qualities and activities on behalf of WECA, amateur radio and the community, as well as her style, were best expressed by the testimonials of members. WECA President Stan Rothman, WA2NRV, remembered Darlana:

"Most of us knew Darlana from one aspect or another of amateur radio. She had filled a couple of positions as director of WECA, she was the Skywarn coordinator for Westchester, net manager of the Southern District Net, an active RACES and ARES member, involved with the Red Cross emergency communications program as well as other aspects of Red Cross relief programs. Darlana was an ELMER to many of the hams entering into the world of amateur radio, guiding them into the role of active public service members. She was active within her church and truly enjoyed her relationships with all her friends.

We all have our own fond memories of activities where we worked with her. Some were serious activities such as her efforts that led to President Clinton's signing a proclamation declaring Amateur Radio Week throughout the country. She always assisted at serious fires and weather related emergencies, even at the Indian Point drills. But some were less serious, as we looked back after the fact and laughed about it...She enjoyed life and thrived on all aspects of public service and amateur radio. We will all miss her but keep her memory in our hearts and thoughts. Darlana, we know you are watching over us, and will try to continue living up to your expectations."

Darlana was remembered for her human qualities as well as her contributions to amateur radio. Alessandro Sicilia, N2TWN, manager of the Southern District Net, with which Darlana was so intimately involved, and a close friend of Darlana's wrote: "I shared so many things with her, whom I considered as a sister, not only as a friend. She was unique, a lady full of grace and wonderful harmony. She taught me so much, not just for traffic handling and radio operations.

She made me view life with a different focus, one full of joy. Every day, for one thing or another, we were in touch 3, 4 or 5 times, and not once did she ever indicate in her voice that she was down. Every time was a "happy call" and we could talk about everything and share just like a sister and brother. I will miss Darlana so much and one day I will see her again in a better place."

Alan Janover, N2DRO, recalled Darlana's ample goodwill in spite of painful and disfiguring ailments:

"I was not nearly as close to Darlana as so many other people were; but there IS a comforting thought we can ALL share in: it is the knowledge, that as Darlana has traveled on to The Other Side, so too, has she been healed of her body that was so frail and so frequently in pain. If bodies on The Other Side are given out on the basis of performance on THIS side, then I feel secure, that Darlana is enjoying her stay there, as the twin sister of Princess Diana.

I firmly believe, that Darlana Mayo and Princess Diana, are two souls cast of the same mold. For as Diana was Ambassador of Good-Will to the World of Nations, so was Darlana, Ambassador of Good-Will to the World of Amateur Radio. And also - so much like Diana - Darlana would oftentimes feel insecure and unloved. Strange, though, how these two women, who so often felt unloved, would, in reality, be so loved, and so missed, by so many... Darlana, if there is one thing this world is in dire need of, it is a soul like yours."

Other WECA members expressed thoughts about Darlana in a similar vein. Darlana Mayo will be missed by many friends both inside and outside WECA.

# 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, N2EJ1
<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
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<b>Education</b>	Efrem Acosta, AB2KJ
<b>Engineering</b>	Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ
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<b>Public Relations</b>	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
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<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>

## Views from the Shack #6: An End and a Beginning

Just before the actual (as opposed to last year's "hyped") ending of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2000, the end also came to one of WECA's shining examples of the amateur radio ethic: Darlana Mayo, N2DB. Darlana's contributions to WECA, amateur radio and public service are deservedly well documented by some of her many friends elsewhere in this issue. I did not have the opportunity to get to know Darlana well, but I came to learn about her little triumphs over disease and disability. It is often those of us who have been handicapped that not only can see better how to help the community than the average person, but also can actually make it happen. Darlana certainly did more than her share, in her achievement of an Extra Class license, her many public service activities, her tutelage of new hams and her friendship and camaraderie with older hams. We will surely miss her style on Field Day, at other club events and on the second Monday of the month. Rest in peace, dear Silent Key, as the second millennium passes into history.

It is said that there is no greater gift that one can provide a departed friend than to carry on her legacy, for the effort can never be rewarded with her thanks. Aside from the obvious need for a new assistant manager of the Southern District Net to assist Sandro N2TWN, as well as for a new Skywarn coordinator, the tradition of public service so fully expressed by Darlana can provide a standard to which we WECA members, as well as the entire amateur radio community, can aspire. WECA and amateur radio is more than a collection of friendly communicators, though it is that. We are more than a group of capable contesters, enlightened electronics experts and masters of a microphone. I suspect we joined WECA for more than this.

The beginning of a new millennium, century and year provides a golden opportunity to reflect and make millennial/centennial/new year's resolutions to be better citizen-hams. (On how many occasions can we make one resolution go so far?!) It is not for nothing that most states, including New York, recognizes the civic value of amateurs with distinctive license plates and other tokens of special consideration. Hams as a whole have earned the gratitude of countless ordinary people whose messages were passed in emergencies and in ordinary situations by dedicated amateur licensees. And, as the WECAGRAM reminds each of you every month, "Emergency Communications" is WECA's middle name, a source of pride as well as obligation, of satisfaction as well as service.

Let's strive to begin this new era in history by making time and actively learning to participate more fully in the public service and emergency-communications aspects of our beloved hobby. Let's honor Darlana's memory and make our communities better places using amateur radio.

73, Mike K2NR

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

It is difficult to realize that another year has come and gone. It seems like yesterday that we were all worried about Y2K. What was that anyway? I wish all our members and families a happy and healthy year.

It is with a sad heart that I inform the members of WECA that Darlana Mayo, N2DB, is a Silent Key. Please see the front page to find out more about this extraordinary person.

The Blythedale Children's Hospital visit by WECA elves and Santa's helpers went very well. All the children were able to talk with Santa Claus via amateur radio, and received a gift. The gifts were toys the children had mentioned that they wanted and they were amazed how Santa and his helpers knew exactly what they were wishing for. We continue to need financial backing from our members and friends now to continue this program in the future. The bank interest gained throughout the year from early donations assists us in providing this service each year. Thank you George K2RRR and Robert N2TSE, for your leadership on this important project.

Just a reminder that our club project, PSK31 transceiver kits, will be ordered now. The cost was raised by the supplier as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. Nick, K2ZVI has ordered some extra units and they will be available at the original price on a first-come, first-served basis. The new cost after these units are gone will be \$45.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. See Nick as soon as possible to take advantage. If you want to learn more about this new digital mode, PSK31, be sure to attend out January WECA meeting.

I have heard that some members have received a notice from W5YI about license renewal, who offers to provide renewal service for a fee. That is not necessary, since you can do it yourself. Renewal is available online via the FCC ULS system or by submitting FCC Form 605 by mail, *at no cost to you*. (See adjoining box.) If you have any questions on this or any amateur- or WECA-related matter, contact Sandy N2SF, WECA director-at-large.

With the weather we have been seeing recently, this is a reminder for us to check out our equipment. Make sure your batteries are charged, flashlights work, antennas and connectors are in good order, and that pen, pencil, paper, head sets, copies of equipment manuals, warm clothing and Westchester County RACES ID cards are ready to go on short notice.

Tom WB2NHC asked me to inform you that he is not against Wecafest; he just feels that he cannot do it with a \$2000.00 startup budget.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting, January 8, 2001. Plan to arrive at 7:30PM for the social half-hour; the actual meeting starts at 8:00PM.

## From the Educational Director... By Efreem Acosta, AB2KJ

First of all, let me start by hoping everyone had a good holiday season. Now time for business. I wish to invite any prospective hams to WECA's Technician Class license course which will be begin on Saturday, January 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the American Red Cross Westchester County Chapter, 106 North Broadway, White Plains, NY.

All students who wish to attend should e-mail me at [AB2KJ@arri.net](mailto:AB2KJ@arri.net) or call me at (914) 966-3348 and leave a message containing your name and telephone number.

All students will need purchase the course textbook: "Now You're Talking," 4th Edition, published by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League). Please note: the 4<sup>th</sup> edition contains all current test questions which are valid for inclusion on license exams from April 15, 1999 through July 1, 2003. The textbook costs approximately \$20.00.

Any current hams that would like to help out or perhaps teach a little, please let me know. Please spread the word!!



## Southern District Net November 2000 Report By Sandro Sicilia, N2TWN Net Manager

Stations checked in (QNS)	398
Messages received (QTC)	72
Messages relayed (QSP)	72
Total net time duration (QTR)	488 minutes
Total number of sessions	30

### ***Renewing or modifying your FCC license? It's easy and free!***

To modify or renew your license, free of charge:

1. Go to the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) website: <http://wtbwww05.fcc.gov>. Click on "ULS filing" under "File" at the top of the page and follow the links. If you do not yet have a ULS licensee ID number, get one *before* filing by clicking on "TIN/Call Sign" under "Register" at the same website.
2. File FCC Form 605 (downloadable from <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>) or by calling 1-800-418-3676) main page and mail to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. If you are asking for a new *systematically-assigned* call (e.g. after upgrading to Extra but not asking for an exact call), you need to complete Schedule D as well as the main page and submit it too. Vanity calls also require Schedule D but must be filed (with a \$14 fee) to another address as shown in the FCC instructions.

More details will be forthcoming in the WECAGRAM.



**Next Membership Meeting:  
January 8 at 8:00 pm  
County Center, White Plains  
Discussion Topic: PSK31**

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

Please welcome our new member, John Manouselis, KC2DHX, Hartsdale, NY. Please note that Frank Boscamp has changed his call sign from KC2ACS to AB2KY.

Congratulations to Kieran O'Hagan, N2MWE, who has upgraded to General 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, February 8, 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**

Thanks to all who helped at the Blythedale Hospital event on December 20 by donating funds and listening to Santa on the WECA 147.060 repeater. We had 55 presents to give out to the children staying at the hospital. With the help of a great outpouring of WECA member-elves, we did it in record time. There were certainly plenty of happy faces of the children, which were great to see and "hear" via the repeater.

Thanks especially should go to those members who helped directly: K2RRR; KC2 CLZ,ESU,FNU,FYC,FYY,GYP; N2 AMP,NQY,TFC,TSE; WA2KHR; WB2 NHC,QJA.

We also had seven family members there, who deserve our special thanks for helping at this event.

The new year will have plenty of opportunities to provide public-service assistance. When the time comes for events, 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](mailto:n2tse@weca.org) for further information.

*Remember: "**Emergency Communications**" is WECA's middle name!*  
Learn more and maintain readiness. Contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS for more information.



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