



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 25, Issue 10

May, 2001

Conflict Between WECA And W2 QSL Bureau On The Way To Resolution

The President's column contained in the March WECAGRAM, which contained disparaging references to policies of the W2 QSL Bureau, provoked some disagreements with the Bureau's parent organization, the North Jersey DX Association (NJDXA). WECA Board members were notified by Ron Levy, K2CO, President of NJDXA, that WECA was to be a possible target of a lawsuit if Mr. Rothman were not to apologize for his remarks.

The WECA Board of Directors discussed this issue at its regularly scheduled meeting of April 23, and urged Mr. Rothman to prepare a suitable apology to the March column so as to end the conflict with the NJDXA amicably. All Board members were reminded of their responsibility to exercise good judgment in speaking out in their official capacities as representatives of WECA. As a warning against issuance of future provocative language in the club's name, a censure resolution was adopted by the Board. A second resolution requesting Mr. Rothman to reimburse WECA General Counsel Michael Weitzner, N2EJL, for duplication expenses involved in settling the matter was also adopted. Mr. Rothman subsequently prepared an apology that appears in the President's column in this issue.

Text of the WECA Board censure resolution is presented below for information. Text of Mr. Levy's e-mail is presented on page 3 of this issue. (Mr. Rothman's apology appears on that page in lieu of the June issue as stipulated below.)

RESOLUTION OF THE WECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

WHEREAS Stan Rothman published the following in the March 2001 WECAGRAM:

When you think about those DX contacts and QSL cards, you think about the NJDXA and the W2 QSL bureau. I caution you, before you send them money for credits, find out what their rules are, in writing. I just found out that they take your money and spend it on anything they want except sending you your QSL cards, if you do not receive cards in what they feel is a proper time. In other words, unless you actively send and expect to receive cards, beware. I learned of this in a note from Ron K2CO, the bureau manager. He does not feel that taking money and not using it for that purpose is theft. Only in America.

WHEREAS Ron Levy, K2CO President of the North Jersey DX Association and Manager of the W2 QSL Bureau on behalf of the Bureau, stated the Bureau's policies and practices to Mr. Rothman.

WHEREAS Mr. Levy requested a retraction from Mr. Rothman.

WHEREAS Mr. Levy requested that Frank Fallon, N2FF and the ARRL rescind the Affiliated Club Status of WECA and indicated that he would file suit against Mr. Rothman and WECA on behalf of W2 QSL and himself.

THEREFORE BE IT NOW RESOLVED by the WECA Executive Board this 23rd day of April 2001:

THAT the Executive Board had no official knowledge of the facts until this day.

THAT the Executive Board recognizes and supports the good works of the W2 QSL Bureau and reaffirms its support of the Bureau.

THAT the Executive Board, fully supports the operating rules and policies of the W2 QSL Bureau.

THAT the WECA Treasurer is directed to send a contribution to the W2 QSL Bureau of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25) to be used in the Bureau's general funds to support their good works, and that the monies to be used for this purpose are to be drawn from WECA's 2001 Administrative Budget.

THAT the Executive Board has determined that Mr. Rothman acted unilaterally in this matter.

THAT the Executive Board has determined that Mr. Rothman's actions are an abuse of his office and a misuse of his WECAGRAM column to further his personal affairs.

THAT the Executive Board condemns Mr. Rothman's actions.

THAT it is the recommendation of the Executive Board that Mr. Rothman publicly apologize for causing this incident by placing a letter in the June 2001 WECAGRAM.

THAT this resolution along with Mr. Levy's e-mail letter to the members of the WECA Executive Board dated April 5, 2001 be published in the May 2001 WECAGRAM.

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 third 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	Milton A. Galamison, KC2GWK
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, W2CZ
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 #10: Our Responsibility as Communicators

Elsewhere in this issue, an unpleasant reminder of our responsibility as citizen-communicators is played out. Our President, Stan WA2NRV, made some remarks in his March column that were interpreted by an important member of the amateur radio community, the QSL Bureau of this call sign district, as inflammatory and provocative. Stan makes amends in this issue to try to defuse the situation, to his credit and in the interests of the entire club. As WECA members, we can only hope that Stan's conciliatory efforts toward another valued amateur organization prove successful.

Regardless of whether one feels that the response of the QSL Bureau to Stan's March message was excessive, the incident highlights what can happen if we don't respect the rights and sensitivities of our fellow hams as well as those of the general public. Hams are involved intimately in the realm of communication. Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC urges all of us hams to treat our transmissions as if the whole world were listening to them; he emphasizes that *it is!*

Since the WECAGRAM is published on the public Internet, we must be circumspect about what we say in this publication as well.

Anyone who reviews the Letters column of *QST* or other amateur radio publication will be struck immediately by the forceful give-and-take of ideas about hamming and other topics. I have had over 37 years of experience as a licensed amateur, and I have witnessed all sorts of behavior demonstrated by hams on the air and in print. Nevertheless, by and large over that period of time, hams have been exemplary at refraining from the undue provocation of others, even when the others may be at fault. Most hams are ladies and gentlemen, and a better representation of the good in our society than many of those who are heard on commercial television, a service even more regulated by the FCC than is amateur radio. Even the best hams—and Stan is one of them—make a mistake now and then, but ham radio's long and proud history shows that we can learn from mistakes and maintain high standards of communication.

Members of the WECA Board shoulder an even greater responsibility, because they are often interpreted as speaking not only for themselves but also for the entire club.

The Board learned a sobering lesson on April 23, and was reminded of the responsibility of the stewardship that accompanies leadership. Lest anybody be dissuaded from seeking to run for Board office next month by the recent unpleasantness, you should know that our Board understands the importance of high standards of propriety and by doing so has an even greater influence for advancement of the reputation of our club and our hobby. Your place on the Board would be enhanced by its high standards. The reputation of our club can only improve once we all take to heart the object lesson of this incident: if we offer respect, we will get it in return.

73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

After a long period of April showers, we can now look forward to gorgeous May flowers. This also starts our active season of public events. Robert N2TSE will be putting one foot forward, while dragging the other in a cast, leading the way. We all wish Robert a speedy recovery from a recent accident. He assured me that this is not an indication of what usually happens at public service events.

The WECA club project, assembly of a PSK31 transceiver, will be started on Sunday, May 6th at the EOC in the sub-basement of the County Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY. It will start at 10:00 AM and finish at 4:00 PM. Please contact Nick K2ZVI to confirm that you will be attending.

Frank Fallon, N2FF, has asked to speak to WECA regarding the new legislation in New York concerning amateur antennas. He will be our speaker for the May meeting.

You must be a paid up member on May 14th to be able to participate in the WECA elections this June.

Considering the fact that we do not have anyone running for the position of activities director thus far, I had asked Judyth K2DFJ, assisted by John N2GGY and Angelina KC2COR, to start making arrangements for the annual club picnic. I also arranged with Ray N2FXU to contact the County Parks Dept., on our behalf, to schedule a pavilion for the picnic as we have had for the past two years. At the April Board meeting, Tom WB2NHC said that he would make arrangements for the picnic as well and continue to chair that event as well as Field Day, after the elections.

In my March "From the President" article, I discussed the NJDXA / W2QSL Bureau. I wrote this piece out of frustration, based on bureau policy, as explained to me in an e-mail by Ron K2CO. It was not my intention to indicate that Ron or anyone else at the W2QSL bureau personally was guilty of theft. The intent of the article was to make sure that all WECA members know what the bureau policy is before sending for credits. I have been assured that the W2QSL bureau will endeavor to eliminate possible future similar situations by stating the policy on their web site. The bureau members are volunteers and deserve credit for the time spent helping the amateur community. I apologize for any misunderstanding regarding the intent or contents of my message in the March WECAGRAM.

I look forward to seeing all of you on May 14th at the WECA general meeting.

Stan WA2NRV

Following is the text of K2CO's communication with WECA Board Members dated April 5th:

Dear Sirs:

I am sure that by this time you are all fully aware of the fact that your current president, Mr. Stanley Rothman, has placed himself and WECA in an untenable position with regard to libelous and slanderous remarks he made concerning the W2 QSL Bureau and directly about me. Mr. Rothman and I exchanged e-mail messages prior to the publication of his misconceptions and erroneous interpretations in your WECAGram in March. I tried to tell him that we should make every effort to reach a mutual understanding before such publication was made. However, Mr. Rothman seems to have a mind of his own and does not understand what it means to be reasonable.

In an effort to avoid further problems and in an effort to prevent the entire WECA organization from suffering sanctions and possible embarrassment, I contacted Mr. Frank Fallon, the Hudson Division Director. Mr. Fallon did talk to Mr. Rothman but the result was totally unacceptable by both Mr. Fallon and by myself. I asked that Mr. Rothman publicize a direct apology to the W2 QSL Bureau and to me personally for the slanderous comments he made about the organization and about me. This publication was to take the same form as the original offending article; that is, published in the WECAGram in both the hard copy and on the Internet. Since Mr. Rothman's unacceptable comments ran in the April issue of your publication, I find that I must defend myself and the ARRL Second District QSL Bureau by engaging an attorney and by filing suit for libel and slander. Unfortunately, the WECA organization will have to be named in this suit. Further, I will petition the ARRL to disenfranchise WECA as an affiliated club and remove WECA as a Special Service organization. According to Mr. Fallon, such a petition would, in all likelihood, be accepted by the ARRL at its next Board of Directors meeting.

I will not pursue the matter further if Mr. Rothman will make the proper public apologies as detailed above. However, our attorney is standing by, ready, willing and able to institute legal action if this becomes necessary.

I will be away for the next 10 days. I am offering all of you the opportunity to talk some sense into Mr. Rothman. I sincerely hope you are successful. If the situation is not rectified to my satisfaction and that of Frank Fallon within the next 30 days, I will have no alternative. I will give our attorney the "green light."

You may direct all comments to me with a copy sent to Frank Fallon. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

73,
Ron Levy, K2CO
President North Jersey DX Association
W2 QSL Bureau Manager

Frank N2FF to Speak on Antenna Issues at WECA May Membership Meeting

Frank Fallon, N2FF, ARRL Hudson Division Director from East Williston, Long Island, will be the featured speaker at the May 14 WECA Membership Meeting. The highlight of Frank's talk will be the issue of PRB-1 (pre-emption of local antenna height laws) bills now pending in the New York State legislature. These bills are Assembly Bill A-1565-A and Senate Bill S-2893-A. Frank is a nationally known expert on the subject of antenna height regulation and his talk is expected to be lively and timely for New York State amateurs.

As many readers may know, many municipalities have strict limits on antenna structure heights written into their zoning ordinances. In New Rochelle, even the rather liberal present limit of 75 feet above grade for antenna towers is slated for change down to 35 feet in the proposed city zoning code. Homeowner groups and associations are especially active in opposing amateur antenna structures over stipulated height limits, which require a special permit or zoning variance for which a public hearing is usually required.

Readers wanting to prepare for Frank's discussion are urged to check the ARRL Hudson Division web page at <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org>, where they will find a copy of the bill and links that will enable interested hams to find names and addresses of their state representatives. At that site are also to be found copies of some sample letters that may be written to state legislators (assemblymen and senators), and letters sent by local governments supporting Amateur Radio. Names of state legislators are listed in the blue pages of all local telephone directories in New York State.

Also, as noted elsewhere in this issue of the WECAGRAM, final nominations for officer and director candidacies will be accepted, and nominations will close at the end of the meeting. Only WECA members whose dues are paid in full by the date of the meeting will be eligible to vote.

All WECA members and interested local amateurs are urged to attend this important meeting.

WECA Members:

Who Is More Qualified than You...

To be a WECA officer or director?

Your club needs you! Nominations for President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Vice President – Counsel, Treasurer, Director at Large, Activities Director, Repeater Operations Director, Engineering Director, Emergency Services Director and Education Director may be made before or at the next WECA membership meeting:

Monday, May 14 at 8:00 pm.

Contact Peter N2TFC, John N2GGY or Russ N2AMP for more information or to be nominated.



Southern District Net March 2001 Report By Sandro Sicilia, N2TWN Net Manager

Stations checked in (QNS)	480
Messages received (QTC)	91
Messages relayed (QSP)	85
Total net time duration (QTR)	548 minutes in
Total number of sessions	31

Spring is finally here even if doesn't look like it sometimes! Many events are on the way, so just refresh all you need to be ready, and, no, not just your radio and batteries! Come listen and check in for a few nights on S D N, and maintain those traffic skills that you might have for a long time but are not using daily .

The new season is here and with it... THUNDERSTORMS! The Weather Service is upgrading the new list of operators for NY and NJ. I will bring to your attention all the new Emergency Coordinators and their deputies for Skywarn as soon as the list is ready. They are working hard to keep Westchester County a safe place and to advise people in time to prevent tragedies. I expect to hear soon about when and where special training from Gary Conte (NOAA Meteorologist) will be given, and I will let you all know. Believe me, Skywarn training information is really interesting and good to know.

Efrem W2CZ will set up another good training session for all operators wishing to learn--or just refresh their memories--about the NTS traffic system . It will also be a great chance to have a really interesting spring: meeting new people, learning new stuff, seeing a good friend and having a good time.

For now, I wish everyone 73 and hope to see you soon in WECA-land.

Alessandro N2TWN

Remember: "Emergency Communications" is WECA's middle name!

Learn more and maintain readiness.
Contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS for more information.

Renew your ARRL membership and help WECA!

WECA receives \$2 for every ARRL member who renews through the club. Best of all, it costs you no more! Please make your check payable to "WECA", and mail it with ARRL membership form directly to our Treasurer:

Wanted: A few good leaders for WECA!

Closing nominations for the 2001-2002 WECA elections are coming up soon at the next meeting in May: will you be one of those people running for office?

All members over the age of 18, except Associate members, may hold office. To date, all positions this year are uncontested or unfilled: maybe **you** could help the club by helping to **lead** the club. Without your help, that position may be unfilled and the services that are coordinated by that office will be unavailable!

This year the following positions are up for election: President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Vice President – Counsel, Treasurer, Director at Large, Activities Director, Repeater Operations Director, Engineering Director, Emergency Services Director and Education Director.

So, if you would like to help steer WECA for the upcoming term and run for office, please contact Peter N2TFC, John N2GGY or Russ N2AMP using e-mail or phone. You too can have a voice and guiding hand in the leadership of your club!

Peter Johnson, N2TFC

What to Do About 10/12-Meter Interference from South of the Border? One Ham's Story

Tom Fischel, KØPJG, of Cullowhee, NC wanted to do something about interference on the 10- and 12-meter ham bands that he believes originates in Mexico. Apparently, the problem frequencies are 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, 29.000, 29.005, 29.010, 29.015 and 29.040 MHz AM, SSB and FM, as well as 6.995 to 7.000 MHz SSB. Tom also believes that improperly adjusted CB equipment may be being sold by unscrupulous American vendors to Mexican customers who are using the equipment to operate of amateur frequencies.

Tom wrote the following e-mail to CoFeTel, the Mexican equivalent of the FCC on March 21 asking for help:

We in the US and other areas of the world are experiencing illegal radio transmissions from Mexico and other Latin American Countries.

These transmissions are within the Internationally allocated frequencies of the Amateur Radio Community.

ALL of the members of this World Wide Community are licensed by their respective governments to operate within the confines of these frequencies allotted to them.

All Amateur Operators are bound by International Law to operate within their radio frequency boundaries. They face substantial penalties for not doing so.

Why then, are Illegal Operators within Mexico's borders and other Latin American Countries, allowed to operate HF communications equipment that creates interference

to the World of Amateurs in direct violation of International Laws and Treaties ?

These operators are not difficult to locate.

My Government tells me there is nothing they can do except pass along the information to the Countries involved.

I say there is there something to be done.

The manufacture and sale of this HF equipment is the problem. If it were not available then the use of it would be reduced.

Also, an enforcement program would certainly be welcomed, even if offenders are of a "Privileged Class"

Any comments from the Government of Mexico would greatly be appreciated. These communications are on going even as I type this e-mail. They are on a daily and constant basis.

The ARRL has asked the Amateur Community of the US to submit information of these illegal operations and they have. It is no secret that these illegal ops are on going and with seeming impunity.

Respectfully, Thomas F. Fischel - KØPJG
8274 Cullowhee Mountain Road
Cullowhee, NC. 28723
k0pjpg@earthlink.net

Many e-mails were sent over the next month, as the tortuous pace of diplomacy moved along. Encouragingly, Tom's letter was eventually forwarded by the Mexican government to the U.S. State Department in Washington. The State Department agreed to involve the U.S.-Mexico Joint Commission on Resolution of Radio Interference (CMERAR) on the matter to aid in resolution. FCC's Arlan K. van Doorn, who serves as the U.S. co-chairman of CMERAR, has agreed to deal with this case at the Joint Commission. His telephone number is 202-418-1105, and he serves as Senior Advisor to the Chief of FCC's Enforcement Bureau in Washington.

In the meantime, ARRL has been collecting logs on the problem from over 400 hams documenting the problem, which will be available as background to Mr. van Doorn for presentation to the Joint Commission.

If you have any logs or other evidence of improper operation on any of the mentioned frequencies that may be emanating from Mexico, please send them to Brennan Price, N4QX, at ARRL, email n4qx@arrl.org, or directly to Tom.

It's not easy to catch operators illegally operating on amateur frequencies in this country, let alone in another. But some amateurs feel strongly enough to take action directly and by engaging congressional and diplomatic assistance. Tom's story shows that international action can happen if enough people take the trouble to follow up.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Tom Fischel at k0pjpg@earthlink.net or by consulting the following website, which documents the history of this case more fully: <http://www.grz.com/forum/showflat.pl?Cat=&Board=UserForum&Number=92307&page=0&view=expanded&sb=5>.



**Next Membership Meeting:
Monday, May 14 at 8:00 pm
County Center, White Plains
Frank Fallon, N2FF on
antenna height issues; final
submissions of nominations**

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

Congratulations to Jeffrey Steinberg, ex-KC2GUC, who is now known at K2MIT.

I would like to welcome our newest member, KC2ARX, Bill Adams and his family member, Sara Halliday.

73, Angelina KC2COR

**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, June 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**

Sunday, June 3rd: American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure bicycle ride, SUNY Purchase.
Saturday night, July 14th: NY Philharmonic at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.
Friday afternoon, September 21st, 4:30 pm: Leukemia and Lymphoma benefit in Purchase (fireworks to follow).
Sunday, September 30, 8:00 am: American Heart Association, White Plains.
Sunday, October 7th, 8:00 am: American Diabetes Association "Walktoberfest," Rye Playland.
Saturday, October 13th, 9 am: Boy Scouts of American Thunderbird Games, Croton Point Park.

PLEASE SIGN UP in good time to participate. Call me at (914) 949-4231, see me at the membership meeting or e-mail me at n2tse@weca.org for further information.
73, Robert N2TSE

Editor's Note: WECA Public Service Director, Robert N2TSE, was injured in a fall as he was assisting in a public service event. He is recuperating from a broken leg and, hopefully, will return to action soon, in good health and in his inimitable style. 73 for a speedy recovery, Robert!



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