



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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June, 2001

Found: A few good leaders for WECA! By Peter Johnson, N2TFC

Closing nominations for the 2001-2002 WECA elections were held at the May 14th membership meeting. When the meeting began, the list of candidates was read at the beginning of the meeting by Peter, N2TFC. We were still one candidate short to fill the Activities Director position. Luckily, by the end of the meeting, it all worked out. Towards the end, Jim Faulkner, N2WQG asked the question, "what happens if the Activities Director position is unfilled?" The answer from N2TFC was, "then the office and the services that the office would normally provide are vacant until someone fills the position." Jim cordially stepped up to the plate and offered to run for the Activities Director position; his nomination was accepted and now the 2001/2002 slate is full!

Since all offices on the slate are uncontested, the Secretary will cast a single ballot for the membership at the June meeting to ratify the slate. The following Directors will be elected at that time:

President	Stan Rothman	WA2NRV	Director at large	Sandy Fried	N2SF
Exec V.P.	Bob Muller	KC2FYZ	Repeater	Dwight Smith	N2FMC
Treasurer	Andy Farber	N4OOX	Engineering	Bob Wilson	N2DVQ
Secretary	Milt Galamison	KC2GWK	Education	Efrem Acosta	W2CZ
Counsel	Mike Weitzner	N2EJI	Emergency Services	Tom Raffaelli	WB2NHC
			Activities	Jim Faulkner	N2WQG

The club thanks all the candidates who volunteered to run for office this year. Peter, N2TFC would also like to thank Russ, N2AMP and John, N2GGY for all of their help while serving on the Nominating Committee this year.

Have Fun with Your WECA Friends at the Third Annual WECA Picnic!

**Sunday, August 12th 12 - 5
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.

This will be a great family event, but not without you!

Be a part of this picnic to remember!

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.

Contact Judyth Stavans (k2dfj@weca.org) or call (914) 245-0844 for further information and/or if you can help make the picnic the best ever.

New DX Node Added to WECA Stack By Richard Benda, WB2QJA Digital Modes Director

A DX Cluster Node has been added to the existing nodes and the WECA digital site. This new node is WB2ZII-14 and is available direct on 145.090 MHz or through any of the other WECA nodes by typing "C WB2ZII-14". This node uses public domain software written by a Finnish ham, OH7LZB. It is running on a 486 computer, which is linked into the main Flexnet computer at the site by a RS232 serial port and a KISS interface. The node is linked to WA2SNA and EPA DX Cluster nodes by the 9600 backbone. Therefore, there is a lot of information coming in which is kept current.

The command structure is similar to packet bulletin board system (PBBS) commands. When you sign on for the first time, you are prompted to enter your name, locator grid and QTH. There is online help with the "?" command. Specific and detailed help can be obtained for each command by entering "H" space "command". Use the "H CONFIG" command to view the personal menu items that you may want to set. Please note that PC mail protocol is not currently implemented in this PC software. Please use the WB2QJA-4 PBBS to send or receive packet mail or bulletins to/from any destination worldwide. All forwarding is done via amateur radio RF links. Please try this new node and direct any questions to me.

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 #11: WECA and Field Day: A Perfect Match!

People always wonder about how to attract more people to our wonderful amateur radio hobby. How about this? We'll go out into a field, put up antennas, lay cable, generate power, erect tents and not just camp out and sleep in them but...operate radios from them all day and all night! Not to meet and chat at length with new people on the air, nothing as cheerful as that, just to exchange a very brief formatted message and say goodbye. And for what...a contest in which the prize is recognition in a magazine! Step right up, folks, while there are still places to be had...

No wonder the outside world thinks that hams are a little nuts. Are we just crazy, or crazy like a fox? For we amateurs know that one of the most distinctive—and enjoyable—activities that hams participate in is the annual Field Day, which will occur on June 23-24 this year. It's a cavalcade of "guy stuff" that's not limited to guys: high-powered radios and higher-powered chili, putting up antennas and putting up with each other, overachieving and overeating, sweating and swearing (but not on the air), competition and camaraderie. But there is an important underlying purpose to all this madness: to demonstrate readiness to set up and operate amateur stations that use emergency power quickly and effectively.

What better demonstration of "emergency communications," the proud middle name of WECA, is there than engaging amateurs in a trial-by-fire for 24 hours straight? The fact that we prepare all year long for this event does not take away any of its immediacy: the preparation is just the drill, the event is for real. Aren't emergency communications just "prepare, drill and do it for real?" The competition is more than scoring points; it is for improving our skills and ingenuity.

But Field Day is not just another emergency drill. It is also a time for us to let our hair down and live together, if briefly, with our pals, doing something we like to do. Field Day cooks gain fame all year 'round (especially if it takes that long to digest some of their offerings). We help bring new operators into the amateur radio fold in a practical and fun way. We share many things in that span of time.

Just as important, we invite outsiders, especially the media and elected officials, to see what hams can do when we are needed. Too many ordinary people think that ham radio has disappeared or at least has been overshadowed by the ubiquitous Internet. On Field Day, all over the country, hams strut their stuff, in a very public way, and prove to the world that they are ready, willing and able to communicate by radio come what may. This year, as in the past, WECA people will be leaders in that effort, thanks to Tom WB2NHC and all the WECA operators who join in to make it happen.

After Field Day, we will have all summer to wind down and relax. Your editor will relax a little, too. The next WECAGRAM will come out around Labor Day. Have a great summer!

73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

June is busting out all over, although in N2TSE's case, the "busting" might have been in May. Robert, we all wish you a speedy recovery.

This month is a big month for amateurs. The forth weekend is Field Day. WECA will be holding Field Day at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck again this year. We will be required to park all vehicles in the parking lot (not on the grass) this year, except those being used for operating stations. Tom WB2NHC is in charge of field day and taking care of all details. He will be presenting a program at the June meeting, Monday June 11th. If you have a specific area in which you would like to participate, such as set up, take down, operating, food preparation, etc, contact Tom via the WECA phone line or e-mail at wb2nhc@weca.org.

We also should send our letters to the New York State senators and representatives to advise them of our feelings regarding the antenna legislature (PRB-1). Frank Fallon, N2FF relayed the importance of this issue at the May meeting.

Mark your calendars for the annual WECA picnic on August 12th. It is a fun time for the whole family, with games for all and prizes for the children. Contact Judyth K2DFJ for details and confirmation.

I would like to congratulate the incoming WECA Board members and welcome them as of the close of the June meeting. I also want to thank those members stepping down and Board members remaining for another year, for all the time and effort they have put forth on behalf of the club. Just remember that the Board can only accomplish what the membership dictates. It is up to the membership to see that we, as a club, strive to improve our image and continue our enjoyment of the hobby.

73, Stan WA2NRV

Henry Povall, WB2RJO is Silent Key

Henry Povall, WB2RJO, a WECA member since 1994, became a Silent Key in May. Mr. Povall had his amateur radio license for many years and was a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and the East Coast Amateur Radio Service, as well as WECA.

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: Andy Farber, N4OOX, 29 Tarryhill Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Remember: ARRL dues increase by \$5 annually as of July 1. Renew by June 30 to take advantage of current rates.

From the Education Director... By Efrem Acosta, W2CZ

Well, another summer is approaching and soon we will all be thinking of vacations and rest. If this summer you have a bit of time to learn about traffic handling between days at the beach, please let me know. With the help of Sandro N2TWN, I hope to start a one-day class to introduce non-traffic handlers to NTS and radiograms. Personally, no other activity on amateur radio introduced me to as many other hams as traffic handling. In addition, traffic handling is part of emergency communications.

The projected date for this class will be Monday, July 9th at 7:30 pm at the Westchester County Center in White Plains (the same place where WECA monthly meetings are held). The class will last just one session and review such things as NTS history, net protocols, and how to format and send a radiogram. Hopefully, after this class there will be more operators using and participating in the NTS traffic nets. If you interested call me at 914-966-3348 or email at w2cz@arrl.net and I'll add you to the roster.

Please remember that in addition to the NTS training session, the National Weather Service will hold Skywarn spotter training on Monday, June 18th at the Yonkers Public Library branch at 1500 Central Park Ave. (just south of Tuckahoe Rd). Please contact Sandro N2TWN at n2twn@weca.org to register. The course is from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. It is a very interesting class given by the staff of the National Weather Service.

Thanks to all who have helped me along this year with training issues. Without the members' help, this organization would not function. God bless and have a great summer!!!

73, Efrem W2CZ



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

Stations checked in (QNS)	392
Messages received (QTC)	83
Messages relayed (QSP)	73
Total net time duration (QTR)	446 minutes in
Total number of sessions	30

Don't forget: Join Gary Conte of the U.S. Weather Service office in Upton, LI, on June 18th (see W2CZ article above) as he gives an interesting training course at the Yonkers Public Library for Skywarn. Become a Skywarn station, and help WECA help the community when dangerous weather threatens.



**Next Membership Meeting:
Monday, June 11 at 8:00 pm
County Center, White Plains
Field Day Warmup by WB2NHC**

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

I believe this is the end of another glorious WECA year and we will be looking forward to lots of fun this summer with Public Service Events, Field Day and our annual Summer Picnic to just name a few. But before you know it....the summer will end and there will lots of stories to share.

Looking forward to seeing you again this fall as we look into another busy WECA year. Have a Great Summer!!!
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 14th, 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 April 29, WECA demonstrated its public-service commitment at the March of Dimes event in Mt. Kisco. The March of Dimes expressed its great appreciation of WECA assistance that went "beyond the call of amateur radio." Thanks to the following dedicated WECA members who participated at the event:

KA2 BRH, CFB, KCR; WB2IAE
KC2 CUO, DYT, FNU, FYY, GWK, GYP
N2 AMP, CJF, FXU, TFC, TJE, TSE, TWN, WQG

The following public-service activities are scheduled:

Sunday, June 3rd: American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure bicycle ride, SUNY Purchase.
Saturday night, July 14th: NY Philharmonic at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

PLEASE SIGN UP in good time to participate. Call me or Russ N2AMP for further information.
73, Robert N2TSE (temporarily down but not out!)

*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**