



# 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 26, Issue 2

September, 2001

## ***WECA Operators Come Out in Force to Aid NYC Recovery***

*At press time on September 11, WECA operators were called to join RACES efforts to man net control stations and communications points in an all-out effort to aid in the treatment of injured and displaced in the aftermath of the tragic destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City and related events. As always, WECA people were unstinting in their support of the important recovery effort. More details will follow in the WECAGRAM next month. Please stay tuned...*

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

Welcome to another year of WECA fun and games. We are here to provide a service to the various organizations within the Westchester County area. In addition we try to have F U N !!! As a club we try to do fun things together, such as the picnic, Judyth K2DFJ, ran in August. It was a fun time for those that were there. We started to eat, played games, eat some more, worked some HF, a little more eating, walked around the area, and then we started to eat seriously. The rain fell all around the county but not on our picnic. After we all left the park, it started to rain. Judyth and her committee must have the right connections.

Robert N2TSE has some events scheduled for the near future. Look for his list in the WECAGRAM. These public service events hone our skills as operators; at the same time we provide a protective safety blanket for local groups, while having fun.

Our members are the greatest. I want to thank all who heeded our needs and paid their dues early. This helped keep us from running into possible trouble in the future. Most of the board is trying to keep the spending to a minimum. We are still on a limited budget and all expenditures must be approved in advance. If your employer has a program that will help local clubs financially with a tax-deductible donation, please let Andy N4OOX know whom to contact.

Bob KC2FYZ, our vice president, is setting up some very interesting programs for future meetings. I'm sure you will not want to miss any of them.

Efrem W2CZ, our Educational Director, is preparing some classes in the near future. One will be a program on NTS traffic handling, which will teach us all the proper procedures for handling amateur radio traffic. This will be a combined effort with Alessandro N2TWN.

Sandy N2SF was pleased with the turnout of WECA VE's and

test takers at the last test session. They are now being held at the Westchester County Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road in Valhalla, NY. Just look to the north of the tower with our antennas for the exam site. They are held on the second Thursday night of even-numbered months.

I would like to thank the WECA committees who are working with Liam and Ray, to help plan for the future communication requirements for the County. This type of planning resolves the possible problems before they have an opportunity to occur.

Angelina KC2COR, our Membership Director, is doing a bang-up job, with some help from Peter N2TFC and John N2GGY. She is trying to keep the membership list current and e-mail addresses up to date. Please advise her of any changes in your status or data.

I have had many comments from local hams and members who have retired or moved out of the area, regarding the WECAGRAM. They all praise Mike K2NR for the interesting publication each month. YOU can add to the interest by submitting articles to Mike for publication. Remember, it is your club and newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting on a special date: October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY. The social half-hour starts at 7:30 p.m., and is followed by the meeting at 8:00.

73, Stan WA2NRV

#### ***A "Blue Dot" Means WECA is Feeling Blue about You!***

If your address label shows a "blue dot" on it, it means your annual WECA membership dues are still not paid. We know you like to read the WECAGRAM (or you wouldn't have received this message), but that's just one of the benefits of belonging to WECA. Please do your share and pay your dues by returning your dues notice with a check payable to "WECA" to Angelina Morgante, KC2COR, at P. O. Box 253, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, or bringing it with you to the next membership meeting.

***Get Back in the Pink...Renew with WECA today!***

# 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 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 2001-June 2002**

## OFFICERS:

<b>President</b>	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
<b>Executive VP</b>	Robert Muller, KC2FYZ
<b>VP/General Counsel</b>	Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX
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<b>President Emeritus</b>	Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

## DIRECTORS:

<b>Activities</b>	Jim Faulkner, N2WQG
<b>County Liaison</b>	Raymond Albanese, N2FXU
<b>Digital Modes</b>	Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA
<b>Director-at-Large</b>	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
<b>Public Relations</b>	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
<b>Public Service</b>	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
<b>Repeater Operations</b>	Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC

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 #13: Hams Fight Back Against Terrorism

Just as I was putting this issue to bed, terror struck at the heart of New York City and elsewhere in the U.S., with the destruction of the World Trade Center twin towers as well as massive damage to the Pentagon and elsewhere. These events probably forever changed the attitude, at the very least, of Americans to terrorism, from detached concern to up-close-and-personal.

Some of what keeps us sane in the midst of such insane acts is communications: between emergency workers, hospitals, blood donation centers and government leaders. The amount of effort necessary to recover from such monumental tragedy will be almost for naught without effective communications. Our own WECA members, among hundreds or thousands of dedicated hams, have come to the fore early and often throughout the crisis to ensure that essential communications are made. I am honored to have been one of them.

Not only do emergency personnel need to communicate but also ordinary folks need to ensure that their loved ones are safe and sound in the midst of such pandemonium. Amateur radio aids in this important function, which helps strongly to keep panic at bay, not only directly but also by freeing up landline and cellular communications for emergency communications. To use an oxymoron, the professionalism of our amateur operators in fostering communication in the face of such a disaster is humbling to most people, but that's what we train for: "emergency communications" is our middle name, after all. Even so, I am in awe of our capability as I monitor the WECA 2m repeater and our dedicated and competent operators.

There are many dedicated officials and individuals both inside and outside government that have taken action to recover from terrorism, whose extent on September 11 could not possibly have been totally prepared for. We hams can take pride that we were "part of the solution" for the aftermath. It's not just cleanup that radio amateurs have been involved in; it's trying to get our world back to some semblance of normalcy. If we hide our heads in the sand and forget how to take precautions against and prepare for emergencies, all hell will break loose when the next incident occurs. That general panic did not break out in New York is at least a small comfort to our intensive communications efforts.

The purpose of terrorism is to scare the daylights out of ordinary people, to keep them in such fear that pressure will be brought to bear to take rash, unsupportable political actions. If we react to terrorism like that, the terrorists win. Hams are part of the effort to fight back, so that the terrorists don't win. If that doesn't prove the strength of amateur radio and its operators, I don't know what does.

73, Mike K2NR

## The WECA 2001 Picnic Report By Judyth Stavans, K2DFJ WECA Picnic Chairperson

Yet again, the WECA picnic beat the gloomy forecast. It may have rained all over Westchester County that afternoon, but the only water that fell from the sky at the WECA 3rd annual picnic on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> was contained in water “grenades”. This year we were joined by members of QCWA, a wonderful addition to our gathering. Besides eating, we worked HF (Germany, UK, etc.), 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 (if you’ve pledged and haven’t submitted, please contact me). Deep appreciation goes to all those who brought what was needed and much more. Special thanks go to Stan WA2NRV, Angelina KC2COR, John N2GGY, and Rob N2TSE for all their tremendous assistance.



### Buddy, can you spare a dime? How about ten guys at a penny each to help the March of Dimes?

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, ten dedicated WECA members contributed much more than a penny each as they came out to support the communications for the March of Dimes event. Pictured above, from the left, are: KC2FYY, KC2DYT, K2MIT, KA2BRH, N2WQG, N2CJN, N2TWN, N2AMP, KA2KCR and KA2CFB. Nice going, guys!

### **WANTED: Your Current E-mail Address**

A review of our WECA roster and database shows many erroneous or outdated e-mail addresses for members. Please do your club a favor and check your e-mail address in the roster. If it has changed, or it is not on file, please send an e-mail with your preferred e-mail address to: [webmaster@weca.org](mailto:webmaster@weca.org). Also, please indicate (if you do not already have one) whether you want WECA to issue you a [weca.org](http://weca.org) reflector address with your call (e.g. [k2nr@weca.org](mailto:k2nr@weca.org)). *de K2NR, editor*

## WECA's Elmer Program By Fran LaSorsa, N2OLU WECA's Chief "Elmer"

Well, a new year has begun and the cool fall season to come is the perfect time for antenna construction

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 that are out there and can be reached with a simple vertical antenna. Winter months are also great for repeater hunting. In order to avoid the typical newcomer mistakes, WECA has an "Elmer" program to help you through the newbie stage.

The WECA Elmer 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 "WECA loan closet." Get involved in a few WECA public service events and you can be eligible for a six-month loan of an HF station.

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, with the big one, CQWW phone in October. If you don't like HF DX contesting, you might want to try it on VHF.

The digital modes area has a few new projects to play with, or you can get into slow-scan TV. Whatever your pleasure is, just be active and have fun. Remember: WECA Elmers cover all the bases.

If you need help, we're here for you. Just send off an e-mail to [N2OLU@weca.org](mailto:N2OLU@weca.org) and we'll take it from there. Just send your name, call, location and type of problem your having and we will find an Elmer to give you a helping hand.

Well, that's it for now, have a great fall season and I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the next WECA meeting.

73, Fran N2OLU

## WECAFEST Rebirth? Let's Explore It... By Sandy Fried, N2SF

At the last Board meeting, we discussed the possibility of having a WECAFEST at the Raceway next March. I volunteered to chair the committee if I had assistance. Any member wishing to help me with this project should please contact me by e-mail at [n2sf@weca.org](mailto:n2sf@weca.org) or phone me at (914) 273-2741.

73, Sandy N2SF

## From the Educational Director By Efrem Acosta, W2CZ

Once again, it is my pleasure to write and say hello to all our members. I hope to be able to start a WECA Technician's course for new hams. If anyone is interested in attending or helping teach the course, please let me know. Teaching and education is the foundation of any good club, as it helps attract new members and retain old members. Having a group of hams that can teach a course provides the students with a different perspective on the various concepts they need to learn. It also shares the burden placed when only one instructor is responsible for the class.

What is needed is the desire to explain, coach and motivate.

If you can explain ideas and add to the students understanding of a topic, then you can teach. Some folks are shy in front of crowds but I look at it this way: hams like to talk to total strangers anyway, so it should be easy with motivated newcomers! Please get in touch and let me know your interest via phone at (914) 966-3348 or by e-mail at [W2CZ@weca.org](mailto:W2CZ@weca.org).

73, Efrem W2CZ

## DX Cluster Mode: WECA Upgrades By Richard Benda, WB2QJA Digital Modes Director

Over the summer, the WECA DX-Cluster node (WB2ZII-14) has been upgraded to DxNet. This software was written by a French ham, Olivier Le Cam, F5MZN. The commands used closely resemble those used by the "traditional" DX Clusters. The program is still in beta-phase testing and some minor bugs have been found. However, at this point, it seems to work quite well. The WECA node is available directly on 145.090 MHz or one can connect to it from WB2ZII-5 on 145.050 MHz. Our node is hooked to the EastNet Backbone system to over 150 other DX Cluster nodes. The command structure can be summarized as follows:

### Command List for DxNet:

A command can be shortened by using only the letters shown in capitals.

SHow/Announce	Announcement list
SHow/Beam <locator>	Show azimuth/distance
SHow/BAse or /DATAbase	Available Databases on this cluster
SHow/CLuster	Short Cluster configuration
SHow/Configuration	Cluster configuration
SHow/Date	See the current date
SHow/DX	See the 5 last spots
SHow/DX/n [band] [prefix]	See the n last spots (see detailed help: ? SH/DX)
SHow/Filter status	See the DX announcement

SHow/LANGuage	Language list
SHow/Prefix <prefix> database	Search the DXCC
SHow/STation <callsign>	Display information for the station call
SHow/Time	Show the current time
SHow/Users	Local cluster configuration
SHow/USERCmd	Display the commands executed at logging
SHow/WWFilter	Show your WW filter status
SHow/WWW	Display WWW propagation information
SET/BEep [d] [a] [t] [l] [w]	Enable BEEP alerts
SET/DX_ announcements	Enable the DX announcements
SET/Filter <...>	Enable a DX announcement filter
SET/Here	You're here
SET/NOHere	You're away
SET/HOME <cluster_call>	Set your home cluster
SET/LANGuage <num_language> (see sh/lang)	Set the language
SET/LOCator <locator>	Set your locator
SET/LOGIn	Enable login/logout messages
SET/NAME <name>	Set your first name
SET/NOBeep [d] [a] [t] [l] [w]	Disable BEEP alerts
SET/NODX_ announcements	Disable the DX announcements
SET/NOFilter	Disable the DX announcement filter
SET/NOLogin	Disable login/logout messages
SET/NOwfilter	Disable the WW announcements feature
SET/QTH <city>	Set your QTH
SET/USERCmd	Set the commands which are executed at login
Announce <msg>	Send a local announcement
Announce/Full <msg>	Send a cluster-wide announcement
Bye (or Quit) CONFerence	Quit
CONFerence/Full	Enter the local conference
CONVert/L2C	Enter the cluster-wide conference
CONVert/C2L	Convert a locator to coordinates
	Convert coordinates to a locator

DX <freq> <dxcall> [comments]  
[freq is in Khz]  
EU

Send a DX spot

Information

Edit user  
information  
Display the  
information about  
the server

Talk [callsign]

Send a break  
message to  
[callsign]

WWW <SFI> <A> <K> [comments]

Send a WWW  
propagation  
information

You can obtain detailed help about any command by typing:  
? [cmd] (example: ? SH/DX or ? SH for extra help on all  
SH/xxx).

On your first contact, the node will ask you for your name  
and QTH (SET/NAME your name and SET/QTH your city,  
state). It is also a good idea for you to enter your grid  
square locator (SET/LOC grid square). This entry allows  
you get a beam direction and distance directly from your  
QTH to the DX station grid square (if it has been listed).  
Stan WA2NRV reminded me that many of you who  
purchased Rigblasters last fall have a packet radio program  
on the bundled software that will allow you to run packet  
radio by using your computer and its sound card—you don't  
need to go out and purchase a TNC if you don't already  
have one. Give the DX Cluster a try and please let me know  
it's useful to you.

73, Rich WB2QJA

## Alternative Accessories for HT's By Grant Nishanian, KC2FNU

The Motorola Speaker Mic (Part #50225), which is made for  
Motorola Talkabout HT's work with Icom and Yaesu HT's,  
too. I tried it out with my Icom W-32A and it works great!  
The speaker-mics are widely available from Sports Authority  
(in White Plains) and other retail outlets that sell Motorola  
Talkabout accessories. Any accessory made for Talkabout  
Distance radios, including headsets and other accessories  
should work with Icom or Yaesu rigs.

A big advantage of the Motorola accessories is the much-  
reduced price compared with ICOM and YAESU OEM parts  
or even such aftermarket parts as MFJ accessories. Check  
them out!

73, Grant KC2FNU

## Westchester County VE Exam Schedules Announced for 2002

The following VE exams are scheduled in 2002. Note: "p/r  
pref" means "pre-registration preferred to walk-ins."

JAN 6 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
JAN 15 7:30pm W5YI PELHAM p/r pref  
FEB 3 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
FEB 14 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register  
MAR 3 9 am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
MAR 19 7:30pm W5YI PELHAM p/r pref  
APR 7 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
APR 11 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register  
MAY 5 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
MAY 21 7:30pm W5YI PELHAM p/r pref  
JUNE 2 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
JUNE 13 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register  
JULY 7 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
JULY 16 7:30 W5YI PELHAM p/r pref  
AUG 4 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
AUG 8 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register  
SEP 1 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
SEP 17 7:30pm W5YI PELHAM p/r-pref  
OCT 6 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
OCT 10 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register  
NOV 3 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
NOV 19 7:30pm W5YI PELHAM p/r pref  
DEC 1 9am YARC YONKERS walk-ins OK  
DEC 12 7pm WECA VALHALLA pre-register

WECA: VE exams will be held on the second Thursday of  
even-numbered months, starting February 14, at the  
Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY.  
Contact: Sandy Fried N2SF (914) 273-2741 or  
[n2sf@weca.org](mailto:n2sf@weca.org)

YARC: VE exams will held on the first Sunday each month  
at Yonkers 1st Police Precinct on Grassy Sprain Road  
between Jackson Ave. and Tuckahoe Rd., Yonkers, NY.  
Contact: Emily Maytan AC2V (914) 237-5589 or at  
[ac2v@juno.com](mailto:ac2v@juno.com) or Dan Calabrese (914) 667-0587  
or at [aa2hx@juno.com](mailto:aa2hx@juno.com).

W5YI: VE exams will be held the third Tuesday of odd-  
numbered months, starting with January 15, at the Pelham  
Doronco Town House, 20 Fifth Ave., Pelham, NY.  
Contact: Mike Ciferri W2MAC (914) 738-5775 or Dan  
Calabrese AA2HX (914) 667-0587.

W5YI also sponsors Commercial License Testing by  
appointment only. Contact Dan Calabrese at (914)  
667-0587 or at [aa2hx@juno.com](mailto:aa2hx@juno.com) for further information.

73, Dan AA2HX



**Next Membership Meeting:  
Monday October 1, at 8:00 pm  
NOTE SPECIAL DATE  
County Center, White Plains  
Program to be Announced**

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

Two new hams in our WECA pot! Congratulations to our two brand-new hams who recently joined WECA over the summer. Please join me in a special welcome to William Alfieri, KC2IHH and Alexander Ortega, KC2IHI, both from Garnerville, NY. Thanks, guys!

Also, a special thank you to all the members who promptly renewed with our club for a new year. I have to say that when everyone was asked to come together to as a team to help WECA raise funds to help the budget, there was so much generosity with the donations we received.  
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, October 11th, 7:00 pm**, at our NEW location:  
Westchester County Fire Training Center  
4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY.  
Good luck from Sandy N2SF and the WECA VE team.

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

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at SUNY in Purchase, WECA helped the American Diabetes Association with communications for their event. We were thanked over and over again by many people who knew it would not have gone as well without our help. I thank the following members who helped me go beyond the call: K2DFJ; N2 AMP,FMC,FXU,TJE,TFC, WQG,YYL; KA2BRH; KC2 CLZ,FNU,FYY,FYZ,GWK,GYP; WA2RMB; WB2IAE and WG1HM.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, WECA helped the Westchester County Parks & Recreation Department with Communications at the Westchester Community College who sponsored the NY Philharmonic concert. Thanks to the following 22 operators who worked with me there: N2 AMP,DVQ, FMC, FXU,NWZ, OGK, TJE, YYL; K2DFJ; KA2BRH; KB2 LLV,NVN; KC2 CLZ,COQ,CUO,ESU, FNU,GWK,GYP; W2RJA; WB2NHC and WG1HM.

The following public-service activities are scheduled:  
*Friday, September 21*, 4:30 pm: Leukemia and Lymphoma benefit, Purchase (fireworks to follow).  
*Sunday, September 30*, 8:00 am: American Heart Association, White Plains.

PLEASE SIGN UP in good time to participate. Call me for further information.

73, Robert N2TSE



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Communications Association, Inc.**

Post Office Box 831  
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**RUSH -- DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**