



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 4

November, 2001

**NOTE SPECIAL DATE for Upcoming WECA Membership Meetings:
Monday, November 5, 8:00 pm (social hour at 7:30) at Westchester County
Center
(Meeting changed from Nov. 12 due to Veterans Day celebration)**

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Vulnerability of Communications and Computer Systems to Terrorism and Disasters Eyed by Congress

In the shadow of terrorist attacks of September 11, Congress is paying attention to the susceptibility to major disruption of American life if terrorism or natural disaster were to damage or destroy essential communications and computer systems. Special concern was addressed to governmental computer and communications systems by such key bodies as the Government Accounting Office and House of Representatives. In addition to worries about governmental systems, House Science Committee chairman Sherman Boehlert (R, NY) said last month that computer security research of even civilian systems was very inadequate.

As a possible solution, Senator Ron Wyden (D, OR) proposed formation of a "National Emergency Technology (NET) Guard," similar to the National Guard, which would be composed of volunteer experts in these fields who could be mobilized as the need arose. NET Guard would be a national volunteer organization of trained and well-coordinated units of IT professionals from U.S. technology companies. These units would stand ready with designated computer equipment, satellite dishes, wireless communicators and other resources to quickly recreate and repair compromised communications and technology infrastructures. Volunteers would be designated from existing human resource pools at major and medium sized firms and these IT professionals would be trained to perform specific tasks in the event of an emergency.

While no explicit mention was made by Congress of amateur radio operators as a part of these efforts to form technology-savvy reserves, hams potentially could be an integral part of these forces. Many hams have the technical skills, as well as the emergency

communications experience, to assist in such programs. Stay tuned to the WECAGRAM for future developments.

WECA Operators Recognized for Emergency Service in WTC Disaster

WECA operators who participated in the emergency response to the World Trade Center disaster of September 11, and its amateur radio aftermath of two weeks, gave generously of their time and effort. Following is a list of these devoted operators:

**AE2F; K2 NR,ZVI
K4ZGE; K6SEM
KB2 APX,PWJ,SPA,YTX;
KC2 CLA,CLZ,CXL,DHX,DNO,DYT,ESU,
FNU,FVU,FYY,FYZ,GYP
KR2V; N1TKS
N2 AMP,AXO,CAV,DHH,DVQ,FMC,HTT,NQY,
NWZ,OGK,SKP,SLA,TJE,TSE,TWN,UXJ,
XKA,XRC,YGK,YGN,YHK
N4OOX; W2XX
WA2 ATY,KHR,NRV,PYZ
WB2 BTJ,IAE,NHC,VVS**

Of the 123 hams who volunteered through Westchester Red Cross and/or the Westchester EOC, 54 were WECA members. Many of the others came to Westchester from Upstate New York and New England to help.

Congratulations to the volunteers, who are a source of pride not only for WECA but also for the public spirit of amateur radio in very troubling and difficult circumstances.

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 2001-June 2002

OFFICERS:

President	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
Executive VP	Robert Muller, KC2FYZ
VP/General Counsel	Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI
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Newsletter Editor	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
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Public Service	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
Repeater Operations	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 #15: We Are Not Forgotten

There has been a certain amount of righteous indignation raised about the purported ignoring of the contribution of amateur radio in general, and WECA in particular, to emergency response when reading the newspapers and listening to the news in the aftermath of the September 11 disaster. Your editor is partly to blame on that subject. Fortunately, in the midst of this troubled time, an e-mail was received that restored my spirits, as I hope it will yours. It was from an ex-Westchester ham that saw the forest from the trees with the following message:

One of the ways that I remain informed/up-to-date as to the amateur activities in New York is by reading the WECA newsletter. I must say that the October edition of the letter was noteworthy.

What cannot be expressed are the feelings of pain and frustration emoted by those of us who have relocated to other parts of the country. The need to try and help, but unable to do so because of the distances to be traveled or the even more frustration that we would be turned away because of one reason or another.

In my case, I spoke with one of the ARES ECs from one of your near counties. I was told to wait until things calmed before I drove the 1000 miles to lend a hand. Things are under control, as I understand it...And maybe it was best that I did not make the trip.

Again...Another job well done by WECA and all the local amateurs up there. My best to all...God Bless You All.

73, Jay/AF2C

ARES EC Flagler County Florida

Ex RACES Communications Officer Yorktown Heights, NY

Ex NCS Southern District Net.

I was moved not only by Jay's recognition of our newsletter, but also by his yearning to help yet trusting of WECA's exceptional local commitment to emergency response. Jay's generous gratitude for all NYC-area amateur radio respondents may have been overt, but perhaps his feelings represent those of a larger population.

The general public may not recognize the contribution that hams made in the weeks following September 11, or that they have made and will make at Marathons and other public-service events. Does that mean that we should no longer participate in them? One could argue whether the old saw, "virtue is its own reward," is valid, but I don't think any thinking ham would be anything but proud of amateur radio's willingness to help when disaster strikes. The September 11 disaster was of huge magnitude; we have every right to magnify our pride in our response accordingly. Our song may not be sung loudly, but it is sung in some of the best places and by some of the best people.

73, Mike K2NR

From the President By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

CQ CQ CQ DE WA2NRV...

Yes, like most of our members, I am recuperating and spending some time on the air for pleasure rather than public service. For those who were not able to participate during the aftermath of the world trade center situation, because you were not RACES or ARES members, now is the time to sign on the dotted line. There is no financial obligation, although you will get a huge charge out of benefits gained by serving. Talk to Joe WB2VVS or Alan N2YGK. You could also talk to Tom WB2NHC, our Emergency service director.

You will notice that the WECA meeting for November was changed to the first Monday of the month. That was because I received a call from the manager of the County Center very recently. When we set up the schedule, no one realized that the second Monday was a holiday. We wanted to let everyone know as soon as possible about the change. The quickest way would have been via e-mail, if we had current addresses for all. Unfortunately, the majority of e-mail addresses we have listed are outdated. Please update yours by sending a note or e-mail to Angelina.

Robert N2TSE has a few public service opportunities coming up in the near future. One of them is the Mamaroneck "Turkey Trot." This event is short and fun for all participants. It also helps our cause when we request the Harbor Island site for Field Day. Read Robert's column for more details on upcoming events.

The day before our meeting is the New York City Marathon. That is a world famous event supported by amateur radio. There are approximately 430 hams participating, many of them WECA members. We continue to prove the importance of our communications capabilities during public service events as well as disasters. Be proud of your involvement and participate.

Efrem, W2CZ, would like to talk to members willing to work on the WECA education program. We are a special services club and part of our responsibility is to education and classes.

I look forward to seeing all of you November 5th at the Westchester County Center at 7:30PM for the social ½ hour before the 8:00PM meeting. If you ask, I might tell you about some of the details of my trip to Europe last month.

73, Stan WA2NRV

NYC Marathon Runs on Sunday, Nov. 4

As usual, WECA operators will be out in force to assist at the NYC Marathon. This year, a total of over 400 hams from throughout the New York area and elsewhere will be helping make the marathon a safe and successful event. News about the Marathon events and WECA's participation will appear in the December WECAGRAM.

WECA Ops Make Beautiful Music Together with N.Y. Philharmonic



Robert N2TSE and his band of merry men formed an ensemble to aid the New York Philharmonic and Westchester County in the annual outdoor concert in Valhalla on July 14. *Bravo!* (photo courtesy of KB2LLV)

ARRL Changes Club Reward Policy to Favor New ARRL Members

ARRL recently changed its policy regarding payment of rebates to clubs whose members renew their ARRL memberships through the club. Effective immediately, clubs no longer receive any rebates for forwarding their club members ARRL membership renewals. However, the rebate for *new* ARRL memberships that are initiated and paid for through the club has *increased*.

Help your hobby, your national association and your club by asking new hams and hams who are not members of ARRL to take out memberships through WECA. Former members of ARRL whose memberships have lapsed for over two years are eligible to be considered "new" memberships when they reinstate their ARRL membership.

For further details, contact Andy Farber, N4OOX, WECA's treasurer, at 29 Tarryhill Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Remember the World Trade Center and "Amateur Radio's Finest Hour:"

Learn more about emergency response and maintain your emergency communications skills and readiness.

Contact Alan N2YGK or Joe WB2VVS for more information.

***"Emergency Communications"
is WECA's middle name!***



Next Membership Meetings:
Monday, November 5 at 8 pm
Monday, December 10 at 8 pm
*****NOTE SPECIAL DATE*****
County Center, White Plains

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

Please welcome our newest members: Paul D. Magee, N2QJQ of Bronxville, NY; David Hury, KC2ILK of Dobbs Ferry, NY and Lyle Anderson, KC2INI, of Chappaqua, NY.

Also... Brian Foley of Dobbs Ferry has changed his call from KC2GWH to W2BTF.

Please don't forget to keep me updated as to your latest e-mail address, as well as any call-sign changes. Thanks!

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, December 13th, 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 Sept. 30th, from the County Center up and down the Bronx River Parkway, the American Heart Association had its Walk. WECA operators who helped with communications were: N2 FXU,NWZ,TJE,TSE,WQG; K4ZGE; AB2JD; KA2BRH; KB2SPC; KC2 CLZ,COR,FYY,GYP,ILK. Thanks to all 14 members who helped.

On Oct. 13th, WECA played host to the Boy Scouts of America at Croton Point Park to show what Amateur Radio is all about. I would like to thank 10 people for helping out. They are: N2 AMP,DHH,FMC,WQG; KC2 DYP,ESU,FYY; WG1HM; AB2JD and WB2NHC.

On Oct. 21st, WECA and eight of its members helped American Diabetes Walk at Rye Playland. Their call signs are: N2 AMP,CAV,TSE; KA2 BRH,KCR; KC2 FYY,GYP and WA2RMB. Thanks to all of them.

The following public-service activities are scheduled:

Sunday, Nov. 18, 8 a.m.: Mamaroneck Turkey Trot.
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.: Santa Claus visits Blythedale Children's Hospital, Valhalla.

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

73, Robert N2TSE



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RUSH -- DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY