



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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Summer 2001

URGENT—An Open Letter to the WECA Membership

Dear WECA Members:

This year, for the first time, I am making an appeal to you in this special WECAGRAM issue. You will find that a dues notice is enclosed with this mailing, a little earlier than usual. There is, unfortunately, a good reason for asking you to support your club financially at this particular time.

Our expenses, like everyone else's, are increasing. We, who are devoted to amateur radio in general, cannot forget the specific benefits that WECA brings not only to us individually, but to the entire Westchester-area community. Just ask the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management, the Red Cross or any of the charitable and public service organizations who use our services if you doubt that WECA's devoted membership is considered a vital part of general emergency preparedness and the public interest at large. It's not for nothing that "Emergency Communications" is WECA's middle name.

The plain fact is that WECA's cupboard is almost bare *right now*. Expenses have outrun the receipt of dues. A formerly significant source of club revenue, WECAfest, has had to be abandoned because changes in the marketplace have made it no longer profitable, and the revenue it previously generated must be replaced. Your Board of Directors met on June 25 and, when confronted with this situation, resolved not to permit spending of any more of your club funds on activities that were not committed to prior to June 25, unless specifically authorized by a majority resolution of the Board. That means that there will be no more WECAGRAMS, no WECA refreshments at our annual picnic, no repairs to our club equipment—including the repeaters, *no more programs of any kind that require funding*, unless the membership demands them *and* we can find funds to support them. If only wishing could make it so...

To avert the effects of this severe decree, it will be necessary to concentrate on revenue raising with a sense of urgency. Some specific measures have been discussed and are being urged for immediate action:

- First, we are asking *everyone* who wants our club to remain vibrant to pay his or her 2001-02 dues, which are being billed as part of this mailing, promptly. Most Board members have already pre-paid their 2001-02 dues as soon as they became aware of WECA's dire straits.
- Second, members are being asked to consider making tax-deductible contributions to WECA, either as unrestricted gifts or for a particular program or purpose, over and above their annual dues. Please note that WECA is a tax-exempt non-profit organization, with IRS approval as a Section 501 c (3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law, even though dues are not deductible. Several members have already contributed, to make up for such minor though important amenities as feeding our public-service volunteers that would otherwise be abandoned in these austere times.
- Third, some members are employed by corporations having matching-gifts programs. Such programs stretch your own donations to twice—or more—of their size, and provide vitally needed funds at no extra cost to you. If you work for an organization with a matching program, please consider making a matchable donation.

Of course, all contributors—both individuals and supporting companies—will be gratefully acknowledged for their generosity.

Your Board is eager to hear about any other ideas you might have on bringing in more revenue in ways that do not contravene the noble goals and policies of WECA. Unlike sports stadiums, there is no "3Com WECA" or "Continental Airlines 147.06 Repeater" in the works. We can continue to operate the club as we have *only* with your support.

I know that the times are getting harder for almost everybody now. You will have others asking you to do more, to contribute more, to pay more. I assure you that WECA is watching carefully over all expenditures, and your Board has not endorsed any increase in dues now. We hope that by prompt payment of dues at the current level—and by offering tax-deductible donations to the club by those able and willing to do so—we can avoid taking genuinely punitive measures. No one wins by such measures, and we certainly do not want to exclude anybody from taking part in our important activities by requiring high dues or other mandatory charges. Just as our club activities are based on volunteerism, so do we ask for voluntary assistance in their support.

WECA means a lot to me and I am sure that it means a lot to you, whether you are an active participant in its programs or just a quiet friend of locally based public-service amateur radio. Please join me in support of this important institution by paying your dues promptly and by considering making a matched or unmatched donation. We have fun in what we do in our club, but we must not forget that we are also one of the serious institutions of amateur radio. I urge you to match the serious goals of our club with your own serious commitment to it. Thank you for helping a friend in need.

73, Stan Rothman, WA2NRV WECA President

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:

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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 #12: Your Club Needs You

Stan WA2NRV took the unusual step of asking for WECA's members to provide support to the club at a very austere time. And I know how you will take this news: with shock, with anger, with resignation, with acceptance. Or maybe, in the manner of terminal cancer patients, with each of these emotions in turn. Fortunately, your club is not in terminal condition now, but it is very short of money.

It's hard to accept, since we give so much of our time and energy in support of its programs, that we also are being asked to dig into our pockets as well. Frankly, I hate being hit-up all the time by so many well-meaning non-profit organizations. Most of us are in a position where we can assist only a select number of such worthwhile entities. I want to tell you why WECA is one of the select ones for me.

As many of you know, I was a long-lost ham who came back into the fold nearly two years ago largely because of WECA. I learned first-hand of the good that it does, and of the fun one can have doing the good. In an age where many hams have forgotten—or never learned—how to set up and operate well in a broad range of modes, WECA members could show me how. When I saw people turning away from community service in record numbers while inwardly lamenting self-centeredness in society, I discovered how WECA gives to the community in a personally satisfying way.

I'm sure each of you had a good reason why you joined WECA, and you probably discovered more good reasons once you came on board. Please do your part and help your club. Thank you.

73, Mike K2NR

WECA and Public-Service Events Summer Calendar

Monday, July 9, 7:30 pm: Traffic-handling training session at WECA membership meeting, County Center, White Plains

Saturday, July 14, 4:30 pm: NY Philharmonic at Westchester Community College, Valhalla.

Monday, July 23: WECA Board meeting, Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla (note new location)

Sunday, August 12, 12 noon-5 pm: WECA Picnic, George's Island Park, Montrose

Monday, August 27, 8:00 pm: WECA Board meeting, Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla

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.