



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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E-Mail Phantoms: Reveal Yourselves!

We should be glad that e-mail exists to make our off-air communications easier, faster and more reliable. However, WECA members, as communications experts, should know that technology cannot work when bad information is present.

There are more bad E-mail addresses in our records at the same time that more members want to be added to the "weca.org" e-mail reflector list. The only way that the list can function is if WECA members keep Angelina KC2COR, our Membership Director, updated as to any changes in your e-mail address (including discontinuance of any e-mail accounts). Please notify her at kc2cor@weca.org with your correct e-mail address. Also, let her know if you do not wish to have your e-mail address on WECA rolls and/or on the WECA reflector, so that records can be corrected.

Robert N2TSE, WECA's Public Service Director, notes: "I sent out a message last week [in my capacity] as the Public Service Director and got so many [e-mails] back. I need to stay in touch with the members, so please HELP."

Robert listed the following call signs that cannot be reached using existing listings. Members holding those call signs should contact Angelina to update records at their earliest convenience:

**AB2BX; K2BQ; KA2CFB; KB2
BMY,GTD,GTE,JKS,LGF,O, YRU; KC2 BFX,COM,HKW;
KR2V; W2FNP;
WA2 HIZ,JPF; WB2 LNB,TVX; WG1HM;
N2 GCZ,OLW,PLW,SLA,VMQ, VQV,XVR; NF2E.**

Robert further notes that each WECA member with an e-mail address reflected on weca.org should check to see if his/her weca.org reflector address works by send an e-mail to himself/herself.

WECAFEST Is Back!

Join in on the fun as WECAFEST returns this year:
Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, June 2**
as WECAFEST comes to
Saxon Woods Park, White Plains, NY
See future issues of the WECAGRAM for more

Vanity Fair: FCC Resumes Routine Issuance of Vanity Call Signs

Early March brought the resumption of issuance of new vanity call signs by the Federal Communications Commission. Vanity call-sign hopefuls had been disappointed by the moratorium of issuance of such calls because of loss of paper applications in the government's anthrax decontamination program. Since the FCC policy is to give equal priority to paper and electronic applications alike, the loss of even one paper application stopped the vanity call issuance process completely. The resumption of new issuance of vanity calls occurred on the heels of the re-creation of the last remaining missing paper application in the first week of March.

Although the majority of vanity call sign applications are filed electronically, and thus not subject to the need for decontamination, new paper applications are still being filed. FCC urges applicants to file electronically, via the FCC website, to speed the call-sign assignment process.

Nominating Committee Seeks "A Few Good Men (and Women)"

In preparation for election of new WECA officers and directors, the WECA Nominating Committee is looking for ready and willing candidates to stand for election to the important posts in the WECA organization. All officers of the Board (other than the Trustee and President-Emeritus, who are appointed by the Board), the directors of public service, digital modes, membership services and public relations and the WECAGRAM editor will be elected this year.

Nominations may be forwarded to Mike K2NR, the current WECAGRAM editor and Nominating Committee member, at k2nr@weca.org.

Remember "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.

Don't forget: **"Emergency Communications"**

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
Treasurer	Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX
Secretary	Milton A. Galamison, KC2GWK
Trustee	Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK
President Emeritus	Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

DIRECTORS:

Activities	Jim Faulkner, N2WQG
County Liaison	Raymond Albanese, N2FXU
Digital Modes	Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA
Director-at-Large	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
Education	Efrem Acosta, W2CZ
Emergency Services	Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC
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

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 #19: Joys and Trials of a WECA Volunteer

Since I have returned to full-time (a euphemism for ten-hour workdays!) salaried employment three months ago, one of the casualties has been nagging late preparation of the WECAGRAM. I deeply regret everyone's being inconvenienced, and ask for your help in the development of copy for the WECAGRAM. Please e-mail those articles and snippets of interest to wecagram@weca.org, where they will be gratefully received. Though the WECAGRAM may be late, for now it is still my pleasure to assemble and disseminate the news to you, the loyal WECA membership.

Another WECA activity that gives me great pleasure is service as a regular examiner for FCC exams at WECA VE sessions. While registering and proctoring nervous would-be new hams and upgraders may not sound like an exciting Thursday-night activity, there are few things that provide me with as much pleasure as seeing the look in the face of a brand-new amateur, or sharing in the pride and relief of the experienced ham who has finally made the grade and becomes a new General or Extra. Amateur radio is founded on competence and skill, which in part is safeguarded by strict technical and examination standards.

We hams are lucky that our licenses are not granted based on money and political influence, which unfortunately are a fact of life in some other radio services, but instead on devotion to mastering and improving the radio art. We are granted the privilege of superintending licensing of our own. While scandal occasionally mars the record of VE-based licensing, we hams have a lot to be proud of in the integrity of our participating in licensing. I am glad to help bring new hams into our world.

Work and family are important to our lives, and sometimes amateur radio must take a back seat to these imperatives. And though we laugh at the sweatshirt inscription that says, "so she told me, 'it's either amateur radio or me'...over," finding our personal expression through hamming is often part of a difficult juggling act.

For me, dear readers, too many balls are in the air right now. I will continue with my VE work with pleasure, and try to continue to attend public-service events. However, in spite of the great pitching-in by Jim N2WQG and newsletter contributors, the repetitive monthly responsibility of preparing a quality newsletter has overcome me. Therefore, with great regret, I must seek a new WECAGRAM editor to succeed me this summer.

The nominating committee will be grateful to learn of candidates for this and other WECA positions. If you have the time and the will, WECA people will teach you how to serve and benefit the club. Even career "workaholics" can find pleasure in helping their buddies and their club. Join in!

73, Mike K2NR

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

March is coming in like a Lamb. What happened to the Lion that usually creates active days and evenings for active amateurs? I guess we will have to continue receiving from Robert's (N2TSE) activities and our nightly net SDN. I want to thank everyone who sent good wishes after my recent surgery. I can assure you that it does make the recovery go by much more quickly.

As a direct result of membership input from the last general WECA meeting, our VP Bob KC2FYZ arranged for a program on QRP operation. Pete K2MMT will not only discuss equipment, with a demonstration, but will tell some of his stories of operation from unusual locations using "will it really work" gear. You won't want to miss this or the following month when our presentation will be a return visit by the West Mountain Group, this time without snow (we hope). They will have the Rigblasters and new equipment to show us.

As you know, the nominating committee is looking for members who are willing to lead our club into the future. To make it easier for them to perform their duty, you should advise them which position would pique your interest. I believe that we have some excellent members in positions now, but that new blood brings new ideas and enthusiasm. Some of our current leaders would like to step aside, while remaining active offering guidance to new members.

WECAfest will be on June 2nd at the Saxon Woods Pool parking lot, Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY. Sandy N2SF and Jim N2WQG are heading up the operation. Robert N2TSE also has an event for WECA members that day. We will need a lot of help to pull both events off. This makes it a typical WECA day.

We are glad to see that Sandy N2SF is home from the hospital and back on the air again. Sandy, stay well.

I look forward to seeing all members at the membership meeting on Monday March 11, 2002

73, Stan WA2NRV

VE's Corner: Business is Picking Up! **By Efrem Acosta, W2CZ**

At the Feb 14th volunteer examiner (VE) session, the following exams were passed by candidates:

- 1 Technician
- 1 General
- 4 Extra

Such a good turnout and favorable results are good for WECA and great for amateur radio. Congratulations to all of these successful candidates!

Don't forget that, beginning on July 1st, a new question pool for the Extra Class (Element 4) written exam will be in effect. The following guidance comes from an ARRL news release dated November 30, 2001:

"The new Element 4 pool expands the number of questions by more than 20 percent--806 questions--as opposed to 665 in the current Extra class pool, and it contains more technical material. More than half of the questions cover electrical principles, circuits, signals and emissions."

Improve your chances to get that long-desired Extra Class license. Now is the time to study and prepare to upgrade!!!

73, Efrem W2CZ

Kantor's Chant: **Get Ready for Emergencies!** **By Robert Kantor, N2TSE**

It's that time of the year when WECA and all hams are asked to help out at some public service events. I believe that by doing these events, we get to train for the day when we're really needed to help the public in times of emergency.

With that in mind, the next events are April 28th in White Plains at Saxon Woods Park for March of Dimes and June 2nd at Pace University in Pleasantville NY. for American Diabetes Association "Tour de Cure" bike tour. (yes, that's the same day as WECAfest). I might be a little gung-ho about RACES call-ups and emergency occasions, but I feel it's very important to be ready for them. Keeping in shape with adequate training is very important. If that is so, then why do I see 100+ names on the emergency call-up list and yet never meet some of them at training sessions, drills or actual emergencies like Indian Point, TWA 800, county drills at Westchester County Airport, power outages, snowstorms, Y2K, Red Cross support at fire scenes or, most importantly of all, supporting rescue efforts around the World Trade Center and other 9/11-related activities. Please, let's all be ready for the next emergency whatever and wherever it may be.

If something has changed in your life, like family or work responsibilities, advancing age, other interests, etc., and you want to be off the call-up list, please let Alan N2YGK know. Remember that "emergency communications" is our middle name, and helping people and Westchester County is why we get so much support from the County (like the repeater site, the Comm Van, and the like).

73, Robert N2TSE



Next Membership Meetings:
Monday, Mar. 11 at 7:30 pm
Speaker: K2MMT on QRP
Monday, Apr. 8 at 7:30 pm
County Center, White Plains

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

Thanks to Steven C. Hunt of Dobbs Ferry, NY for renewing his WECA membership. Congrats to Lyle Anderson, of Chappaqua, on obtaining the new call K2LCA (ex-KC2INI).

As is requested elsewhere in this issue, please let me know whenever your e-mail address or call sign changes, whether or not you utilize the weca.org reflector service. This will allow quicker response and better membership service to you, our devoted WECA members. Also, please consider volunteering for nomination as a Board member or Director of WECA. These folks serve to help WECA remain a viable force in hamdom and in local emergency preparedness. You might find that fulfillment and fun are fringe benefits of the job!

My address is: Angelina R. Morgante, P. O. Box 253, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, or e-mail to kc2cor@weca.org. Thanks for your help!

73, Angelina KC2COR

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

Mark your calendars with the following WECA public service events, and plan on participating in at least one event:

- April 28th: March of Dimes walk in White Plains.
- June 2nd: American Diabetes bike tour "Tour de Cure" at Pace University in Pleasantville.
- Aug. 3rd: New York Philharmonic at Westchester Community College.

Please help WECA with communications support to aid public safety and to train for disasters.

Don't forget to sign up for these 2002 events. Call me at (914) 949-4231, see me at the membership meeting or e-mail me at n2tse@weca.org for further information.

Want to see your call 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, April 11th, 7:00 pm, at the
 Westchester County Fire Training Center
 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY.
 Good luck from Sandy N2SF and the WECA VE team.



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 Communications Association, Inc.**

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**RUSH -- DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**