



THE WECAGRAM

Newsletter of the
Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 831
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831
WECA Information Hotline: (914) 741-6606
WECA Web site: <http://www.weca.org>



Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and Serving Amateurs since 1972

Volume 26, Issue 11

June, 2002

WECA Officers and Directors to be Elected for 2002-03

The following WECA members have been nominated and will be elected at the June 10 meeting, as they are running unopposed:

President	Bob Muller	KC2FYZ
Executive VP	Russ Stevenson	N2AMP
Genl Counsel	Michael Weitzner	N2EJI
Treasurer	Andy Farber	N4OOX
Secretary	Milt Galamison	KC2GWK
Trustee	Paul Vydareny	WB2VUK
Director-at-Large	Stan Rothman	WA2NRV
Digital Modes	Rich Benda	WB2QJA
Public Service	Robert Kantor	N2TSE
Membership	Ron Devenuti	N2TJE
Public Relations	Efrem Acosta	W2CZ
Newsletter	Lyle Anderson	K2LCA
Education	Jeffrey Steinberg	K2MIT
Emerg. Svcs.	Tom Raffaelli	WB2NHC

The Nominating Committee appreciates the interest shown by these devoted members and wishes them every success in the next year.

Help Needed for KI Distribution

Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, reports that the Westchester OEM needs 5 volunteers to help hand out potassium iodide (KI) tablets. Please contact Ray Albanese, N2FXU, if you are able to help. This has nothing to do with radios but is an important emergency service. An article about the KI handouts may be found at:

<http://www.westchestergov.com/currentnews/potassiumiodidedoc.htm>

Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lobby of Ossining High School, 29 S. Highland Ave., Ossining.

Saturday, June 29, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lobby of Hendrick Hudson High School, 2 Albany Post Road, Montrose.

FCC Proposes Additional Spectrum for Amateurs on 5 MHz

ARRL reported the following FCC announcement in its May 15 *Letter*:

The Commission announced in a Public Notice released May 9 that it would propose a new, secondary, domestic (US-only) HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz and a new LF allocation 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. If eventually approved, the 5 MHz band would be the first new HF allocation since the early 1980s, when amateurs got 30, 17 and 12 meters. The LF allocation would be the first ever for US hams. The FCC said it received 87 comments on the 5 MHz proposal and 32 comments on the LF proposal.

"Propagation and interference conditions in the 3500 kHz and 7000 kHz bands could hinder effective amateur HF communications," the FCC said in its NPRM. "In particular...the nature of the ionosphere prevents communications during certain portions of the day because of increased atmospheric noise levels at certain times on certain frequencies."

The FCC said ARRL's WA2XSY experimental operation "appears to support its contention" that the band could supplement 80 and 40 meters at certain times.

The FCC has proposed letting amateurs operate at full legal limit on a new 5 MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict the band to Amateur Extra Class licensees or make it available to General and higher class licensees. The FCC also invited further comment on whether the band should be broken down into mode-specific subbands. The ARRL had proposed opening the entire band to RTTY, data (including CW), phone and image emission types.

Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

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 45 Hamilton Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. 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.

Copyright © 2002 Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc. The WECAGRAM may be quoted without prior permission, provided proper credit is given to WECA, the WECAGRAM and the author of the quoted article. WECA would appreciate receiving a copy of all publications that include quotes from the WECAGRAM.

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 #22 An Eventful Two Years

The WECAGRAM always has been a major part of the WECA activities. It has been my pleasure to bring you news about our club and about amateur radio in general. Nevertheless, when I signed on as the WECAGRAM Editor in 2000, no one could have predicted what would have been reported to our readers. Besides the usual club social and public service events, the unbelievable abomination that will henceforth always be known as "September 11th" became part of our lives. While no one likes to report tragedies, especially on the scale of that one, it was an honor to be able to report on the state of readiness of WECA and its stupendous efforts in the recovery from that awful day. Reporting that incident, difficult as it was, honored some true heroes: our tireless, competent and caring operators.

The WECAGRAM reflected the vitality of the club and, despite all sorts of needs competing for our attention, the club was able to remain engaged and active. The WECAfest disappeared but then re-emerged. Our distinguished Public Service Director, Robert N2TSE, was injured in the course of his volunteer duties but managed to carry on direction of our noblest work. Our membership ebbed and flowed, but they came out in support when needed. Many club members even upgraded their licenses, and the pool of WECA VE's increased.

I was a new WECA member who returned to the ham radio fold just before assuming the editor's chair. New employment responsibilities have intruded onto my ability to edit your newsletter next year. WECA thus got an opportunity for a fresh approach to its signature publication. It is my privilege to introduce Lyle Anderson, K2LCA, as the new WECAGRAM editor for 2002-04.

Lyle is an old friend who worked with me many years ago when I was part of Corporate America. I know well of his intelligence and good cheer. He, too, recently returned to the fold of amateur radio after a long hiatus, and has the interest, the skill and the energy to freshen up the newsletter. WECA is indeed fortunate that Lyle has agreed to take on the responsibility for publishing the WECAGRAM. I hope you will give him the support that our newsletter deserves, by relaying important news events that should be reported in its pages.

It really has been a privilege being your Editor for the past two years. I want to thank all of you who supported the WECAGRAM, especially Stan WA2NRV who well deserves to enjoy his retirement from the WECA presidency after years of service. Notwithstanding, it's now time to look forward, rather than back, and wish all of you "good news" in the years ahead.

73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

June is busting out all over. At least it is busting out with WECA activities. WECAfest, American Diabetes bike tour, "Tour de Cure" on the same day, Field day, etc.

I want to thank all the members for allowing me to serve as President for the past few years. I am sorry that I am unable to continue in that position, due to the time required to properly fulfill the obligations versus health concerns. I have enjoyed working with all of you. I will continue to try to assist with your needs and wishes as the WECA director at large. I thank the WECA board members for their efforts to lead the club these past years and am sure that you will support and guide the incoming board while they take us into the future. Bob and Russ have assured me that our WECA meeting programs will continue with the high level of interest we have seen this past year.

The WECA election for board members and officers will take place at the June meeting. The nominations were closed at the end of the May meeting so the Secretary will cast one ballot during the June meeting. We should all be there to welcome and congratulate the new and returning members. Thank you Mike, Bob, and Nick for all your diligence while arranging to bring a strong slate to the WECA membership.

We are in exciting times for amateur emergency communications. There are a variety of areas where we as hams are being asked to assist in the home security program. You should be signed up as a member of RACES and/or ARES. This is a requirement for some of the areas where our expertise is needed.

I want to remind WECA members to take advantage of our ELMER program as well as our loan closet, under the guidance of Fran, N2OLU. These programs are especially helpful for those members who will be attending our VE session on June 13th at 7:00 PM. When you upgrade it opens up a new world for you. Remember that as of July 1st, the new Amateur Extra exam question pool goes into effect, increasing the number of questions from which they can select your test questions. The exam will be given at the Fire Training Center at 4 Dana Road in Valhalla, NY.

Field Day will be held at Harbor Island, Mamaroneck again this year. Jim is asking all members to prepare to participate during the 24 hour set up, operation, and tear down for Field Day. We will learn more on June 10th at the WECA meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting Monday June 10th, at the Westchester County Center, 7:30 PM for the social half hour followed by the meeting at 8:00PM.

73, Stan WA2NRV

Reflect on This: Do You "Yahoo?" Now WECA Might Do...

Jeffrey Steinberg, K2MIT, proposed WECA members to join a WECA e-mail messaging reflector. The WECA Board of Directors authorized the starting of the WECA e-mail reflector on Yahoo.com.

Jeffrey indicated that "the e-mail reflector allows any member who has signed up for this service to send a message to all other e-mail reflector members. It's a great way to get help with your station, remind people of public service events, etc. Think of it as a digital e-mail repeater."

Jeffrey has offered to moderate the reflector and invites questions or comments. He may be contacted via e-mail at k2mit@weca.org.

NYS Hams Honored by Legislators

A joint New York State Legislative resolution was delivered on April 22 on behalf of state hams who aided in the recovery from the September 11 disaster:

WHEREAS, Over 800 licensed Amateur Radio Operators from the State of New York have demonstrated their value in public service by providing emergency radio communications during the World Trade Center disaster of September 11, 2001; and
WHEREAS, These Amateur Radio Operators working from home stations, emergency shelters, or regional emergency operations centers; expended more than 15,000 man-hours of volunteer service for over two weeks, free of charge, to the hundreds of served agencies across the state including the New York City Office of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Villages, Towns and Counties across the entire State of New York in this disaster; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators initially provided communications for more than thirty shelters across the entire state set up to house stranded air travelers; and those in New York City displaced by the collapse and smoke from the World Trade Center fires; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators used their high frequency radio links with New York City enabling State agencies near Albany to reestablish contact when conventional telephone service was unavailable due to damaged telephone facilities in New York City; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators Clubs turned over the use many of their own repeater networks for more than two weeks to allow groups of stations, located at remote sites and shelters, to communicate with each other so that supported agencies would know what types of supplies and personnel were needed and where they were needed; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators supply their own personal equipment such as radios, microphones and antennas, in addition they are constantly honing their technical knowledge and expertise to enhance their communications and technical skills so they can provide a public benefit and serve the citizens of the State of New York; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators volunteers exceeded the actual need for their services; and
WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Operators have the unique ability to enhance international goodwill through their communications; and
WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators continue to be alert and available for any emergency, local or world-wide;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body, pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the New York State Amateur Radio Operators; and be it further
RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the representatives of the New York Amateur Radio Operators.



**Next Membership Meetings:
Monday, June 10 at 7:30 pm
County Center, White Plains**

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

Congratulations to Glenn Zemanek, KC2FZV, who passed his Extra Class exam at Fayetteville, NC, close to his temporary home at Fort Bragg.

Please support Ron N2TJE, the new Membership Director, as you have supported me for this past term. Have a great summer!

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:

- Sept. 27, Leukemia & Lymphoma Walk at night in White Plains.
- Sept. 29, American Heart Walk, County Center, White Plains.
- Oct. 19, Boy Scouts "Jamboree on the Air" (JOTA).
- Oct. 20, American Diabetes Walk at Rye Playland.

Wishing all a pleasant summer and a successful Field Day!

73, Robert N2TSE

***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, June 13th, 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.

**Field Day is Coming!
Join us at Harbor Island Park, down
by Long Island Sound in beautiful
downtown Mamaroneck, on
Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23.**



**Westchester Emergency
Communications Association, Inc.**

Post Office Box 831
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591-0831

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