

September 1, 2002



The WECAGram

Public Service Events:

- **Sept. 27th - Evening - Leukemia & Lymphoma Walk - White Plains**
- **Sept. 29th - American Heart Association Walk - White Plains**
- **Oct. 19th - Boy Scouts JOTA - Pound Ridge**
- **Oct. 20th - American Diabetes Walk - Rye**
- **Nov. 24th - Turkey Trot**

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Public Service Update for September

Robert, N2TSE, reports that WECA successfully supported the New York Philharmonic concert on August 3rd - with a staff of only 19 people! Many thanks to: N2AMP, N2FMC, N2TWN, N2FXU, N2YGK, N2NWZ, N2DVQ, N2TSE, KA2BRH, KA2KCR, WB2NHC, K2DFJ, K2QCF, KC2ESU, KC2GWK, KC2COQ, KC2FNU, WA2NRV and KB2LLV.

Fifty-four WECA members participated in a least one of

the nine public service events we supported this year. Many thanks to everyone!

Twelve WECA members have received public service certificates for the outstanding support they have provided this year. Each of these members participated in four or more events and deserve special mention for public service dedication:

N2TSE - Robert Kantor
N2AMP - Russ Stevenson

N2TJE - Ron Devenuti
N2CAV - Michael Cavino
N2WQG - Jim Faulkner
KC2FYY - William Lloyd Leslie
KC2CLZ - Dana Hickey
KC2ESU - Joey Altamuro
KC2GYP - Peter Bregman
KC2GWK - Milton Galamison
WB2NHC - Tom Raffaelli
KA2BRH - Joe Carpentieri

Congratulations!

Robert, N2TSE

Exciting Fall Lineup of Meeting Speakers!

Liam Murphy will be the featured speaker at the opening meeting for the 2002-3 year. He will be conducting a short version of radiological training for the general membership at the Monday, September 9th meeting - 7:30PM at the Westchester County Center. We hope to see you there!

Steve Mendelsohn will be the featured speaker at the October general membership meeting to be held Monday, October 7th, 2002. Steve will

be talking about the upcoming New York City Marathon. He will also discuss ARRL League affairs and apprise the membership of the latest news from Newington.

Be sure to look in future editions of the WECAGram for information upcoming programs.

Russ, N2AMP



Robert N2TSE at the NY Philharmonic

Many thanks for Grant Nishanian KC2FNU for supplying the photos for this month's WECAGram.

New WECA Course Offering!

4 Hour Technician review course is scheduled for 12 Noon on Oct. 20 at the American Red Cross in White Plains. A special VE testing session will follow. For more information contact k2mit@weca.org or check the web site.



New Tower Mount - tested at the NY Philharmonic



FlexNet Computer at the Jail site with associated TNC's

From the President...

August has come to an end and with it the summer holiday season. I certainly hope everyone enjoyed the summer despite the heat. It's time for back to school and the fall routine. For us that means a resumption of the monthly meetings, Robert's (N2TSE) public service events, and the return of our club friends from their various summer activities.

As I mentioned in last month's column, September is going to be a busy month for WECA's ARES/RACES members. We have three drills scheduled that lead up to the FEMA monitored exercise on September 24th. Come to the September meeting for some important radiological information and training. Then volunteer for the September drills to help prepare yourself for the real emergencies.

Because "Emergency" is WECA's middle name, Russ

(N2AMP) and I took the ARRL Level I Emergency Communications Course at Boxboro this past weekend. The course is much improved over previous versions and is well worth the time involved to take it. It is offered as a self-study course over the Internet. Go to the ARRL web site for more information.

Ron (N2TJE), WECA Membership Director, has sent out the annual renewal forms. This is an excellent time to make sure your membership information is up to date including your address, e-mail address, and your license grade. Also, please consider taking the WECAGram via e-mail. If enough members elect to receive it via e-mail, the club will realize considerable saving on expenses. It is easy to do. Check to appropriate box and make sure your e-mail address is correct.

One more reminder as we

begin the new season. The WECA loan closet and ELMER program are available to all members. Contact Fran (N2LOU) if you would like to borrow a piece of equipment from the closet to get you going. If you want to get in touch with one of our members who can help you solve a problem or help you get on the air, Fran will hook you up with an Elmer who can help. If you have just upgraded and are trying to decide what equipment to purchase, what better way to get on the air and get some experience before making your final decision?

See you at the September meeting.

"73's"

Bob, KC2FYZ

For new members: WECA's Digital System

(ed: Many thanks to Rich WB2QJA, who wrote this article)

WECA has been a leader in the use and promotion of packet radio. The first digipeater (WB2ZIL-1) was set up in 1983 at the old jail site as a wide-area simple digipeater. Throughout the years the system has grown and become more sophisticated. There are presently two separate digital sites that

are connected together by a dedicated high-speed link. At both sites, a computer running FlexNet software is the engine that drives the TNC's (terminal node controllers) and radios. Unlike your home station, the TNC is used as simply a modem to match the computer's serial port to the appropriate radio. The computer performs all the packet handling.

The jail site has two user entry ports at 1200 baud for FlexNet: 145.05 MHz and 441.00 MHz. This site provides good coverage of Westchester County. The two radios used are commercial-grade repeaters. Our antennas are on the county-owned tower. The callsign is WB2ZIL-5. In addition, a separate APRS digipeater (callsign is

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Member Update

Welcome to a new season of WECA meetings, starting September 9, 2002. The meetings start at 7:30 PM so we have time to socialize and catch up on fellow members activities, face to face.

Were glad to see that Rich, W2RJA, is up and walking around again. Although Rich may be slightly slower on his feet today, he is still up to par on the air.

Speaking of on the air activity, I spoke to Andy N1XXU, a former active WECA member,

on 80 meters recently. He is doing well and has no sign of the Cancer returning after a year and a half. He is active at his new QTH in mid CT. He said that the training and friendships gained with WECA are helping him guide new hams in that area.

We have more equipment in the WECA loan closet waiting to be put to use by our members. Speak to Fran N2OLU about that as well as the ELMER program.

If you would like to see some-



Mr. ATV running the "studio"

thing happen involving WECA, please let me know about it. Also , please advise me about good and well-fare issues.

See you at the meeting

"73's"
Stan WA2NRV

Are they in the mail?

Yes, it's membership renewal time and all renewal forms were sent out Aug. 1st. To the 117 members who returned their forms and membership dues please accept my thanks. To the other members: PLEASE return your completed forms as soon as possible.

It makes it easier for me to process the forms if they arrive before the October 1st. deadline. No it doesn't mean

we will not accept them after Oct. 1. It just means that forms received after that date are subject to the \$5.00 late fee.

Please review your database information and update data that may have changed. it's of little value to have a database with missing, obsolete and/or incomplete information. It only takes a minute! If you did not receive your form, contact me at: membership@weca.org.

Consider reading the electronic version of the WECAGRAM on your computer. If this is acceptable to you select "YES" on the renewal form. (You will be sent an email when the newsletter is available.) If you decide later that you would rather have the hardcopy version, your selection can be changed at any time.

Of course you are encouraged to send updates, changes and additions any time. Email the info to membership@weca.org

Silent Key

We were recently informed that Mike Boccardi KB2SRJ, a long time WECA member, is a Silent Key as a result of the World Trade Center disaster. We send our sympathies to his family and friends.

Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting - Monday, September 9th at the Westchester County Center, 7:30PM.



A view from up on top

"73's"
Ron, N2TJE
Membership Director



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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.

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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 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

Officers and Directors 2002-3

President	Bob Muller	KC2FYZ
Executive VP	Russ Stevenson	N2AMP
General 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
Emergency Services	Tom Raffaelli	WB2NHC
Engineering	Robert Wilson	N2DVQ
County Liaison	Raymond Albanese	N2FXU
Repeater Operations	Dwight P. Smith	N2FMC
Activities	Jim Faulkner	N2WQG



ARES/RACES:

**RACES Radio-
logical Training
- Sept. 17th at
the Fire Training
Center.**

**Abbreviated ver-
sion at the Sept.
9th WECA meet-
ing.**

**Be sure to sign
up for the Indian
Point drills!**

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WB2ZII) on 144.390 MHz is located at this site. This digipeater is linked to the 147.06 MHz voice repeater so that if one uses a mike-encoder on the voice repeater, his position is rebroadcast on the APRS digipeater.

The second site is located also in Valhalla. Again, a central computer running FlexNet software acts as the hub in coordinating all packet flow. Here all the equipment is amateur-grade. We have our own tower erected at this site. This site has a user port for 1200 baud on 145.09 MHz and the callsign is WB2ZII-9. The coverage to the northern part of Westchester County as not as good as the jail site. Users can either use the Yorktown

digipeater, WA2TOW-2, also on 145.09 MHz or connect to the jail site first. There are several dedicated high-speed links to other repeater systems: The Bronx; Huntington, Long Island; Alpine, New Jersey, and Oakland, New Jersey. A DX spotting node is available at this site (WB2ZII-14) that is running DX Cluster software. This software is running on a separate computer and is linked into the FlexNet computer via a KISS interface and a serial port. Likewise, a third computer is running TCPIP software that provides internet access (WB2ZII-1). A ham operator may then access the internet via his TNC and radio. Access to commercial sites and the worldwide web is not permitted through the gateway. The interface is text-based and limited

to 1200 baud, so potential for use is limited.

WB2QJA-4 is a packet bulletin board system (PBBS) that is linked to both sites. It may be accessed directly on 145.05 MHz or via the WB2ZII nodes. It provides for message storing and forwarding and for bulletins of general interest. All the above systems have on-line help available. In addition, I can help with your questions my leaving a message on WB2QJA-4 PBBS or for e-mail: WB2QJA@weca.org.

Richard Benda
WB2QJA
Digital Modes Director