

October 1, 2002



The WECAGram

Public Service Events:

- **Oct. 19th - Boy Scouts JOTA - Pound Ridge**
- **Oct.. 20th - American Diabetes Walk - Rye**
- **Nov. 24th - Turkey Trot**

Inside this issue:

- Indian Point Drills **1**
- President's Message **2**
- Membership Update **3**
- Mendelsohn Featured Speaker **3**
- Early Interest in Technician Review Class **4**

RACES Plays Critical Role in the Indian Point Drills

Several WECA hams supported the Westchester Office of Emergency Management throughout September, participating in three warm up drills and culminating in a FEMA monitored drill on September 24th. RACES members were stationed throughout the OEM, in the vans with the field monitoring teams (the ones that actually measure the "plume"), and in the Joint News Center at the Westchester airport.

Those of us who responded Tuesday morning for the FEMA drill were surprised by the press coverage of the event. Photographers and reporters were all over - following us in the field management team vans, staking out the County Office Building and of course, there were lots of press at the Joint News Center! For hams who like to talk a lot, we were very quiet around the press :-).

We were switched from backup communications to primary communications for the Field Management Teams early in the morning. Our radios were able to provide consistent, high quality communications between the vans in northern Westchester County and the

OEM in White Plains. This became especially important when we had to send in radiation readings ("this is a drill") to the Department of Health. It also offloaded some work from the team leaders so they could focus on getting readings.

Several of the OEM and field team managers were excited about Anthony's and Alan's use of APRS during the warm up drills. It became a hot topic of discussion in one of field team when they were explaining on APRS worked to the FEMA observer. They were all pretty excited that we had the capability to track moving vehicles down to yards in an

emergency. I suspect we'll see more APRS discussion in the coming months.

We're still awaiting the preliminary results from FEMA, but from the verbal feedback we received they and the OEM were impressed and appreciated the role we performed. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the drills!

"73s"
Alan, N2YGK



Public service award winners (left to right) Russ N2AMP, Milton KC2GWK, Jim N2WQG, "Wires" KC2FYY, Tom WB2NHC, Dana KC2CLZ, and Ron N2TJE.



Mark your calendars!

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

Want to learn Morse Code?

PCARA (Peekskill/Cortlandt ARA) is sponsoring a CW course to help those who want to pass the 5WPM Element 1 exam.

The classes start Thursday, October 10th at the Hudson Valley Hospital Center - Dining Room B in Peekskill. Classes will run for nine weeks and start at 7:30PM.

You can contact Bob, N2CBH at n2cbh@arrl.net for more information.

From the President...

The Fall season is upon us with the cool morning air that crackles with the sounds of WECA radio traffic followed by squelch tails as WECA members busy themselves volunteering for the various public service events scheduled for October. Robert, N2TSE, has another action packed month lined up with enough events to keep everyone on their HT's. Look for details in another section of this WECAGRAM.

On the emergency communications side, WECA's participation in the Indian Point drills last month was very smooth and much appreciated. Once again, WECA members proved they will be ready when they are called upon to support an emergency response. Remember, these drills are great training opportunities and the best way to practice your emergency communications skills.

While on the subject of training, the Southern District Net offers another chance to practice. The net meets nightly at 9:30 pm on the WECA repeater. You don't have to "take" traffic to practice handling messages. Simply copy the traffic as it is being passed from one operator to another. Get used to the rhythm of copying messages and soon you will be ready to "take" and "pass" traffic. Who knows, you may find yourself originating birthday or holiday greetings to friends and family around the

country.

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, will be at the October meeting to recruit volunteers for the New York Marathon. Sign up, this is another opportunity to use your communications skills.

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about WECAfest and Field Day for next spring. Jim, N2WQG, is going to be looking for volunteers to assist on his committees. Sign up, help him out, and have some fun.

The Monday holidays are once again causing us to change our meeting dates. October's meeting has been moved up to October 7th due to Columbus Day on the 14th. November's meeting has been moved up to November 4th due to Veterans Day on the 11th. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Russ, N2AMP, has got some interesting guests lined up and you do not want to miss them.

The County Center has set a 9:30 pm cut off time for our meetings. As you may have noticed, we tend to get rushed at the end of the meeting as we run out of time. To alleviate this situation, the Board of Directors voted to change the start time of the meeting to 7:30 pm. The social half hour will begin at 7:00 pm. This change will go into effect with the November meeting. As I said above, hopefully this will alleviate the

need to rush through closing minutes of the meeting as well as the 73's and goodbyes on the way out.

See you at the October meeting!

"73's"

Bob, KC2FYZ

Repeater Antenna Down



One of WECA's Repeater Sites

Bob, N2DVQ, says the South remote repeater antenna will be down for a few weeks. This will affect people trying to reach the repeater from the Cross-County or the Mt. Vernon or Yonkers areas.

Bob said the antenna was hit by lightning and now resembles a small burnt tree.

Now that summer is over...

Now that summer is officially over and we have fewer barbecues and outside activities it is time again to turn our attention to the indoors. And what activity could be more rewarding (though not particularly enjoyable) than completing the WECA membership form and sending it along with a check to me? The club is in full swing for the 2002-2003 season and it will not be the same without those members who have not yet renewed their membership.

Please do it now and avoid the \$5.00 late fee which renewals sent after Oct. 1 are subject to. While you are at it take a few minutes to review your database information and update data that has changed. Of course you can send updates, changes and additions at any time but now is the time to get your updated data published in the new club roster to be printed this fall.

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, Featured Speaker at the October Meeting

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

A reminder to those who find it convenient to read the electronic version of the WECA-GRAM on their computer. If this is acceptable to you or you want to give it a try select "YES" on the renewal form. If

you decide after a while that you would rather have the newsletter sent to you, just send me a note and the hardcopy version will be mailed to you as it has been in the past. For those who have sent in their forms a simple email will do. Give it a try; you may like it!

On behalf of the WECA membership I would like to welcome the three new members to the club.

membership of the latest news from Newington.

Starting in November, we will be starting the member meetings promptly at 7:30, preceded by a hospitality half hour that starts at 7:00 PM. This give us some more time before

A special thanks to the 162 members who have renewed their membership for the current year. Your timely response is appreciated.

Personal data updates, changes

Welcome to our new members!		
K2KJC	Murray	New York City
KB1ISO	Dennis	Greenwich, CT
KC2HZW	Richard	Pelham

and additions can be sent any time to me:

membership@weca.org

"73's"

Ron, N2TJE

Membership Director

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.



Inventory Anyone?

One of the WECA radios photographed as part of our comprehensive physical inventory.

October 5th Airport Drill

Tom WB2NHC, is looking for ARES volunteers to support the drill at the Westchester County Airport on October 5th. The drill starts at 7 PM and is followed by a Red Cross barbeque at 9PM.

We will be using ATV to televise the drill to the airport management.

we have to leave at 9:30PM.

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

Russ, N2AMP



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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.

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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

Early Interest Shown in the Technician Review Course

We have had 5 students contact us for the upcoming technician review course. It will be held on October 20th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM with a special VE session afterwards. We still need one more VE, so if you are interested in participating, bring your VE credentials.

We need to get the word out. Let kids, teenagers, young adults, any adult (i.e. anybody) who you think might be interested. Tell as many people, coworkers, friends, etc. about the class.

The course requires you to have bought and read the book "Now you are talking" from the ARRL. The URL for the book is:

www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=7970

With a thorough reading of the book and this class, students should be well prepared for the exam.

Based on the response to the course, we will plan additional courses over the next several months.

On a personal level, I am also working with the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester (harmonics Maxwell, 8 and Hannah, 7 attend 3rd and 2nd grade respectively at the school) to submit an application for the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) program, where schools speak with the astronauts using VHF up/downlinks. When it gets to the application level, I will request from the Board of Directors to get WECA involved from a communications, educational and community service standpoint. Its going to be a long

road but hopefully we can put WECA and Westchester on the ARISS map.

If you have any questions about education and getting started in ham radio, please contact k2mit@weca.org

-Jeffrey Steinberg, K2MIT