

December 1, 2002



Public Service Events:

- Dec. 17th—Santa Claus at Blythedale Children’s Hospital—Valhalla
- Great ready for a busy 2003 public service season! More in the January WECAGram.



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# The WECAGram

## WECA: A Regular Fixture at the NYC Marathon

As the cool winds of autumn blew the falling leaves that continued to enthrall the mood of the season, the New York City Marathon weekend began to unfold. Happening every first Sunday of November since 1970, more than 2 million spectators cheered along the 26.2 mile route of the mara-

pants. A major component of the more than 12,000 volunteers who made this race a success were the amateur radio operators from WECA.

Since 1976, ham radio operators have been providing communications support for the event. Over

and police services.

What’s different at this year’s event were the five different starting race times that began with athletes with disabilities, followed by the wheelchair push rim division, wheelchair hand cycle division, the elite women’s race, and

finally - the elite men’s group along with the rest of the runners. In addition, there was a slight change in the race course. In previous years, marathoners would leave 5th Avenue and enter Mile Marker 23.5 at Central Park at 102nd Street. This year, the race continued on 5th Avenue and then entered Central Park at 90th Street. This year’s lead male (2 hours, 8 mins., 6 secs.) and female (2 hours, 25 mins.,



KB2LLV, K2SQV, WA2NRV, N2XRM, N2ZVZ, K2DBK, AB2IO, KC2FYZ, K2PAT, and K2DBK at the New York City Marathon

thon participated by over 30,000 runners from all over the world. Starting from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge that connects Staten Island to Brooklyn and finishing at the Tavern On The Green in Central Park at West 72nd Street, the marathon has proved to be a spectacular sports event of worldwide stature – thanks to its size, attributes, significance, and diverse partici-

the years, WECA members have routinely handled multiple tasks and responsibilities at various mile posts, locations, logistic nets, shadows, and precursor vehicles. WECA volunteers showcased their radio handling capabilities and supported the communication infrastructure of the event – thus enhancing the various phases of interaction between race organizers—including the city, medical

56 secs.) runners were both from Kenya. By Friday afternoon, the last runner reached the finish line—five days after the race began.

From our location at Mile 23, there were no untoward incidents reported. We had an exhausted runner who after doing more than 23 miles into the race, de-

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Help!  
They need some  
hams!  
Not just any hams,  
but us!  
Please participate in  
at least one public  
service event in 2003!*



## From the President...

Another month has gone by, and once again I can say that by the time you read this yet another WECA public service event, the Mamaroneck Turkey Trot, will have come and gone. Thanks to all who participated in this event. See Robert's, N2TSE, Public Service column for the list of those who were there. The time we donate to the Town of Mamaroneck each November acts as a reminder to the town leaders the importance of amateur radio and the contributions hams can make during emergencies. This reminder also helps our cause each year when we ask for the use of Harbor Island Park for Field Day.

Remember, Santa visits Blythedale Children's Hospital on Tuesday December 17th. Speaking from experience, a few hours of your time on this evening can bring so much joy into the lives of children trying so hard to live a

*(Continued from page 1)*

cided to drop out and was taken care of appropriately. We also had the usual nuances of the occasion like parking spot issues and not being able to obtain the orange "Emergency Communications" hats. Incidentally, these hats serve as important identifiers for ham operators to the extent that marathon participants were instructed to look out for them to facilitate their communication requirements as the need arises.

Not surprisingly, we wrapped up the day and secured later than usual because of the late starting race times. This impacted our struggle to get out of the traffic jam that was further aggravated

normal life. Again, see Robert, N2TSE, for details and to sign up.

The December meeting will be held on Monday the 9th. Remember the new start time is 7:30 pm for the meeting and 7:00 pm for the social half-hour. I'm sure Russ, N2AMP, has an interesting meeting planned. The December Board Meeting has been moved up to Monday the 16th due to the holidays. It will be at 8:00 pm at the Fire Training Center. All are welcome.

Keep your emergency communications skills honed by partaking in the Southern District Net each evening at 9:30 pm. After all, Emergency Communications is WECA's middle name.

73's

*Bob, KC2FYZ*

road closures and route changes. Some of us navigated skillfully and arrived home at pretty decent times.

In summary, the New York City Marathon was a big day to look forward to for having a great time. Aside from performing a valuable public service to the community, the event was also a good opportunity to be re-united and enjoy the camaraderie with other fellow ham radio operators. Another round of congratulations to WECA for a well-executed operation.

73's,

*Charlie G. Salvilla, KB2LLV*

## So what's an ECARS?

If you're ever lonely while driving long distances or just want to get a signal report, you should check out ECARS, the East Coast Amateur Radio Service.

The network runs on 7.255 Mhz from about 7:30 in the morning until late afternoon when the foreign broadcast stations take over the band. ECARS offers service to mobiles, in the form of weather, road conditions, emergencies, phone calls, and a myriad of other things. They are a great place to meet other amateur radio operators, get the weather conditions around the East Coast area, setup skeds, or just sit back and enjoy.

You do not have to be a member of ECARS to check into ECARS nets, all that is required is a General Class Amateur Radio License.

## A note from the editor:

I wanted to thank everyone for a fun, exciting first year at WECA! As some of you know, I reentered amateur radio after a 25 year hiatus last year and found WECA. It's been great working with people whose professionalism and care for the community come out through their participation in public service events and emergency communications throughout the year.

I am always looking for ideas or articles to included in the WECAgram. Don't hesitate to contact me on email (k2lca@weca.org).

Best wishes to you and your families for a great holiday and a peaceful 2003!

73's,

*Lyle, K2LCA*

## From our Director-at-Large

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble OK you turkeys, and you know who you are. Now that the Thanksgiving season is over it is time to think about the holidays of giving. That means you should consider giving back to the hobby some of the enjoyment you receive from it. If you have ideas for exciting programs that will enhance WECA, let me know and I will bring it to the board on your behalf. Also let me know if you hear of members or member family's with good news or medical problems. WECA

wishes Andy, KA1SLG, President of the Stamford Amateur Radio Assoc. (SARA) a speedy recovery. He now has a defibrillator implanted. It must be a radio club president's thing.

Have a happy holiday season.

73

Stan WA2NRV



## Can You Imagine...?

Can you imagine what life will be like without receiving the WECA-GRAM, with its full color presentation and loaded with news and events about your club? Can you imagine what life will be like without talking radio to fellow WECA members? The WECA email reflector will not be available to non-members either.

Well, that is what is going to happen to those members who do not renew their 2002-2003 membership by December 10th. They will

be removed from the club roster.

The new membership roster is in the process of being prepared and members who do not renew by the deadline will not be included in it. It is a once a year event so don't be left out.

PLEASE send your renewal in today. We want you to stay a member so that we will not miss you!!

## WECA scores in Top 10% at Field Day

WECA had another fantastic field day scoring 8,834 points—placing us in 10th place out of 157 clubs in the 4A category. If you look in the December issue of QST, WECA was inadvertently listed in the 6A category.

WECA completed 2,673 QSOs to score 8,834 points with 48 participants using N2SF's call-sign and KB2PMD's call-sign for the GOTA station.

p.s. Keep your personal data current. Personal data updates can be sent any time to me at:

[membership@weca.org](mailto:membership@weca.org)

Thanks!

Ron, N2TJE

Membership

**December Board meeting  
date has changed to  
December 16th at 8 PM**

## From the Public Service Director...

WECA provided the communications for the November 24th Mamaroneck Turkey Trot. The Turkey Trot is a fund raiser for the Parks and Recreation commission in Mamaroneck, New York.

This year, 243 runners ran in the Turkey Trot—a great turnout!

Many thanks to the operators: N2AMP, N2CAV, N2WQG, N2TFC, N2NAA, N2TSE,

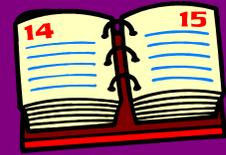
KC2ESU, KC2CLZ, KC2GYP, KC2GWK, KB2LLV, and KB2NBN. Also many thanks to KA2BRH, WB2NHC, K4ZGE, K2MIT, and WA2NRV.

Our annual radio assisted Santa Clause visit is coming to Blythedale Children's Hospital on

December 17th. Dinner will be available at 6PM followed by the festivities at 7:30PM. Sign up with Robert, N2TSE to really brighten up someone's holiday!

73's

Robert, N2TSE



Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting—Monday, December 9th at the Westchester County Center, 7:00PM. Alan Crosswell talks about APRS!

WIN THE ARRL 2002 HANDBOOK

At our next meeting (thanks to a generous donor) the door prize will be a copy of the "ARRL 2002 HANDBOOK for radio amateurs".

After enjoying an informative and enjoyable meeting perhaps you will go home with this HAM "bible". You must be present to win so come to the meeting December 9th

--LOTS OF LUCK!





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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](mailto:wecagram@weca.org) or via postal mail at 45 Hamilton Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Submissions via e-mail to [wecagram@weca.org](mailto: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

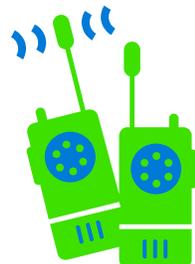
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## Status Update of NY PRB-1 Legislation



It now appears that the New York State Assembly will NOT go back into session this year.

In July we had strong indications that the Assembly was planning to return around July 24th. That date has since past and as we draw closer to primary elections in September and then November elections chances of a return to Albany grow dim. We continue to monitor the situation and will send a delegation to Albany if the session goes into a Special session, but that does not appear likely. This is disappointing but not the end of our New York legislative effort to get a tower bill.



Our New York PRB-1 Task Force will meet and plan for the 2003 session. We are disappointed but not discouraged. We have made a number of good contacts in Albany and those same people will be there in 2003. We have made some very important inroads. The proclamations we received this year during our lobbying effort from the legislature and the governor are important evidence of Amateur Radio's emergency communications capability that will be of help to us in years to come. Our bill was successful in the Senate and that support will not go away.

The bills will have to be reintro-

duced in 2003 and will have new numbers attached to them. Our effort is not dead. It just does not appear that it will be successful this year. We want to thank all of you who wrote, telephoned and faxed. Without your effort we would never have had success in the Senate. We plan to thank Senator Volker for his support in getting passage in the Senate and hope that some of you will also find time to write and thank him.

Thanks for your help. Please be prepared to help again in 2003.

73,  
*Frank Fallon, N2FF*