

March 1, 2003



Public Service Events:

- **April 27th—March of Dimes**
- **June 1st—American Diabetes Bike Tour**
- **July 11th—New York Philharmonic Concert**
~~CANCELLED~~



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The WECAGram

Spring Public Service Starts April 27th!

Guess what? Spring is almost here (really!) and with it comes our new year of public service events. Robert, N2TSE, has been hard at work all winter coordinating our support with various agencies and charitable organizations in Westchester.

Our first event is on April 27th, the March of Dimes walk in White Plains. We'll need operators to man the checkpoints and be shadows for the officials.

On June 1st, we'll support the American Diabetes "Tour-de-Cure." This is a great event where volunteers ride 12 to 100 mile bicycle courses throughout Westchester. We'll be manning the rest stops, coordinating repairs and lost riders, and shadowing the ride managers. It's a fun day and a great way to help.



On a sad note, Westchester

County cancelled this year's New York Philharmonic concert. According to the Journal-News, the county can't afford it with all the budget cuts.

We'd like everyone to volunteer for the events this year. It's great training for emergency communications and shows the public amateur radio at its best. Please contact Robert, N2TSE to sign up.

Field Day is Coming. We need your help!

Now is the time for anybody that was afraid of field day to get involved. We will be scheduling meetings with the field day committee and the Captains of the tents such as 20, 80, and GOTA. Also we have sub groups such as commissary, (that's food to you guys), computer/IT, logging architecture, physical assets such as towers, tents and such and the ever-important RF people epitomized by Dwight, Adam, Tom and the ever-present Bob. Some of the people that have been captains for years have expressed a desire to share this position and now is your chance to be co-captain or assistant captain. Also there are other positions we

found that should be created and filled under the framework of security that would include logging all physical assets. Also, monitoring such assets so as not to lose them to theft or unwanted helpfulness. A good example of a need is at the dinner and lunch breaks when operators were not supplied with food.

The ARRL reminded us this year that the purpose of field day is *emergency communication*. An adjunct to this proposal is that we provide the best food service, i.e. the WECA picnic at field day. Last year there were several families that brought tents and slept overnight. You are welcome to

bring your own tents but there will be three more for people to occupy. The menu for last year included filet mignon, spareribs and French toast at the appropriate meals. Awards were given out to three of the best cooks, which happened to be Alan's children. So yes, family can be involved, responsibilities shared and learned and each member on June 28th and 29 can share their own interests at field day. Suggestions as to whether salmon swordfish or pizza should also be included this year pick one. Jim would like lobster.

73's
Jim, N2WQG

From the President...

The weather has been the big news around here again this month, and once again our members stood ready to assist if called upon. Fortunately, we only had to activate the Skywarn Nets. Thanks to all who participated.

Even though the Alert Status has been downgraded from Orange to Yellow, it does not mean we should downgrade our emergency preparedness. Keep practicing your traffic handling skills on the Southern District Net each night, keep your batteries charged and your "go kits" ready because you never know when you will be called upon to help.

Speaking of preparedness, Gene Skopal, AE2F, gave an excellent talk at the last meeting on using contesting as a way to test your station's readiness. It is too bad the inclement weather that night kept the attendance down. I am sure many of you would have enjoyed his presentation.

In my last column, I said that

when the time was right, we would ask you to write to your State Senator or Assemblyman regarding the New York State Tower Bill. Well, Frank Fallon, N2FF, and Bernie Fuller, N3ENF, report that time has come. The Bill, A-63, is on the agenda of the Senate Local Government Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th. (see the article in this month's WECAGram). If you get this newsletter before that day, please consider e-mailing or telephoning the members of that committee. You can find information about the bill, the names of the committee members, and a sample letter at <http://www.hudson.arrl.org>.

Please take a moment to write or call. We need this legislation to pass.

We are still working on getting the minutes from the monthly Board Meeting on the WECA Web Site. As soon as that is ready, you will be able to keep up with all the plans and decisions

being made at the meetings. Let me remind you, that all members are invited to attend the monthly board meetings. They are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Fire Training Center in Valhalla. The meeting starts promptly at 8:00 pm. If you have a question or comment for the Board and can not attend the meeting, Stan, WA2NRV, is the Member-at-Large and is your representative at the Board meeting.

See you at the General Membership Meeting on the 10th. Don't forget, we've got a great door prize for the April meeting. A Yaesu HT radio that was anonymously donated will be given away.

73's
Bob, KC2FYZ



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



Mounting Antennas at Field Day 2002

Peekskill Offers Technician Course

PCARA is sponsoring our third annual Tech Class beginning Wednesday, March 12th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at Hudson Valley Hospital Center-Dining Room B. The class will run for nine consecutive Wednesdays and there will be a VE Session (open to all) on Wednesday, May 14th, at 7:30 PM.

A copy of the class flyer in pdf format is available.

Please e-mail kr2v@arrl.net for further information and a copy of the flyer.

Thanks,
Joe-KR2V

New York Antenna Bill Needs Our Help

We have just learned that our antenna bill - A 63 - is on the agenda of the Senate Local Government Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 5th. It is important that we let members of that committee know how important that bill is to Amateur Radio in New York. See <http://www.hudson.arrl.org> for more information and a copy of the bill.

Please spread the word on local repeaters and get others to contact their New York State senators quickly.

Please contact the senators listed below via e-mail or telephone before the Wednesday meeting asking them to support the bill A 63 report it out of committee

See the sample e-mail at the end of this bulletin for key points you will want to make in a telephone message.

Please e-mail or telephone the Senate committee members listed below: (see www.weca.org for a complete list of contacts)

We're Holding an Auction!

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, WECA is holding it's first auction of the new century—and expect more to come as we go through our radio and equipment inventory.

There are four items available for auction. They are:

Ruth Hassell-Thompson, 36th, D Senatorial District

Parts of Bronx, Westchester Counties:

767 East Gunhill Road , Bronx, NY 10467 District: 718-547-8854

613 Legislative Office Building Albany: 518-455-2061 hassellt@senate.state.ny.us

Here is a sample e-mail letter.

Dear Senator ...,

Please support S 63 the "Jimmy' the Newsagent' Hannell Amateur Radio Antenna Bill" and report it out of the Local Government Committee. We have named the bill after Jimmy Hannell, W2JHO, who passed away suddenly in January of 2003 and who worked very hard to get the bill passed by the Senate last year. The bill is important to Amateur Radio operators across New York State.

The bill is a restatement of federal provision for Amateur antennas

- The bill sets a self limiting state-wide standard
- The bill will enable hams to have

effective antennas with which to perform valuable FREE public service communications in times of need and or as part of Homeland Defense

- Amateur Radio has a long proud history of public service to the state and the nation
- Amateur radio is always there "When all else fails"
- The Senate passed the bill last year

Your name and address

Thanks for your support in this important effort. It is important that these senators here from us before the Wednesday meeting.

73,

Bernie Fuller, N3ENF, Atlantic Division Director

Frank Fallon, N2FF, Hudson Division Director

Photos of each of the pieces are on the next page.

The auction will be open to members only. The minimum bid is \$50 per item. You can email your bid to bids@weca.org or send a letter to WECA's post office box. Bids are due the Friday before the April member meeting—or bring your bids to

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Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting—Monday, March 10th at the Westchester County Center, 7:00PM.

The March speaker will be Gene . K2KJI from KJI Electronics to demonstrate the LATEST goodies in Ham Radio!

The social half hour starts at 7:00PM and Gene's presentation begins at 7:30PM.

See you there!

*March Board meeting
March 24th at 8 PM
Valhalla Fire
Training Center*



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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

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the April member meeting. All bids are final. We will inform the members of the amount of the high bid, but will not disclose the winner bidder.

If two bidders tie on the high bid, the bidder who submitted their bid first will win.

All items will be sold "as is." We have powered up the equipment successfully, but no guarantees that they work.

In future months, WECA will likely auction radios and other equipment as we go through our inventory and determine what we need for emergencies and



Hallicrafter HT-40



Hallicrafter SX-140

what's best turned into funds for other WECA projects.

We plan to offer our members first "dibs" on the items. If we don't sell to a member, we'll offer the items to the general



EICO 722



National NC-60

public at hamfests or possibly e-Bay.

73's
Lyle, K2LCA

New "on the air" General Class Starts March 12th

Reminder: A free "on the air" class for everyone interested in upgrading to a General Class license starts March 12th at 8:00PM—on the air at 147.060!

Sandy Fried, N2SF, and Jeffrey Steinberg, K2MIT, will be the instructors. Sandy and Jeff request that all participants purchase the "General Class License Manual" from the ARRL. You can order it online for \$15.00 at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8004>.