

April 1, 2003



The WECAsgram

Public Service Events:

- **April 27th - March of Dimes**
- **June 1st - American Diabetes Bike Tour**

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ARES supports Red Cross in Yonkers Fires

ARES was activated around 3:00 am Friday to support the American Red Cross response to a fire that killed two, severely injured three, and displaced 200. At the peak, 150 clients were sheltered at School 18 on Park Hill in Yonkers.

The initial evacuation was to Enrico Fermi Junior High School which had no electricity. Besides planning to provide communications, ARES rolled the two Westchester Red Cross communications vehicles, which have been outfitted by WECA, in order to use their generators. By the time the vehicles arrived around 4-4:30am, the clients were in the process of being relocated to School 18 a short distance further away from the fire. This school was not in the immediately affected area and had heat and light.

The vans were set up to provide a communications post outside the school. The built-in portable remote receiver for the 147.06 repeater was set up with the tower truck, enabling low-power handheld use inside

the school. Communications were initially between the two schools as clients were relocated to School 18 and then between School 18 and the Red Cross chapter in White Plains.

The following Westchester ARES/RACES members participated (along with a former member who is now active in ARES in Worcester, Massachusetts and was visiting family):

1st shift:
KB2LLV, N2TWN, N2VQP, N2NWZ, N2WQG, KB1ISO, N2DHH, WB2NHC, N2YGK, N2YHK, N2TSE

2nd shift:
N2DVQ, WA2KHR, N2FMC

**Next
Member
Meeting
April 7th
at 7PM!**

(see page 2 for details)



One of the Westchester Red Cross Communications Vehicles next to the fire (thanks to the Salvation Army for the photo)



Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting - Monday, April 7th at the Westchester County Center, 7:00PM.



New York State Antenna Bill Getting Closer

Good news. Thanks to your e-mailing and letter writing our antenna bill -S 63 - was reported out of the Senate Local Government Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 5 and is now on the Senate calendar for a vote. If you have not already done so please let YOUR senator know how you feel about the bill and ask that it get an AYE vote. Check <http://www.hudson.arrrl.org> to see how your senator voted in 2002. There is a list of the 19 Senators who voted against the bill last year. If you senator is on that list, you must write, phone, and e-mail your interest in this bill. If you have the time arrange to visit to discuss the need for the bill and bring along a few of the local hams who also live in the district and vote.

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

A sample e-mail letter is on the WECA web site. Please cut and paste it into your message and personalize it so that it does not appear to be a form letter. Form letters are less effective than personalized messages and mailed letter are more effective than e-mails. Be aware also that the sample letter at <http://www.hudson.arrrl.org>

is to the Assembly. If you use that letter please change the bill number to S 63.

Thanks for your support in this important effort. It is important that these senators hear from us immediately before they vote on the bill.

73,

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, Atlantic Division Director

Frank Fallon, N2FF, Hudson Division Director

Don't Miss the April Meeting!

Our April guest speaker will be CQ Magazine's Editor Rich Moseson - W2VU. Rich's topic of discussion will be "Ham Radio Moments: Sharing the Excitement !" Please make sure to be at this meeting to share some favorite Ham Radio stories.



The social half hour will start at 7:00 p.m. and Rich's presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be on Monday night, April 7, 2003 at the County Center in White Plains . **Please note the changed meeting date !**

Elections are Fast Approaching

Our annual election of Officers and directors will be held at the June meeting. Each year all of the Officers and half of the directors are elected a new. This year the elections for the following offices will be held: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President/General Counsel, Secretary, Treasurer, Director-at-Large, Engineering Director, Repeater Operations Director, Activities Director, Education Director, and Newsletter Editor. The responsibilities of each office are listed in the bylaws, available on the WECA web site. If you would like to run for one of these offices, please call or write to one of us. Thanks - The Nominating Committee

Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Field Day is Coming!

From Activities Director Jim, N2WQG

What a great Board meeting this month! Along with the other director's reports we discussed the new mandates from ARRL that more than ever this year emergency communications is to be the highlight of Field Day. So much so that they entertained operating from the EOC. This brought about discussion about how field day was in the past, what it can be now, and where we can be in the future. Bob Wilson handed me a plan that would allow us to have 11 operating stations at our present confines at Harbor Island. This will allow the newly upgraded and those who purchased new rigs to contribute a station wholly theirs for WECA's benefit and not need to worry how somebody's heritage will be affected. Tom and Dwight suggested the pros and cons of my favorite, the lowly 706, and how that could be used limitedly but used nonetheless. Mr. Wilson said that a \$400 Yaesu MP would fit the bill just fine. But to answer the group what has been asked me singularly, the best bang for the buck might be the Icom 746 at \$1250 or the 756 for \$1000 more.

A new arrangement for operating stations will

probably be the form of emergency communications presently viewed on TV (such as Coalition HQ in Qatar). That is shoulder to shoulder, station to station, mentor to mentor. All under the best concept of Elmering. We are doing this for security and to benefit both the newbie and old contestant alike with good fellowship and no fear of operating alone in a tent with only a score to measure our fun. We have six new Compaq Pentium laptops provided by HP/Compaq, all with wireless 802.11b network cards and a new desktop for a server. Writelog logging software is presently being purchased by WECA with a blanket license for field day or whenever the club acts in unison with one call sign.

It has been suggested that practice makes perfect and if you would like to use this logging software before field day please contact Les or myself. Tom, the antenna chairperson, has asked me to ready certain antennas from our mothball fleet. So a warm day or two before field day you are invited to ready such i.e. build mounting brackets and platforms out of aluminum. I have a drill press but a milling machine would be pleasant.

The tents that we used last year for operating are avail-

able for catnaps, private dinners with spouses (supplied by the commissary staff), Alan's daughters (and honeymoons at no charge). The emphasis will still be on voice but the digital can be shifted from CW to one of the other modes, like my favorite PSK31, with the ubiquitous Rig Blaster.

Contact Rich Bender or me if you want to take on digital. No one has to be excluded this year. And a special invitation to any new members of WECA such as Leonard Martin to participate with his new multiband and grandchildren. For the mariners out there we can operate on the water since a courtesy dock is adjacent to our antenna farm. Lyle's suggestion is an inner tube with an antenna and the Long Island Sound as a ground plane. I think it would work fine, we just need somebody who knows what an inner tube is to help us out.



Tower Truck at Field Day 2002





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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

From our Director at Large...

April showers bring May flowers and a great door prize available to WECA members at the WECA April meeting. Be there for a chance to win a NEW HT. Actually you should be at all the WECA meetings and functions. This is one of the many benefits of being a WECA member.

WECA wishes a quick recovery to Emily AC2V, who was in the hospital recently. She is now recuperating at home with Paul AC2T.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding

WECA give me a call. I will bring all issues before the board on your behalf. That is part of my job as your director at large. Also please advise me of any good news involving members or problems so we can address them on the clubs behalf.

Congratulations to Fran N2OLU on his new career change. We all wish him well and hope to hear him on the air more frequently. Remember that Fran N2OLU heads up our EL-MER program. If you have questions regarding any aspect of our hobby, Fran will put you in contact with

a member who has some expertise in that area.

See you April 7th at the Westchester County Center at 7:00PM

73
Stan WA2NRV

We're on the Web!

Check out:
www.weca.org

