

October 2003



## Public Service Events:

- Leukemia/lymphoma walk – “light the night” (White Plains): Friday, October 3rd
- Boy Scouts of America—Thunderbird Games (Pound Ridge): Saturday, October 18th
- American Diabetes Walk (Rye Playland): Sunday, October 19th
- Mamaroneck Parks and Recreation Turkey Trot (Harbor Island): Sunday, November 23rd
- Check future editions of the WECAGram and <http://www.weca.org> for the fall public service events.
- *If you have an APRS setup, you are encouraged to bring it to events and events! Want to learn more about APRS? Please join for a public service event!*



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# The WECAGram

## Field Day 2003 a success!

Field Day was dressed in a new cloak, that is, operating stations were unified in the gazebo at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. The usual tents used for operating stations were available for camping. Channel 12 News and Talk TV News were both represented there by respective reporters.

There's been much discussion as to the pros and cons of this year's format in comparison to previous field days. I believe the best in amateur radio was present and worked for the success of this Field Day. There are numerous ones to be mentioned and they will be honored.

Eugene brought his generator and his experience with a multi-beam antenna. Bob coordinated all of the antennas and radiation fields. Norm succeeded again in keeping WECA's Field Day well-grounded. Tom was constantly being sought out for his opinions and knowledge of previous field



N2DRO, Field Day '03

days. Russ provided us with a place to sit and Ron collected the donations for food (which I was told by some, was the best ever, because of the inclusion of Filet Mignon, Shrimp, Spare Ribs and for the more plebeian tastes – myself included– hot dogs, hamburgers). Rich produced the best salad, the greatest fried onions and sumptuous vegetarian pizza.

At this field day, all of the usual operating suspects were present as

were their moods and their modes. This past year, QST and CQ magazines have mentioned “new” field day additions such as wi-fi networking/logging, wi-fi and amateur video and internet interfacing. WECA has been doing many of these things for years! I think it's time we tout ourselves for being ahead of the curve. We are the LEADERS, we are the BEST, we are WECA.

Your Activity Director,  
Jim Faulkner, N2WQG.

## October events calendar

- Friday, October 3rd – Leukemia/lymphoma walk – “Light the night (White Plains)
- Sunday, October 5th – [Hamfest, Hall of Science ARC, 9AM–2PM \(Kew Gardens/Queens, NY\)](#)
- Sunday, October 5th – VE Exam (YARC) First Police Precinct, 9PM (Yonkers)
- Thursday, October 9th – VE Exam (WECA), Westchester Fire Training Center, 7PM (Valhalla)
- Saturday, October 11th – [Hamfest, Bergen ARA, 8AM–2PM \(Washington Township, NJ\)](#)
- Tuesday, October 14th – WECA Membership meeting**
- Saturday, October 18th – Boy Scouts of America, Thunderbird Games (Pound Ridge)
- Sunday, October 19th – American Diabetes Walk (Rye Playland)
- Monday, October 27th – WECA Board Meeting, Fire Training Center, 8PM (Valhalla)
- Sunday, November 2nd – VE Exam (YARC) First Police Precinct, 9PM (Yonkers)
- Sunday, November 23rd – Turkey Trot (Harbor Island)

Please note: Hamfest and VEC information from the ARRL website, Hudson division. Would you like to see an event added to this calendar? Please email [wecagram@weca.org](mailto:wecagram@weca.org).



## Happy Birthday WECA!!

On the first Friday night in early April 1972, five men met in Tarrytown, NY at William T. Knott's (W2QGHsk) home to form what is now the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA). Thirty one years ago these middle aged "family" men were **Ham Radio** hobbyists who decided start this club "for the continuation of the Civil Defense Radio network in Westchester County, NY". Meeting minutes from those early gatherings can be read by [clicking here](#).

**WECA thanks John von Sneidern, Jr. / W2QGH for copies of those notes "from the beginning" of WECA and Efrem Acosta / W2CZ for organizing this historic project.**

## Notice! Liberty Ham Radio Plates

A tremendous thank you to Andy, N4OOX!

Apparently, the DMV hasn't sent out renewal notices to, among others, hams with the old ("Liberty") amateur radio license plates. These plates are now expired! Please contact your local DMV immediately, and avoid a \$200+ fine!

Top: New license plate

Right: Old ("Liberty") license plate

New York State DMV:  
[www.nysdmv.com](http://www.nysdmv.com)



## From our Director at Large...

*I received a letter from Darlina, N2DB's foster mother, explaining how she was excited and challenged by WECA and our members. She went on to mention excerpts from Darlana's diary, explaining how important our friendships were in Darlina's life. We instilled pleasure and guided her while gaining experiences in public service, sky warn, and training opportunities. We seldom realize how our actions affect others.*

*Our condolences and best wishes for Fran, N2OLU, whose mother recently passed away.*

*We were saddened to hear about the psasings of Robert Byrne, K2AXM, and Peter Cann, director of Emergency Services at the White Plains Red Cross chapter.*

*Best wishes to Sandy, N2SF, who is recovering at home. He hopes to be more active soon.*

*By the time you read this, Claude, N2CXG, will be out of Sarah Newman and moving to a assisted living facility in Michigan. He will still be on the Romeo net at 9:00 PM evenings on 3,836.*

*Congratulations go to Sandro, N2TWN, on the recent marriage of his son, now he has another daughter to cook for him.*

*Congratulations to Mike, KB2PMD, on his recent engagement and upcoming wedding in November. The best is yet to come.*

*Congratulations to Stan, WA2NRV, and his wife, Reva, on the wedding of their daughter, Suzanne.*

*Also attaboy Milton, KC2GWK, on upgrading his amateur license to Extra class. He says he did it so he could be a full VE at the WECA VE testing sessions. How about you?*

*If you have questions regarding any aspect of amateur radio contact Fran, N2OLU, and ask him to put you in touch with a WECA ELMER. This club member will work with you, to help you learn something new or troubleshoot and solve a problem.*

*WECA is looking for members who want to have fun while building a ham radio related project. One that could save you money and frustration. I am talking about the latest proposed WECA club project. "The Protector"*



*as described in an article in the June 2003 issue of QST. See page 55. The cost of material should be around \$35.00. We will discuss this further at the October club meeting.*

### Announcement

*Since WECA decided to close out the club loan closet, and sell all the equipment, I am starting the WA2NRV LOAN CLOSET for the benefit of WECA members. I have some HF and VHF equipment available for use by WECA members. This equipment is available for short term loan with the same basic rules as the short-lived WECA loan closet. This will go hand in hand with the WECA ELMER program under the leadership of Fran, N2OLU. These programs are available to both new and old WECA members.*

**From our President...**

Will this weather ever break? It's been a rainy summer, but we're looking forward to a great fall! Even with the weather, WECA has been busy with new public service events, a new technician training course and lots of interaction with the County and ARRL.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support as I move into my year as your president. One of the big items on my agenda is to take a fresh look at WECA. And to that end, you will be receiving a questionnaire in the fall for your input on what's right, what needs improvement, and where do you want WECA to head in the future. I'll talk more about it at the September member meeting, but start thinking about ideas.

We'll be preparing a five year plan based on this survey and input from our primary "customers" (i.e., County OEM, Red Cross, etc.). Some of you may remember that we conducted a survey almost ten years ago. Tom Rafielli was able to find the results of the survey and the last five year plan – we'll have a look at that as well.

Robert, N2TSE has planned a busy fall public service effort even with the Westchester Philharmonic Concert not happening this year. Please sign up with Robert to participate in at least one event. And if you're new to public service, let Robert know and we'll pair you up with someone who show you the "ropes."

Russ, N2AMP has done his usual fine job of putting together a batch of interesting member meetings for this year. This year will be especially interesting as the Eastern New York ARRL director's position is up for election. Both Frank Fallon (the current director) and Steve Mendelsohn (the assistant director) are running. Both will be presenting to WECA in the fall. You'll be able to hear about the antenna bill, BPL, what's happening at the ARRL, and what their positions are. And if you're an ARRL member, please vote!

(continued on page 4)

**FCC Amateur Radio (HAM) Technician License Class**

Want to talk around the world on amateur radio? Want to give back to your local community by providing emergency communications and public service assistance? To get started, you must have a Technician license. Best of all, there is no Morse code requirement for this entry-level license.

WECA, the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, is offering a four-week course to help you pass your FCC exam. By coming to the classes and studying on your own, you will be well prepared for the 35-question multiple choice test given at the end.

There is a \$20.00 fee for the class to cover materials cost. Alternatively, you can order the book "Now you are Talking" directly from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) by calling **1-888-277-5289**.

To sign up for the class, please e-mail Jeffrey Steinberg, WECA education director at [k2mit@weca.org](mailto:k2mit@weca.org) or call 914-722-1630.

**Registration Deadline: 10/1/2003**

**2004 Membership renewals!**

Membership renewals forms have been sent out! In order to keep our database current, please send updates, changes and additions to

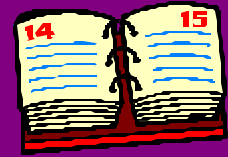
**Course Meeting Times:**

- Thursday, 10/23/2003, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday, 10/30/2003, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday, 11/6/2003, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday, 11/13/2003, 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Test Date:* 11/20/2003, 7:30 PM

Course Location:  
**Westchester County Fire Training Center**  
**4 Dana Road**  
**Valhalla, NY 10595**

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

Have a great year!  
 73, Ron N2TJE



Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting – **Tuesday**, October 14th at the Westchester County Center, **7:00PM**. The speaker will be Frank Fallon, N2FF. Frank will discuss ARRL topics and his platform for the upcoming ARRL Hudson Division election.

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

See you there!

*Board meetings:*  
**October 27th—8PM**  
**November 24th—8PM**  
**December 22nd—8PM**

*Fire Training Center*  
**4 Dana Road**  
**Valhalla, NY 10595**



**WESTCHESTER EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION**

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

|                        |                   |                        |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| President              | Lyle Anderson     | <a href="#">K2LCA</a>  |
| Executive VP           | Russ Stevenson    | <a href="#">N2AMP</a>  |
| General Counsel        | Michael Weitzner  | <a href="#">N2EII</a>  |
| Treasurer              | Andy Farber       | <a href="#">N4OOX</a>  |
| Secretary              | Milt Galamison    | <a href="#">KC2GWK</a> |
| Trustee                | Paul Vydareny     | <a href="#">WB2VUK</a> |
| Director-at-Large      | Stan Rothman      | <a href="#">WA2NRV</a> |
| Digital Modes          | Rich Benda        | <a href="#">WB2QJA</a> |
| Public Service         | Robert Kantor     | <a href="#">N2TSE</a>  |
| Membership             | Ron Devenuti      | <a href="#">N2TJE</a>  |
| Publicity              | Efrem Acosta      | <a href="#">W2CZ</a>   |
| Newsletter             | Michael E. Legatt | <a href="#">KB2PMD</a> |
| Education              | Jeffrey Steinberg | <a href="#">K2MIT</a>  |
| Emergency Services     | Tom Raffaelli     | <a href="#">WB2NHC</a> |
| Engineering            | Robert Wilson     | <a href="#">N2DVO</a>  |
| Repeater Operations    | Dwight P. Smith   | <a href="#">N2FMC</a>  |
| Activities             | Jim Faulkner      | <a href="#">N2WQG</a>  |
| Information Technology | Peter Johnson     | <a href="#">N2TFC</a>  |
| County Liason          | Liam Murphy       |                        |
| President Emeritus     | Bob Miller        | <a href="#">KC2FYZ</a> |

### Welcome to our new members!!

We'd like to welcome our new members to WECA! Thank you for enriching our club experience! Are you a new member to WECA? Please email [newsletter@weca.org](mailto:newsletter@weca.org) with your bio!

#### Sharon, KC2LLC

**Sharon is definitely no stranger to amateur radio. Her father, William, KC2JLD and sons "Wires" KC2FYY and Jason KC2KIY encouraged her to join WECA and taking her Technician class exam. She passed May 14, 2003, and was given the call sign KC2LLC. She also wishes to thank Efram, W2CZ, for teaching the Technician class and his encouragement.**



### From our President, continued

N2DRO, Field Day '03

...Last, I want to let you know about the biggest threat to amateur radio – that's Broadband over Power Line (BPL). BPL creates enough RF noise to drown out several of our bands. The ARRL is taking the issue on, and will need out support. More to come. I look forward to seeing you all at the October member meeting! 73s, Lyle, K2LCA