

January 2004



### Public Service Events:

- Stay tuned for upcoming public service events, starting in April!
- 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

Santa came to Blythedale Children's Hospital (on 147.06)!

On Wednesday, December 17th, we heard from the north pole! WECA delivered 40 gifts with the help of seventeen hams and two daughters! Thanks to K2RRR, KA2BRH, Katherine, KB2LLV, KC2ESU, KC2FNU, KC2FYY, KC2KIX, KC2LLC, KC2MFF (congrats also on becoming a new ham!), N2AMP, N2TFC, N2TJE, N2TSE, Suzanne, WA2KHR, WB2NHC, WB2NVR, and WB2QUA. Please stay tuned for future public service events, coming sooner than you might think!



Happy new year!  
73s, Robert N2TSE

## January–March Events Calendar

Sunday, January 4th, 9:00 AM–VE Session, YARC, Yonkers, NY  
 Thursday, January 8th, 7:00 PM–VE Session, WECA, Fire Training Center, Valhalla, NY  
 Monday, January 12th, 7:00 PM–WECA Membership Meeting, Westchester County Center  
 Tuesday, January 13th, 7:30 PM – VE Session, W5YI, Pelham, NY  
 Wednesday, January 14th, 7:00 PM–VE Session, W5YI, New York, NY  
 Sunday, January 18th, 8:00 AM – Ham Radio University 2004, Oyster Bay, NY  
 Monday, January 26th, 6:30 PM – VE Session, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 Monday, January 26th, 8:00 PM – WECA Board Meeting, Fire Training Center  
 Sunday, February 1st, 9:00 AM–VE Session, YARC, Yonkers, NY  
 Thursday, February 5th, 6:30 P.M. – ARES/RACES Training net (147.060)  
 Monday, February 9th, 7:00 PM – WECA Membership Meeting, Westchester County Center  
 Thursday, February 12th, 7:00 PM–VE Session, WECA, Fire Training Center, Valhalla, NY  
 Monday, February 16th, 6:30 PM – VE Session, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 Monday, February 23rd, 7:00 PM – WECA Board Meeting, Fire Training Center  
 Sunday, February 29th, 9:00 AM – LIMARC Indoor Hamfest, Hicksville, NY  
 Sunday, March 7th, 9:00 AM–VE Session, YARC, Yonkers, NY  
 Thursday, March 4th, 6:30 P.M. – ARES/RACES Training net (147.060)  
 Monday, March 8th, 7:00 PM – WECA Membership Meeting, Westchester County Center  
 Thursday, March 11th, 7:00 PM–VE Session, WECA, Fire Training Center, Valhalla, NY  
 Wednesday, March 15th, 6:30 PM – VE Session, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 Tuesday, March 16th, 7:30 PM – VE Session, W5YI, Pelham, NY  
 Monday, March 22, 8:00 PM – WECA Board Meeting, Fire Training Center

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).

## Get your official WECA wear!

If you haven't already, please consider getting your official WECA wear! They're good to have for public service events, ARES/RACES events, and meetings!

The following are the current prices for WECAwear items. For more information, please contact Grant, KC2FNU, or check out

[http://www.weca.org/wecawear\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://www.weca.org/wecawear_order_form.pdf)

Item	Price
Long Sleeve Polo	\$ 18
Short Sleeve Polo	\$ 23
Short Sleeve Dress Shirt	\$ 20
Long Sleeve Dress Shirt	\$ 25
WECA Cap	\$ 9
Firefighter workshirt	\$ 40
Work Jacket	\$ 60
Three-Season Jacket	\$ 50
Vermont Parka	\$ 65
Call Sign/WECA embroidery on a garment you provide	\$7

## Upcoming WECA Membership meetings:

February—Ken Akasofu, KL7JCQ, ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator.

March – Charles Starke, NX2T, on his trip to Antarctica.

## Tom Raffaelli / WB2NHC awarded a Certificate of Distinguished Service by County Executive Andy Spano

Whether apprehending armed robbers, helping sick children or counseling fire victims, Westchester County employees were busy in 2003 performing acts of heroism or community service.

To recognize these unselfish acts, County Executive Andy Spano awarded Certificates of Distinguished Service to 12 employees who went above and beyond the call in 2003. "Whether it was counseling victims of a fire that left residents homeless or helping to supply life-sustaining generators during this year's blackout, county employees used their own

time, contacts and resources to help others," said Spano. "And even though many are not being individually recognized here today, I'd also like to thank the hundreds of other county employees who do a great job day in and day out, and who perform a tremendous service in a quiet way." Among them were:

*"Tom Raffaelli of the Department of Information Technology. An amateur radio operator for 40 years, Raffaelli (WB2NHC) volunteers as Communications Chair for the American Red Cross in Westchester, where he supervises more than 100 amateur radio*

*operators of the national Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization. Raffaelli also volunteers as Emergency Services Director for the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) and directs its 250 members in preparing for emergency response under both ARES and FEMA's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program."*

Kudos to Tom / WB2NHC for a job well done !

## WECA Website Statistics, December 2003

During the month of December 2003, the WECA website was online 100% of the time. We had 2,805 visitors who downloaded 8,064 pages of information. The most popular page (aside from the main page) was for the December 2003 Wecagram, followed by the online roster and then the Wecawear form. Our visitors were primarily from the USA

(educational sites), followed by France, Taiwan and The Netherlands. The busiest day of the week was Tuesday, followed by Monday. The busiest time of day for [www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org) was between 11pm and midnight. 864 hits came from Google.com, looking for information about the club and weather related terms. About 550 megabytes of information was downloaded from WECA during

December. The busiest month for 2003 was January, during which 800 megabytes of information was downloaded. For the last year, WECA has received 30,042 visitors who downloaded almost 5.5 gigabytes of information from our site.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the website, please send me email !

73, Peter Johnson / N2TFC

## From our Director at Large...

*Things have been fairly quiet recently. Please let us know about problems or glad tidings! You can report via radio if you prefer, possibly in the form of a radiogram via the Southern District Net at 9:00 PM on the 147.060 repeater, or with a one on one QSO. A phone call is OK as well.*

*HAPPY NEW YEAR to all WECA members and families.*

*73s, Stan WA2NRV*

### 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 WECA loan closet was. 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.*

*Any questions? Contact Fran, N2OLU or Stan, WA2NRV*



## From our President...

Hello Everyone! The holidays are almost over and it's time to look forward to a new year! I hope everyone had a great holiday and got a chance to rest up before going back to work or other duties. A lot has been going on in the WECA "world." Tom, WB2NHC, has organized another technician training course that's going to start in late January at the Red Cross. Jeffrey, K2MIT, did such a great job with the last class (eight new hams!) that we've decided to run it again. We will also be taping this one and will have tapes or DVDs available when the course is over. Jim, N2WQG, will be applying his video production skills and we'll soon have a professional produced video course!

Robert, N2TSE, informs me that public service participation was up this year. I'd like to thank

everyone for their participation. Check out the WECA site in January to see a "year in pictures" honoring everyone who participated in public service events. Robert is putting together an excellent public service program for 2004 - we'll have a wider variety of events that will test our skills, and really provide a benefit to the served agencies. Robert will have more to say in future Wecagrams and at the member's meetings. Russ, N2AMP, has put together a great spring slate of speakers for our member meetings. If you haven't been to a member meeting in a while, why not stop by? It's a great chance to see some old friends and catch up on what is happening. And, if you're a new ham, come to a meeting and meet some people. They're always ready to answer questions and help you out.

The repeater is getting active with new services. Dennis, KB1ISO, has started the ARES/RACES training net on the first Thursday of every month. Stop by the repeater at 8:30PM and check in. On Fridays at 7PM Amateur Radio Newline will be on the air. We'll rebroadcast it on Sunday afternoons around 4PM if you miss it on Friday. And don't forget the Southern District Net daily at 9:30PM!

Your board and I are always looking for input and suggestions. Give me a call or email me at [lyle@lcanderson.com](mailto:lyle@lcanderson.com) if you have an idea, a gripe, or just want to say hello!

Happy New Year!  
73s,  
Lyle K2LCA

## 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

### Course Meeting Times:

Thursday, 1/22/2004,  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Thursday, 1/29/2004,  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

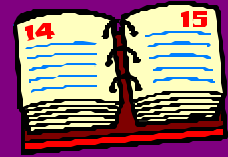
Thursday, 2/5/2004  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Thursday, 2/12/2004  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Thursday, 2/19/2004  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Test Date: 2/26/2004,  
7:00 PM

Course Location:  
**American Red Cross  
106 North Broadway  
White Plains, NY**



Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting – Monday, January 12th at the Westchester County Center, 7:00PM. The speaker will be Steve Ferguson of the Westchester County Airport operations group, discussing the WCA emergency plan.

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

See you there!

**Board meetings:**  
**January 26th—8PM**  
**February 23rd—8PM**  
**March 22nd—8PM**  
**Fire Training Center**  
**4 Dana Road**  
**Valhalla, NY 10595**



**WESTCHESTER EMERGENCY  
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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 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 2003-2004

President	Lyle Anderson	<a href="#">K2LCA</a>
Executive VP	Russ Stevenson	<a href="#">N2AMP</a>
General Counsel	Michael Weitzner	<a href="#">N2EJI</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="#">N2DVQ</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	<a href="#">KC2MFG</a>
President Emeritus	Bob Miller	<a href="#">KC2FYZ</a>

## Time has run out !

If you did not renew your WECA membership for 2003/2004, then your WECA online roster listing and "WECA" email address have been dropped from our website at [www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org). If you would like to continue your WECA email forwarding, then please renew your membership with Ron / N2TJE by calling him at 914.723.6289 or email at [membership@weca.org](mailto:membership@weca.org).