

May 2004



### Upcoming Public Service Events:

- **Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>—**  
**Salute to Israel Parade,**  
**New York City**
- **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>—**  
**American Diabetes**  
**“Tour de Cure”**
- **Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Golden Apple Bike Tour**
- **Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>—**  
**Leukemia/Lymphoma**  
**walk, White Plains**
- **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>—**  
**Jamboree on the Air**  
**(JOTA)/Thunderbird**  
**Games for the Boy**  
**Scouts of America, Cro-**  
**ton Point Park.**
- **If you have an APRS**  
**setup, you are encour-**  
**aged to bring it to events**  
**and events! Want to**  
**learn more about APRS?**  
**Please join for a public**  
**service event!**



### Table of Contents

- 1 Thank you K2MMT !  
May — July Events
- 2 New Morse character!  
WECAwear  
Welcome New Hams!  
ARES/RACES Training  
From Our Activities Director
- 3 From Our President

From Our Director at Large

# The WECAGram

## Emergency Communications — Get Involved!!

### Upcoming ARES/RACES events:

- 5/5 - RACES radiological resp.
- 5/5 - RACES EOC Software trn.
- 5/6 - RACES EOC Software trn.
- 5/8 - ARES/RACES MCI drill
- 5/8 - WEVR light srch & rsc drill
- 5/12 - RACES Indian Point REP practice drill
- 5/26 - RACES Indian Point REP practice drill
- 6/7 - SKYWARN advanced trn.
- 6/8 - RACES Indian Point REP exercise (FEMA evaluated)
- 6/19 - WEVR light search and rescue drill.

Please contact Alan, [N2YGK](mailto:N2YGK) for more information. Please get involved with Emergency Communications!

### ARRL Emergency Communications course registration

Registration opens Monday, May 3, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the May 8-9 weekend or until all available seats have been filled—whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, May 18. Thanks to our Level I grant sponsor, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During the May registration period, approximately 300 seats—

an increase of more than 75 percent—are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>>. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, <[dmiller@arrl.org](mailto:dmiller@arrl.org)>; 860-594-0340.

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## May — July Events Calendar

- May 2—8:30 AM—Yonkers Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, Yonkers, New York
- May 6 — 8:30 P.M. ARES/RACES Training Net, 147.060
- May 13—7PM-WECA VEC Session, Valhalla, New York
- May 17—6:30 PM—Columbia University VE Team Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, New York, New York
- May 18—7:30 PM—W5YI Pelham VEC Session, Pelham, New York
- May 21—7 PM—Bergen ARA VEC Session, Washington Township, New Jersey
- May 22— TBA—East Greenbush Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Rensselaer, New York
- May 23—8AM-Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Massapequa, New York
- May 29-8AM-Bergen Amateur Radio Association Hamfest & VEC, Washington Township, New Jersey
- June 6—9AM-Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Kew Gardens, New York
- June 6—8:30 AM — Yonkers Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, Yonkers, New York
- June 10—7PM-WECA VEC Session, Valhalla, New York
- June 13-9AM-Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Patchogue, New York
- July 4—8:30 AM — Yonkers Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, Yonkers, New York
- July 8—7PM-WECA VEC Session, Valhalla, New York
- July 11—8AM- Sussex County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Augusta, New Jersey
- July 20—7:30 PM—W5YI Pelham VEC Session, Pelham, New York
- July 26—6:30 PM—Columbia University VE Team Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, New York, New York
- August 1 — 8:30 AM — Yonkers Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, Yonkers, New York
- August 12 — 7PM-WECA VEC Session, Valhalla, New York
- August 14 — 9 AM — Larkfield Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, Huntington, New York
- August 23 — 6:30 PM—Columbia University VE Team Amateur Radio Club VEC Session, New York, New York
- September 11—Saratoga County RACES Hamfest, Saratoga Springs, New York
- September 12 — Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Patchogue, New York
- October 10 — Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Kew Gardens, New York

Please note: Hamfest and VEC information from the ARRL website, Hudson division. Many VEC sessions require a call-ahead. Would you like to see an event added to this calendar? Please e-mail [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:

May—N1MM Logging Software for Field Day

June—Jim Faulkner, N2WQG, Field Day

## Thank you, Peter!

We'd like to thank Peter Brandenburg, K2MMT, for his presentation on QRP at last month's WECA membership meeting!!



Here, Peter is holding his Elecraft QRP CW Transceiver. (<http://www.elecraft.com>)

## From our public service director...

I'd like to thank the members that helped with the March of Dimes walk, our first event of the year!

They are: N2YGK, N2CAV, N2AMP, N2TJE, N2FMC, N2WQG, N2TSE, KC2ESU, KC2ARX, KC2CLZ, KC2HZW, KC2FNU, KG4BFV, KA2KCR, WB2NHC, KC2MFF (a new ham & first timer-great work!), and WB2IAE (with some of his BSA troops).

Thanks again to all!  
Robert Kantor, N2TSE  
Public Service Dir.

PS. Don't forget the ADA Tour De Cure, Sunday, June 13th, starting in White Plains, NY!

## A new Morse code character!

The International Morse code officially gains a new character on May 3.

That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol joins the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (•— —•—•). Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so.

Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M. [MORSE] that specified the international

Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character.

The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times.

(Reprinted from the ARRL letter — <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>)



## ARES/RACES Training

The Westchester County ARES / RACES net meets on the first Thursday of each month on the WECA repeater. The net starts at 8:30 pm on 147.06 (PL 114.8, +600 kHz). The next training net will be on Thursday, May 6th at 2030 hrs. All are welcome and anyone looking for more information and other details, please contact Dennis Hanlon at KB1ISO@weca.org.

The following e-mail forwards (@weca.org) are not up to date. Please update your e-mail address so that I can communicate with you when public service events need your help.

Thank you.

Contact N2TFC@weca.org or N2TJE@weca.org with your updates.

Yours truly,

Robert, N2TSE

N2ONM, N2PLW, N2YXX, AB2BX, WA2ZIZ, WA2HIZ, WB2OXU, WB2TVX, K2SQV, KC2JHA & KC2IJH.



## From our president...

Spring is finally here! After the cold weather we had this winter, I wondered if it was ever going to arrive. It's nice to see the buds and flowers starting to sprout. Of course, with spring, WECA's public service season begins. Robert, N2TSE has done his usual excellent job of coordinating with various agencies and charities to put some interesting, and useful, events together for us.

For those of you who are new to amateur radio or WECA, why are public service events so important? Beside helping out the served agency, they help us practice emergency procedures. The operating situation is often very similar to what you'd find in a real emergency - operating out of the field comm, working with lots of different people, and trying to make sense of all the information coming and going on the air waves. If you're new, don't hesitate to sign up. Robert will make sure

you are paired with an experienced ham who can show you the ropes. You'll be amazed on how much you learn in a few hours!

Alan, N2YGK, has put together a lot of information on BPL (Broadband Over Powerline). Since he is one of the unfortunate people to have a BPL pilot going on in his community, he's been uniquely positioned to observe BPL's effects firsthand. Check out <http://www.columbia.edu/~alan/bpl/> to find out more about his experiences. And if you're in the area, and have an HF radio, listen to the noise - then write a complaint to Con Ed and the FCC. Alan has great examples of the ones he's done.



Speaking of Alan, he's also coordinated RACES support with the county for the Indian Point Drills coming up in May and June. Contact Alan if you're interested in RACES and check the link on the WECA web site for more information.

Last, Field Day is coming! June 26th and 27th at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. Jim, N2WQG, is managing the event this year. We'll have lots of great food, a good operating environment and a great chance to meet lots of people - either in person or on the air. We need volunteers to help out in planning and operating field day, so if you're interested contact Jim and let him know.

Happy Spring!

73's  
Lyle, K2LCA

## From our director at large...

With all the weather we have been having recently, May flowers should be plentiful this year. I have to apologize for a lost line in last month's column. When I mentioned the VE tests I listed a number of members who participated as VE's during the test sessions. I lost the last line, which thanked Milt KC2GWK for running the April session. He has been a VE during many

sessions. You can join the VE team members at a session as well. We should consider teaming the new hams joining our club with a current member acting as an Elmer. You could be that Elmer. Get well soon wishes for Reva Rothman, Stan WA2NRV's wife who recently went through back surgery. We wish her a fast recovery. Robert N2TSE has fun events planned for us during the

upcoming months. Let him know that you want to participate. If you have any ideas that you think will help WECA please let me know so I can bring them up to the board. Any member can attend the board meetings.

See you at the May meeting.  
73s,  
Stan WA2NRV



**Mark your calendars!**

**Next member meeting — May 10th at the Westchester County Center, 7:00PM. We will learn all about N1MM's logging software, that we will be using during Field Day!**

**The social half hour starts at 7:00PM and the presentation begins at 7:30PM.**

**See you there!**

**Board meetings:**  
**May 24th—8PM**  
**June 28th—8PM**  
**July 26th — 8PM**  
**Fire Training Center**  
**4 Dana Road**  
**Valhalla, NY 10595**



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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="#">K2GWK</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		
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="#">K2MFC</a>
President Emeritus	Bob Miller	<a href="#">K2FYZ</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).