

June 2004



### Upcoming Public Service Events:

- **Sunday, June 13<sup>rd</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, Croton Point Park.**
- **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!**



### Table of Contents

1. Emergency Communications – Get Involved!!  
July–August Events Calendar
2. Emergency Communications, cont.  
From our public service director  
From our director at large  
WECAs Wear
3. From our president  
From our field day coordinator

# The WECAsgram

## Emergency Communications – Get Involved!!

### Joining Westchester ARES/RACES

This is a reminder that membership in WECA (or any other club) does not automatically enroll you in ARES/RACES.

There is a separate application which you can find by following the ARES/RACES link on [www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org), or, find me in person at a meeting and I'll give you one.

### New Roster

A new ARES/RACES roster dated April 28, 2004 was mailed out to all members last month. This mailing included a cover letter requiring you to confirm your continued participation in ARES/RACES as well as an information sheet to get any updates. If you have not confirmed participation by July 1, you will be dropped from the roster. So far about 70 members have confirmed their continued participation.

## July – August Events Calendar

June 13-9AM-Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Patchogue, New York  
 June 26th & 27th – FIELD DAY!  
 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

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).

### RACES Photo IDs:

New RACES photo ID cards will be issued between the hours of 6 and 10 p.m. on Monday June 14, 2004 at the Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Rd, Valhalla. Please park in the lower parking lot (follow the signs) and walk up the hill to the Fire Training Center entrance. Talk-in will be on 147.06.

Only RACES members in good standing will be issued photo ID.

If you received the March 28th roster mailing and have not followed the instructions to confirm your continued membership by Monday, June 7th, 2004, you will not be eligible for this ID as you will be off the roster.

Additional times will be made available after June 14th (during business hours by appointment) but please do try to make it during this time period if at all

possible as a DES staff member is working overtime to be there to produce the IDs.

The June 14th WECA membership meeting will relocate from the County Center to the Fire Training Center, classroom 4, to accommodate this photo ID operation, making it easy to attend the meeting (about Field Day) and briefly pop out for a few minutes to get your photo taken.

With thanks to the WECA Board of Directors, and the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services,

Alan, N2YGK

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

(continued on page two)

## 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:

June—Jim Faulkner, N2WQG, Field Day— AT THE FIRE TRAINING CENTER

## Emergency Communications, continued...

### RACES training classes in May

Thanks to those of you who participated in the EOC software and Radiological Response training held at the EOC on May 5th and 6th. The EOC software is used to streamline EOC operations. Much of the clutter of paper forms and faxes has been replaced by an email and web based tracking and logging system. The County's high tech GIS (geographic information system) is also part of this system and provides sophisticated mapping facilities.

The radiological training, which was put on just for RACES operators, covered basic understanding of the threats from a radiological event as well as methods for protection from exposure (time-distance-shielding).

### From our public service director...

On behalf of the Salute to Israel Day Parade and Steve Ostrove, the communication chair, they would like to thank the WECA members who help out at this event on Sunday the 23rd of May. They are N2YGK, N2WQG, N2TSE, N4OOX, KB2PMD & KC2ESU who worked for more than 9.5 hours in total in the heat. Thank you for all that time.

Robert Kantor, N2TSE  
Public Service Dir.

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

Specific training on use of dosimetry equipment was also given to qualify participants for participation as a communicator for a field monitoring team.

### ARES/RACES drills in May

May 8th was the Westchester County Airport mass casualty incident response drill. ARES and RACES participated primarily by providing communications for the American Red Cross which is the official agency to deal with the needs of air crash victims' families. The Red Cross sets up the Disaster Mental Health function in the terminal. RACES also assisted with operation of the County Field Communications vehicle (the red and white one we see at Field Day every year).

### From our director at large...

The good news is that no one has reported any problems this month. The bad news is that there were no reports of good news either. I guess this is a good time to remind you that as your representative to the WECA board, I really need input from you, the WECA members. Not only news of the happenings about our members. Consider areas where you would like to see a change in our club operations. That means new club activities, operations, projects, etc. —what interests you in amateur radio and how can we bring that excitement to all our membership. Contact me in person, on the air, by

Several WECA members also acted as videographers, documenting the entire day of the Incident Commander as a training and evaluation aid.

May 12th and 26th were the practice drills for the Indian Point radiological emergency response plan. The EOC was buzzing with representatives from many government and non-governments agencies. RACES operators provided backup communications at the EOC and JNC and as the primary means of relaying field monitoring teams' positions (via APRS with GPS) from the field.



landline, or e-mail. See you all at the June meeting and during field day.

Be sure to congratulate Grant, KC2FNU, who recently graduated from college. Also we have the opportunity to welcome Caleb Joshua Legatt. He is the new son of Mike, KB2PMD, and Caroline born on April 23rd. Mike is our newsletter editor. 73s, Stan, WA2NRV



## From our president...

Spring has finally arrived and, with it, Field Day. We sent out a survey to the membership last month. About fifty of you responded – thank you. Your input was just what was needed to create the Field Day you want. This year, there will be training, a chance to operate in new bands or modes, and most importantly, a chance to meet your fellow hams and help us demonstrate amateur radio to the public. Have a look at Jim's article for more information. I hope to see you there!

Earlier this month, we assisted the Westchester County Airport in their annual certification drill. Many thanks to all the ARES and WECA members who participated. Fortunately, the

weather ended up great and we all had a good day. The WECA film crew (WB2NHC, K2LCA, N2NWZ and N2WQG) did an hour and a half documentary on the Incident Commander. We delivered it on DVD to the airport management. They were so pleased, that they offered WECA a private insider's tour of the airport. We'll set it up for the fall and combine a member meeting with it.

I also wanted to acknowledge the outstanding work that Tom, WB2NHC and Alan, N2YGK are doing with ARES and RACES respectively. The partnership that we have with the Red Cross and Westchester County is one of the strongest I've ever seen. Their hard work has paid off with

support and resources that are a real benefit to us as hams, and promoting our public service role. For those of us in RACES, we should be getting new ID cards soon. And for those who are not ARES or RACES members, you should think about joining. Contact Alan, N2YGK, for information.

On the public service side, Robert, N2TSE, has a number of events organized for us in the next several weeks. If you're interested in learning something about APRS, we'll be using it to track vehicles at both of the events.

And remember! The next member meeting is June 14th – topic: Field Day!  
73's Lyle, K2LCA

## From our Field Day Coordinator...

So, here we are again on the cusp of another Field Day. You should have already received a post card reminding you of Field Day. Based on the results of our survey, Tom Raffaelli, Lyle Anderson, Bob Wilson, Eugene Skopal, Ron Devenuti, Peter Johnson, Robert Kantor and numerous others have designed a blueprint for this year's Field Day. We will have a classroom setting (air-conditioned) with seminars and hands on yet to be decided, so your input is still important! Stealth radio, emergency field radio, QRP, digital modes, and other topics could be taught. On our field day menu: Set up starting at 9AM to retrieve tents and antennas, and to set up our

hospitality suite where all are welcome to join. Please e-mail Jim Faulkner at N2WQG@weca.org for participation, requests, assignments, etc.

Kosher and vegetarian items will be available at all three meals. Filet mignon and lobster, along with French fries, shrimp, ratatouille, and of course the ever ubiquitous hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausages will be served. Lunch as the last two years will be hot and cold with picnic fare and salads. Breakfast on Sunday includes eggs benedict, French toast, free range bacon, and sautéed tofu for vegetarians. At 10:30 PM on Saturday, Dwight Smith, perhaps again, will bring carvel cake and

sparklers to put you all in the best frame of mind.

Yes, it's still radio. Yes, it's still electric. And, yes, all are invited. Operators of all kinds would be pleased to find a seat waiting for them.

Bring your own radios, and we will bring power supplies for them. Digital mode and computer equipment will be available for all interested, both experienced operators and those who would like to learn.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

73s, Jim, N2WQG



### Mark your calendars!

**Next member meeting – June 14th at the FIRE TRAINING CENTER, 4 DANA ROAD, VALHALLA, NY, 7:00PM. Come to learn about what Field Day will be like this year, and please join us on June 26th and 27th for Field Day!!**

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

**See you there!**

*Board meetings:*  
**June 28th—8PM**  
**July 26th — 8PM**  
**August 30 — 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, Chap-paqua, 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>
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General Counsel	Michael Weitzner	<a href="#">N2EJL</a>
Treasurer	Andy Farber	<a href="#">N4OOX</a>
Secretary	Milt Galamison	<a href="#">KC2GWK</a>
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Public Service	Robert Kantor	<a href="#">N2TSE</a>
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Activities	Jim Faulkner	<a href="#">N2WQG</a>
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