

January 2005



Happy New Year WECA!!!

Upcoming Public Service Events:

- **March of Dimes, Sunday, May 1st**
- **American Diabetes Tour de Cure bike ride, Sunday, June 5th.**
- **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

Amateur Radio set new world record, 13 Million Miles/watt

Bill Tippet, W4ZV, of New London, NC correctly copied code word OMAHA from the N2XE beacon transmitting with a peak carrier power of .0000406 watts at 3.5455 MHz on the 80 meter Amateur Radio band. Bill confirmed reception of the beacon at 2328Z, January 2, 2005. The precise distance between the two stations is 546.8 miles, establishing Bill's record reception distance at 13,467,980 miles per watt. Tippet used a Ten Tec Orion Transceiver with a 1000 foot Beverage antenna (named after Dr. Harold Beverage who invented it in the 1920s).

The N2XE beacon transmits from an Elecraft K1 (heavily attenuated) using an 80 meter off-center fed dipole, 45 feet AGL (above ground level). The beacon peak carrier output was measured using an Agilent 8563EC Spectrum Analyzer at 40.6 uW (40 millionths of a watt). The beacon transmits a unique code

word each evening. Receiving stations are required to correctly copy the code word in their report. The word is published the following morning.

The N2XE Beacon Project was started in December, 2004 by Paul Stroud, AA4XX, Raleigh, NC and John Ceccherelli, N2XE, Wappingers Falls, NY with the goal of having a little fun and to go where no diminutive signal has gone before. Beacon times and frequencies are posted daily on the QRP-L reflector www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRP-L. Tests will continue on 160, 80 and 40 meters through the end of February 2005.

Commenting on his remarkable success, Bill said "I've spent 25 years on 80 & 160 listening to below noise level signals. There are at least three factors to this stuff: Antennas with good signal to noise like Beverages, a good receiver and the knowledge to use it and an

operator with good ears and knowledge of propagation—not to mention patience and persistence."

Beacon station operator John Ceccherelli, N2XE, seemed more excited than Tippet about the achievement, even though it requires almost no effort on his part. "Hey, I have to flip the switch, grab a beer and go watch TV—that's effort" he's reported saying, adding "I'm thrilled the record was set by an all-American team using all-American equipment." The Ten Tec receiver is manufactured in Seville, TN and the Elecraft transmitter is produced in California and offered as a kit.

For more information, contact Bill Tippet at btippet@alum.mit.edu or John Ceccherelli at n2xe@arrl.org

(From The Beacon Tribune Poughkeepsie, NY)

January – March Events Calendar

Jan 9	Hamfest	NLI Section Convention	Bethpage, NY
Jan 10	Membership Meeting	WECA	White Plains, NY
Jan 13	VE Session	WECA	Valhalla, NY
Jan 24	Board Meeting	WECA	Valhalla, NY
Jan 31	VE Session	Columbia Univ	New York, NY
Feb 1	Net	ENY Emergency Services	147.060 PL 114.8 8:00 PM
Feb 3	Net	ARES/RACES Training	147.060 PL 114.8 8:30 PM
Feb 6	VE Session	Yonkers ARC	Yonkers, NY
Feb 10	VE Session	WECA	Valhalla, NY
Mar 6	VE Session	Yonkers ARC	Yonkers, NY

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.

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

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:

January 10th, 7:00 / 7:30 PM

February 14th, 7:00 / 7:30 PM

March 14th, 7:00 / 7:30 PM

From our president...

Happy Holidays everyone! I hope you all had a good holiday and New Year. Two thousand four wraps up as one of WECA's most active years, including the Marathon, Field Day, bike races, walks, and of course, our work with Westchester County.

I want to thank all of you who participated in any of the events of the past year. And for those of you who didn't, why not make it a New Year's resolution to participate in at least one public service event? It's a great experience and you're helping out the served agency.

Robert, N2TSE, has a whole variety of events planned for 2005 — so you're sure to find one to your liking.

Your Board and membership have approved next year's budget. Things are tight,

Digital Operations with WECA

This is an update for our current digital operations:

There are two sites that house our digital equipment: the first is the jail site (North site), the same as where all the voice repeaters reside. The second (South) site is located south of the first.

At the north site, there is a flexnode and an APRS digipeater (WB2ZII on 144.390 MHz). The flexnode has three ports: user access ports on 145.05 and 441.00 MHz (WB2ZII-5) and a port to link to the south site (via UHF @ 9600baud).

The south site has a flexnode and a DX cluster node. The flexnode has a user port on

like they always are, but your support makes the club work.

One of big initiatives is training. In the past year we have run classes and trained more than 30 new radio operators. Ed, WA2JXI, is thinking about running a more advanced course for people who want to pass their Extra exam - if you're interested, send him an email so he can gauge the need for the class.

We also have another technician's training class coming up later in January and February. Contact Tom, WB2NHC or me, K2LCA for more information.

Sandy's (N2SF) family has bequeathed his call sign to the club as a memorial call sign. We are working to have it officially transferred to honor his memory and contribution to the club and amateur radio.

145.09 MHz (WB2ZII-9). There is a link to the north site on UHF @ 9600 baud. There are also high speed links on UHF to Mount Beacon, Rockland County, and Huntington Long Island. There are also inactive links to Ramapo Mountain in New Jersey and the eastern Bronx. I expect that these links will be operational again shortly as WECA's end of the links are operational.

There is a packet bulletin board system (PBBS), WB2QJA-4 on 145.05 MHz available either direct or via one of the flexnode user ports. Messages and bulletins of a non-commercial nature may be posted here.

The APRS use in the club has skyrocketed in the last year. We now have more than a dozen APRS capable trackers and the base station equipment to support a major event.

Peter, N2TFC and Alan, N2YGK, have a lot of information on the WECA web site to check out.

Last, let me or any of the other Board members know of any suggestions you have. And, if you would like to get more involved in the club, let me know.

Elections will be coming up sooner than you think, and we'd like to see some of the newer members hold office.

Again, 73s and all the best,

Lyle, K2LCA

The DX cluster node (WB2ZII-14) is available directly on 145.09 MHz or via the WB2ZII-5 flexnode. The node gets its DX spots from W2JT, the North New Jersey DX Association node. You can download a help file from WB2QJA-4 PBBS with the following command:

D DXCLUSTR.HLP

If you have any specific questions, please email me.

73s,

Rich, WB2QJA

We're on the web!
www.weca.org

Thank you WECA members!

On November 21st, twenty members helped with the Turkey trot in Mamaroneck, New York.

They are:

N2WDG, N2FMC, N2OLU, N2CAV, N2NAA, N2AMP, N2TFC, N2TSE, N4OOX, K4ZGE, K2DFJ, KA2BRH, KB2LLV, KC2COQ, KC2ESU, KC2MPK, W2JLB, WB2NHC, WB2BTJ, and WA2NRV.

On December 14th, WECA held our annual holiday Blythdale program, giving gifts to children. We had seventeen members do a wonderful thing, and they had a great time doing it!

They are:

KC2FNU, KC2MPK, KC2KIX, KC2LLC, KC2ESU, KC2ARX, KC2GYF, N2TSE, N2AMP, N2TFC, N2TJE, KB2LLV, WA2BRH, WB2NHC, WB2QJA, WA2KHR, and K2RRR.

You might think it's too early to think about 2005 public service events, but we have the first two on the calendar:

March of Dimes, Sunday, May 1st

American Diabetes Tour de Cure bike ride, Sunday, June 5th.

Thanks to all WECA members who helped out with the Turkey Trot and Blythdale!

Let's have as many participants for March of Dimes and Tour De Cure!

That's all for now!

Happy New Year to all!

73s,

Robert, N2TSE



From our director at large...

Well, here goes another year! I'm not quite sure where the last one went.

We had a member pass the written portion of the extra exam at the last WECA VE test session. We will tell you all about him when he takes the code test.

I would like to thank all the VE's, not only WECA members, who have donated their time and effort for our monthly sessions. Without their efforts we could not continue the program as we do it today. The tests are given monthly on the second Thursday,

7:00 PM at the fire training center in Valhalla.

After passing an exam these new or upgraded hams need help and support. That is where our WECA "ELMER" program takes over. We have members willing to guide, assist, and help. This goes for old time hams as well. Just ask! Contact Fran, N2OLU or Stan, WA2NRV.

Remember, if you have any issues that you would like brought to the board attention give me a call as your director at large.

Then have a Happy New Year and enjoy amateur radio.

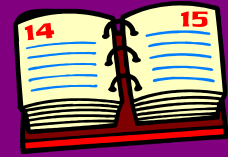
73s, Stan, WA2NRV

How to improve your CW speed

Here is a list of the unofficial QRS CW operating frequencies. These frequencies are only a guideline as a place for the group to meet and are not part of any band plan. If you hear a slow speed CQ out there then answer the call and enjoy a relaxed QSO at a slower speed.

1.850	3.700
7.124/7.050	10.125
14.050	21.150/21.125
24.8915	28.160

Or, join the Yahoo QRS listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QRS-CW/>.
(from AD6WL on eham.net)



Mark your calendars!

Next member meeting:

Monday, January 10th.

The social half hour begins at 7:00 PM, and the meeting at 7:30 PM.

The meetings are held at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, NY.

Please listen to 147.060, PL 114.8 for "talk-in" help.

See you there!

Board meetings:
January 24th—7PM
February 28th—7PM
March 28th—7PM
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 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 2004-2005

President	Lyle Anderson	K2LCA
Executive VP	Russ Stevenson	N2AMP
General Counsel	Michael Weitzner	N2EJL
Treasurer	Andy Farber	N4OOX
Secretary	Milt Galamison	KC2GWK
Trustee	Paul Vydareny	WB2VUK
Director-at-Large	Stan Rothman	WA2NRV
Digital Modes	Rich Benda	WB2QIA
Public Service	Robert Kantor	N2TSE
Membership	Ron Devenuti	N2TJE
Publicity	Ann Rodier	KC2MMF
Newsletter	Michael E. Legatt	KB2PMD
Education	Ed Granato	WA2JXI
Emergency Services	Tom Raffaelli	WB2NHC
Engineering	Robert Wilson	N2DVQ
Repeater Operations	Dwight P. Smith	N2FMC
Social Activities	Jim Faulkner	N2WQG
Information Technology	Peter Johnson	N2TFC
County Liaison	Liam Murphy	KC2MFG
President Emeritus	Bob Miller	KC2FYZ