



# WECAgram

Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and Serving Amateurs since 1972

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Associates

April 2005

### eWECA

Here is an introduction to what we're thinking about for WECA in the future.  
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### Board Meetings

Notes from the last board meeting are on Page 2



### Elections are coming!

We have several elected positions opened. If you're interested see Page 2

### May Member Meeting



Will be at the Westchester County Airport  
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### April Meeting

Will be at the Fire Training Center. Topic is Remote Controlled Helicopters and Photography.  
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### Public Service

Two public service events are scheduled for the spring so far.  
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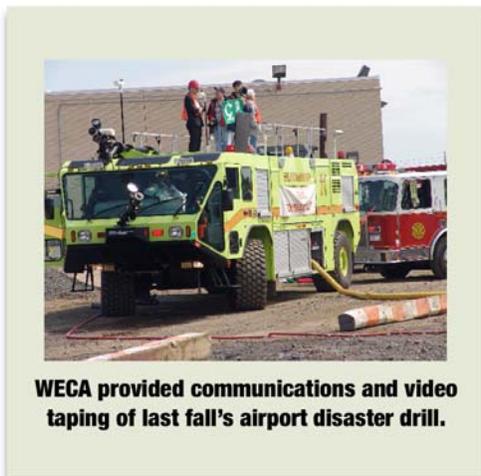


## Special May Member Meeting

WECA's May 2005 member meeting will be very special - a guided tour of the operations of the Westchester County Airport. Steve Ferguson, who many of you know as the head of operations for the airport, will be personally leading the tour.

Only 25 members will be able to attend on May 9th due to the constraints of the facility. We will be accepting "reservations" for the meeting on a "first come, first served" basis.

You must be an active WECA member to attend.



**WECA provided communications and video taping of last fall's airport disaster drill.**

Sign ups for the session will begin on May 1st. Information on how to sign up will be on the web ([www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org)), email and in the next

newsletter. We will be taping the session for those of you who can't attend.

APRIL WECA MEETING WILL BE AT THE FIRE TRAINING CENTER

And, a reminder for this month. The April WECA member meeting will be at the Fire Training Center starting promptly at 7PM. We will most likely be in Room 4. Park in the Fire Training Center parking lot below the building and proceed to the room. From there, you'll be directed to the training grounds in the back for a flight demonstration (weather and light permitting).

See you there!

**Special Time! Special Place!**

**Next Meeting is Monday, April 11th at 7PM at the Fire Training Center**



# Notes from Around WECA

## From the March Board Meetings



Your board had two board meetings this month. One before the March member meeting and the second at our normal time on March 28th.

- Six new members joined WECA.
- The Tour d' Cure will likely be on June 13th, starting at 6 or 6:30 AM.
- Tower truck No. 11 is operational. We still need to do a lot of work on it. Contact Tom, WB2NHC if you're interested in helping ([wb2nhc@weca.org](mailto:wb2nhc@weca.org)).
- QST and the Hudson region are looking for articles to publish.
- Field day is coming!
- Ed, WA2JXI is planning an Extra Class license preparation workshop to be held in May or June. Contact Ed at [wa2jxi@weca.org](mailto:wa2jxi@weca.org) if you're interested in attending.
- eWECA was discussed and proposed as an option to avoid raising dues. See the article on page three for more information.

## Letter from the President



A lot has been going on a WECA this month - elections, spring public service, and trying to manage a budget where revenues are flat and costs keep increasing!

Our last dues increase was in 1990 - fifteen years ago. The dollar is probably worth half of what it was then yet we've been able to keep WECA running. Now, we have two choices: 1) increase our dues to cover expenses, or 2) look at ways of reducing administrative costs.

The article on Page 3 discusses eWECA. eWECA promises to bring better member services while at the same time reducing our expenses. I've proposed to the board that people who still want paper should pay the added costs - so if you don't sign up for eWECA, your dues will be increased to cover printing and mailing.

We plan on rolling this out over the summer. Peter, N2TFC and I are in the process of getting input and fleshing out what eWECA would be. So, if you have input, contact us!

Regards,  
Lyle, K2LCA

## Election Status



Ann, KC2MFF, has been working hard to get nominees for next year's WECA officers and directors. So far we have the following nominees:

- President: ?
- Vice President: ?
- VP-General Counsel: Mike Weitzner
- Treasurer: Andy Farber
- Secretary: Milton Galamison
- Director at Large: Stan Rothman
- Engineering: Robert Wilson
- Repeater Operations: Dwight Smith
- Activities: ?
- Education: Ed. Granato
- Newsletter Editor: ?

Elections will be held in June, so if you're interested in becoming an officer or director, contact Ann ([kc2mff@weca.org](mailto:kc2mff@weca.org)) now!

# WECA Considers Options to Dues Increase

eWECA may be our answer to avoiding our first dues increase in fifteen years

Let's see, fifteen years ago, 1990, do you remember what you were doing then? It's a long time, and that was the last time WECA increased its dues. Since then expenses have continued to rise, but we've been able to keep things going on a shoestring budget. However, we're running out of time (and money!). We need to either increase dues or look at new ways of serving and communicating with our members.

About half of your dues are spent for printing and mailing things such as the WECAgram, meeting notices, voting information and the like - and that's with a lot of the printing being donated. The remainder goes for running the repeater, telephone costs and engineering expenses.

Your Board discussed options other than the obvious one of raising dues by three to five dollars. We feel that we can reduce our administrative operating expenses by moving more processes to the web and eliminating the paper, mailing costs and other expenses associated with the way we do things now.

The Board asked Peter, N2TFC, our IT Director and Lyle, K2LCA to put together ideas on what eWECA would be. So far we have come up with a number of parts of eWECA including:

- Enhance the current website to provide discussion forums, photo galleries and Weblogs that

members can post to and comment upon. □Close portions of the site to general public for exclusive and private access by the WECA membership.

- Online election balloting and voting on major issues that need club input.
- Member management - simplify the processes of member renewal, information updates and roster information.
- Provide online signup and reporting for public service events.
- Provide access to "on-demand" rosters for ARES/RACES management.
- Provide a limited membership roster to WECA members (based on individual's preferences for privacy (i.e., only publish information that the member allows us to)).
- Provide an enhanced email newsletter to members and interested third parties such as the County, other clubs, etc.
- Create a way of getting candid member feedback on issues, programs, etc. Maybe an anonymous bulletin board (gripe box).

- Provide members with a way of requesting information change.
- Local services such as an APRS display, weather, amateur radio newslines, etc.

Peter and Lyle will be finalizing this proposal over the next month. Don't hesitate to contact us at:

[n2tfc@weca.org](mailto:n2tfc@weca.org) or

[k2lca@weca.org](mailto:k2lca@weca.org).



**WECA at the Boy Scout's Jamboree on the air.  
Demonstration of ATV.**

# Public Service

Robert, N2TSE, has two public service events scheduled for the Spring. The first is the March of Dimes walk on Sunday, May 1st in White Plains. The second is the American Diabetes Association bike-a-thon on Sunday, June 5th.

Why not sign up to help out on one or both of these? It's great training and you'll get a chance to help out a great charitable organization!



## The WECAGram

Vol 29, No 9

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