

WECAGram

Westchester Emergency Communications Association

BPL Goes to Washington

by Frank Fallon, N2FF

By now you should be aware that ARRL has had a bill introduced in the House and Senate requiring the FCC to study the “interference potential” of BPL. These are H.R. 462 and S 1629 both named “The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. See www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/06/15/101/?nc=1 and www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/01/18/101/?nc=1.

This is our major legislative thrust at the moment. At this time we are asking members to write to KEY legislators in both the Senate and House to get them to cosponsor and push this bill through the Commerce Committee. PLEASE NOTE: At this point we are contacting ONLY the following legislators:

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The WECAGram is Back!

by James Lyles, AB2WS

It has been awhile since an issue of the WECAGram was assembled and I'd like to use some editorial license to introduce myself and ask the membership for ideas to improve future issues of this newsletter. First of all, for those who I haven't had a chance to meet, I am James Lyles, AB2WS. I received my ticket in Memphis, TN in 1998 and finally made the jump to amateur extra in 2007. I have been in the New York area since 2002 working on a graduate degree in biology through the City University of New York. And I have been attending WECA events since I stumbled into a WECA Field Day a few weeks after moving to New York.

I am a sporadic operator at best. I enjoy operating the digital modes since only a marginal signal escapes my apartment. Not to mention all the additional software settings intrigue my inner computer geek. However, I try to get on the air for a few SSB contests every year. The feeling of hitting a good rhythm and working up the dial when the band opens is awesome! While the call of DX is something I dream about; I just don't have a capable station and will have to spend more time earnestly learning the code to really chase any of the weak ones at my present QTH.

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BPL Goes to Washington

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In New Jersey - Senator Frank Lautenberg
Congressman Frank Pallone
Congressman Mike Ferguson
In New York - Congressmen Eliot Engel
Congressman Edolphus Towns
Congressman David Israel has already signed onto H.R. 462

If you are in contact with the above legislators or have a relationship with any of them please let me know at n2ff@arrl.org.

You can find a suggested draft letter to the congressman at www.hudson.arrl.org/pages/BillHR462n2ffMessage.htm. Please personalize the letter with specifics about yourself and your involvement in Amateur Radio, especially if you are or have been involved in emergency communications, the thrust of both bills.

Please DO NOT email the letters, use USPS, all sources we talk to tell us that e-mails are only counted. They are not read! To be effective a letter must not appear to be a form letter but must be personalized.

Once you have mailed off your letter please send me an e-mail copy at n2ff@arrl.org and to our lobbyist in Washington DC at arrl@chwatco.com.

Please get involved in this legislative effort if your are concerned about BPL interference.

The WECAGram is Back!

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I anticipate publishing the WECAGram quarterly. And will keep it as an information vehicle about and for the WECA membership. This includes events WECA and WECA members participated in; as well as anything that the membership wants covered. Please help me by snapping a few photos when you volunteer and sharing them with the WECAGram. Additionally, if anyone has

story ideas, topics, or best of all, would like to contribute please contact me. I hope to incorporate at least one article each issue that covers some aspect of our hobby with some depth, again contributions are encouraged. Lastly, I would like to incorporate interviews with current WECA members concerning their involvement in ham radio and WECA in the upcoming issues. If you receive a call or email from me don't be surprised!

I look forward to creating a useful newsletter for the membership and welcome any suggestions. Please contact me at newsletter@weca.org.

Bob Wilson, N2DYQ



James Lyles, AB2WS (left) working the GOTA station with Larry Barnes, N6BQD at Field Day 2007.

WECA Announcements

From the Director at Large

by Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

Guess it is almost time to address the holiday season with Amateur Radio. We can start off with the Sky Warn nets, when dangerous weather hits our area. Also, help handle holiday traffic into our area via the Southern District Net (SDN) on the 2 meter repeater daily at 9:30PM. The New York City Marathon, Santa's visit to the children at Blythdale via ham radio, and many other activities are approaching.

We have quite a few new hams joining us on the air after passing their exams during the WECA VE sessions. Be sure to greet them when they come on the air and guide them into the relationships with our club members. The next WECA VE session will be 7:00 PM October 11th at the fire training center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla. If you would like to assist as a VE or upgrade contact Stan Rothman, [WA2NRV](#). You can also become an " Elmer " helping instill the amateur spirit in someone new; just remember that we guide, but don't chastise on the air.

Hope to see all of you at the October meeting. " 73 "

WECA Public Service Stars

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

During 2006 - 2007 WECA participated in nine public service events. Forty-one members participated in at least one event, while 13 members participated in at least four. These 13 members are recipients of the 2006 - 2007 WECA Public Service Certificate of Appreciation.

Robert Kantor, N2TSE

Russ Stevenson, N2AMP

Ron Devenuti, N2TJE

Dwight Smith, N2FMC

Peter Johnson, N2TFC

Joey Altamuro, KC2ESU

Irene Taliaferro, KC2MPF

Amy Kibble, KC2PDJ

Diane Murgalo, KC2NXM

Charles Salvilla, KB2LLV

Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

Frank Fabozzi, WB2BTJ

Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC

Recent Public Service Participants

Golden Apple Bike Tour

September 16

N2TJE
N2AMP
N2FMC
N2YYL
N2TSE

KC2ESU
KC2MPF
KC2ODN
WB2NHC
KD2SQ

Westchester Triathlon

September 23

N2AMP
N2TJE
N2CAV
N2TSE
KC2ESU
KC2PCL
WB2BTJ
WB2VVS
KD2SQ

Multiple Sclerosis T-Z Bike Tour

September 30

N2AMP
N2TJE
N2UXJ
N2NWZ
N2GOP
N2VFU
N2TSE
N2WKB
KB2ZYI
KC2ESU
KC2NXM
KC2NLL
WB2NHX
KD2SQ

WECA Announcements

Upcoming Public Service Events

There are still several upcoming public service events, see www.weca.org for complete details.

Friday night, Oct. 12	Light the Night Walk Luekemia-Lymphoma Walk	5:00 PM Burke Rehab, White Plains
Sunday morning, Oct 28	America Diabetes Association	8:30 AM White Plains, NY
Sunday morning, Nov. 18	Mamaroneck Turkey Trot	8:00 or 9:00 AM Harbor Island Mamaroneck
Tuesday night, Dec. 11 New Date!!	Santa Operation	5:30 PM Blythdale Children's Hospital, Valhalla

2007 ESG Volenters Recognized

Ham radio operators that partiticipated in the 2007 Empire State Games will be recieving a Certifacate of Appreciation soon!



Upcoming WECA Meetings

Tuesday, October 9	7:00 PM Member Meeting, Westchester County Center, White Plains
Monday, October 22	7:30 PM Board meeting, Fire Training Center, Valhalla
Monday, November 12	7:00 PM Member Meeting, Westchester County Center, White Plains
Monday, November 26	7:30 PM Board meeting, Fire Training Center, Valhalla
Monday, December 10	7:00 PM Member Meeting, Westchester County Center, White Plains
Monday, December 24	7:30 PM Board meeting, Fire Training Center, Valhalla

2007 Field Day Flash Back

by Peter Johnson, N2TFC

In the early summer, lots of time was spent getting the club's laptops ready for Field Day 2007 held on Saturday, June 23rd and Sunday, June 24th at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck, NY. This year we setup at the beach pavilion structure located along the south-eastern part of the park. Setup began at 9am on Saturday; radio operations began at 2pm and went through the night finishing at 2pm on Sunday. Many hands were needed for setup on Saturday and tear down on Sunday - we finished at about 3pm - a new record!

This year WECA had four transmitters (4A) on HF, a VHF 6 meter station, and a GOTA station (to introduce people to the many facets of Ham Radio). There were many types of antennas used: beams, dipoles, verticals, long wires, etc. And of course many types of radios, including a continuous demonstration of APRS and some experimental gear.

For this year's Field Day we used five of the WECA laptops and a small "touch-screen" server in a wired network to track our performance and contact information from the Field Day exercise. The setup time only took 30 minutes! User's reports were very positive stating that the network and software operated well, was easy to use, and reliable!

Our claimed score submitted to the ARRL was 4,780 points - nice job! The results should be published soon in QST magazine.

If you have any questions, suggestions, compliments, or complaints about the event please let Rich Kautz, KC2HZW or Jim Faulkner, N2WQG know your opinion by sending email to fd2007@weca.org.



photos: Bob Wilson, N2DVQ and James Lyles, AB2WS