



# WECAgram

Westchester Emergency Communications Association

Fall 2013 Page 1

## Field Day June 22 & 23, 2013



The ARRL Field Day event was held June 22nd and 23rd. WECA operated from Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. 53 participants were there to participate according to Membership Director, Peter Johnson, N2TFC. Brian Stas, W2BZT pointed out some personal lessons learned from his participation in Field Day as a new ham and a first time participant. He indicated that he was

surprised at the level of preparation required and the great job that was done. Public Service Director, Kathleen O'Keefe, KC2VCT at the June 24th Board meeting gave a summary of the Field day food preparations, she thanked Mitch and Rob for assistance and suggested that different meals may be good idea for next year's Field day. She encouraged a better estimate of dinners and need more help or possibly the use of caterers. The Midnight Pizza party by W2BZT was a success and helped keep the overnight operators going.

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## Current Officers of WECA 2013-2014

There have been a few changes to the Board roster and a few additions for vacant positions. Richard Kautz KC2HZW has retired as President but continues as the Social Activities Director. Bill Bohnenberger, KA2OFM, formerly Secretary was elected President of the Board along with Brian Stas, W2BZT as Secretary and Al Kroeger, KD2DMV as the Newsletter Editor.

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## Current WECA Officers and Directors (2013-2014)

### OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Bill Bohnenberger	KA2OFM
<b>Executive VP</b>	Tom Fegan	KB2ZAM
<b>VP/General Counsel</b>	Michael Weitzner	N2EJI
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew Farber	N4OOX
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Stas	W2BZT
<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	Russ Stevenson	N2AMP
<b>President Emeritus</b>	Richard Kautz	KC2HZW

### DIRECTORS

<b>County Liaison</b>	Michael Volk	W2MKV
<b>Digital Modes</b>	Richard Benda	WB2QJA
<b>Director At Large</b>	Stanley Rothman	WA2NRV
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Thomas Raffaelli	WB2NHC
<b>Education</b>	Larrie Sutliff	W2UL
<b>Engineering</b>	Robert Wilson	N2DVQ
<b>Membership</b>	Peter Johnson	N2TFC
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Al Kroger	KD2DMV
<b>Publicity</b>	Will Austen	N2UXJ
<b>Public Service</b>	Kathleen O'Keefe	KC2VCT
<b>Repeater Operations</b>	Dwight Smith	N2FMC
<b>Social Activities</b>	Richard Kautz	KC2HZW
<b>Webmaster / CIO</b>	Peter Johnson	N2TFC

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## Field Day 2013

Publicity Director, Will Austen, N2UXJ announced out of 35 VIP Field day invites, only 1 attended the event and that a Field day photo of WECA was sent to the Associated Press (AP). Bob Wilson N2DVQ reported that approximately 32 lunches and 40 dinners were served at Field day with approximately \$947.00 collected from participants. Bob noted a declining number of food helpers and suggested a different menu or outsourcing of meals. He also indicated that it was a job well done with food preparations. On the technical side Bob indicated that the G5RV antenna worked well with CW and that filters may be needed for tuners. Bob also suggested a Field Day focused meeting a week prior to the next Field Day event and that there be a captain assigned to each station.

If you haven't attended a field day or haven't attended one in a while you can attend the 2014 event next June.

Al Kroeger KD2DMV

## Summer 2013 WECA Survey

You may have noticed and filled out the WECA Survey with your membership renewal letter. This was assembled by feedback from the board members and much labor by Peter Johnson N2TFC compiling and collecting the statistical data. The following is the end results of the Summer 2013 WECA survey.

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The Summer 2013 WECA Survey summary							
Question #	Question	Percent of Respondents	Average Interest 1-10	Would you help?		Would you help?	
				Yes	No	Yes %	No %
1	WECA to host a Hamfest	33.5%	6.7	13	22	37%	63%
2	Kit building	29.7%	5.3	10	23	30%	70%
3	Dayton trip	30.3%	4.1	4	28	13%	88%
4	ARRL trip	31.6%	6.1	8	25	24%	76%
5	Holiday party	29.7%	3.7	5	28	15%	85%
6	Mini Field Day	29.7%	6.0	14	16	47%	53%
7	Public Service	27.1%	5.2	7	22	24%	76%
8	Fox Hunt	29.0%	4.6	5	26	16%	84%
9	Technical Classes	29.7%	5.5	4	24	14%	86%
10	2 meter Tech Net	26.5%	4.6	2	24	8%	92%
11	Education Nets	27.1%	5.3	4	25	14%	86%
12	Ham Radio University	24.5%	5.1	4	22	15%	85%
13	Other	5.8%	6.5	5	4	56%	44%

Survey results as of 10/23/2013

Survey sent to 198 members on July 21, 2013

54 Members filled out the survey (27.3%)

Not all questions filled out by respondents. No single question received 100% response from the surveys received.

155 members out of 198 have renewed (78.3%)

Peter Johnson, N2TFC

**If you have not renewed or filled out a survey then please do so as soon as you can**

## Kit Building

On Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> eight WECA members got together on what might well have been one of the nicer days of the month to work on building a Ramsey 2 meter receiver kit. The participants were all at different skill levels from the absolute beginner in electronics to experts in electronic circuitry, kit building, soldering, and assembly. All members had an enjoyable time and lots of knowledge was shared. A wonderful experience was had by all. Stan, WA2NRV allowed us the use of his home, his tools, his knowledge, and his spirit of fun and camaraderie. Stan we thank you once again from all that attended. Here is a collage of the participants.



*Attendees included WA2NRV, KC2VCT, KD2DOE, KC2UAP, KD2DMV and others. Interested in the next project? Please contact [wa2nrv@weca.org](mailto:wa2nrv@weca.org) or come to the next member meeting to discuss possible projects.*

## New Trailer

The new antenna trailer with a 100-foot tower, what a beautiful thing to behold !



The Westchester County Department of Emergency Services sponsors the Westchester County ARES/RACES Group. As part of their support, the department has made available their 100-foot aluminum tower trailer and tasked the group with the responsibility of operating it. Five members have already been trained. Additional training sessions will be held in the spring.

Tom Raffaelli WB2NHC  
Emergency Coordinator  
Radio Officer

## Training Drill

A picture of the participants of the Drill at the Fire Training Center Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>. I am sure you will recognize a few of them. What a great looking crew, everyone looks sharp in their gear.



**Participants included: [back rows l to r] KB2LLV, N2DHH, ??, N2FMC, WB2BTJ, KA2OFM, KD2CBN, WB2NHC, KD2DOE, WB2NVR, N2GKM, N2YGK, KC2VCT, N2NWZ, N2TSE, [front row l to r] WB2VVS, N2TSE, N2GDY and N2DVQ**

## **Hudson Valley Bike Ride**

### **WECA Teams with JBFCS for a good cause at Hudson Valley Bike Ride**

Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) members volunteered their time and communication talents for this year's JBFCS (Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services) Hudson Valley Bike Ride annual fund raising event. This event which helps support JBFCS services throughout NYC and Westchester took place on July 14th, 2013 with the bike riders looping through northern Westchester County. WECA's Amateur radio operators deployed across the 10, 25, and 62 mile routes to facilitate communications between event staff, rest stops, and chase vehicles that were used to assist the riders that turned out for this event beginning and ending at in Hawthorne.

The WECA Amateur Radio operators, also known as Ham radio operators, are all volunteers belonging to Westchester Emergency Communication Association which has close to 200 active members from Westchester and the surrounding area. Throughout the year WECA members volunteer to assist with public service events including; The Tough-man Half Triathlon, The American Diabetes Association Walk, The Mamaroneck Turkey Trot, and others. The WECA Hams use these events as "training" missions to help polish their communication skills, and to experiment with new equipment and technologies. WECA members also feel pride in supporting the efforts of groups like JBFCS. (See <http://www.hudsonvalleyride.org> for more details on their event).

Bob Bagomolny, the event manager for the event said "...many thanks to your organization for the outstanding coverage we had of the event on Sunday. I am being spoiled by this magnificent service that you are able to provide for us in such a tough area of cell phone (or lack of) communication."

Kathleen O'Keefe, KC2VCT - WECA's Public Service Director, thanked the WECA radio operators for participating in this and other events throughout the year. For more information on WECA including membership, Ham Radio, and other Public Service events, check out our web site at <http://www.weca.org>.

**Will Austen, N2UXJ**

## The last member meeting was on 10/15

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 15th at the Westchester County Center located at 198 Central Avenue in White Plains, NY. Our presentations were "Ham Operator help at the NYC Marathon" with Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC and an ARES update with Mike Lisenco, N2YBB who is the ARRL Hudson Division Director. The topics were "what is happening in the ARRL & Hudson division", The Hudson Division luncheon, and the NYS distractive driving Law.

Dave Galletly, KM2O who is the Section Emergency services coordinator for the ARRL Hudson Division discussed the latest news and information on Hsmm now called Hamnet. Another topic discussed was the NBEMS digital software suite and TicketsCad – a Ham Radio computer aided dispatching and logging software for use in events, RACES and ARES.

There will be more to come on this topic and a more in depth article in the future.

### Upcoming meetings:

- Nov 12, 2012 (Tuesday)** - Stan Rothman / WA2NRV – Direction Finding Techniques (DF)
- Dec 9, 2013 (Monday)** - Tom Raffaelli / WB2NHC - ICS system and RACES
- Jan 13, 2014 (Monday)** - John Fritze / K2QY – NBEMS (in depth)
- Feb 10, 2014 (Monday)** - Bob Heil / K9EID from Heil Audio Products (Skype)
- Mar 11, 2014 (Monday)** - How to wire your station correctly Dan Gravereaux / N1ZZ

## VE EXAM SCHEDULE in Westchester County, NY for 2013

DATE	TIME	Sponsor	Location	Notes
Second Thursday of each month	7:00 pm	WECA	Fire Training Center	Walk-ins are OK

### Next VE Session December 12<sup>th</sup> 2013

Exams are given at the Westchester County Fire Training Center, 2 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY (off route 9A). Contact: Stan Rothman (WA2NRV), 914.949.1463 or send email to [wa2nrv@weca.org](mailto:wa2nrv@weca.org). Call in 147.060 (PL 114.8). The session test fee as of Jan 1, 2009 will be \$15.00 per test although if you pass a test you may take the next exam at no additional cost during the same test session. Two forms of ID are required with copies to send in with the paperwork.



## The WECA gram returns!

Yes, the WECAGram is back and it has an editor... Al Kroeger KD2DMV. A long time Ham... no. But I have been interested for a long time. My interest goes back to around 1977 when I was studying for a license. Like many things in life, sometimes something else comes along that change our path. Ham radio has since then remained a bucket list item which I was determined to get to someday and I did manage to get around to getting a license. In 2005, I got a Tech and in 2013 I managed to pass the General test.

I had actually heard of WECA back in the 70's and in 2013 I went to the VE session and took the test for the General with WECA. Fast forward to about May 2013 and this fellow came up to me at a member meeting and said you could be a Newsletter Editor", I said, "err sure why not", "Good you're it! I will get in touch with you soon". "Hmm thanks...umm" "Will, N2UXJ" as he put forward his hand. And that is how I got this assignment.

It has been a little slow getting going but I believe that now that I have been involved a bit more now things will just accelerate forward and we can get back to more frequent newsletters with a little help from the members of WECA. See you at the next member meeting Dec 9, 2013.

Al Kroeger KD2DMV

Ps. – If you have items for The WECAGram, please send them to [Newsletter@weca.org](mailto:Newsletter@weca.org).

WECA is here to serve YOU the members. If you have any questions, comments, ideas, suggestions, or are willing to step forward and help any of our directors, please email any board member.

### **WE ARE ALL WECA**

WECA membership meetings are open to everyone

Hams and non-Hams- Bring a friend to the next membership meeting!