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# WECAGram Field Day 2014

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## The Night Before Field Day

By Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC (5/17/1999)

**T'was the night before Field Day and all through the land,  
 Hams were preparing, it sure will be grand.  
 Antennas are hung from the towers with care,  
 In hopes that DX soon would be there.  
 Food was prepared for the hungry crew,  
 Steaks, lobster and lots of Coke too.  
 As we cranked up the power and turned on each rig,  
 We could see that this year again would be big.  
 Contacts came rolling one after the other,  
 An opening on six set us all in a flutter.  
 As night time fell on this joyous scene,  
**We knew once again we're the big boss team.**  
 So I hope that you can be there too,  
**It won't be Field Day without all of you.****



Okay so it's not Clement Clarke Moore but I just couldn't resist. Its big, its fun, its June 28 and 29 at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. There are lots of opportunities to participate. Rich Kautz, KC2HZW, our Activities Director and Field Day leader and his entire Field Day team have a great event planned so come out early to help with the set up, and please stay around on Sunday to help take down our stations. Most of all, enjoy our annual radio weekend. See you there. 73





Brian W2BZT WECA Executive VP

*“The bottom-line is it just works without having to worry about infrastructure”*

## The Future of Ham Radio Brian’s Take

The future of ham radio lies heavily on the generations behind us. In my humble opinion, the more complicated technology continues to grow, the more the need for simplicity. Ham radio is just that. Call it "caveman communications" or whatever you wish. The bottom-line is it just works without having to worry about infrastructure. I see many of the younger people starving for nostalgia. They seek it in everything from music to video games. Ham radio gives us a unique connection to the past, all the while connecting us to the latest and greatest communication technology. In short it is a bridge to people of all ages, and locations around the world. There’s a lot to be said about a person who builds their own station to communicate all over the globe. Now that’s the "social media" I want to be involved with!

## The Future of Ham Radio Will’s Perspective



Will N2UXJ WECA Publicity

As publicity director I was asked to write something on the future of Ham Radio and in my capacity handling the tasks of PR, I will address my comments to cover this from the Publicity perspective.

As we all know the march of technology seems to stride ahead in ever larger leaps and bounds. What we can only imagine, will soon take shape and leave the old technology in the dust. But the real question at root is what are we doing with all this stuff? Communications! Whether it is your land line phone from MaBell, now a IP phone from your cable provider. Or wireless two way, then CB, now Cell Phone, all this stuff has the same purpose, communications.

As we know, all this stuff can fail, when disaster strikes, and the power goes out. Phone networks, cell sites, and the rest will fail to operate, as they lose power and networks are overloaded. So as always, ham radio steps in as a back up to continue communications. Our networks, and message handling procedures are built to pass the messages near and far, no mater what. The technology we use is no longer tube driven, and I am sure the circuit boards, and components we see in radios will continue to evolve, as engineers and scientists make new discoveries, like one I read about with a new diode based on light, not electrons (not a LED)!

As for publicity, the way to get the press attention to cover our events, the technology in regards to this continues to evolve. Once upon a time ago, I would send a fax to a news room and hope it didn't end up in a circular file. Now most newsrooms don't even publish a fax number. Email, and more recently twitter and tweets are what are driving the news. As a consequence of this, our club now has a twitter account to help spread the word, to the media

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*“when disaster strikes, and the power goes out. Phone networks, cell sites, and the rest will fail to operate, as they lose power and networks are overloaded. So as always, ham radio steps in as a back up to continue communications.”*

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## The Future of Ham Radio Will's Perspective (Continued)

and beyond. So if you want to stay current with our latest use of technology to do what we do best, follow @pressweca on twitter.

In conclusion, we will always see new devices that capture our imaginations, and as always the technology will march on. As the car replaced the horse drawn carriage, and cell phone replaces the land line, each replacement filled the use or need of the item it replaced. You still needed transportation. You still needed a way to communicate. Ham radio will have a future, as long as a new generation sees the need and value of the communications that we provide, and the fact that ours will still work when some one pulls the plug.

Respectfully,

Will n2uxj

## Stan Chimes in on The Future of Ham Radio

I am trying to catch up on some of the items I have not had time for lately. This reminded me of our conversation Monday evening.

Where do I think amateur radio is going? Heck I have no idea. No one said I was smart.

Our hobby is changing so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up. When I was a new ham we were still using CW and AM. Then this new technology arrived. It was called single side band or by most at that time silly side band. It improved with time and no longer sounds like Donald Duck. As we look into the future from that time there have been a lot of changes in our operating modes and practices. We use satellites to communicate through with voice, code, video and a variety of other digital modes.

We still communicate with friends around the world as well as around the corner. We still help each other out and provide public service assistance when and where needed.

SO where are we going with our hobby? Exactly the same place amateurs have been going for the last 100 years only we are doing it with new technology and adding a new breed of ham as well.

Stan WA2NRV



In the field

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*"We still communicate with friends around the world as well as around the corner. We still help each other out and provide public service assistance when and where needed."*



Stan WA2NRV WECA Director At Large

## AI KD2DMV WECA Newsletter Editor



AI KD2DMV WECA Newsletter  
Editor

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*“At our last board meeting some one blurted out “it’s the people” “*

This idea about what is the future of Amateur Radio is not a new one but it is one that concerns all who have a license.

We have so much powerful technology in our hands in our cell phones, a radio, that it is hard to see what might make an HT, Mobile, or Base station relevant in the 21st century. Natural disasters is one and less severe emergencies would be a place for Radio Technology. Emergency service workers make use of it daily but the majority of the population is satisfied with black box technology and never feeling a need to understand that technology at the surface.

I would say that Public Service is one of the places where one can join fun and skill into Radio as a hobby. These same skills can be employed in emergency service and disasters. But not everyone is interested in that aspect.

Technologies and the convergence of differing technologies is one possibility. Amateur Radio was a hotbed for technology development. We might not be using the cell phones we all use daily but for groundwork laid down by Amateur Radio operators.

At our last board meeting some one blurted out “it’s the people” and Brian was saying it is a social media. I think that is where the future lies. It may be less about the technology and more about Ham Radio as its own form of social media.

One might see Field Day as a Ham Radio Picnic where family, friends and other like minded folks socialize together and from far away.

Hooray for Ham Radio, the 100 years of the Amateur Radio Relay League, and Field Day 2014

AI KD2DMV



## WECA VE Sessions

### Westchester County, NY - Ham Radio License Exam Sessions

Exams are given at the Westchester County Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY (off route 9A).

Contact: Stan Rothman (WA2NRV), 914.949.1463 or send email to wa2nrv at weca dot 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.

Next Exam July 10th at 7 PM Walk-Ins Okay

### Pictures of Field Day's Past

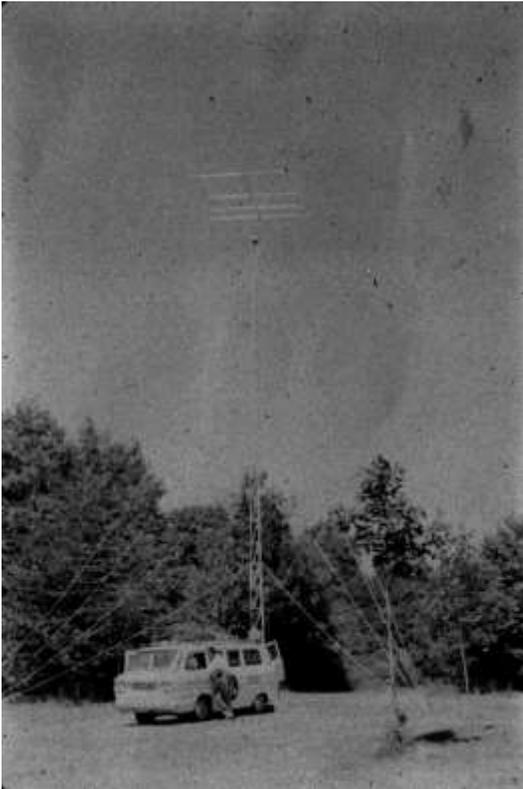




## Westchester Emergency Communications Association

PO Box 831 Sleepy Hollow, NY 10509-0831, 914.741.6606

[Www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org) or [www.weca.club](http://www.weca.club)



To the Left an old picture I got from Stan WA2NRV

Below a marvelous night time shot from Harbor Island Park by Fuat Baran N2YGN who as it stands was also the WECA Newsletter Editor. The background for the frontpage utilizes this image. Thanks for permission to use it Fuat.

