The Westchester Emergency Communications Association

WECAGRAM

AMATEUR RADIO / EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
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WECA.org

WECAgram

Fall 2016 Edition

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Welcome back to WECA

Our fall season begins with our monthly Ham Radio technology meeting that will be held on Monday, September 12 at 7pm. The meeting will be at the Westchester County Center, which is located at the corner of Old Tarrytown Road and Central Park Avenue. We usually meet on the first floor in the meeting rooms. Talk-in is on 147.06 + with a PL of 114.8.

Our guest speaker will be Tom Raffaelli / WB2NHC who is our Emergency Communications Director. Tom's presentations are always very interesting and concentrates on Ham Radio operating, emergency communications, and public service events that the club is so involved with, especially this time of the year.

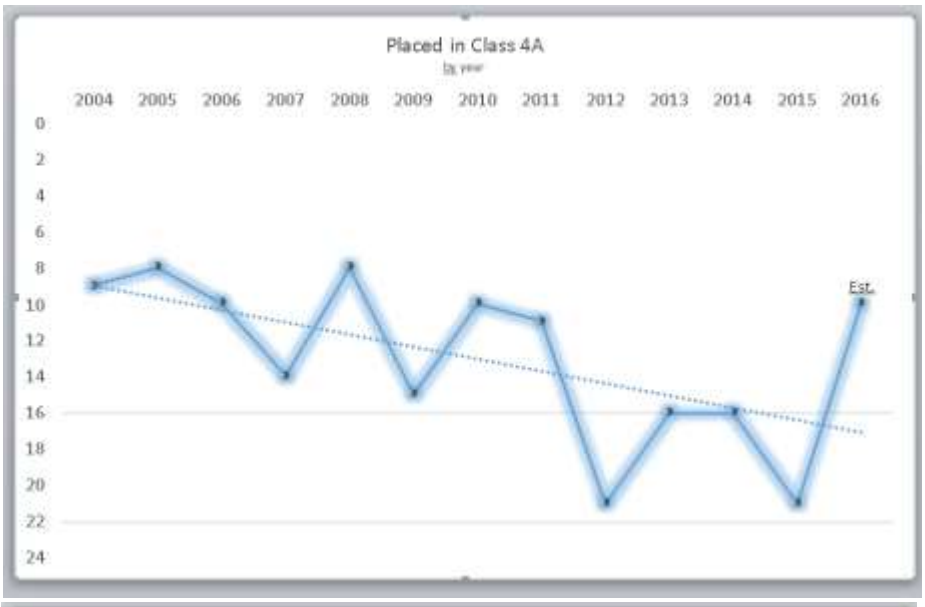
The social half hour begins at 7pm with Tom's presentation beginning at 730.

And then after the return of monthly meetings we have five public service events, two on the same day, and there are some RACES/ARES events forthcoming in the fall.

So summer is ending and the busy fall season is beginning.

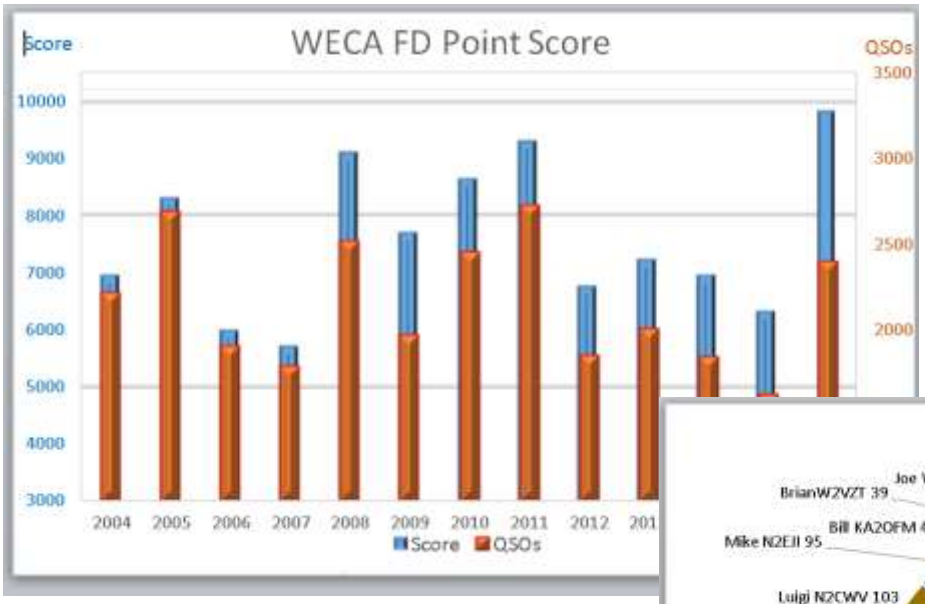
Al K2DMV

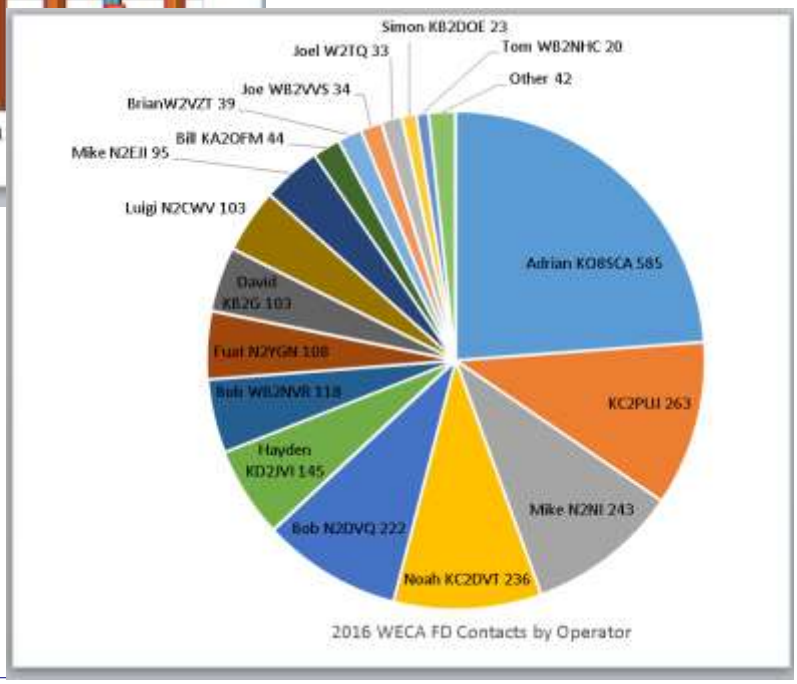
Field Day 2016 Statisitics by Bob N2DVQ



Bob N2DVQ sent over these graphics to show the improvement in scoring this year. It is very good indeed congratulations to all those that participated.

Al K2DMV





Fall Trainings and Education

Entry Level Ham Radio License Class This Fall!

Classes start Tuesday evening, September 13th

Have you ever thought about or considered becoming an Amateur Radio "Ham" operator? Here is a great opportunity to learn about Ham radio and to study for your license with seasoned Ham radio operators as your teachers and mentors!

The Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA: www.weca.org) is proud to sponsor a **free** Technician Class License course. Come take your first steps and join the exciting world of Amateur Radio. Enjoy talking to other Amateur Radio Operators, near and far! Want to experiment with new technologies that utilize computers interfaced with radios? Would you like to join forces with county government and local volunteer organizations as Amateur Radio Operators for Emergency Communications assistance and Public Service events? Take your first steps by joining us for this interactive course taught by a team of knowledgeable Amateur Radio Operators with a passion for their subjects.

You can get an Amateur Radio Technician license by passing a 35-question multiple-choice examination. ***No Morse code test*** *is required! The exam covers basic regulations, operating practices, and electronics theory, with a focus on VHF and UHF applications.*

All information needed to pass the test will be covered in this course.

The required text is the "*ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Edition*". The book includes access to on-line practice tests. An accompanying text, "*ARRL's Tech Q&A 6th Edition*" is helpful. These are available from:
ARRL, http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training, 860-594-0259
Gene, KJI Electronics, Cedar Grove, NJ, www.kjielectronics.com, 973-571-1930

Amazon, www.amazon.com Be sure to order the correct editions.

Please obtain the text(s) and begin reading.
This free course will be held at the Westchester Fire Training Academy, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY. **Classes will start on Tuesday evening, September 13th** and run for nine weeks on Tuesday evenings from 7-9:15 PM. On Thursday evening of the last week, amateur radio volunteer examiners will administer the FCC test for the Technician license at the same location (there is a $15 fee to take the test).
If you or someone you know would like to **become an FCC licensed Radio Amateur**, please let me know you will be attending (appreciated but not required). Licensed amateurs who would like to brush up on the subjects covered are also welcome.

Please contact me by email at W2UL@WECA.org **today** to become a Ham Radio Operator!

SOW and HF Operations Training Event

sow and hf training session

- **introduction**

The Westchester County Department of Emergency Services (WCDES) owns two Site-on-Wheels (SOW) portable towers. They are deployed and operated by the Westchester ARES/RACES Group (WA/RG). Deployment and operations training is held periodically to keep the Group members qualified in their use.

The Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) will sponsor an HF operation training session to acquaint new licensees in the rules and procedures for operating Amateur Radio Stations in the HF bands. Part of the operating training will be participation in the New York State QSO Party. This is a contest that is held annually on the third Saturday of October from 10am to 10pm EST. Although the contest allows phone, digital and CW operation, the training will concentrate on the phone (SSB) only portion of the contest. Rules for the contest can be found at: http://nyqp.org/NYQP_Rules.pdf
These two events will be held simultaneously on Saturday, October 15th from 9am to 10pm EST with the twin objectives of SOW training and HF operating training.

WCDES will provide classroom and outdoor space for the event at its Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, New York.

- **facility**

The Fire training center classroom has a computer and projector for presentation of instruction material. The classroom is also equipped with HF and VHF Amateur radios with appropriate antennas on the roof. Vending machines for snacks and drinks are located in the lunchroom area. Restrooms are located off the main hallway as well. Participants are responsible for providing their meals during the day. Fast food locations and restaurants are within a short driving distance.

WECA will provide coffee and donuts at 8AM before the event starts.

- **SOW Training**

SOW2 will be utilized for this event. It is a 100ft retracting aluminum tower mounted on a trailer with a generator and public safety and emergency services radios in a cabinet. A classroom training session will be held at 9AM that will cover safety issues and instructions for deployment of the SOW. Following the classroom training, participants will deploy the unit in the field. A three element HF beam antenna will be assembled and mounted on the tower and raised to maximum height. Coaxial cables will be used to connect the antenna to the RACES Truck for the HF operating portion of the event. The classroom training will be repeated at 6PM and the tower lowered at 7PM.

The RACES Truck is a communications vehicle owned by WCDES and operated by WA/RG. It contains five operating positions, a generator and a 42ft pneumatic mast. A second three element beam antenna and a G5RV dipole will be mounted on the mast.

- **HF Operating training**

A Flex radio will be operational in the classroom. Briefings on how to operate in the HF bands will be given at 10AM, 2PM and 6PM if attendees are present. Contest operating will be included.

Two contest quality radios will be set up in the RACES Truck. Students will be paired with an in-

SOW and HF Operations Training Event *Continued*

structor and assigned timeslots in one half hour intervals for training and operating throughout the day. Additional Instructors will be on hand to provide coaching to the operators. Participants may operate multiple ½ hour shifts depending on the number hams that wish to operate. Operating times will be posted outside the RACES Truck and in the classroom.

- **Registration**

All Amateur radio operators and anyone interested in Amateur Radio are welcome to attend this event. Pre-registration is required for all participants as this is a secure facility. Registration will close on October 1, 2016. Walk-ons will not be admitted. To register please send email to hftraining@weca.org. Please include your name, Amateur Radio callsign, class of license and phone number. You will receive a return email confirming your registration and asking for your preferred operating times. .

Public Service Events

Sunday, Sep 18	Hudson Valley Bike Ride	SUNY Purchase, NY
Sunday, Sep 25	Paine to Pain Trail 1/2 Marathon	New Rochelle, NY
Sunday, Sep 25	Westchester Triathlon	Croton Pt, NY
Sunday, Oct 16	Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger	Croton Pt Park, NY
Sunday, Nov 20	Mamaroneck Turkey Trot	Mamaroneck, NY @ 9:00am

We have five scheduled Public service events this Fall and two are on the same day. Kathleen KC2VCT is always looking for volunteers and in the last year we have been filling all the slots. That doesn't mean we don't need more or even a few backups and trainees. Please contact Kathleen by email at kc2vct@yahoo.com or PublicService@weca.org

We had great weather at most of this years events and with luck we can manage that again. The Hudson valley Bike Ride is later and likely will be more comfortable than last year. Late September should be great for the always pleasant Paine To Pain. The Westchester Triathlon is a new event for us this year but Croton and Croton Point Park are great spots to spend time at. Harry Chapin will be a joint venture for us with members of PCARA participating in the event.
Last year the weather was so nice for the Mamaroneck Turkey Trot try not to miss them this year

Al K2DMV

Club Project (Building a J-Pole Antenna)

The WECA J-Pole project was conducted on Sunday at the home of Stan WA2NRV. After the participants arrived Stan gave a short safety talk including exits and where the bathrooms were situated. He also showed where the food was set up since hams can not work on a empty stomach. He showed a completed J-Pole antenna and handed out instructions and components required for the project. Some members brought tools to be used to build the antenna and there were others available on the tables. As the project started each member grew serious for at least 2 minutes. Then the jokes and comments started. While kidding each other everyone also helped each other both by adding helping hands and advise. We all enjoyed the day, the food, and the spirit of the day. We also went home with antennas to use at club events or on Vacation. Stan manages to emphasize the vacation element with his Hawaiian outfit.

I want to note that we almost did not have the project on Sunday. The company we ordered the 300 ohm antenna wire from almost a month ago had not shipped it. When called on the Wednesday before the project they said they were still getting the wire and should have it someday. After a lot of calls I spoke to Joel at THE RF Connection. He was a pleasure to talk to and shipped the cable the same day. Fedex delivered it the next day saving our project. If you need any connectors, cable or RF parts I would checking The RF Connection http.//www.therfc.com. Also thanks to Radar N2GDY who picked up parts for us at the Sussex Hamfest. He also donated the coax we used.

Hope to see more of you for our next club project.

Stan WA2NRV

The following are the members that were able to make it.

KC2UAP, Victor. KC2WGX Bruce, KD2DOE Simon, KD2HYA Tony, KA2KCE Tony,
KB!KQD Robert, K2DMV Al, KD2HQZ Teddy, KC2NQL Ellen. KD2JYY Steve, WA2NRV Stan

Photographic Evidence (Club project *continued*)

Directors Reports

Stan WA2NRV

The WECA VE session on September 8th produced a new Tech class amateur radio operator. Although there was another test taker scheduled he had difficulty with transportation. He said we will see him next year. Our outstanding WECA VE team goes out of their way to make the test takers comfortable and at ease during the WECA VE sessions. This is part of the reason we have such a high success rate during our exam sessions. Three times during the year a high percentage of the pass rate is due to the WECA radio license classes and Larrie W2UL and his team of instructors.

Miscellaneous

Upcoming Meetings:

Oct 11 (Tuesday)
Nov 14 (Monday)
Dec 12 (Monday)

If you have an idea for a WECA Meeting or would like to make a presentation to the group, please contact Brian / W2BZT or send email to Meetings@Weca.Org

Upcoming VE 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@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.