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WECAGram

Winter 2016 Edition

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Is it really Winter 2016, the calendar sure indicates that it is. Being it is winter that means it is time for Ham Radio University 2016.

I met up with Stan WA2NRV, Tony KD2HYA, and Mike W2IGG at 8:00 AM to head down to Briarcliff College In Bethpage, NY on Sunday Morning. It was raining cats and dogs but we were in good shape as we were safe in the capable hands of WA2NRV whose kept us safe in a few tight spots and got us to our destination.

I personally decided this year not to have any public or announced resolutions.

I think if I did have one it would go something like this, "More". More what? More of whatever was good about 2015 or any previous year. Going to Ham Radio University with some great friends sure is starting off on a good foot where "More" is concerned.

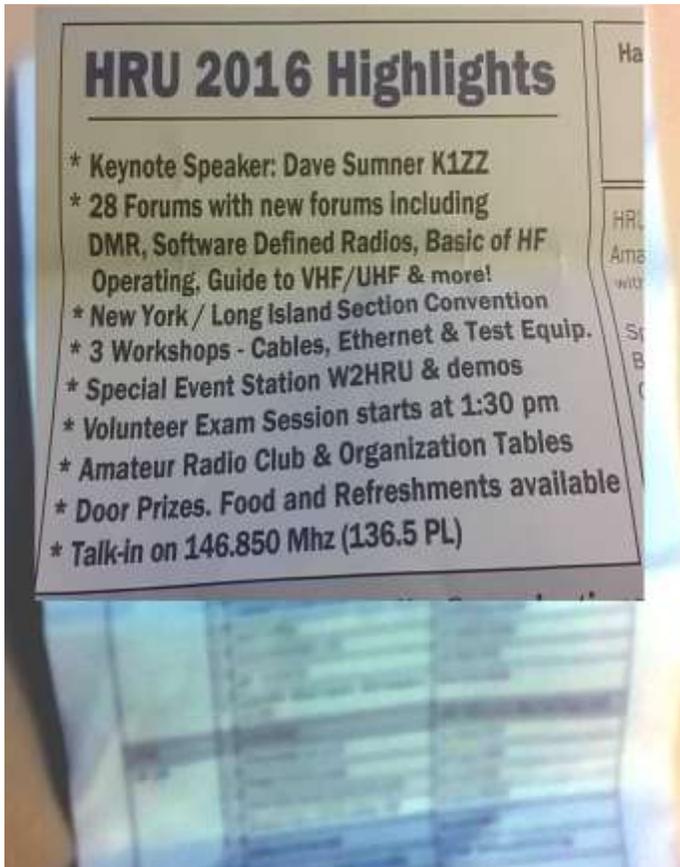
What else can I say about the beginnings of 2016

Maybe this "how bout that weather" and "is this really Winter" Maybe I will regret these thoughts but it sure was hard to tell that Sunday the 11th of January.

Happy New Year to you all AI K2DMV



Ham Radio University 2016



As I said on the first page four of us Stan WA2NRV, Tony KD2HYA, and Mike W2IGG set off on the rainy morning of January 10th to have a nice time at Ham Radio University. For three of us it was our very first time and honestly I think we all thoroughly enjoyed it. We met up with Steve KD2OFD, Jay N1NRP, Joey KC2ESU, Bill KA2OFM, Todd KD2CBV and Hanley (KD2CBV's K9 Assistant both Southern District Net Regulars), Marlon KC1EHW, and Victor KC2UAP. We met a few voices from SDN and now have some faces to go with golden throats and callsigns. Matt KC2YDT and Jerry N2WGF both regulars on the southern district net. Dave K1ZZ gave a nice speech about the future of ham radio and his forthcoming retirement as the ARRL CEO.

Highlights for me were... all the hams I get to meet at HRU, Transmitter Hunting, SDR, NTS, EmComm all of which were well represented topics at HRU this year. Now if the weather was this nice every year for HRU I bet more people would come. And even if the weather isn't this nice more should get here next year.

AI K2DMV



Tony KD2HYA



Mamaroneck Turkey Trot 2015

Kathleen KC2VCT



I hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday and were able to relax and enjoy family and friends.

It's been a week since last Sunday's Turkey Trot, an event that would not have been as successful if not for your participation. Thank you, not only on behalf of the Mamaroneck Parks Department, but on behalf of the WECA membership. By taking the time to volunteer for this event in particular, you demonstrate your sense of service to the amateur radio community, as well as, the Mamaroneck Harbor community at large.

Best wishes for a New Year filled with health and happiness,

Kathleen KC2VCT

Turkey Trot 2015 Pictures

AI K2DMV

Marlon KC1EHW, Don WK2RP, Teddy KD2HQZ



Rich KC2HZW



Jay N1NRP



Larry WA2RMB



Jay N1NRP



Joey KC2ESU, Grant KC2FNU, Charlie KB2LLV, AI K2DMV, Kathleen KC2VCT, Peter N2TFC



Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger 2015

Kathleen KC2VCT



Malcolm NM9J

Greg KB2COE

Thank you all for stepping up and helping out at the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger on Sunday. It was the first time, we had been involved in an event with snow fall and I want you to know that in spite of it all, you did a great job! It was a bit chillier than our usual October events, but when the sun was out, it was beautiful.

I think that the Race Director and the Peekskill club were happy to have us there to help. Personally, for me, I like when we are able to work together with other groups, you know, step outside of our comfort zone... to be challenged! Our experience communicating in that area was helpful as well. I do want to send a special thanks out to Jude 'the new guy' and Bob for showing him the ropes!

Again, my thanks to you all for coming out to help feed hungry folks.



Steve KD20FD

Malcolm MN9J



Larrie W2UL



Officer and Director Reports

Bill KA2OFM President raised the suggestion that we **consider** asking members if they would like to go to a Yankees Game as a group. No decision has been made after a discussion.

Al K2DMV Newsletter Editor reported that the Winter Newsletter will be published in the new year. He also would like to follow up on the October general meeting by working with Rich Benda on the feasibility of implementing an NBEMs network in our area. He will get more info on what would be involved and see if there is interest in this mode.

Peter N2TFC Membership Director/CIO reported that there are still 16 members who have not renewed. He explained that the protocol he follows is: to send out a printed mailing with the dues notices followed by email to non-responders two weeks later. This is followed by another printed mailing and then a final email. He then calls any people who **have not renewed**. Peter then requested people email him with info for the Website and URLs of informative ham related websites or artless to be listed on our website.

Bob N2DVQ Engineering Director reported success on his contest training with Noah KC2DVT as a model of what we may plan to do in the future. He reported that the power amp for the 147.06 repeater was not working properly and is now fixed. The receiver/transmitter remote on the Courthouse had a Diamond antenna which he recently replaced with a 2-bay antenna which has higher gain and better coverage. He remarked that we need to have activity on our Facebook page.

Dwight N2FMC Repeater Operations Director reported that D-Star has been on and off and is now on again. He then spoke about the Kenwood TH-F6 radio and reported that this multiband radio is excellent and that 220 is a great band. He then discussed about DMR: the problem with becoming part of DMR is **that we need to be “nailed” to the DMR network full-time, as part of DMR policy. WECA’s primary responsibility** in using the Valhalla antenna is for public service and, in case of a Public Safety emergency event, we need to have a way to disconnect from DMR network, so that we could provide dedicated analog FM access during an emergency. He also suggested that we should look at Two Meter D-Star as well.

Kathleen KC2VCT Public Service Director reported that Public Service had a good year and there were many new hams that participated. She made suggestions for a possible lunch at a restaurant called “The Cabin” which would be about \$25 and has good food for an event with the club after New Year's.

Richard KC2HZW Social Director/President Emeritus reported the he will have a presentation sometime in January or February on HF and will also show SDR within the presentation.

Director Reports Continued

Will N2UXJ **Publicity Director** says that our Twitter account **has** 47 followers and that we follow 25 other people. If people want, they should be using our twitter accounts @PressWECA to keep it active.

Stan WA2NRV **Director At Large** says that things within WECA are good and that he's heard quite a bit from members. During the November VE section, 10 new hams passed examinations with 8 receiving technician licenses and 2 receiving general licenses. He feels the reason for the 100% pass rate was due to the quality of the course organized by Larry W2UL. He says the VE team works hard to put candidates at ease, that they share verbally about WECA, about what we do and why it would be important for them to join. **He also reported that the Elmer's program and his loan closet remain active.**



Miscellaneous

Upcoming Meetings:

Next Meeting Wednesday February 10th. Please consult the website for any updates.
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 Public Service Events:

To Be Announced

Please contact Kathleen PublicService@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. Please bring copies of your ID and license.



Westchester Emergency Communications Association
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Www.weca.org or www.weca.club