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THE WECAGRAM



Newsletter of the

Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and serving Amateurs since 1972

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WECAFEST

by **Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC**

Well it's that time again. Summer WECAFEST will be held on Sunday, September 14th at Yonkers Raceway. We will admit sellers starting at 6 a.m. and buyers starting at 8 a.m. This is a new time for buyers. It was made one hour earlier to thin out the backlog at admissions. There will be no license exams and no forums.

As usual, it will be all outdoors. We will be located where the old building was torn down. This is now new blacktop. The buyers' and

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sellers' entrances are in the same places as when the building was there.

As always, the success of our event depends on you. I only coordinate, you all provide the power to make it go. We will need security people, admissions people, parking people, talk-in people and lots of others. When the recruiter calls you, please volunteer to help. It takes about forty people to make the workload light. There is a job for everyone so please pitch in. We are especially looking for some people to do talk-in; Adam and Stan deserve a break from this assignment. If you want to do talk-in please call me at 914-769-1486 to discuss it.

I will go over the details of the operations at the membership meeting on Sept 9th.

See you then. 73.



ENY Emergency Services Family Picnic

by Alan Crosswell, N2YGK

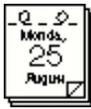
Anthony J. Pazzola, WB2BEJ, ENY Section Emergency Coordinator invites all emergency communicators to a section-wide family picnic on Saturday, August 9th (Sunday rain date) at Lake Taghkanic State Park in Columbia County (just off the Taconic State Parkway between Routes 199 and 82).

The event will last from dawn to dusk and all are invited to bring their families along. Bring your own food (plus perhaps something extra to share).

At 1 p.m. there will be an ARES/RACES meeting at the pavilion near parking lot E.

Talk-in will be on the 146.970 repeater.

For additional information, contact me.



Next Board Meeting

The next WECA board meeting will be on Monday, August 25, at 8 p.m. at the EOC (148 Martine Avenue) in White Plains, NY. Meetings are open to all WECA members.

From the Editor

I hope you all had a fun Field Day. In this issue you will find a few photos from Field Day taken by Darlana Mayo, N2DB, (using a Konica Q-Mini digital camera) and by Ed Maselli, KB2NBO, who used an Epson PhotoPC 500 digital camera. There were many excellent pictures but unfortunately there wasn't enough room to print more. Additional pictures are online at <http://www.weca.org/pix>.

In its 25th Anniversary year, WECA was inducted into the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) as a special honorary member. See the certificate on page 5.

Hope you're all having a great summer.

73,

Wheel and Rock to Woodstock

by Robert Kantor, N2TSE

I'm looking for volunteers for a non-WECA public service event. On September 5-7 (Fri-Sun), there will be a Multiple Sclerosis Association bike tour in the Catskills and they need volunteer communicators at this event. The bike tour is centered around the Kutchers Resort in Sullivan County. The event sponsors will provide full room and board for hams. Communication conditions are rough, and all participating hams need to bring a 2m radio with at least 35W output (e.g. a mobile, or an HT with an amplifier) and a mag-mount antenna. You need to be able to remove your mobile rig and install it in other people's cars using a power cord straight to the vehicle battery.

I need about 20 volunteers. If you're interested, please contact me by August 15 at 914-949-4231 or give me a call on the 2m repeater.

Essay Contest for ENY Amateurs

by Ed Rubin, N2JBA, Net Manager, Hudson Valley Net

I'd like to announce an essay contest for radio amateurs in the Eastern New York Section to commemorate New York State Governor George Pataki's proclamation making the month of June, 1997 "Amateur Radio Month in the Empire State."

The subject of the essay will be how a radio amateur has influenced the life of an individual or a group by some extraordinary act of public service and of course utilizing amateur radio.

The essay must be limited to one standard sized page (8-1/2x11), giving as many details as possible within that limitation.

The contest ends on August 31, 1997, and submissions must be received by that date. There will be prizes for the best submissions!

Please send all entries to: Ed Rubin, N2JBA

Email: erubinjba@juno.com

Packet: N2JBA@WA2YSM.#ENY.NY.USA

US Mail: RR 1 Box 222 A, Amenia, NY 12501

I know that there are hundreds of interesting and poignant public-service-related stories to share with your fellow amateurs in the ENY Section; let's hear from you!

Correspondence

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of WECA who called and sent cards during my recent stay in the hospital. Your prayers and good wishes must have worked since I'm still here. I guess the saying "only the good die young" has some validity to it.

As you can well imagine, it was frustrating to be lying in the shadow of the WECA tower, and not be able to use a radio due to the RF sensitivity in the area (pacemakers, monitoring devices, etc.).

I am home now and expect to be back to my normal routine in a short period of time. Yes, that is a warning!

Again, for my family and I, thank you and I hope to work you on the air soon.

73,

Stan, WA2NRV

Hello

I am Raymond Albanese, N2FXU, new assistant to Sandy, N2SF. I am a ham and a member of WECA once again, after having let my membership lapse for a while. I am a 25 year+ volunteer firefighter with the Eastchester Fire Department (E.F.D), a 17 year+ member of the board of fire commissioners with the E.F.D., and the communications officer of the E.F.D.

I first started out in radio in the very early 1960s as an SWL, graduated to C.B., and opened up a communications business selling all kinds of radios and related gear around 1970. I became a ham in about 1985 as a novice (KA2ZEK), upgraded to tech (N2FXU), then to general, and now advanced.

I will assist Sandy in the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services. I will help upgrade our office's radio system and coordinate communications in Westchester County with Sandy. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at 914-285-2012.

Thanks and 73,

Ray, N2FXU

For Sale

Henry 2K-X console. Triex LM470.
KLM 40M dipole KT-34A.
DTMF auto-call dumb terminal.
Yaesu FT-23R, FT-811
Optoelectronics interceptor Low passfilters (#2).

IBM personal dictation adapters(#2) with software.

Call: Charles Starke, NX2T. 914-923-4185.

June Board Meeting Minutes

by **Sandy Fried, N2SF and Anthony Licata, N2NWZ**

The annual meeting was called to order on June 23, 1997 at 8:09 p.m. by President Joe Brown, KB2NBN. Joe welcomed new board members.

Tom, WB2NHC, made a motion that the notification of the annual meeting as required by the by-laws be waived. Dwight, N2FMC, seconded. Motion passed.

Andy, N4OOX, handed out and read the financial report. WECA had \$58.00 surplus in the 1996 budget. Interim report to be updated

monthly.

The following officers were retained: County Liaison: Sandy, N2SF, and Trustee: Paul, WB2VUK.

Joe, KB2NBN, reported that he couldn't attend the last ENY Presidents meeting.

Sandy, N2SF, reported that Ray Albanese, N2FXU has been hired as his assistant by the County.

Darlana, N2DB, noted that the "Now You're Operating" meeting was not scheduled for this summer.

Peter, N2TFC, reported 270 members; 8 joined in last 10 days. It will cost \$11.00 per new member for badge and WECA operating manual.

Robert, N2TSE, announced the schedule for the Philharmonic concert on July 26th.

Tom, WB2NHC, announced that WECAFEST was going to be on September 14th on the site of the old building. Letters to vendors went out this week.

Joe, KB2NBN, reported that the September membership meeting will be on the 2nd Tuesday, September 9th.

A badge will be given to Assistant Directors. KG2KO will be Assistant Social Director.

The Emil Guerro Award was presented to Adam, N2DHH.

Mike, N2EJI, asked for a list of Field Day equipment owned by the club. Joe, KB2NBN, announced that an inventory will be discussed at the September membership meeting.

Field day planning was discussed.

Latest Call Signs

As of July 20, 1997, the following call signs have been allocated in the "2" call district:

Group A (Extra) AB2DZ

Group B (Advanced) KG2MD

Group C (none left)

Group D (General/Tech/Novice) KC2CFA



Hurricane Melissa Hits New York

by Anthony Licata, N2NWZ

That was the scenario set up by SEMO (State Emergency Management Office) for a tabletop exercise to test the new City of Rye hurricane /coastal storm emergency plan on July 12. The response plan has been in the works for several years and is over 80 pages. The plan outlines the specific duties each City and County agency is responsible for before, during, and after the storm hits. The final version of the plan should have City approval by August. Westchester County RACES is written into the plan to help provide communications. The basic responsibility for RACES is to provide communication links between Rye Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C) and County E.O.C., Red Cross E.O.C., evacuation shelters, United Hospital, and City officials. According to the plan, the primary shelter is at the Rye Country Day School and is operated by the Red Cross. The special needs shelter is at United Hospital.

At the tabletop exercise, all City agencies and departments were represented, along with officials from United Hospital, Red Cross, County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES), Con Ed, and Rye Country Day school. The exercise was moderated by State SEMO officials who gave a timetable of events that were occurring; each agency needed to describe their actions. To keep things interesting SEMO officials threw in a few wrinkles to see how everybody would react. The big wrinkle was a tanker fire by the I287 and I95 exit that released fumes into the air. The shelter at the Day School could not be used because of the danger posed by the accident so even though the shelter was just set up it needed to be moved to Harrison High School. No matter what the plan we always need to be flexible to adjust and react to new situations. The exercise only lasted two hours, but the officials could have made it last longer.

One side note to consider is that with a severe storm, hams could be on duty for long periods of time without relief because nobody might be able to get to you and also there might not be enough manpower. One thing the Rye plan says is to try and get local hams from Rye involved with the plan. Emergency plans are now about to be worked on for Port Chester and the other Sound Shore communities which will involve RACES in similar functions. Anybody interested in helping with these plans should contact Alan, N2YGK, for more information.

Letter from The Families of TWA Flight 800 Assoc., Inc.

Submitted by Darlana Mayo, N2DB

On behalf of the families of TWA Flight 800, we would like to thank you. We know that, just as this disaster has changed our lives forever, it has also changed yours. For this reason, we the families felt it was important to meet with you personally and give you our deepest thanks for all the services you provided. From the N.T.S.B and the F.B.I, to the divers, and to the people that served coffee throughout those difficult days, we say "thank you."

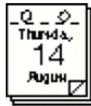
We recognize that without your combined assistance, the recovery of our loved ones would not have been possible. Your willingness and single-minded dedication to the recovery effort provided us with a service that nothing can repay. It was a great comfort to know that so many people were doing all that could be done to help ease our pain during this tremendous tragedy.

We want you to know that just as your prayers supported us in our hours of need, our prayers and hopes were with you as you performed your often grim and dangerous tasks. We felt your love, we heard your kind words, and we want you to know that deep within our hearts, your love and good deeds were deeply appreciated.

Your memory will be forever bonded to the memories of our loved ones. You will not be forgotten.

God bless all of you.

The Families of TWA Flight 800



License Examinations

The next WECA sponsored ARRL VE session will be on Thursday, August 14, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in the County Office Building, sub-basement EOC/ODES office (Office of Disaster and Emergency Services), 148 Martine Avenue, in White Plains, NY (across from The Galleria). For information contact Sandy Fried, N2SF, during regular business hours at 914-285-3029.



Membership Renewal

by Peter Johnson, N2TFC

Watch your mail for your WECA membership renewal package, which will be mailed out in August

Field Day 1997

by Joe Bruno, WB2VVS

This year, WECA's Field Day efforts were tremendous. We made over 2,500 QSOs around the world. We had *two* towers erected for the 20 meter phone station, one for 20 CW, one for VHF/UHF/Microwave, one for Satellite, a wire beam for 40 CW, a large wire array for 160-40 phone, a dipole for the Novice station, a very interesting looking copper antenna for APRS, and the comm van's antenna for packet. Did I leave any out? We had a fiber optic network running CT software for logging and inter-station comments, and, of course, we had good food. Thanks to all who helped.

The day after this "emergency preparedness" demonstration and exercise, I was at the EOC with Sandy, N2SF, when the fire and police radios got very busy. Although it didn't get much press, if any, there had been a problem with a plane landing at Westchester Airport. The landing gear collapsed on a landing plane. We *almost* called out ARES and RACES, and almost rolled the comm van again, but stopped when we heard there were no injuries and the call for fire departments had been recinded. (To our relief... TWA Flight 800 was recent enough in our memories.) I was glad we had been involved in the Westchester County Airport's disaster drill. Those of us who participated in it knew precisely what we'd do if called upon. While these drills can, at times, be somewhat less than exciting, their value is evident when there is an actual disaster.

This "almost" callout of hams put the original purpose of Field Day into focus for me. I enjoy Field Day, but perhaps it should be modified in some way to reflect how we would really respond in an emergency? Certainly the skills learned about putting up antennas and using emergency power are excellent. But perhaps there should be a component about local communications also?



Photo: KB2NBO



Photo: KB2NBO



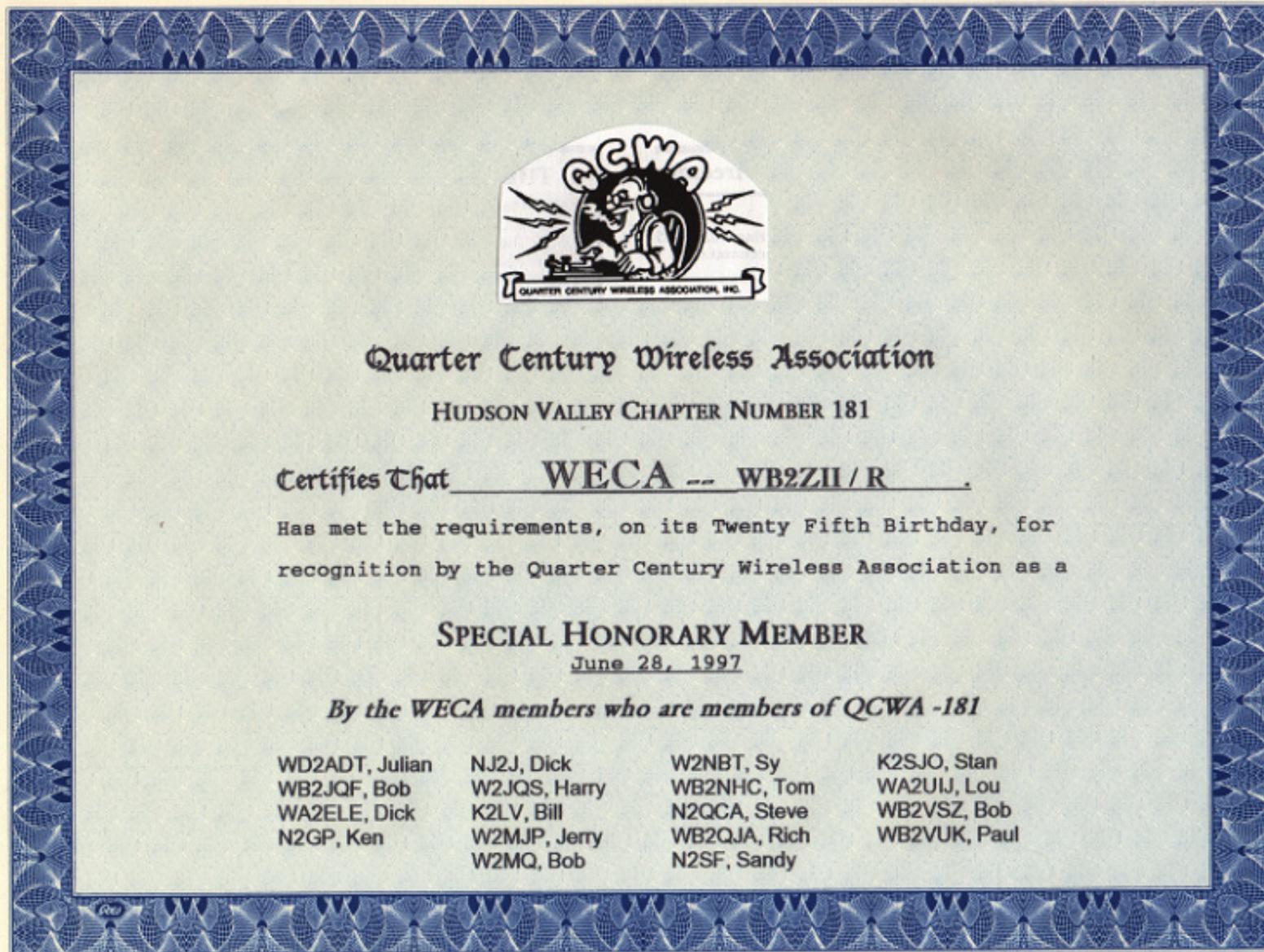
Photo: KB2NBO

Happy 25th Anniversary, WECA!



Photo: N2DB

Scan: N2TFC



Michigan Ham Aids Stranded Connecticut Motorists

by Steve Bozak, WB2IQU

Reprinted with permission from Wavelengths, Vol. 1, No. 2, May 1997

On the evening of March 31, 1997, I was traveling north on Route 7 near West Cornwall, Connecticut. There was snow, wet and heavy, but there was no wind. Visibility was only a few hundred feet. It was around 8:00 p.m. when I came upon a large truck as it slid to a stop in front of me. A very large tree had just fallen across the road and was caught up in the power lines. The truck couldn't stop and hit the tree straight on! Into the windshield it came. I hopped out of my car to see if the driver was OK. He was fine although a bit shaken.

The scene was surreal. There was total darkness here, reminding me of caverns deep underground. The heavy snow quickly made my hair and coat wet as I stood talking to the truck driver. He had a radio in his truck and he tried it as I waited. He couldn't raise anyone. I tried my cell phone. The screen said "no service" which meant I was out of range.

Three more cars arrived at our location and were also forced to stop. Soon about eight people had come out of their cars and were standing around the smashed truck. I asked a lady if there was another route north. She said yes, but that she had returned to this route because the other was closed by downed trees.

When I returned to my vehicle I saw I had only about 1/8 of a tank of gas. It was probably not enough to keep me going all night. I shut off my car and stepped out into the snow. I could hear trees cracking and falling in the woods all around me. I asked another driver where the nearest gas station was, but he said power was out all over so I probably wouldn't find gas tonight. I thought, I don't even have a phone out here. That's not a good feeling for a city boy.

Suddenly, I heard a loud crack and then a smash in the road behind me. Another tree had fallen trapping all four cars and the truck! We ran to the new fallen tree to see if we could move it but it was too big. I heard another tree fall again in front. I got back in my car and moved it closer to the truck in hopes that the next falling tree wouldn't hit my car. I felt I had to do something soon. Highly motivated to get out of there, I remembered my ham radio on the dash. Local VHF was my first choice. I tried every repeater frequency, but no luck. Maybe the power was off and the repeaters were off the air. There was no response on VHF simplex channels either. I was feeling desperate.

Most amateurs operate their mobile units on VHF and UHF frequencies, but I happen to have a shortwave radio in my vehicle. It was worth a try. A gentleman from Kalamazoo, Michigan answered my call on 3.867 MHz. He said he would phone my wife in Albany and tell her I'd be late. Yes, thank you, and be sure to say I am all right, just stuck for a while. He confirmed he had reached my wife Joan and that it was snowing heavily at home. The Kalamazoo station then said he would call the Connecticut State Police. I wondered how a call from Michigan telling of motorists stranded in Connecticut would be received. Connecticut State Police dispatchers never missed a beat. Help was on the way.

I happily told the other stranded motorists. Now I had a chance to enjoy the moment in the countryside. The air was fresh and moist. The sound of cracking trees echoed through the woods. Best of all the sweet smell of broken wood as the trees fell. Smells like cold birch and sassafras that I'll never forget. The police came about an hour later. They cut us out and even drew me a map of how to get back to Albany. I arrived home the next morning for breakfast with the kids and we found school was closed. We all went back to bed.

A Definitive Clarification of Time Measurement

by John Lavery <jrl@taf.npl.co.uk>

via Peter B Ladkin <ladkin@rvs.uni-bielefeld.de>

From Risks-Forum Digest Volume 19, Number 14

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In Britain, the National Physical Laboratory is the canonical site for questions concerning standard time, and the Royal Greenwich Observatory (which is now in Cambridge) refers all questions there. I talked to Dr. John Lavery of Time and Frequency Services, CETM (jrl@taf.npl.co.uk), who kindly supplied me with the following account of time standards.

The position of the sun in the sky has been used as a basis for measuring time for many centuries. One simple example is that 12 noon in local solar time occurs when the sun is directly "overhead." However, local solar time does not provide as uniform a time scale as that based more implicitly on the rotation of the Earth about its axis. The Earth's orbit is elliptical and its axis tilted, so that the actual position of the sun against the background of stars appears a little ahead or behind the expected position. The accumulated error varies from 14 minutes slow in February to 16 minutes fast in November. These effects can be predicted, and a more uniform timescale can be established on the basis of a hypothetical "mean" sun that moves with uniform speed across the sky. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is probably the most well known example of such a time scale: GMT is the local time on the Greenwich meridian based on the position of a hypothetical mean sun.

The need to coordinate time measurement and agree on a standard time was driven by improved communications, particularly by the railways, when the differences in the local time at different locations became very noticeable. Greenwich Mean Time was established as a world time standard at the International Meridian Conference in 1884. The time scales in active use today are Universal Time (UT), Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and International Atomic Time (TAI). They are described below along with some of the reasons for their use.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and Universal Time (UT) are very closely related. Before 1925 January 1, the twenty four hour GMT day was taken to commence at noon, while since that date the convention has been for the GMT day to begin at midnight. The term Universal Time (UT) was introduced in 1928 by astronomers to denote GMT measured from Greenwich Mean Midnight, to be clear about the convention for the start of the day.

Now there are actually three different definitions: UT0, UT1, UT2. UT0 is based on "direct" observation of the earth's rotation on the prime meridian, UT1 is adjusted to account for the small movements of the Earth relative to the axis of rotation (polar variations), and UT2 adjusts for seasonal variations. The maximal difference between all three is of the order of a few tens of milliseconds. The term "UT" thus crudely refers to all three for large granularities, and for finer granularity, the term is ambiguous and one needs to specify which of the UTs one is referring to.

Starting in the 1930's with the development of quartz crystal oscillators, but particularly in the 1950's with the introduction of atomic clocks, better measurements have been available. As a consequence of studies comparing atomic clocks and astronomical observations, it was realised that atomic clocks offered a much more stable time standard than one based on the rotation of the Earth. In 1967, the SI

[Système International] second was redefined as "the second is the duration of 9192631770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium 133 atom." The international time scale based on the SI second is International Atomic Time (TAI). TAI was synchronised with UT at the beginning of 1958. It is a

more stable time scale than UT, but UT and TAI naturally drift apart because they are based on different principles.

Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) is a compromise between TAI and UT and was established in its current form on 1 January 1972. It uses the SI definition of the second, but introduces leap seconds by convention in order that the difference between UTC and UT shall never be more than one second. There have been 20 leap seconds introduced since January 1972; the first at 1 July 1972. The 21st leap second is scheduled for 1 July 1997. So UTC and TAI run in lockstep, but with conventional separation, which is now 30 seconds and will become 31 seconds on 1 July 1997. (By the beginning of 1972 TAI and UT had drifted apart by 10 seconds from the "synchronisation" point at the beginning of 1958, which accounts for the extra 10 seconds in addition to the leap seconds.) UTC is the current world time standard, as indicated by the recommendations of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), for example.

There are some 50 or so centers around the world which measure TAI/UTC using commercial atomic clocks, with just a few laboratory-based "primary" caesium standards which are able to measure the time with greatest accuracy. The PTB in Germany has the distinction of having the longest running and most reliable primary caesium standards. The NPL, having developed the first caesium atomic clock in the 1950's, is currently working on the "next generation" standard based on the caesium fountain method demonstrated at the LPTF in Paris. There are other primary caesium standards at NIST in the US, NRC in Canada, CRL in Japan and in Moscow. The institute responsible for maintaining TAI and UTC is the BIPM in Paris, and the decision as to when to introduce leap seconds is made by the IERS, also in Paris, who measure UT also.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) no longer maintains their own time standard. It is recognised that GMT and UT are equivalent, so that now the IERS provide the information necessary to determine GMT. However, the appropriate definition of UT should be used instead of GMT if the distinction between UT0, UT1 and UT2 is important for a given application.

The time standards that are so carefully measured by astronomers and meteorologists need to be made available if they are to be of use, and radio time signals are one of the most common ways of making UTC available. In Western Europe, NPL broadcasts the UK time on 60 kHz from the BT Radio Station at Rugby (call sign MSF), and similarly, the PTB broadcasts Central European Time from Frankfurt (call sign DCF77) on 77.5 kHz. There are similar transmitters operated by other countries around the globe. The other common means of accessing standard time is through the Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation system, where accurate position and time information allow a receiver to calculate its position from the times of flight (at the speed of light) of signals from a number of GPS satellites. The GPS system was developed, as its name implies, for positioning, but a welcome spin-off is accurate time. The GPS time signals offer high-accuracy UTC (one microsecond time accuracies are readily achievable) and global coverage, but the LF radio time signals, although limited to a range of typically 1500 km, offer the advantage of broadcasting the local time including summertime changes

August 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	1	2 ARRL UHF N. Amer. QSO (CW) Ten-Ten Summer (Phone)
3 ● NM YARC VE Session ARRL UHF N.A. CW Ten-Ten	4	5	6	7	8	9 ENY Emerg. Svc Picnic MD-DC QSO
10 MD-DC QSO	11 ● PQ	12	13	14 WECA VE Session	15	16 NI QSO ARRL 10 GHz+ N. Amer. QSO (Phone)
17 NI QSO ARRL 10 GHz+ N. Amer. QSO (Phone)	18 ○ FM	19	20	21	22	23
24 YARC Hamfest	25 ● LQ WECA Board Meeting	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 ● NM	2	3	4	5	6

Summer WECAFEST: September 14, Yonkers Raceway