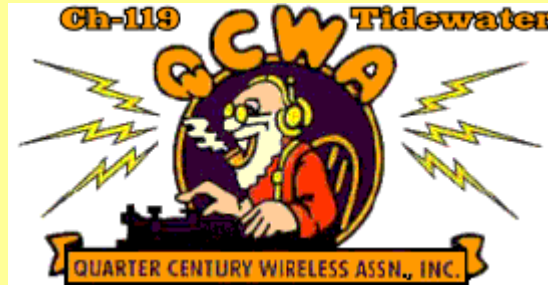


QCWA Chapter 119 Event Horizon



CELEBRATING
QCWA CHAPTER 119
THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
1979 – 2009

A Chapter Newsletter published weekly
This Issue: May 29 – Jun 5, 2009

Volume 4, Number 20

JUNE MEETING

19 June 2009

**Meeting at our regular Virginia Beach
Location**

**Frankie's Place for Ribs
5200 Fairfield Shopping Center
Virginia Beach, VA 23464**

(At the corner of Providence and Kempsville Roads)

12:00 Noon

PROGRAM: TBA
Program Suggestions Welcome

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. A very interesting issue of CQ Magazine arrived in my mailbox yesterday. A fine issue loaded with 115 pages of mostly great articles and news items.

Much there to interest the active on-the-air types. If you're not subscribing to CQ Magazine then perhaps you should be.

I took great pleasure in noting that QCWA's own George (Roach), VE3BNO, was among the 6th place winners in the CQ Golden Giveaway Sweepstakes! Way to go, George – I hope it was a big ticket prize.

And there was a most interesting article, Let's Improve Our DX Pileup Act, by Uncle DX. Oh yes, this is the same topic we've commented on several times in this publication. But the points made can not be noted too often, and it is certain that we are some distance from total compliance with these most reasonable 'suggestions.' Uncle DX is unnamed, but if you study the verbiage you might get a clue. I'm betting that the PHOTO printed with the article just might have some connection to the comments made. Certainly the 'author' knows that about which he is speaking!!

Here's hoping this finds you working well into your summer schedules. Early morning is a lovely time – the air is cool(er) (usually), the light is softly filtered, and the birds are singing like crazy. What a perfect time for a leisurely cup of coffee. I hope you can enjoy that as I do.

Let's now take a look at the some current goings-on.

CHAPTER 119 ON THE GROUND

MEMBER NOTES. **W4XQ, Steve.** reports that the 2009 Strawberry Festival is now history. I suspect few know the extent to which this event is underwritten by Steve, W4XQ, who does prodigious work to insure the success of the event. Sponsored by the Virginia Beach ARC, Steve has been the motive force for this event since its inception. Characteristically, Steve is quick to appreciate the efforts of all who helped to bring this event to its successful conclusion this year. Steve contributes the following synopsis of the event.

“W4S, a Special Event station from the Pungo Strawberry Festival was again a success in its second year of operation Saturday and Sunday, May 23rd and 24th, 2009. This year we operated in style from the EmComm trailer provided by The Norfolk Area Baptist Association. You may have seen this fully-equipped beauty at Field Day last year. If not, be sure to check it out this year! Thanks to Chuck Moseley, NS4CM, Pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church for making this happen.

W4S again ran a Yaesu FT-900 and a Buckmaster OCF (Off Center-Fed) dipole. The amp we used this year was a Yaesu FL-2100B, running a pair of 572b's. A new addition was the satellite station: A Kenwood TS-2000, KenPro Az/EI rotor and a Cushcraft AOP-1 antenna array. Don, KC4H, made a video of the station in operation and put it up on YouTube. View the video here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtaqosTfeH0> That's me (Steve, W4XQ) operating; Ed, KC4UFN logging; and Butch, KE4AZL and Joe, KI4RKB inspecting the coax patch panel outside the trailer.

W4S made over 450 contacts this year. Most were on 14.260 MHz. We ran for a brief time on Saturday morning on 7.260 MHz. but quickly abandoned that frequency to avoid QRM as various nets started popping up. HF contacts included 36 states and 29 countries. The satellite station actually only ran one satellite pass. That was late on Sunday as AO-51 was passing over. We made about ten contacts in that pass.

The YouTube video made by one of the stations we contacted on that pass, KC2UOO, is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB26VV0x26Y>

Thanks to VBARC and to all who donated their time, equipment and/or talents to making this station a success again this year: Chuck NS4CM, Rich N2XQM, Ed KN4KL, Butch KE4AZL, Ron W8RJL, George WA4GDB, Zach KJ4EZJ, Will KJ4FRI, Joe KI4RKB, Sim K4SIM.” ---



Why is this man SMILING? The Amateur Radio Queen and King of Strawberry Festival -- Kelly and Steve, W4XQ

Thanks, Steve. That’s a great write-up of a very interesting activity. Good luck next year. ---

CHAPTER 119 LONGEVITY AWARDS FOR 2009. I have searched through the Member Data supplied by QCWA HQ in search of possible Longevity Award recipients for 2009. This is a difficult task, as in some years past, new members did not indicate their desire to join Chapter 119, or they were added to the Chapter 119 roles without notification to HQ. As a result of this, and coupled with the expired membership ‘members’ listed in the computer generated print out, it is very easy to miss members who may be eligible for awards. Here follows the list I came up with, along with the certificate to be awarded. If you are a MEMBER and don’t find your name on this list, and you were licensed at least 50 years ago (1959) – and you need not have been licensed continuously during the ensuing years – then YOU TOO are eligible for a Longevity Award. Please let me know (Vic, W4VIC, Chapter Secretary) ASAP and we will secure the appropriate award(s) for you and present these handsome certificates at our special Awards Banquet to be held later this year. Those receiving awards (those known) include:

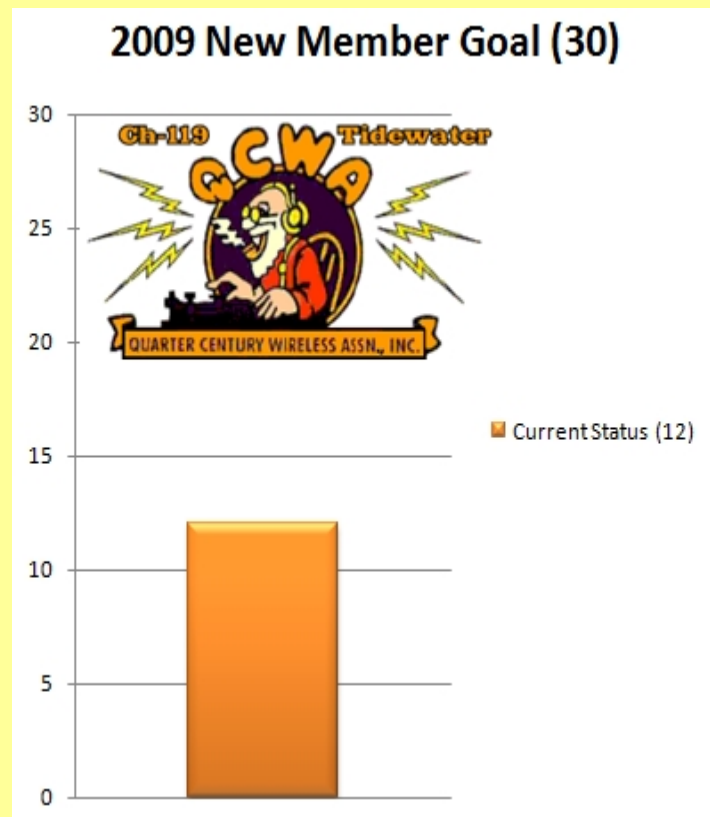
YFL	Name – 50 Year Award	Name – 55 Year Award
1959 (C)	Brown, Bill (Doc), W4OUK	
1959 (C?)	Lynch, Don, W4ZYT	
1953 ?	Martin, Ed, W8NLZ	Martin, Ed, W8NLZ
1956 ?	Morgan, Bob, K4JPP	
1959 (C)	Priddy, Barry, K5VIP	
1956 (C)	Schmidt, George, WA4GDB	

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. The 30th Anniversary Membership drive continues. Please keep in mind those friends you might have who have not yet learned the benefits of personal association with this wonderful group in QCWA Chapter 119.

QCWA CHAPTER 119 30th ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

New Members (2009)

1. Chris Hanslits, W4VX
2. John Reiser, WQ4L
3. John Roberts, WB4AXY
4. Rich Ferguson, N2XQM
5. Malvern Barrow, K4WHN
6. Lewis Hudgins, W4LMH
7. Steve Batton, W4XQ
8. Joan Johnson, K4JRJ
9. Sal Yorks, WD4NZX
10. Talley George, W4TVG
11. Don Lynch, W4ZYT
12. Joe Minton, K4ORH



Graphic courtesy NIBAA

Several membership applications are pending and it is hoped that before mid year we can arrive at the midpoint of our recruiting effort. This will take the cooperation of each and every member. Let's get this job DONE, ladies and gentlemen. Have YOU signed up a new member this year??? ---

CHAPTER 119 ON-THE-AIR

CHAPTER 119 NETS. NCS for QCWA Chapter 119 HF and VHF nets on Sunday, May 31 will be BARRY, K5VIP.

HF Net -- 3.947 MHz 0800 local time.

VHF Net – 146.97 2100 local time.

RADIOSPORT

CONTESTING. As promised, a report on the 2009 VAQP activity by Chapter 119 members and friends. But first, a look at the 2008 aggregate Club Affiliation scores list.

Club <u>Sort</u>	Number of Logs <u>Sort</u>	Valid VQOP Logs	Total Combined Points <u>Sort</u>	Total Combined Points per log avg <u>Sort</u>
Central Virginia Contest Club	10	9	1,691,689	169,169
None Stated	124	0	929,091	7,493
Fauquier ARA	31	31	856,041	27,614
Rappackers Contest Group	8	8	636,264	79,533
Sterling Park ARC	6	6	214,671	35,779
Virginia Tech ARA	2	1	195,199	97,600
Loudoun ARG	24	24	188,002	7,833
Roanoke Valley ARC	6	6	180,877	30,146
Potomac Valley Radio Club	8	8	163,243	20,405
Franklin County ARC	4	4	148,266	37,067
South East Contest Club	1	1	97,476	97,476
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	4	4	71,399	17,850
Alamance ARC	1	0	58,048	58,048
Middle Peninsula ARC	5	5	56,419	11,284
Contest Club Ontario	2	2	54,404	27,202
North Shenandoah DX Assn.	2	2	52,148	26,074
Chesapeake ARS	6	6	39,638	6,606
Dominion DX Group	1	1	38,576	38,576
Western New York DX Assn	1	1	37,435	37,435
Mad River Radio Club	3	3	37,209	12,403
Florida Contest Group	4	4	35,691	8,923
Western Tidewater Radio Association	3	3	27,493	9,164
Vienna Wireless Society	3	3	27,361	9,120
Virginia DX Century Club	2	2	27,277	13,639

Tennessee Contest Group	3	3	24,072	8,024
10-70 Repeater Assn	1	1	23,984	23,984
Radio Association of Erie	1	1	23,662	23,662
Shenandoah Valley ARC	9	9	23,501	2,611
Virginia Beach ARC	2	2	22,303	11,152
Society of Midwest Contesters	2	2	18,788	9,394
Lynchburg ARC	2	2	18,718	9,359
Alabama Contest Group	2	2	17,079	8,540
Albemarle ARC	3	3	16,902	5,634
Alexandria Radio Club	2	2	16,425	8,213
Williamette Valley DX Club	1	1	15,812	15,812
Mount Vernon ARC	1	1	13,604	13,604
Ashe County ARC	1	1	11,555	11,555
QCWA Chapter 119	4	0	11,436	2,859
Williamsburg Area ARC	5	5	10,610	2,122
Virginia Mountain ARC	2	2	10,273	5,137
Rappahannock ARA	5	5	9,860	1,972
Hillbilly DX'ers	1	0	8,085	8,085
Arlington ARC	4	4	6,543	1,636
Rappahannock ARA (Northern Neck)	1	0	5,694	5,694
Rappahannock Valley Radio Club	1	1	4,224	4,224
Frankford Radio Club	1	1	3,603	3,603
Ole Virginia Hams	4	4	2,853	713
Sangamon Valley Radio Club	1	1	2,625	2,625
Portage County ARS	1	1	1,802	1,802
Culpeper ARC	1	1	1,760	1,760
Minnesota Wireless Assn	1	1	1,656	1,656
Northeast GA Amateur Radio Club	1	1	1,279	1,279
Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont	1	1	1,193	1,193
Rappahannock Contest Group RCG	1	1	1,172	1,172
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	1	1	956	956
Oklahoma DX Association	1	1	934	934
Port City ARC	1	1	708	708
Fond du Lac ARC	1	1	698	698
1 Digit Contesters	1	0	512	512
Warminster ARC	1	1	360	360
Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club	1	1	210	210
Maltby Radio Club	1	1	84	84
Magnolia DX Association	1	1	9	9

The final analysis by SPARC has not yet been completed, so there is no comparable listing of club participation as yet for 2009. Gordon Miller, NQ4K, Mr. VAQP himself, made available the metadata for this year's VAQP so I could provide this advance look to Chapter 119 folks. Thanks much, Gordon.

The print of the metadata is very small and I searched through it several times for people that 'belong to us.' The first sort was relatively easy – key on the QCWA Chapter 119 Club Affiliations, and several entries jumped right out of the data. This was discouraging – only SIX QCWA members after all the whip-cracking that was done locally. Other forays through the fine print revealed calls that were not listed with QCWA Chapter 119 – most of them 'None Stated' as to club affiliation. Well, OK, stuff happens. Then several more read-throughs were done to try to pick out call signs that came from our group, but who chose other groups with which to affiliate for this contest purpose. In the final analysis it is certain that some Friends may have been missed in this score reporting. Apologies to anyone overlooked. But no one who affiliated with QCWA Chapter 119 was missed, and so here is the result, as best I can determine at the present:

QCWA Chapter 119 Members:

K4AWM, Alan	Mixed, 80 Meter, Low Power	17, 250
WA4EUL, Bill	CW, All Band, Low Power	8,978
KI4VB, Mark	CW, All Band, Low Power	5,384
W4TVG, Talley	CW, All Band, High Power	3,850
W4ZPR, Jack	CW, 40 Meter, Low Power	18
W4VIC, Vic	SSB, All Band, High Power	7,434
K5VIP, Barry	SSB, All Band, High Power	3,104
KA4PLH, Rue	SSB, All Band, QRP	893

QCWA Chapter 119 Member (Other Club Affiliation):

W4PRO, Jim	CW, All Band, High Power	10,088
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QCWA Chapter 119 Friends:

AI4ME, Don	SSB, All Band, Low Power	1,580
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Jack, W4ZPR did not claim QCWA Chapter 119 affiliation because he was afraid his low score would reflect poorly on the group. Jack, Jack, Jack! Nothing could be further from the truth. The challenge was for QCWA Members and Friends to get into the action and represent the Chapter. ONE QSO was all that was asked – and one QSO would have been as valuable as the many QSOs accomplished by others with more time and/or better luck. The goal was to have QCWA CHAPTER 119 representation. We accomplished that, and Jack – you were right in there with us. We are glad to have you and will be counting on you in the future, whether you can manage a single QSO or the many you normally provide. Thank you, Jack.

Jim, W4PRO, has a tradition of working the VAQP with the Western Tidewater Radio Association, and there were at least 5 members of that group listed among the club affiliations. We'd love to have you with our group, Jim, but we do understand your commitment. Hope you had as much fun as the rest of us did.

Don, AI4ME, now KC4H as of March 31, 2009, good friend of Chapter 119, ineligible for full membership due to the 25 Year Clause, made a good showing. It is possible that there were other Friends among those listed but I could not 'smoke them out' by call sign recognition, operating location (eg., VBX, CPX, NFX, etc.) or Club Affiliation. I regret if there are any omissions, which would be by my own, not the responsibility of those great folks at Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC), who always do such a great job with this operating event, and Gordon, NQ4K, who provided the metadata for my perusal. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND A BUCK (OR TWO) TO SUPPORT THE CERTIFICATE MAILING PROGRAM AT VAQP. Everyone who participates 'wins' a certificate from the VAQP Contest Organizers. If you haven't done so already send your contribution to: Gordon R. Miller, NQ4K, 12315 Streamvale Circle, Herndon, VA 20170. Make checks payable to: VAQP Support. Thanks.

QCWA Chapter 119 Certificate Winners for the 2009 VAQP Event are:

K4AWM	Alan Moe	Mixed Mode High Score
WA4EUL	Bill Holland	CW Mode High Score
KI4VB	Mark Palsha	CW Mode Second Place Score
W4TVG	Talley George	CW Mode Third Place Score
W4VIC	Vic Culver	SSB Mode High Score
K5VIP	Barry Priddy	SSB Mode Second Place Score
KA4PLH	Rue Stuteville	SSB Mode Third Place Score

Congratulations to all who turned out for this Virginia Operating Event, and especially to those who supported QCWA Chapter 119 with their participation and ESPECIALLY to our Chapter 119 Award Winners . ---

CQWW WPX CW Contest. Rules for this event were printed in the last issue, V. 4, Nr. 19. The fun begins at 8 P.M. local time Friday evening and runs till 7:59 P.M. local time Sunday evening.

The exchange is pretty straightforward, RST and a consecutive three digit serial number beginning with 001. Good luck if you have to go to FOUR digits!! ---

DXING. The coming weeks DX notes come to you courtesy of the ARRL DX News service. The content is edited for date appropriate listings.

ITU HQ, 4U1ITU. Hans, PB2T, Brennan, N4QX and others may be active as 4U1ITU until May 29. QSL direct.

CYPRUS, 5B. A group of operators will be QRV as C4SV from May 23 to 29. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via SV2DGH.

TOGO, 5V. Werner, DL9MBI is QRV as 5V7PM and has been active on 20 meters using RTTY after 1400z. QSL to home call.

MALDIVES, 8Q. IW3HVB will be QRV as 8Q7GP from the Bathala Island resort from May 27 to June 4. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB and PSK31. QSL to home call.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK is QRV as C56YK from Kotu East until June 7. Activity is on 6 meters using CW and SSB on 50110 kHz. QSL to home call.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Steve, 9M6DXX will be QRV as FK/G4JVG from May 22 to June 3. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17 and possibly 15 meters using SSB. QSL via M0URX.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Uwe, DL6NDK, Iris, DL6LI and Ralf, DL9GTI will be QRV as OH0/home calls from May 23 to 29 while on holiday. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, including 6 and 2 meters, using mainly CW with some PSK31. QSL to home calls.

GREECE, SV. Laci, HA0HW will be QRV as J48HW and SV8/home call from Thassos Island, IOTA EU-174, from May 28 to June 6. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 6 meters using mainly CW, with some SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He will be active in the upcoming CQ WPX CW contest as J48HW. QSL to home call.

DODECANESE, SV5. Darren, G0TSM is QRV as SV5/home call from Kos, IOTA EU-001, until June 3 while on holiday. Activity is mainly on 12 and 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

TURKEY, TA. Karl, WA2KBZ is QRV as TA0/home call from Buyukada Island until June 17. Activity is on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters using QRP CW only.

NIUE, ZK2. Chris, ZL1CT is QRV as ZK2V and is active on various HF bands using CW and SSB. He will also be an entry in the upcoming CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via N3SL. ---

N3UR reports that Chris, ZK2V, will be active from Niue for about 25 more days. Some RTTY activity is planned, as is a special operating permit on 60 Meters from 1100 UTC on June 1 2009 until 1100 UTC on June 8. Chris will transmit only on 5403.5 KHz (USB for USA, but CW for the rest of the world!) and he will listen on 5371.5 or on another channel, if necessary. Thanks Bernie. ---

QCWA Chapter 119 Members Finish Well In DX Marathon. Three QCWA Chapter 119 members finish high in the CQ Worldwide Marathon Contest for 2008. This year-long contest challenges the DX operator to work as many countries and zones as possible within the calendar year. In 2008 Chapter 119 had THREE finishers in this contest:

<u>World Rank</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Score</u>
#28	N1BAA	U	254	40	294
#49	W4VIC	U	236	40	276
#123	NU4I	F	147	32	179

In the categories column, U stands for Unlimited Class, F stands for Formula Class. Formula class must declare at the beginning of the year a fixed set of parameters, either 1) QRP – 10 watts or less, or 2) 100 watts with simple antenna, e.g., vertical or dipole. These parameters may NOT change at any time during the contest year. Unlimited class runs any legal power to any legal antenna. No assistance is permitted in order to secure contacts but the use of DX Cluster spotting networks is permitted in both classes of operation.

This was a fine performance for Chapter 119. Congratulations to the World Ranked Participants. Can we do better in 2009? These guys are already ON IT! ---

CLASSIFIED NOTES. The following information is provided for your interest and hopefully for your benefit. No representations are made as to the information provided – it is accepted in good faith and passed on to you in the same spirit. Here’s hoping you find something important to you and your operations.

Grande Junquetion Warehouse Sale. We are holding a sale at our Blackwater warehouse SATURDAY May 30, 2009 from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Directions: From I-64 take Route 168 bypass toward Moyock (Exit 291B). Continue on Route 168 to Exit 8B (Hillcrest Parkway – last exit before toll). Take Hillcrest Pkwy (back under 168 bypass) to second light (Battlefield Blvd – Wawa on corner). Turn right on Battlefield Blvd and continue through Hickory (past Hardee’s, past Ruritan Club, back under bypass). After passing under bypass turn left at Race Coast gas station (Indian Creek Road). Continue on Indian Creek Road (past Northwest River Park) until just past 2324 Indian Creek Road (about 5.5 miles), where you will turn left (at Virginia Beach City limit sign) and proceed to the long red bard with silver (aluminum) roof.

Directions from NC: Take Route 168 North thru Moyock into Virginia . After crossing the state line continue to the second traffic light (approx 1.5 miles). Turn right onto Gallbush Road . Follow Gallbush Road until it ends in a T intersection (with Indian Creek Road). Turn right and continue on Indian Creek Road (past Northwest River Park) as directed in the paragraph above.

Other Info: Wear old clothing and bring a good flashlight. This is a warehouse – stuff is dusty, in boxes, and the lighting is poor. There is no heat or AC in the building. No children under 18 or pets, please.

GPS Coordinates: N36-34.86.0 W076-07.334

Terms: Cash. All goods are surplus and are sold as is/where is with no warranty. Delivery F.O.B. Chesapeake , VA. All sales final. ---

Vic, W4VIC, has available for pick up a 19” CRT monitor and a 17” CRT monitor. First come, first served. Please call first: 757-282-1289. ---

WRAP UP. That’s it for this issue. Much good stuff out there. The trick is to not get stuck in a rut and miss the best of it. I really regret missing the Strawberry Festival (again) but bad legs and etc. make it a difficult outing to attend even under the beneficial effects of modern chemistry (all legal, thank you very much!). Perhaps we can do something to improve so that the next event will be more easily engaged. I recommend a shuttle bus of some sort from outlying parking areas, with drop-off at the central point in the venue – right in front of the W4S tent, for example!

Noting the logs submitted from the various clubs participating in the VAQP – see aggregate club listing in the CONTESTING section of the newsletter – Chapter 119 can be proud of our level of participation. Last year (2008) we had only 4 logs submitted. This year, counting Jim, W4PRO, we had 10, including one Friend who didn’t think he was eligible to claim QCWA Chapter 119 as a club for affiliation – YES, DON, YOU MAY DO THAT! And we hope to see you next year!!

If we round off our membership number to 60, which it was at about VAQP time, that gives us a 12% participation rate. NOT TOO SHABBY! Of course, if we add in ALL our friends the rate drops precipitously. That's a shame. Note all the affiliated clubs with but one log submitted. How long does it take to make ONE QSO? How much effort is required to be ON THE LIST of Chapter supporters? Not a great deal. One has to have that as a value. And yes, it is hard to put a high value on everything. And so we do what we can, and are thankful for what we get.

If it were possible to quantify FUN as easily as we can quantify PARTICIPATION we should see that the fun quotient very seriously outweighs the participation quotient. BUT -- you can't have the fun sitting on the sidelines – no matter how loudly you cheer on those who are IN THE GAME! So you know it..... be your own coach and put yourself in the game. Score one for the TEAM!

May the stick with numbers that guides your life be GOLDEN, and may you apply that golden rule to others of your acquaintance. 73, Vic

Vic Culver, W4VIC
Secretary, QCWA Chapter 119 Inc.

QCWA Chapter 119 Inc. is a membership organization. Individuals wishing to become members must have been licensed at least 25 years ago and must be a member of the National QCWA organization. Chapter 119 membership year extends from 1 January through 31 December of any calendar year.

Membership in Ch. 119 costs \$6.00 per year. Information about National QCWA membership may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.qcwa.org> or by writing: QCWA, Inc., P.O. Box 3247, Framingham, MA, 01705-3247.

You may also contact the Chapter 119 Secretary. Anyone not meeting the basic membership requirement who wishes to associate him/herself with Chapter 119 Inc. until they become eligible for membership should contact the Chapter Secretary.

If you do not wish to receive any further communications from QCWA Chapter 119 Inc. then please let me know so that I may remove your name and address from our distribution list. Thank you. W4VIC