

QCWA Chapter 119 Event Horizon Aug 3 to Aug 5, 2007

A Chapter Newsletter published weekly

Good Friday afternoon ladies and gentlemen. This has been an interesting week, indeed. There has been a lot of activity related to rescuing the HF net from certain oblivion. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of one of our members we have a brief reprieve -- the net will operate this weekend, albeit for a shorter time and with a brand new but inexperienced NCS station. But we are not yet out of the woods, so to speak. We need additional support for the net and you'll be reading about that later in this newsletter. Please take this challenge seriously and try to find a way to offer your own service (on a quite limited basis) to the objectives of your QCWA Chapter. Thank you for your continued support of QCWA and of your own local Chapter 119.

CHAPTER 119 ON THE AIR -- After a couple of weekends with scant on-the-air events from which to choose this weekend provides some interesting choices for most any amateur across the radio spectrum. One of the main contenders is for the VHF enthusiast (222 MHz and up!). The ARRL UHF Contest kicks off at 1800 UTC August 4th and runs through 1800 UTC on August 5th. Full details for this event can be found in the July QST, p. 98) or at www.arrl.org/contests.

The North American QSO PARTY is a friendly, low-power introduction to contesting. This is a great opportunity to break into HF contesting and allows anyone to participate on as even a playing field as you will find in any 'contest' event. The contest exchange is very simple: your name and state is the whole exchange. This weekend the NAQP is a CW event, power limited to 100 watts. The contest runs from 1800 UTC August 4th to 0600 UTC for multi-op stations, and from 1800 UTC to 0400 UTC (2 p.m. til midnight) -- or 10 hours maximum -- for single operator stations. In this contest everybody works everybody else, so jump in and have some FUN. Full details are available in the Jan QST, p. 101 or at www.ncjweb.com. Your Chapter Secretary is available for assistance should you wish to join in this event.

For the SSB enthusiast, the SARL (South African Radio League) is offering the SARL HF DX Contest (SSB) sponsored by the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club. This activity, similar to a Sprint type contest, extends over three and a half hours, from 1300 UTC till 1630 UTC on August 5th. The contest frequencies include 80 -- 20 meters and the exchange is RS(T) plus serial number. For more information see Aug QST, p. 96, or check the web site at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests. Also for the SSB enthusiast is the Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO Party, sponsored by Ten-Ten International. This event runs from 0100 UTC on August 4th (9 p.m. Friday evening) to 2359 UTC August 5th (Sunday evening at 7:59 p.m.). Information for the Ten-Ten QSO Party can be found at www.ten-ten.org.

And for all-mode interests there is the National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001 UTC Aug 4th till 2359 UTC August 5th (9 p.m. Friday evening till midnight Sunday evening. Exchange is a serial number plus your state. Full details are at arlhs.com, or from your Chapter Secretary.

Plenty of activity to keep your radios working out and for testing out the tweaks you've been making to the antenna systems. You HAVE been tweaking the system, haven't you? No time like the slower paced days/weeks of summer to check things out and make those improvements you've been meaning to make. The fall line up of major on-the-air events is just around the corner. Better get busy!

Chapter 119 HF Net. MAJOR CHANGES to the HF net operations are in the works. The net will be operating this weekend on a short-term plan devised to rescue the net from having to shut down. WQ4CWA will be called to order at 0800 by KA4SSH, Harvey, who volunteered to help out with the NCS duties. There may be some pre-net activity from those regulars who have been checking into the net, but no QCWA member will exercise NCS duty until 0800 local time. Please check in with Harvey, and be patient with our new NCS as he becomes familiar with the net operation. If we can shake loose another volunteer, preferably TWO, we will then put the net on a regular, albeit slightly shortened in duration, net schedule. Now is the time to step up and demonstrate your support for the HF net activity.

Chapter 119 VHF Net. The QCWA Chapter 119 VHF Sunday Roundtable net, call sign WQ4CWA, meets Sunday, 0900 local time on 146.895- repeater (back-up, if necessary, on 146.82- tone 162.2 CARS repeater). Scheduled NCS for this weekend is again Vic, W4VIC, filling in for a traveling K5VIP. Come join us, however briefly, as you get about your Sunday activities. You need not be a QCWA member to join in the net activity -- all radio amateurs are welcome on the QCWA Chapter 119 nets. A friendly greeting from good friends is always a good way to start the day. See you on the net.

QCWA CHAPTER 119 AUGUST MEETING -- The August meeting of QCWA Chapter 119 will be held on Friday, August 17, at 1200 p.m. at Frankie's Place for Ribs, 5200 Fairfield Shopping Center at the corner of Providence and Kempsville Roads (in the strip mall behind the Hardee's and the Sun Trust Bank on the Kempsville Road side). Operating Achievement Awards will be ready for distribution to W4YCZ, Jack; K4WYS, Sonny; W4PRO, Jim; W4THN, Vern; N4BAA (now N1BAA in Massachusetts), W8RJL, Ron; and W4VIC, Vic. Come help celebrate these operating achievements by your fellow QCWA members.

QCWA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2007 (Repeat Item) -- Our personal reservations have been made at the Convention Headquarters Hotel: The Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207 (1-800-222-8733). The folks at QCWA Chapter 58 have a wonderful slate of activities planned from October 4 through October 7 and these activities are sure to appeal to anyone attending the convention. In addition to the QCWA Forum on Saturday morning, there is a Thursday bus tour to the Black Hawk and Central City Gambling Casinos, and shuttle busses for shopping at the famous 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver. Friday activities include the Denver Mint and Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. In addition to a wide variety of programs for the Saturday main program, there is a trip on the Georgetown Loop Rail Road, and on Sunday a visit to the Air Force Academy, lunch at Colorado Springs' Garden of the Gods, and a trip to the summit of 14,110 foot Pikes Peak via the world famous Cog Railway (attendees are encouraged to take note of health and altitude precautions). There will be a Friday evening Meet & Greet reception, and, of course, a Saturday evening Banquet. All in all, this promises to be an exciting four days in Denver and, as always, the International Convention is the highlight of the QCWA year. There will be a good contingent of Virginia QCWA members and spouses attending, as word has filtered down that a group of perennial convention-goers from Chapter 91 will be there. It is not at all too late for Chapter 119 members to join in and add to the Virginia contingent. Registration materials are printed in the last couple of QCWA Journals, or can be downloaded at <http://qcwa-58.rmhc.org>. A good time will be had by all.

NCS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- As has been indicated earlier, the HF net is seriously in need of volunteers to take a turn in a rotation of NCS operators. Experience is NOT necessary, as

QCWA nets are friendly and forgiving places. And the clientele is absolutely top-notch. The HF net activity is a very important component of Chapter 119, helping to spread QCWA philosophy and friendships all through the region. Chapter 119 has picked up several new members through the net activity and that support is important to the continued good health of this active QCWA chapter. It is really important to keep the net functioning given that Chapter 119 is sponsoring the 2008 QCWA International Convention. The net will prove a wonderful outlet for information about the meeting and will help to bring interesting people to our convention. Please don't let this wonderful activity 'go dark' because of lack of member support. If you are willing to help out by joining a team of members who will rotate NCS duties please get in touch with your Chapter Secretary ASAP. E-mail vic.w4vicATverizon.net or please call 757-495-2679.

CLASSIFIED -- No -- not THAT kind of classified! Rich, WA4BUE sent a note indicating that he is looking for the following items: 2 or 3 sections of Tabot Tower (10 foot sections), 1/8" - 3/8" guy wire, Egg insulators about 2" X 1", Ground Anchors 5 - 6 feet with 5" - 6" bottom spade. Rich is getting serious about getting his 160 meter vertical set up. He has a very first class Beverage antenna system for listening; now he needs a whup-up vertical antenna for transmitting. Can you help Rich out? Catch him on the Sunday nets, or send him an e-mail at richard.siffATverizon.net. Put a smile on Rich's face.

WRAP UP. That's a wrap for this week! There is a good bit of operating activity this weekend which will no doubt conflict with some of the seasonal activities you already have planned. So be it. We can't all participate every time an event comes along yet there are certainly enough events to keep those without other plans busy. The NAQP - CW offers a fairly painless way to become involved with CW contesting, and this event can be recommended for a short time activity just to start to get your feet wet if you haven't done something like that before. Join the fun, keep it friendly and keep it light, and you may discover a new interest that will sustain you through the cold and dreary days of winter. Winners are usually people who have an active hand in making their own luck, so jump in and make some good luck for your own self. Have a very pleasant and a very safe weekend. See you next week, if not on the Sunday morning nets (before church, of course.) 73, Vic

Vic Culver, W4VIC
Secretary/Treasurer, 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/treasurer. 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