

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA)

Prepared by Daryl Stout, Chapter 158 Secretary



QCWA Central Arkansas
Chapter Number 158
For All Of Arkansas

From the QCWA Chapter By-Laws:

The objective of this chapter is to foster and develop friendship and cooperation among amateur radio operators of at least 25 years standing, and this chapter shall serve the entire state of Arkansas.

Chapter 158 Membership shall consist of licensed amateur radio operators who have a valid number as a member of the QCWA.

Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, Chapter Secretary



FOUNDED 1947
CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER NO. 158

QCWA History

- 🎉 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, QCWA!! 🎊 -- Celebrating 78 Years of Amateur Radio Fellowship as of 2025.
- At 7pm on Dec. 5, 1947, in an upstairs room of Pappas Restaurant on 14th Street in New York City, 34 young men gathered for what would unknowingly become one of the most important moments in amateur radio history.
- These men were all Amateur Radio Operators, each licensed for at least 25 years, and they assembled because of an idea sparked only a month earlier during a lively 10-meter roundtable discussion.
- The conversation — shared among John Diblasi, W2FX...Uda Ross, W2UD...Ed Crane, W2EF...John Gioe, W2FD...Dr. Ernes Cyriax, W2DI...and Irving Groves, W2DX. All of these planted the seed for a new organization dedicated to celebrating the legacy, experience, and fellowship of long-licensed radio amateurs.
- As the idea spread, interest grew rapidly. By Dec. 31, 1947, just 26 days after that first gathering, twenty additional names had been added — bringing the fledgling organization's Charter Membership to 54.
- From that moment forward, the group evolved into what we now proudly know as the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA).
- Their vision and camaraderie grew quickly, inspiring generations of dedicated hams for more than 78 years. 🎂 📻

The QCWA Today

- The QCWA today is stronger, more active and more modern than at any time in the past. QCWA members are among the most experienced and knowledgeable in the communications field; whether it be operating QRP from a mountaintop or a ship at sea or QRO from a remote location on a DXPedition, or holding licensing classes and VE exams across the US and other parts of the world, operating State QSO parties from historic sites, performing public service emergency communications, being leaders in the Broadcast community, publishing books and articles about every aspect of Amateur Radio and having in its membership a veritable who's who in Ham Radio. Our members are at the top of the DXCC Honor Rolls and among the top contesters.
- We are the elite of the Ham Radio hobby, but we are NOT elitists. We welcome all at our meetings, and when you have been licensed at least 25 years, and are currently licensed, we welcome you to join our ranks. Some of our oldest members are over 100, while our youngest are under 40. Many younger Hams attend our events to ask questions and learn from those who have been there and done that.
- We have members worldwide...in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

QCWA Membership Eligibility

- If you were first licensed as an amateur radio operator, anywhere in the world, at least 25 years ago, and you are licensed today, you qualify for membership.
- This means for the year 2026, if you were licensed as an amateur radio operator any time in the year 2001 or earlier...anywhere in the world...and are currently licensed...you QUALIFY for membership.
- You do NOT have to be licensed for 25 consecutive years before you apply for membership.
- There is the national organization, and several local chapters around the country. Belonging to a local chapter is NOT required, but highly recommended if one is located in your area or nearby in your region.
- QCWA Membership is NOT required to checkin to our nets; just a valid amateur radio license to transmit on the modes for that net.

Some Of The Benefits Of QCWA Membership (1)

- Note that National and Chapter Dues prices are as of late 2025. National Dues is paid through the website. Chapter Dues, determined by the local chapter, is paid to the Treasurer of the particular chapter.
- Discounted Membership Dues – cheaper than ARRL Dues:
- Regular: \$25 for 1 year, \$40 for 2 years, \$55 for 3 years.
- Family: \$8 for 1 year, \$15 for 2 years, \$20 for 3 years.
- Lifetime: \$500 for individual, \$160 for family.
- Arkansas Chapter 158 Dues: \$5 per year per person. Membership in the National Organization is required.
- You keep your QCWA Member for Life, once you join, even if your membership lapses for non-payment of dues.
- License Renewal Reminder: In 2015, QCWA began notifying members 1 month before their FCC license expires, that it's time to renew.

Some Of The Benefits Of QCWA Membership (2)

- Awards And Certificates – QCWA offers more than 15 operating awards, and license certificates. License Anniversary certificates start at 30 years, but operating awards start when you first join. Some awards have special requirements, like the 50 year Continuous Licensing and Century Club certificate.
- Annual W2MM Special Event Station – This is your chance to work W2MM, and receive a commemorative certificate. As a QCWA member, you can activate W2MM, and enjoy the pileups. It runs from 0000 UTC Dec. 1 through 2359 UTC Dec. 7, every year. Modes operated are CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4, on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.
- QCWA Nets – we have HF, SSB, CW, Digital, and VoIP Nets. These are great to checkin, and see what's going on elsewhere. In many areas, there are nets on local repeaters to check in with your local friends and community. A list of selected nets is later in this presentation. As noted, earlier, QCWA Membership is NOT REQUIRED to checkin to ANY of the QCWA Nets...just have a valid amateur radio license, with privileges to transmit on the mode(s) offered by that net.

Some Of The Benefits Of QCWA Membership (3)

- **Scholarship Program** – Since the scholarship program began in 1978, we have awarded over 613 scholarships totaling \$816,350 (as of 2023). Our ever growing scholarship fund continues to provide more scholarships each year. The principal is never used, and return only on investments is awarded. Only QCWA Members can nominate a student for a scholarship.
- **Member Supplies** – These include decals, stamps, coffee mugs, engraved name badges, embroidered hats and shirts, engraved lapel pins, QSL and eyeball QSO cards, and more. Supplies are provided to members as close to our cost as possible (in other words, we're not marking them up to make a profit). A photo of selected items available to members is on a later slide.
- **No Renewal Penalty** – If you miss a few months or years on renewing your dues, there is no administrative fee or penalty. Just start paying dues again, and you'll have access to all the items that you missed.
- You can pay or renew online at <https://www.qcwa.org>

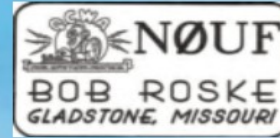
Some Of The Benefits Of QCWA Membership (4)

- Bulletins And Email Reflector – We also have a bulletin service for late breaking news items of interest to members, and an email reflector, for direct member-to-member communications, off the air.
- Recognition – QCWA Members are recognized as being experienced and knowledgeable amateur radio operators, with being licensed 25 years or more. The average QCWA member has been licensed over 50 years.
- This leads to being an “Elmer” (the highest compliment that an amateur radio operator can receive), a Volunteer Examiner (VE) for various groups, an instructor, and a friend.
- The social and lasting relationships made while sharing your experience and expertise with others is truly priceless.
- Chapter 158’s officers serve on various teams, including the DeGray Amateur Radio Club, and the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock (UALR) Ham Radio Club.

Some Popular QCWA Supplies

Log into the Members Only webpage and click Member Supplies for information.

<https://www.qcwa.org/members/login.php>



(* Items shown are not to scale and may differ slightly from photos)

A login account is no longer required.

The QCWA Monthly e-Journal for Members

- A monthly full color digital publication, in the easy to read PDF format. All that's needed is a PDF compatible reader. Links to previous issues, as well as audio transcripts (for the visually impaired) are in the "Members Only" section at the QCWA website. As of September, 2024, QCWA Chapter 158 Secretary Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, prepares the audio transcript each month. It runs from 60 to 75 minutes in length, and is from 25 to 30 megabytes in size.
- Journals over the past several years have active links to content and websites, and with Ctrl-F, you can do a full text search. Selected sections, pages, or the entire issue (around 20 pages each month) can be printed. It has limited advertising, and with a short lead time, has current content. Members can place "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads in the Journal at no cost.
- Prior to 2012, older issues of the Journal were printed and mailed every quarter. Prior to the Journal, we had the QCWA News, and before that, a Newsletter. Almost every issue since they started in 1952, are available on our website, along with many other historical documents that are not available from anywhere else.



QCWA Local Chapters

- There are over 125 very active local chapters worldwide, and another 100 that are less active; but that is up to the members, and your participation can make it more active.
- In the United States, most members are within driving distance of a chapter. Each chapter meets as best fits their area and members...whether in person or online, such as via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Free Conference Call, or via another utility.
- Some meet weekly, most meet monthly, some bi-monthly or quarterly, and others just 2 times a year.
- Most have programs and a meal, so restaurants are popular meeting locations. Even if you live where there is no chapter, the chances are that you are within repeater range of other QCWA members.
- QCWA Chapter 158 was re-awakened in June, 2025...a photo of the chapter 158 officers, taken at the 2025 Queen Wilhelmina Hamfest are on the next page. While originally in central Arkansas, the chapter is designed for the entire state of Arkansas. Yearly chapter membership is \$5, but membership in the national organization is required to join the chapter.
- Chapter 158 has a Facebook group – search for QCWA 158. They are also on groups.io at <https://groups.io/g/QCWA-AR>
- Chapter 158's reports (since August 2025) are available in the Facebook Group. Since the deadline for the Journal is the 1st of the month, before the month of issue, the August, 2025 issue was the first one that could have a report.

QCWA Arkansas Chapter 158 Officers At 2025 Queen Wilhelmena State Park Mena Hamfest

From left to right in the photo below...President Travis Burton, KB5ILY...Treasurer Tim Grooms, K5TLG...and Secretary Daryl Stout, N5VLZ (they sure are a motley crew (hi hi)).



Selected 2026 Arkansas Hamfests for QCWA 158:

- Feb. 21 – Lawrence County Winterfest, Hoxie, AR
- March 7 – ARVARF Hamfest, Dardanelle, AR
- April 4 – Mount Magazine Hamfest, Paris, AR
- May 30 – 4 Square Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, New Boston, TX
- August 8 – 2026 ARRL Delta Division Convention, Shreveport, LA
- Sept. 12 – Queen Wilhelmena Hamfest, Mena, AR
- Oct. 10 – K5BOC Memorial Hamfest, Morrilton, AR
- Note that other events and hamfests may be announced later, and changes to the above schedule are possible. Note that weather conditions or other last minute issues may preclude the QCWA 158 Board Members attendance.

Some Of The QCWA Nets That Are Available

QCWA Membership Not Required To Checkin

- 20 meter HF Net, Sunday, 2000 UTC, on 14.347 Mhz (+/- QRM).
- Digital Net, Sunday, 5pm Eastern, 4pm Central, 3pm Mountain, 2pm Pacific (year round), QuadNet Array (<https://openquad.net>) on D-Star, DMR Plus, C4FM, TGIF, WIRES-X, M17, and Yaesu System Fusion.
- 6 Meter Net, Tuesday, 7pm Eastern, 6pm Central, 5pm Mountain, 4pm Pacific. KD2SL-L Echolink Node or on AllStar Node 28460.
- 40 meter CW Net, Wednesday at 7pm US Central Time, on 7.035 Megahertz, then QSY to 80 meters on 3.535 Megahertz, following the 40 meter net.
- CQ200 VoIP Net, 1st and 3rd Saturday (except 1st Saturday in January and July) 14.347 Mhz, at 9pm Eastern, 8pm Central, 7pm Mountain, 6pm Pacific on CQ200. Accessible via a web browser. Net is during “free window” from 0000 to 2359 UTC Sunday, so no usage fee is required. Full info at <https://cqplace.com>
- Arkansas 158 Net, 1st and 3rd Saturday (does not meet on the 1st Saturday of January or July), 10pm Eastern, 9pm Central, 8pm Mountain, 7pm Pacific, QuadNet Array (same place as the Digital Net noted above).
- Other net information is at https://www.qcwa.org/chapters_on_the-air.php

Selected Info From the QCWA Website (qcwa.org)

- List of newest members in the past 30 days.
- Mission Statement, Vision Statement, IRS Documents, Privacy Policy.
- Links to Chapters (active and inactive) by name, number, and nets.
- Info Center, FAQ's, Site Index, Be Informed (from W3BE, last updated in April, 2020), Recruitment and Hamfest Info.
- Access Codes to LinkedIn, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).
- Reminder information on the major active net(s) for the current day.
- Links to Join or Renew Your Membership online. You have to provide documentation of the year that you were first licensed, such as from a previous callbook (available via the internet), the FCC ULS, etc.
- Members Only Section (where you can obtain links to your info, the monthly e-Journal, Audio Transcripts, Chapter Websites, Membership Lists, Board Of Directors Minutes, Annual Meeting Notice (usually at Orlando Hamcation (February) and Xenia Hamvention (May), plus online webinars and presentations), create your own chapter and membership cards, and much more. A separate section is available for verified chapter officers.

Recent QCWA Online Monthly Webinars

You can view these on the QCWA YouTube Channel

- Radio, And The Disappearance of Ameilia Earhart and Fred Noonan
- Discover GeoChron with Patrick Bolan, KJ7ZSU
- The FCC in WWII: Patrolling the Ether and Tracking Down Radio Spies
- Radios (and the Filming) of the Pan Am Airways PBS Documentary Series Across the Pacific
- Additional Monthly Webinars are planned; watch the QCWA Website and the monthly e-Journal for updates. The monthly webinar link is <https://www.qcwa.org/zoom.html>, and the passcode is QCWA.

Alternate Checkin Methods For Digital/158 Nets

- Designed for stations who can't get to a radio at net time.
- Facebook – QCWA.
- Ham.Live – Look for QCWA Digital or QCWA 158 Nets
- APRS – Quick “In And Out” to N5VLZ-10
- Email to vhfnetmanager@qcwa.org or to n5vlz@duck.com
- Netlogger or Netlogger Companion
- Extended Checkins via Facebook and Email for the Digital and 158 Nets as follows:
- Arkansas 158 Net (9pm Central Time 1st and 3rd Saturday, to 9am Central Time on the Monday following the 1st and 3rd Saturday.
- Digital Net: 4pm Central Time Sunday to 10pm Central Time Monday. The exception is if the Digital Net is on the last day of the month...in this case, the window ends at 4pm Central Time on the first day of the new month.
- All other checkin methods end once the net is closed.
- Note that the Arkansas 158 and CQ 200 Nets, while being on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, are CANCELED the 1st Saturdays of January and July, due to schedule conflicts that Net Control has those evenings.

QCWA Related Websites, Groups, and QR Codes

- Main Website: <https://www.qcwa.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/88523580833>
- Groups.IO: <https://qcwa.groups.io/g/main>
- YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/@qcwa7461>
- QCWA Media: <https://linktr.ee/qcwa>
- QCWA Nets (National And Chapter):
https://www.qcwa.org/chapters_on_the-air.php

- Facebook, X, and LinkedIn QR Codes:



How To Contact The Author, Daryl Stout, N5VLZ:

- Email to n5vlz@duck.com or to vhfnetmanager@qcwa.org
- On any of the nets I run (see the hyperlink on my QRZ bio for info)
- Winlink Email to n5vlz@winlink.org
- D-Rats via a note to N5VLZ
- APRS via a message to N5VLZ-10
- HamsOverIP (101797) and AmateurWire (1577).
- Facebook: [@wx1der](#) (look for the Train Conductor's Outfit).
- Packet: [N5VLZ@NS2B.#WNY.NY.USA.NOAM](#)
- Echolink and CQ200, at various times during the week – sked requests are welcome.
- Website Feedback to <http://www.wx4qz.net/fbk.htm>

Questions And Final Comments:

- Since QCWA was founded in 1947, when fellow QCWA Members sign off, they will usually say “47” as well as 7 3”. We hope to see you at a regional hamfest, or on the air with one of our nets.
- 47 and 73, from Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, QCWA VHF+ Net Manager



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Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, Chapter Secretary



Three men are standing behind a table at an outdoor event. The man on the left wears a red cap with 'KBSLY CRAVIS' and a blue shirt. The man in the center wears a green cap with 'KSTLG' and a dark shirt. The man on the right wears a dark cap and a dark shirt. A red cup is on the table. In the background, a blue banner reads 'QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC. FOUNDED 1947 CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER NO. 158'.



QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

FOUNDED 1947
CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER NO. 158