

# VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #69

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2013



Our VWOA President, Alan Ehrlich has announced that the **88<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL VWOA AWARDS LUNCHEON** will be celebrated **Sunday, June 9, 2013** at the:

DON PEPE RESTAURANT  
844 Mc Carter Highway  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Please use the VWOA Reservation Form previously provided to each of you to make your Meal Selection and Reservation to attend our Annual Luncheon. If misplaced, ask me for another copy.

Take the opportunity to send your  
"73 To the VWOA"

73 being Wireless Code for "BEST WISHES"



**VWOA President Alan Ehrlich**

Those of you who have a BUSINESS CARD or QSL CARD, take the opportunity to present yourself to all your fellow Veteran Wireless Operators Association members. Post one of yours in this 2013 YearBook

Please send your Reservation in by May 18

It is a wonderful way to meet again and talk to old friends and honor people who hold in high esteem the Maritime History of New York City.

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## WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

From: Jules Sackman  
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 10:26 AM  
To: [Francis T Cassidy](#)  
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Great Video of VJ Day:  
Honolulu, August 14, 1945

Frank, this may be of interest. In addition to the video of Aug 14, 1945 I added a snippet about me, below.

Jules Sackman

On that day, August 14th, 1945...I think it was early Sunday morning. I was 17. My first Merchant Marine assignment ....on a troop ship, the Kingston Victory, in Naples, Italy harbor. We were loading a regiment of the Pine Tree division, Washington state to go thru the Suez canal to Australia for the invasion of Japan. There were long lines of GI's on the dock coming aboard. A navy hospital ship came into the harbor....all flags flying, horns blowing. I went into the radio shack turned on the radio and found out about the Armistice. Word got to the troops quickly. We already had 400-or 500 on board. The all ran to the starboard, right side. The ship actually significantly listed. There was a wall of cheers from the troops on the dock. Instead of Suez, Australia and Japan....we took them to Boston..

I'll always remember that day!!

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Did not see one US service man or women, fat or obese or over weight. No civilians either. It was the skinny generation.

Great Video of V-J Day in Honolulu...

Great video of a Spontaneous Victory Parade in Honolulu in 1945. Take a look at this video- absolutely fabulous! Notice the cars, jeeps, and youth. The guys in khaki or gray shirts and black ties are Navy officers or chiefs. The rest are Army or Marine. How young they all were to do what they did.

Check out the color fidelity. It's not bad for 1945. Sound and wa-hoo's added in reproduction. Click here for the video:

<http://vimeo.com/5645171>

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From: [Francis T Cassidy](#)  
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 10:06 AM  
To: Lunney Rear Admiral J. Robert  
Cc: Ehrlich Alan  
Subject: Fw: Captain Benedict

Bob:

Reviewed both youtube URLs sent to me by Alan, and found them bringing back powerful memories of that time. Nice job, keep up the good work.

Frank

----- Original Message -----

From: J. Robert Lunney  
To: Alan Ehrlich  
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2012 9:41 AM  
Subject: Fw: Captain Benedict

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: 안재철 <

To: J. Robert Lunney

Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2012 3:53 AM

Subject: Captain Benedict

Dear Honorable Dr. J. Robert Lunney,  
Attached please find the following sight in your computer for our work in Korea.

<http://youtu.be/B2vZo6CCKJY>

<http://youtu.be/D2RSicgsSP8>

Also, because of recent return of dead KATUSA soldiers from Jangjin Reservoir to Korea, our story of Sailing for Life and our new book, Korean War and Vision of Korea is getting very famous in Korea.

Tomorrow, your photos with Captain LaRue during the Korean War will be in KBS TV studio when I explained the Jangjin Reservoir and Hungnam Evacuation tomorrow morning live program.

I did not hear anything from Guinness World Records, Japan Office as well as England so far.

Sincerely yours,

Captain

Jaechul "Benedict" Ahn

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From: [oldradio@comcast.net](mailto:oldradio@comcast.net)

Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 7:41 PM

To: [David Ring N1EA](mailto:David.Ring@N1EA)

Cc: radio-officers

Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] Coast Guard publication "Proceedings" - Titanic Issue

Hi Sparks,

I received this from a friend. I think you will like this.

73, John

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I got my copy. I also got my issue of a Coast Guard publication called "Proceedings". This is a very analytical publication but this month its main subject is the Titanic. As I said, it is analytical but it gives the ship comprehensive coverage, including the radios.

You can view and download the issue at this address: <http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/>  
For the Titanic, in the USCG Proceedings read:

[Protecting ships from the sea and the sea from ships](#) by Mr. Charles Rawson and  
[forensic Analysis of the RMS Titanic](#)  
[Unraveling the mysteries of the world's most famous sinking](#) by Mr. Brian Thomas and  
Mr. Jaideep Sirkar and  
[If the Titanic Sank Today](#)

By Kurt J. Heinz, P.E.

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From: stan levandowski <

Date: September 22, 2012 3:48:08 PM EDT

To: [wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Subject: From Stan WB2LQF

Hello, Wendell. The "QRP CW DE-Xpedition Aboard the USS SLATER (DE-766) was a great success in every way.

We worked one VWOA member that I know of: Charles M. Brecheisen of Holly Lake Ranch, TX (W5VFO)

Here's a video we made that you may enjoy viewing:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b\\_cX0yiskU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b_cX0yiskU)

Regards,

Stan Levandowski WB2LQF

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Published on Sep 20, 2012 by [stanscoyote](#)

Three QRP KX3s join up with three vintage maritime wire antennas aboard a historic ship. Final tally was 37 states worked and 10 different DXCC entities, primarily Europe and South America. Furthest west our signals traveled was California. That's just prop and time; we're not complaining at all.

From: stan levandowski

Date: September 22, 2012 9:15:38 PM EDT

To: [wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Subject: RE: Fwd: From Stan WB2LQF

Wendell, the USS SLATER does indeed "fire up" the navy TXs. The rare RCA TBL-8 works just fine. But such equipment does not lend itself to operating at QRP power levels and that was the focus of this event - to both call attention to a historic navy ship as well as to call attention to what can be done with just a few watts, some operator discipline, and that "old technology" called Morse code ;) 73, Stan.

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From: Kmacamc

Date: September 23, 2012 4:12:22 AM EDT

To: Stan Levandowski WB2LQF

[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Subject: VWOA member , W2ZRA/ Kevin MacDonald QSO with K2N/ USS Slater

Good morning Stan,

Regarding the email you sent to Wendell about the special event for K2N/ USS Slater, I just wanted to let you know that I was fortunate to work K2N ( Op- Tony) on 40m on 19 Sept, @ 21:22 UTC. I mailed out my QSL which you will probably receive early this coming week.

As a former CG Radioman, I enjoy making QSO's with special event stations, especially Navy/ Coast Guard Vessels.

I look forward to "meeting" you on the air and to your next Special Event.

Very 73,

Kevin/ W2ZRA

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From: Patti Maurstad

Date: October 15, 2012 6:40:42 PM EDT

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Ray Maurstad

Hi Wendell,

I thought you might want to know Ray passed on Oct 10 - at 11:10am. Feel free to share the news. There is an obituary online if you Google his name. It was a pleasure working with over the summer. Take care and I hope your wife is in good health. God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Patti Maurstad

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*In Memory of*

# Raymond Maurstad

April 4, 1928 - October 10, 2012

## Obituary

Maurstad, Raymond B. W3HUV Age 84, of Coon Rapids, MN, born April 4, 1928 and peacefully passed away Oct. 10, 2012. Preceded in death by Wife Marion, Parents Selmer and Lilly, Brother Bennett and Sister Janet. Survived by loving Daughter Deborah (Roy); Sons Murray (Vicki), Mitchell (Celine) and Matthew (Patti). Sisters Loraine and Carol and Brother Gary. Grand Children Chad, Rebecca, Tamara, Mitchell Jr., Nickole and Leigh including seven Great Grand Children other numerous relatives and friends. Ray was a WWII veteran, active with HAM Radio and Authored the book SOS Korea. In 1945 at the age of 17 he was the Chief Radio Officer on the Liberty Ship SS David Lubin in the convoy invasion of Okinawa. On the evening of July 1956 Ray while on the SS Robert E Hopkins off the New England coast was one of the first Radio Officer's to receive the SOS distress calls in the collision of the Andrea Doria and Stockholm which today remains the worst Maritime accident in U.S. waters and assisted with the rescue of its survivors. He also had a distinguished professional career including Director of Product Planning and Operations for the Peripherals Division Worldwide Manufacturing with Sperry UNIVAC. He was a kind, honest and caring father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Ray will be greatly missed for his friendship, and love of family. There will be a Private Interment by Family.

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From: [Wendell R. Benson](#)  
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 9:10 PM  
To: [Francis T Cassidy](#)  
Subject: Fwd: Wireless Member Honored  
Frank - I forgot to send this to you - Wendell

From: Fran Mason  
Date: January 24, 2013 8:07:19 PM EST  
To: "[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)"  
<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Wireless Member Honored  
Reply-To: Fran Mason <[mnzbw@yahoo.com](mailto:mnzbw@yahoo.com)>

Hello Mr. Benson,  
It has been almost a year since I last emailed you about the death of my father-in-law, Carl Mason, W1GHK, of Pownal, Maine. You and your organization were so kind to publish his obituary.

Since then his son, George, has given his last and best working radios to a wireless club in Brooksville, FL. Our contact to that club is a friend who lives in that area. I have attached a copy of the "Declaration of Appreciation" that they made at their last club meeting. I wanted all to know that Carl's radios went to a group that IS using them and very, very happy to get them. They were not thrown out but put in a special area to continue to be used.

So Carl lives on through the love of his radio. I hope all is well for you. George and I are still in NC with me wishing to be back in Maine everyday.

BE WELL,  
Fran Mason

My computer indicated that there might have been an error when adding the attachment. If so, let me know. I will try again.

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In my routine correspondence with VWOA Members, I telephoned VWOA Member Ross Sterling and found he was not well and his XL asked who I was and did Ross know me, so I sent her the following information in an Email :

Mrs. Sterling:

The following URL:

[http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA\\_Enewsletter01.pdf](http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA_Enewsletter01.pdf)

Issued in 2005, this was the first of the newsletters published in PDF format.

Included in the Newsletter is a photo of me and also stories about my experiences.

73

Wendell WW2G

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From: Mrs. Ross Sterling

Date: February 11, 2013 11:41:28 PM EST

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Re:

[http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA\\_Enewsletter01.pdf](http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA_Enewsletter01.pdf)

I am sorry, but this came encrypted and I can't open it, could you send it on Word?

Sorry, Mrs Sterling

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From: [Francis T Cassidy](#)  
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 2:30 PM  
To: [Wendell R. Benson](#)  
Subject: Re: Fwd:  
[http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA\\_Enewsletter01.pdf](http://vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA_Enewsletter01.pdf)  
Suggest you advise her to install ADOBE  
READER 10 if she is using Windows Vista.  
URL for downloading is:  
<http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=HRZAC>

Frank

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From: Ross Sterling  
Date: February 15, 2013 10:18:03 AM EST  
To: "Wendell R. Benson"  
<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Re: vwoa web site

Dear Mr. Benson,

I was able to successfully download the Adobe Reader and also get the information. however there are a lot of newsletters as you said before, besides the latest one, which ones did you mention that I should check out?

Thank you for your help.

Mrs. Sterling

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Backgroun of Ross W. Sterling Sr. W7YCW in the VWOA Chron file

I was a 17 year old high school student on that Sunday morning of December 7, 1941. As I listened to the radio, I mentioned to my grandfather with whom I lived, that my future was pretty well cut and dried. He disagreed, saying that it would never get that far. It did.

In school, several of us asked the Principal if he would teach us radio. Being it was a small school, he agreed if we would promise to stay with the program. We did and we learned radio theory and of course, Morse International code. This turned out to shape the rest of my life.

When I reached 18 at the end of school, I was drafted in the first 18 year old draft. Because I had radio and code, I was sent first to the newly formed 75th Infantry Division into the Headquarters Company as a telegrapher.

The TG 5A was an interesting machine as we hooked one end to one telephone wire and the other to ground. It had a delicate electromagnet and it operated on very little current.

Later, I was transferred to various radio schools, ending up in Fort Monmouth, N.J. where I learned the Japanese code, so I could work as an intercept operator.

Soon after, I found myself on board a troopship named the General A. E. Anderson. Sailing a zigzag course, we headed south and spent a couple days in Australia, although none of us were allowed to leave the ship. The next leg was another zigzag course ending in Bombay, India. I guess we would have to call it a troop train even though it was a bunch of old wooden cars in which we traversed the country until we ended at Calcutta where we took planes to northern Burma, a town called Myitkyina, (pronounced Mitchinaw) which wasn't totally in Allied hands at that time.

By now, we had figured out that we were not going to be in a plushy, rear echelon doing intercept operations, but rather, we were introduced to the mules which were going to be our constant companions. This was the Mars Task Force, which consisted of the 475th Infantry Regiment and the 124th Cavalry Special (Dismounted) and also two 75 howitzer Battalions along with a hospital unit. All this was moved by mule pack.

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I was assigned a big black mule and I learned to put the Phillips Pack Saddle on him and hang the boxes of radios on the Pack Saddle. This was done in a matter of a couple days and then we started down the trail. Fortunately, the mules were very fond of bamboo leaves and the bamboo grew almost a foot across and 90 feet high.

We were supplied by air drop and the mules were furnished with sacks of oats in addition to the bamboo leaves. We were also supplied by air drop and our food came via parachutes. We were not as lucky as the mules as we often were unable to receive food as we may not have had control of the area or we could not find a suitable spot for the drop. In addition, the planes doing the dropping often came under fire and they left without dropping our groceries. They got their ears burned by our officers by radio as they flew off.

The job of the Mars Task Force was to take a jungle route and demolish the small forts and minitanks that were along the Burma Road so the Chinese Fifth Army could chase the enemy back into China. It was believed that no army could traverse that jungle and be any danger to the enemy but that was obviously a bad tactical error because we did just that. There IS not enough paper or time to explain what it was like to lead a mule all day and then make camp, set up the radio, take turns operating, sleep a little and then in the morning, pack up and do it all again. After over a hundred miles of that, we actually went into battle to do what we were sent to so. Of course, there were some fairly heavy casualties among some of our troops but we accomplished our goal.

During that time, the war came to an end and we were flown to China to await the dreamed

of trip to get on board the ship and come home.

After a few years, I joined the Naval Reserve to operate some radio training nets and can you believe in a month, the Korean War broke out and in days I was on a destroyer escort vessel as a radio operator. I never went to boot camp or had any other training but operating radio was no problem. In fact, operating on board ship was much easier than mule skinning.

After three years, I was back being a civilian again and took my general amateur test and became a Ham Radio Operator with the call, W7YCW and today I am very active on all bands, mostly CW.

Ross W. Sterling Sr. W7YCW

#### AWARDS, RIBBONS AND ME

Korean Service

Asiatic Pacific Campaign with 4 battle stars

WW2 China War Memorial

WW2 Commemorative

U S Navy Commemorative

Air, Land and Sea Commemorative

Armed Forces Honorable Commemorative

Good Conduct

Combat Infantry Badge

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From: Katherine White

Date: February 22, 2013 11:14:48 AM EST

To: [wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Subject: Gordon White

Hi Wendell,

So sorry to have been so out of touch. I just wanted to give you the very sad news that my father, Gordon White, passed away yesterday. He died at home. He just turned 88 this year, Feb. 2nd.



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As you know, he struggled with Alzheimer's during the last years of his life and this year, his health had gotten a bit more frail. He died from an infection related to shingles that he came down with this past weekend.

I know he thought very highly of you - thought of you as a friend - and I thought you would want to know. He loved his job and the time he spent volunteering, after his retirement, on the Ambrose.

I hope all is well with you. I don't have any details about the services, yet, but they will be held in a funeral home in New Rochelle. I can forward you the information, if you'd like.

Do you or the ARA have my father's records of which ships he was on when, etc.? He didn't really keep that written down anywhere, and I would love to have that, if there is any way for me to find it. Please let me know, if you can.

All the best,

Kathy White-Stadler

Katherine R. White, LMSW

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From: Katherine White

Date: February 25, 2013 4:13:22 PM EST

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Re: Gordon White

Hi Wendell,

Attached is my Dad's Obituary. I will get in touch with you in the next couple of weeks. He had quite a few photos/history and has some equipment, still, that you may want for the VWOA. It might take me a little while to find it all/ piece the history all together, but I can

scan the photos and send them to you in the near future.

Best,

Kathy

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White – Gordon Graham, lifetime resident of New York City, passed away peacefully, after a long illness, on February 21, 2013 at his home. He was 87 years old. Gordon was born on February 2, 1926 in New York, NY to the late Elsie Mae Gordon, Vaudeville, Stage and Radio Star, and Norman White. He served in WWII in the Army Air Forces, studied Engineering at Columbia University, and was a First Class Radio Officer with the American Radio Association. After his retirement, Gordon volunteered with the Not-For-Profit Veteran Wireless Operators Association in New York City where he conducted tours of the Radio Room aboard the historic Ambrose Lightship, docked at the South Street Seaport. Gordon is predeceased by his late wife, Basilia Quijano, survived by his daughters, Marguerite White and Katherine White-Stadler, Grandchildren, Jordan and Lucas Stadler, beloved Sister In-Law, Raffaella Smyth and numerous beloved Nieces and a nephew. A private Memorial service will be held Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Lloyd Maxcy & Sons Beauchamp Chapel in New Rochelle, NY. The family asks, at Gordon's behest, that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to either the Veteran Wireless Operators Association (VWOA) at [www.vwoa.org](http://www.vwoa.org) or to the Alzheimer's Association at [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org)

From: "Wendell R. Benson"  
<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>  
Date: February 19, 2013 5:00:59 PM EST  
To: Francis T Cassidy  
<[ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)>  
Subject: URL  
Frank,  
Recent newsletters on my web have listed this site. Do you have it in yours?

<http://gcaptain.com>

It is known as the gCaptain Newsletter - maritime and offshore news

Wendell

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## **Centenarian Morris Welte Of Southampton Dies Feb 27, 2013**

Publication: The Southampton Press



**Morris Welte SK**

Centenarian Morris Welte died at his home in Southampton on February 27, surrounded by family.

Born on a date now assured a place in the history books, September 11, Mr. Welte enjoyed two careers in his lifetime after traveling the world as a radio operator aboard ships and planes.

The youngest of three boys, Mr. Welte emigrated to the United States from Eastern Europe and grew up in New York City. His parents split up when he was just 3 years old, after which he went to live with foster families. He ended up living at an orphanage starting at age 9 and credits his upbringing there with teaching him right from wrong and how to be responsible.

A scholarship to the YMCA Radio School allowed him to learn ship-to-shore communication and Morse code, which was the start of a 10-year odyssey that brought him to ports around the globe.

During World War II, Mr. Welte took to the air, joining the Air Force and working for Pan American Airlines out of Florida, which was contracted by the government to help out with the war effort. Mr. Welte was the radio operator traveling on bombers being delivered to Allied troops.

In a profile about Mr. Welte that appeared in The Southampton Press last year, just a few

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days before his 100th birthday, he noted that his job during the war was a “difficult one because the radio code changed every hour, and the operators were responsible for remembering which code was in effect for which hour. Many times, the enemy taped broadcasts and replayed them at different hours of the day to try to cause the operators to make mistakes.”

After the war, Mr. Welte, an avid Yankees fan, worked for a few years as a radio and television repairman in New York City, during which time he had a chance meeting with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

The year 1953 brought his first wife, May, and him to Southampton, where he began work for the MacKay Radio Receiving Station. He retired from that job, in which he kept track of messages for commercial ships offshore, after 25 years. His wife died shortly afterward of cancer.

Three years later, he met his second wife, Audrey, at a coffee hour at the First Presbyterian Church of Southampton, of which he was a devoted member. They have been happily married for 35 years.

His wife shared his love of travel and they have taken a trip every year since they married in 1978. Their Southampton home is filled with boxes of photographs documenting—all

meticulously organized by Mr. Welte—their travels.

Never content to be idle, Mr. Welte started repairing clocks sometime in 1979, eventually starting his own business, Tick Tock Clock Repair, in his basement. In 1994, he fixed the Village of Roslyn’s tower clock, as a favor to his stepdaughter, Janet Galante, who was the mayor of the village at the time.

He retired just two years ago, working through battles with cancer and macular degeneration, and surviving open heart surgery.

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We at the VWOA Newsletter would like to hear from you and try to pass along to the rest of the VWOA stories of events that you have experienced and that you feel the rest of the membership would enjoy hearing about.

Send us a picture or two and we will try to include it in one of our Email Newsletters.

We would prefer to hear from you by Email at:

[ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)

or

[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)