

# Quartzfest Schedule

January 18 – 25, 2026

(Updated 1/16/2026)

We selected Monday for the [Star Party](#) but, of course, we didn't know it's likely to be the most-overcast evening of the week! Feel free to stop by Area 2 Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evening to satisfy your astronomy urges.

**Check the bulletin board on-site for last-minute changes.** [Changes since previous schedules are listed at the bottom.](#)

**Email [quartzfest@qrv.ht](mailto:quartzfest@qrv.ht) with corrections, suggestions, or to add your presentation.**

[Throughout the Week](#) [Presenters and Events](#) [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Monday](#) [Tuesday](#) [Wednesday](#) [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

## Getting Ready

[Volunteer Opportunities--click here](#)

Kris Weed

KR1SS

## Sunday

1300

Area 1

Quartzfest 2026 Opening Ceremony

Kris Weed

KR1SS

## Monday [{Top}](#)

0745

146.550

Morning Net

Kris Weed

KR1SS

0900	1000	Area 1	Welcome Seminar—Gordo and team give a preview of all the action		
1030	1130	Area 1	<a href="#">ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits</a>	Gary Johnson Debbie Johnson Gordon West	AA6GJ WB6LVC WB6NOA
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		<a href="#">License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1</a>	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300	1500	Area 3	<a href="#">Cornhole Tournament</a>	Danette Key	KI7VEY
1400	1500	Area 1	<a href="#">RV Upgrades Worth Investigating</a>	Keith Shomaker	
1530		Area 1	Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1800	2100	Area 2	<a href="#">Star Party</a>	Alan Kopp	AK9K
1830	1930	Area 3	<a href="#">Recruiting and Retaining New Hams</a>	Stiv Ostenberg	K9STV

## Tuesday [{Top}](#)

0745		146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
			RV Dump today (did you sign up in registration tent?)		
0900	1000	Area 1	<a href="#">Powering the Starlink Mini Using Ohms Law</a>	Carter Davis	KH6FV
0900	1000	Area 2	<a href="#">Disability Awareness</a>	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
0900	1400	offsite	Trip to Town and the RV & Rock Shows		
1030	1130	Area	<a href="#">Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months</a>	John Kitchens	NS6X
1030	1130	Area 2	<a href="#">Why You'll Want to Add GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit</a>	Jim Mohan	AA7JM

1200	146.550	Noon Net		Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	<a href="#">License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1</a>		Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Quartz Rocks, Super Stars &amp; Judging</a>	Gordon West	WB6NOA
1400	1500	Area 3	<a href="#">Bunny Hunt—Presentation followed by a hunt</a>	Tony Levand	AA9CC
1530		Area 1	Happy Hour	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1600		Area 1	Pot Luck Dinner		
1700	1800	Area 1	Pet Parade	Lyn Weed	KJ7DSE
1830	1930	Area 2	<a href="#">What You Should Know About Gen-IV Nuclear Power</a>	Scott Evans	KO3B
1830	1930	Area 3	<a href="#">First Aid--Stop the Bleed</a>	Michelle Pelkey	KA7OQQ
2000	2100	Area 3	<a href="#">Nano VNA</a>	Dave Smith	W6DPS

## Wednesday [{Top}](#)

0745	146.550	Morning Net		Kris Weed	KR1SS
0900	1000	Area 2	<a href="#">Randy's Favorite Tools, Gizmos and Gadgets</a>	Randy Hall	K7AGE
0900	1400	offsite	<a href="#">Off Road Adventure</a>	Frank Engstrom	KB7IQ
1030	1130	Area 2	<a href="#">Handiham Program</a>	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
1030	1130	Area 3	<a href="#">Lift Off! Discover the World of Pico-Ballooning</a>	Brian Basura	N6CVO
1200	146.550	Noon Net		Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	<a href="#">License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1</a>		Stephen Hutchings	WM7X

1300		Russ's	<a href="#">Jam Session and Hootenanny Practice. South of Area 3</a>	Russ Decker	KB6YAF
1400	1500	Area 1	<a href="#">Antenna Launching for Ham Radio</a>	Alan Biocca	W6AKB
1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Metal Detecting—Old Rare Coins Buried!</a>	Gordon West	WB6NOA
1530		Area 1	Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1830	1930	Area 2	<a href="#">Parks On The Air® (POTA)</a>	Craig McVeay	N0CSM
1830	1930	Area 3	<a href="#">Antenna Physics</a>	Avery Davis	WB4RTP
2000	2100	Area 2	<a href="#">Make an Antenna and Take it up a Mountain</a>	Tobias Feltus	KK7BCO
2000	2100	Area 3	<a href="#">Digital Amateur Television</a>	Joel Wilhite	KD6W

## Thursday [{Top}](#)

0745		146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
			RV Dump today (did you sign up in registration tent?)		
0830	1300	offsite	<a href="#">POTA: Drive to KOFA Park--Meet at registration tent</a>	Nancy Crowley	KD7S
0830	1300	offsite	<a href="#">SOTA Hike to Cunningham Peak--Meet at registration tent</a>	Javi Beltran	K6TNT
0900	1130	Area 1	<a href="#">Onan Generators, RV Electrical and Solar Systems</a>	Jerry Brown	K06GB
0900	1000	Area 2	<a href="#">YLRL Meeting &amp; Presentation</a>	Vicki Zumwalt	N6KLS
0900	1000	Area 3	<a href="#">Antennas</a>	Tom Schiller	N6BT
1030	1130	Area 2	<a href="#">3D Printing for Ham Radio</a>	Alan Biocca	W6AKB
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS

1230	1330		<a href="#">License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1</a>	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300	1500		<a href="#">Solar Walkabout--Meet at registration tent</a>	Carter Davis	KH6FV
1400	1500	Area 1	<a href="#">A Simple Homebrew Hamstick Dipole</a>	Dave Smith	W6DPS
1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Crocheting</a>	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
1530		Area 1	Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1630		Area 1	<a href="#">Hootenanny</a>	Russ Decker	KB6YAF

## Friday [{Top}](#)

0745		146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1030	1130	Area 1	ARRL Forum (SW Division Vice Director)	John Kitchens	NS6X
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		<a href="#">License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1</a>	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1400	1500	Area 1	<a href="#">Winlink Email Demonstration--How to do it QRP</a>	Frank Kostelac	N7ZEV
				Linda Kostelac	KC7IIT
1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR)</a>	Clayton Jacobs	KJ6QJS
1530		Area 1	Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1830	1930	Area 2	<a href="#">Talk like a Ham</a>	Don Kelly	WA6ZMT
1830	1930	Area 3	<a href="#">Reliable Mesh Networking with ICMesh</a>	Nick Newsom	K7CFO

## Saturday [{Top}](#)

0745	146.550	Morning Net		Kris Weed	KR1SS
1000	1130	<a href="#">ANSR High Altitude Balloon Launch. South edge of camp</a>		Clayton Jacobs	KJ6QJS
1000		<a href="#">Volunteer Opportunities—click here</a>		Kris Weed	KR1SS
1200	1400	Area 1	Closing Ceremony, Grand Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1400		<a href="#">Volunteer Opportunities—click here</a>		Kris Weed	KR1SS

## Throughout the Week [{Top}](#)

### Quartzfestnet—146.550 Simplex announcements at 0745 and 1200.

The rest of the time, if there's someone awake--it's open.

### Registration—Welcome Tent (Saturday through Thursday 0900 - 1500)

### RV Dump Service is expected Tuesday and Thursday.

today (did you sign up in registration tent?)

RV Dump

### License Testing [License Testing](#)

### Go Find a Rock (Sunday through Tuesday) See below [{Go Find a Rock}](#)

### W7Q Special Event Station (Monday through Friday 0900 - 1500) **Canceled**

The volunteer who was to set up the special event station was unable to come to Quartzfest this year.

The special event station in the tent behind the registration area is available for anyone to operate, from the simply curious to long-time hams. If you're not licensed, or you're a tech wanting to experience general/extra privileges, a licensed control operator will be there to help.

## **Pico-Balloon Launches**

Brian Basura, N6CVO, and Jed Dyke, N6JED, will attempt one or two Pico-balloon launches during the week.

## **Work the Space Station Repeater [{See info below}](#)**

## **Volunteer Opportunities [{Top}](#)**

### **Saturday through Thursday 0900 – 1500, Registration in the Welcome Tent**

Welcome attendees and enter their information in our database. Stop by the Welcome Tent to sign up for as many shifts as you like.

### **Friday Setup [{Top}](#)**

Friday January 16th will be our day to set up our tent and bulletin boards. We start out with 5 or 6 pickup trucks which will run into town to load our equipment from our storage unit. We'll not only need drivers of those trucks, but we'll also need other volunteers to help load the trucks. Once we get back to our Quartzfest area, we'll need help setting up the welcome tent and the special event station pop-up as well as placing tables and setting up our PA systems.

### **Saturday--closing day [{Saturday}](#)**

January 24th at about 10am we'll need volunteers to tear down camp...the same tent, bulletin boards, etc. so right after closing ceremony we can return the equipment back to storage.

After the closing ceremony we'll need those 5 or 6 pickup trucks which will run into town to return our equipment to our storage unit. We'll not only need drivers of those trucks, but we'll also need other volunteers to help load the trucks.

## **Presenters and Event Descriptions [{Top}](#)**

### **Alan Biocca, W6AKB**

Alan is an active amateur radio operator with a strong focus on portable HF operation, antenna experimentation, and practical

field techniques. He combines decades of hands-on technical experience with modern tools such as Pneumatic Antenna Launcher Development, 3D printing, microcontrollers, and custom software to build reliable, real-world radio solutions. Alan enjoys sharing what works (and what doesn't) through demonstrations and practical talks that emphasize simplicity, safety, and results.

### **Antenna Launching for Ham Radio**

Getting an HF antenna into the air is often the hardest part of portable and field operation. This talk covers practical, proven methods for launching antenna lines in real-world conditions—from simple throw-weights and arborist techniques to pneumatic launchers and line management--that actually work. We'll discuss safety, gear choices, deployment strategies for trees in backyards, forests and parks, and common mistakes that cost time and gear. Ideal for portable operators, POTA/SOTA activators, ARRL Field Day, and anyone who wants better on-air results with less frustration.

### **3D Printing for Ham Radio**

3D printing is a powerful tool for solving everyday ham radio problems, especially in portable and outdoor setups. This session focuses on practical, RF-friendly prints such as antenna insulators, mounts, cable guides, power accessories, and field hardware—along with material choices that survive heat, UV, and mechanical stress. We'll cover what works, what fails, and how to design or adapt parts for your own station or field kit. No prior 3D printing experience required—just a desire to make better gear.

### **Alan Kopp, AK9K**

#### **Star Party—see note on page 1 [{Monday}](#)**

We will have telescopes set up for all to enjoy and you may bring your own. Alan will be available at his motorhome starting January 14 to answer questions. Monday evening will be a new moon—unfortunately, a week out it looks like it will be overcast. Time will tell.

## **Avery Davis, WB4RTP**

Avery Davis is an electrical engineer now retired from the aerospace industry. He holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license, WB4RTP, from the US FCC and was first licensed in 1970 in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated from Georgia Tech with an M.S.E.E. and worked for Georgia Tech Research Institute. In 1998, Avery moved to Tucson, Arizona, to work for Raytheon and retired in 2022, but still resides in Tucson. Avery is a past president of the Catalina Radio Club.

### **Antenna Physics** [{Wednesday}](#)

This seminar is about antenna theory. Most of the textbooks (and seminars) on antennas fall into one of two categories:

1. Basic introduction and “how-to” books using various antenna types as examples, i.e. The ARRL Antenna Book.
2. Advanced textbooks for senior and graduate-level study (Kraus, Balanis, Stutzman, and several more classics--some dating back to the 1930s).

There is very little in print for “intermediate” level treatments. After many years of studying and working on antennas, author Bob Zavrel, W7SX, came to the conclusion that the traditional advanced academic texts could be simplified into a “transitional” text between basic introductions and the rigor of the formal academic treatments. Of course, there is no replacement for the more advanced texts with their detailed derivations, but hopefully author Zavrel’s book, *Antenna Physics: An Introduction*, will fill a problematic void. Also, after decades explaining antennas to innumerable people, author Zavrel found there were areas that were common to misunderstandings. Therefore, this seminar addresses these common misunderstandings by using author Zavrel’s book as the source of these explanations, with some additions by Avery Davis.

## **Bill Mader**

The Art of Mentoring [{Monday}](#)

Reasons for Millennials and Gen-Zs to Join ARRL [Tuesday](#)

Ferrite is Your Friend [Tuesday](#)

Why Aren't You Contesting? [Wednesday](#)

## **Brian Basura, N6CVO**

I am an Amateur Radio Extra Class operator serving as Assistant District Emergency Coordinator for the ARES LAX High Desert District and a Board Member of both the Antelope Valley ARC and Acton Agua Dulce ARC. With decades of technical experience in aerospace, IT consulting, and hydroelectric power, I actively support communications infrastructure, STEM education, and technical projects ranging from Tesla coils to Pico-Balloons.

### **Lift Off! Discover the World of Pico-Ballooning** [Wednesday](#)

Learn how tiny balloons carrying ham radios can travel vast distances — and how you can track or launch your own.

## **Carter Davis, KH6FV**

Aloha, holding an amateur license since the mid-1970s, I have enjoyed many aspects of amateur radio. First, spending a number of years in HF and then migrating over to FM Analog repeater operations and now digital. Getting reacquainted with HF with the purchase of HF radios in 2020.

I have retired from a large metro fire department, was dispatched to national wildfire events to work in the communications unit and I continue to work as a telecommunications specialist with the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team. These responses to various events in my community and around the country have provided me with experiences of operating during dark sky events and large incidents, providing me with the opportunity to work with various RF & satellite communications systems during adverse and major events.

### **Powering the Starlink Mini Using Ohms Law** [Tuesday](#)

The presentation is based on the PACE planning concepts and related to my experience of using non-OEM power sources and its challenges. The Starlink Mini is the only current Starlink terminal that can operate under a significant variation of DC voltage sources. I will be discussing and displaying equipment I use to keep a Starlink operating even when commercial power is not available.

### **Solar Walkabout** [{Thursday}](#)

Program your HT for 146.600 simplex and meet at the registration tent. The group will visit a number of solar installations and the owner will share their experience.

### **Clayton Jacobs, KJ6QJS**

#### **Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR)** [{Friday}](#)

#### **ANSR High Altitude Balloon Launch. South edge of camp** [{Saturday}](#)

### **Craig McVeay, NØCSM**

Craig has previously presented at Quartzfest, where he shared his experiences deploying to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria as part of the “Force of 50” in 2017. During that talk, he credited National Parks On The Air with helping prepare him for the deployment—specifically by making him comfortable setting up and operating a portable amateur radio station in less-than-ideal conditions. Craig is still a big fan of the ideas behind POTA and enjoys getting out and activating parks whenever he can, and he is an active participant in the FEMA SHARES program. These days, he also serves as the Nevada Section Manager, responds to help requests on the POTA Help Desk, and acts as the Operations Officer for a search and rescue team in Southern Nevada.

#### **Parks On The Air® (POTA)** [{Wednesday}](#)

POTA grew out of ARRL’s 2016 *National Parks On The Air* event—the largest and most popular single event ARRL has ever run. Today, POTA has several hundred thousand registered users worldwide. It’s still pretty young by amateur radio standards, but it’s grown fast and shows no signs of slowing down.

At its core, POTA is simple and fun. An amateur radio operator—called an **activator**—operates from within the boundaries of a recognized POTA park or entity and makes contacts (QSOs) with other hams known as **hunters**. Hunters might be operating from home, mobile, portable, or even from another park. Activators upload the logs, hunters are automatically credited, and then it’s on to the next park.

This presentation examines POTA from the activator's perspective. We'll cover:

- Where you need to be and the basic rules for a valid activation
- Ideas for setting up and getting on the air without overthinking it
- Logging options that work well in the field and the minimum requirements for a log
- Uploading logs and what to do if something goes sideways
- A few friendly reminders about things we probably *shouldn't* do while hamming it up during a POTA activation

### **Danette Key, KI7VEY**

Retired resident of Young, Arizona. Band member of Polyurethane and the Acetones since 2023. Loves to play games--the "fun" grandma with the grandkids! (Haha) Has hosted several cornhole competitions--however, NOT a professional at the game.

#### **Cornhole Tournament [{Monday}](#)**

Register with a partner at the registration tent. Doubles-only competition starting at 1300 hours. Official rules apply--rules will be posted on bulletin board. We will have two sets of cornhole boards. Winners will receive a nice gift. Contact Danette Key, KI7VEY, with questions (Salem travel trailer just west of registration tent).

### **Dave Smith**

I have attended Quartzfest several times over the last ten years and have made several presentations. I have been licensed since 1977, and an Extra since 2001. I am an ARRL registered instructor and a VE accredited by ARRL, GLAARG, and WM7X.

#### **Nano VNA [{Tuesday}](#)**

This will cover the basics of using a NanoVNA for hams. This device is very useful for antenna testing as well as for testing and tuning filters, traps, and other tuned circuits. A NanoVNA can also be used to test coaxial cables and isolate faults in antenna systems.

### **A Simple Homebrew Hamstick Dipole** [{Thursday}](#)

This is not my invention, but I have used them to good effect and have a simple method for putting one together. It can be built with simple hand tools and an electric drill. This is a simple option for POTA activations and Field Day, as well as operating within HOA restrictions.

### **Don Kelly, WA6ZMT**

Like most hams, Don was disassembling small appliances as a toddler. In the Air Force, he met hams who dragged him into the hobby. Licensed as a Novice and Tech in 1962, he couldn't manage 13 WPM, but now is an Extra so he doesn't ever need to take a test again. In the 60s, he had an auto electronics shop but fell into the computer rabbit hole in 1968 and has been a computer nerd ever since. He actually spends more time in amateur radio club administration than he does on the air. He's on the boards of Saint Paul Radio Club, K0AGF, the Desert Circle ARC, NU7DE, and Minnesota Amateur Radio Consortium. He's ARRL Minnesota Affiliated Club Coordinator and recently got suckered into handling Quartzfest registration and presenter scheduling.

### **Talk like a Ham** [{Friday}](#)

This will be part poorly-prepared presentation and part discussion group about the “time-honored” lingo that hams use that is Greek to newer hams and the stuff that newbies are talking about that is completely unintelligible to OTs (Old Timers—get the idea?). Warning: Don may include stuff he hears from time-to-time in some sort of book, app, or on-line mess.

### **Frank Engstrom, KB7IQ**

#### **Off Road Adventure** [{Wednesday}](#)

### **Frank Kostelac, N7ZEV**

### **Linda Kostelac, KC7IIT**

### **Winlink Email Demonstration--How to do it QRP** [{Friday}](#)

**Gary Johnson, AA6GJ**

**Debbie Johnson, WB6LVC**

**Gordon West, WB6NOA**

Gary R. Johnson, AA6GJ, is an amateur radio educator and instructor with Gordon West's Instructor Academy, where he focuses on helping instructors teach amateur radio concepts clearly and confidently. An experienced HF and VHF/UHF operator, Gary emphasizes practical operating skills, modern digital modes, and instructor-ready lesson design. His work supports the Gordon West mission of making amateur radio education engaging, accurate, and accessible.

### **ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits {Monday}**

This Quartzfest session features hands-on instruction using four simple circuits with associated Lesson Plans.

- Demonstrating a Simple Current Amplifier with Two LEDs
- Understanding Diode Directionality
- Demonstrating Capacitor Charging and Discharging
- Varying LED Brightness Using a Potentiometer

Each lesson directly reinforces concepts tested in the Technician Class Amateur Radio Exam, including Ohm's Law, basic components, semiconductors, and circuit behavior.

I hope you will join us in our session and have some fun learning about Elmering.

**Gordon West, WB6NOA**

Gordon West is the ham who needs no introduction—except for a few newbies who should know that he's been writing books for hams since before they were born (sorry, Gordo). He currently serves as the ambassador for the ARRL National Instructor Program as well as continuing to publish in cooperation with ARRL. An Amateur Extra, he's been a ham for more than 60 years. He has been coming to Quartzfest since the Saguaros were short.

### **ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits {Monday}**

### **Quartz Rocks, Super Stars (Sunday through Tuesday) [{Tuesday}](#) [{Throughout the Week}](#)**

All who wander are not lost--some are looking for quartz rocks to enter in the Quartzfest contest for the best find, best decorated, best whiteness, ...something different never done before for EVERYONE--no ham license required! Wander Sunday afternoon through Tuesday morning in the Road Runner BLM camping area and bring your finds to Area 2 at 1400 on Tuesday for judging.

### **Metal Detecting--Old Rare Coins Buried! [{Wednesday}](#)**

Gordo's Metal and Coin detecting, meet up at Area 2 Big Screen, and walk to nearby buried-treasures grounds!

### **Work the Space Station Repeater**

Learn, with a live demo, how to talk through the International Space Station cross-band repeater with Gordo! Bring your handheld on 437.800 MHz FM in the VFO mode! Watch this space for time and place.

## **Javi Beltran, K6TNT**

### **SOTA Hike to Cunningham Peak [{Thursday}](#)**

All are invited to the 1,800 foot steep hike to Cunningham Mountain. Everyone hikes at your own pace. For those interested in SOTA, a group photo and a raffle will be conducted on the summit.

## **Jerry Brown, KP6GB (formerly KO6F)**

Jerry is a retired electrical engineer and Vice President of engineering for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona. He is also a 65 year DIY-er and RV enthusiast. For the last 20 years he has been repairing and refurbishing Onan Generators, designing and installing solar and lithium battery systems, and repairing any other RV issues. He focuses on teaching people to do their own upgrades and installations with hands-on experience.

### **Onan Generators, RV Electrical and Solar Systems [{Thursday}](#)**

This presentation will cover a wide range of topics likely to be of interest to most RVers. There is a troll in the basement that is expensive and frustrating. We will be discussing generators in general and Onans in specific. What are the various models that we see in the shop and useful tips on how to rapidly troubleshoot and repair them yourself. We will discuss what's in the RV electrical systems--both AC and

DC systems. What equipment you need . How to troubleshoot them. What fails and how to repair them yourself. The next topic is batteries, system monitors, and inverters. Batteries are changing rapidly, and we will discuss past present future of deep discharge batteries for RVs. Solar panels are also changing rapidly. When do I need to put up new ones, what fails on them and how to install them.

These topics will be covered in a Q&A format where you get a chance to ask questions from someone who designs and repairs and installs these systems on a daily basis.

## **Jim Mohan, AA7JM**

### **Why You'll Want to Add GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit [{Tuesday}](#)**

In this presentation we'll do an overview of Part 95 Personal Radio Service radios focusing mainly on GMRS. We'll look at the radios, license requirements, repeaters, and the growth of this radio service. The goal is for you, as a ham, to see value in adding GMRS capability to your communications toolkit.

## **Joel Wilhite, KD6W**

### **DATV—Digital Amateur Television [{Wednesday}](#)**

Converting television from analog to digital, the broadcast industry was hoping to revamp the television industry in an attempt to keep the medium of broadcast television relevant by taking advantage of cutting-edge features. This effort can be summarized in two main steps, first the conversion of video and audio data into a bitstream and second, converting the bitstream into a wave form that can be run through a transmitter. These two concepts will be discussed at length to help the amateur radio operator understand the complexity and challenge with deploying a low-cost solution for several different instances found in the amateur radio hobby.

## **John Kitchens, NS6X**

### **Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months [{Monday}](#)**

I did a three month mostly-QRP POTA rove last year, activating parks in 47 states--74 unique parks, SSB, CW and FT8/4. I traveled with an evil cat in a small travel trailer, visiting Four Days in May, Hamvention, LonsterCon, and OzarkCon.

## **Keith Shomaker**

## **RV upgrades worth investigating [{Monday}](#)**

### **Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX**

As her mother became totally deaf by the time Marcia was ten and Marcia was losing her sight from age 18, she would be well positioned to discuss disabilities even without her A.A. in Recreation for the Physically and Emotionally Disabled, B.S. in Special Education, and Masters in Psychology. She has been giving disabled awareness and service animal presentations for over 33 years. You'll meet Nico, the latest of her five guide dogs. In 2000, she was challenged to get a ham license and followed her Tech shortly with a General license, then started a Handiham net to encourage ham radio in the disabled community. And, of course, she enjoys sharing her knowledge of crocheting.

### **Crocheting [{Thursday}](#)**

### **Disability Awareness [{Tuesday}](#)**

### **Handiham Program [{Wednesday}](#)**

### **Michelle Pelkey, KA7OQQ**

### **Stop the Bleed [{Tuesday}](#)**



Learn how to **STOP THE BLEED®** and potentially save a life. Life-threatening bleeding can happen anywhere, not just in serious accidents or disasters, and is the number one cause of preventable death after injury.

You'll learn three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out:

- 1) How to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound

- 2) How to pack a wound to control bleeding
- 3) How to correctly apply a tourniquet

A slide presentation is followed by hands-on practice.

Participants will get a completion certificate after the course.

Presented by Michelle Pelkey, KA7OQQ, a **STOP THE BLEED®** certified instructor.

## **Nancy Crowley, KD7S**

**POTA: Drive to KOFA Park--Meet at registration tent** [{Thursday}](#)

## **Nick Newsom, K7CFO**

**Reliable Mesh Networking with ICMesh** [{Friday}](#)

I'll walk through how we're deploying MeshCore in Trabuco Canyon, and scaling coverage across Southern California. The talk will explore:

- Meshtastic vs. MeshCore – different approaches and reliability tradeoffs
- Repeaters vs. Flood Routing – which works better in rugged terrain
- A behind-the-scenes look at the K7CFO Repeater Link Planner, including Fresnel zones and why I built this tool out of necessity to model link quality
- A live demo from Quartzfest: pings from our campsite to a hilltop repeater, into town, and even over to the Discount Solar repeater

The goal is to give attendees both a technical comparison and a hands-on demonstration of how mesh networking can provide resilient communications when traditional systems fail.

## **Randy Hall, K7AGE**

**Randy's Favorite Tools, Gizmos and Gadgets** [{Wednesday}](#)

## **Russ Decker, KB6YAF**

### **Jam Session and Hootenanny Practice. South of Area 3 [{Wednesday}](#)**

To participate in the Hootenanny, check out the song list at <https://quartzfest.org/hootenanny-files>

### **Hootenanny [{Thursday}](#)**

#### **Scott Evans, KO3B**

Scott is a serial entrepreneur, electrical engineer, and an enthusiast about all things nuclear: power, physics, and medicine. He lives and dances (tango, swing, blues, and fusion) in Colorado. He's been extra-licensed for 16 years but has only recently become active in the hobby via POTA.

### **What You Should Know About Gen-IV Nuclear Power [{Tuesday}](#)**

Gen-IV nuclear technologies offer exciting advantages over the existing fleet of Gen II, III, and III+ nuclear power stations. In addition to more efficiently and safely generating electricity, they will also open important new applications: hydrogen generation, chemical process heat, and synthesis of carbon-neutral fuels.

#### **Stephen Hutchings, WM7X**

Licensed since 1996, with a few years off for raising children, I have always enjoyed Amateur Radio. Dipping my toes into the various aspects of it, I find there is always something to engage me. I bubble forth excitement when a receptive ear wants to know more about Ham. Directing a repeater association for 10 years provided me more experience with repeater coordination, membership, transmitter site maintenance, and the networking of people! As a full-time RVer, I have been able to explore more of the beautiful country over the last 8 years. Southeast, you're next on my list! I began to assist as a Volunteer Examiner 11 years ago. I quickly ramped up my activity with the help of Gordo WB6NOA during Quartzfest 2020

Establishing our test team later that summer, our impact on the hobby became measurable. From remote testing sessions every other week, to now, 13 hours daily, our team averages about 3000 applicants yearly, with no sign of slowing down. Testing applicants from Antarctica to Fiji with a team of Volunteer Examiners from Singapore, Malawi, Sweden, and the Czech Republic, our modest 11-member VE team has grown to nearly 200 that serve regularly. Well over a dozen WM7X VEs are on site at Q-Fest this year, from ME, TN, MI, CA, UT, WA and OR! We believe in freestyle remote testing! Test at YOUR leisure, without the stress of travel, foreign environments, or someone at your elbow. Remote testing is quickly outpacing in-person testing due to its convenience! Stop by the testing compound west of Area 2 to say hi and see how you, too, can help promote radio-activity!

## **License Testing** [{Top}](#)

At Quartzfest, we have in-person testing using touch-screen tablets that handle the test and submission to the FCC. If the daily sessions (1230-1330, Monday through Friday) don't work for you, drop by any time to see if VEs are available. All license classes are being tested for during the week at Quartzfest. The testing area is just west of Area 2.

## **Stiv Ostenberg, K9STV**

Stiv is a retired Sales/Systems Engineer who is using his experience promoting products to "sell" amateur radio. Still feeling overwhelmed by all the information out there, and hoping to help himself (and folks like him) get the resources they need to become successful hams.

## **Recruiting and Retaining New Hams** [{Monday}](#)

Ham Radio is facing a generational cliff as new hams fail to replace old. What can we do to increase interest in Ham Radio? I will discuss how Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System is reaching out to younger audiences, aligning with their interests, and bringing them onboard. I will also discuss how you as an individual Ham can make a difference, regardless of experience. We will also open discussion to share other people's ideas to promote Amateur Radio.

## **Tobias Feltus, KK7BCO**

I got my Technician in 2021 and found my focus to be the merging of many interests: hiking and radio (SOTA), kits, and DIY. I'd harbored an interest in electronics from a very young age--but never had a mentor or focus. I spent years working with analog photography and got a couple of degrees in industrial design. I have been working as a bicycle mechanic for over a decade. Ham radio has given a focus to my childhood interest in electronics, and is a wholesome marriage of many things I have been interested in over the years. I have activated SOTA summits in 5 countries over 4 years, dealing with all the elements: Earth, Rain, Wind, and Sun--mostly using HF, QRP and SSB.

## **Make an Antenna and Take it up a Mountain** [{Wednesday}](#)

I used home-made antennas for my first HF activation, and have continued to do so most of the time. I will describe linked dipoles, endfed halfwaves (linked endfeds as well), off-center-fed dipoles, verticals (and linked verticals that become inverted L), and even a weird folded random wire. I am not hugely technical in my approach, so I hope that my experience will inspire the solder-shy to make their own portable antennas.

## **Tom Schiller, N6BT**

**Antennas** [{Thursday}](#)

**Tony Levand**

**Bunny Hunt—Presentation followed by a hunt** [{Tuesday}](#)

**Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS**

**YLRL Meeting & Presentation** [{Thursday}](#)

## This schedule includes the following changes. [{Top}](#)

Bios and descriptions have been added.

### Changes since the 1/14-2025 Schedule

Canceled as Bill Mader has RV issues:

Mon	1400	1500	Area 2	The Art of Mentoring	Bill Mader	K8TE
Tue	1030	1130	Area 1	Reasons for Millennials and Gen-Zs to Join ARRL	Bill Mader	K8TE
Tue	1400	1500	Area 1	Ferrite is Your Friend	Bill Mader	K8TE
Wed	0900	1000	Area 1	Why Aren't You Contesting?	Bill Mader	

Day and location changed:

Tue	1030	1130	Area 1	<a href="#">Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months</a>	John Kitchens	NS6X
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### Changes since the 1/10-2025 Schedule

Canceled as Rick Paquette has medical issues:

Tue	1200	1530		Cast Iron Cooking at Rick's place east of Area 3	Rick Paquette	W7RAP
Fri	0900	1000	Area 1	ARRL Forum (AZ Section Manager)	Rick Paquette	W7RAP

Added:

1400	1500	Area 1	<a href="#">Antenna Launching for Ham Radio</a>	Alan Biocca	
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Location corrected:

[License Testing](#) is west of Area 1—across the road from the registration tent.

### Changes since the 12-21-2025 Schedule

Time changed:

Mon	1300	1500	Area 3	<a href="#">Cornhole Tournament</a>	Danette Key	KI7VEY
Thu	0900	1000	Area 2	YLRL Mtg & Presentation	Vicki Zumwalt	N6KLS
Thu	1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Crocheting</a>	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX

Location changed:

Wed	1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">Metal Detecting--Old Rare Coins Buried!</a>	Gordon West	WB6NOA
Wed	1830	1930	Area 2	<a href="#">Parks On The Air® (POTA)</a>	Craig McVeay	N0CSM

Added:

Mon	1400	1500	Area 2	<a href="#">The Art of Mentoring</a>	Bill Mader	K8TE
Tue	1030	1130	Area 1	<a href="#">Reasons for Millennials and Gen-Zs to Join ARRL</a>	Bill Mader	K8TE
Wed	0900	1000	Area 1	<a href="#">Why Aren't You Contesting?</a>	Bill Mader	K8TE

Deleted (Entry in error—session is on Monday):

Tue	1030	1130	Area 1	<a href="#">ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits</a>	Gary Johnson	AA6GJ
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## Changes since the 12-15-2025 Schedule

Day, time and location changed:

Tue	1830	1930	Area 2	<a href="#">What You Should Know About Gen-IV Nuclear Power</a>	Scott Evans	KO3B
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Added:

Tue	1030	1130	Area 2	<a href="#">Why You'll Want to Add GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit</a>	Jim Mohan	AA7JM
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Canceled:

Wed	1030	1130	Area 1	Gas/Electric Refrigerator Safety and Troubleshooting.	Paul and Mao	
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They invite you to see their home page: <https://www.arprv.com/> or contact them at [fridge defend@gmail.com](mailto:fridge defend@gmail.com) with any questions.

