

## **Quartzfest Newsletter**

### **Quartzfest 2024 January 21-27**

*Can you believe that Quartzfest kickoff is only 2 weeks away? Lyn and I are looking forward to seeing all of you.*

*First off, directions. Head south from Quartzsite or north from Yuma to the 98.5-mile marker on US 95 and turn at the "La Paz Valley" sign (**do not follow your GPS and turn at the 99 mile marker! You won't make it through wash with your trailer or motorhome**). Then go no more than 50' to the 45MPH sign and turn right on that dirt road. You'll then be at the "Roadrunner" BLM short term camping area. About 200' north you'll sign in with the camp Host. After signing in there, again, head north for about ½ mile until you reach a cross (east/west) dirt road. Turn right on that dirt road...you're now in the Quartzfest area. Our Welcome Tent will be along that road and we'll start registration sign-ins Saturday at 9:am. Talk in will be on 146.550 simplex.*

*Speaking of signing in, make sure you drop by to sign in with us. If you're a licensed amateur radio operator, you'll receive a "free" raffle ticket to win our Grand Prize that will be raffled off during our closing ceremony on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>. You must sign in with us to receive this free ticket. Unfortunately, we have to set a deadline of noon on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> to get your ticket. None will be given out after that time. We also want non-hams to sign in with us so we have an accurate number of attendees.*

*Our Grand Prize this year was donated to us by ICOM and is an IC-705. ICOM has donated our Grand Prize as well as handheld radios to us for the past 6 or 7 years. Ray N9JA, ICOM's Senior Sales Manager even introduced their IC-9700 to the world at Quartzfest a few years ago. ICOM has also loaned us radios for use in our special event station since 2011. When thinking about buying a new radio, consider ICOM as a thank you for their support of Quartzfest.*

*The frequency we use during Quartzfest is on 2 meters at 146.550 simplex...no tone. Make sure you monitor that frequency during Quartzfest and before as lots of important information is passed along there.*

*We have Quartzfest 2024 T-Shirts again this year in sizes ranging from small to 4XL. They are \$20 each and will be on sale Monday and Tuesday from 11:am to 1:pm on the tables right outside the Welcome Tent.*

*Please bring firewood with you to add to our firewood pile. If everyone brings a couple bundles of wood, we'll have enough to last the week. We have campfires every evening (and some mornings) during Quartzfest.*

*Again, this year, Tom will be running our W7Q special event station in the Northern Arizona DX Association's Communications trailer. They're set up for operation on SSB voice, CW and FT-8. Please make plans to drop by the station to get on the air. If you're a new or inexperienced HAM, there will be folks there to walk you thru making contacts.*

*Speaking of the Northern Arizona DX Association, they'll again be sponsoring our DX Distance Challenge and they have an awesome supply of prizes for the Challenge winners. These prizes were donated by a host of amateur radio equipment manufacturers. Drop by our website <http://quartzfest.org> to review the Challenge rules.*

*Our schedule of seminars and events is posted on our website. There may be one more change to the schedule that Tracy has worked really hard to put it together for us again this year. After we get the bulletin board set up I'll post the schedule so all can see what's going on, when and where and will post updates as things change during the week.*

*Tuesday will be a busy day for us. We intentionally left the morning schedule empty, so you'll have a chance to go in to town to enjoy the RV Show. Starting around noon, Rick W7RAP will light the coals for those of you who plan on cast iron cooking your contribution to our Potluck Dinner. Our Potluck Dinner will be right after Happy Hour announcements. I'll need a handful of folks to help with the dinner by setting out dishes and rotating them when those on the serving table are emptied. We typically have a really good turnout for the Potluck Dinner. After the Potluck, we'll hold our annual Pet Parade. If your pet travels with you, dress them up and bring them out and enter them in the Parade. If you don't have clothes for your pet, bring them anyway. I'll have prizes for the top 3 winners.*

*We have approximately 50 seminars scheduled during the week plus events at our seminar areas. If you smoke and can't wait until the session is over to smoke, please sit or stand downwind so those of us who don't smoke don't have to smell it.*

*If you have dog and we know you love your dog, if you bring them to the seminar areas, please keep them away from other dogs. Your dog may be friendly, but others may not be. Please keep them apart.*

*Regarding dogs, if your dog is a male, please DON'T bring them to the welcome tent as they often mark their territory and use the tent and our chairs as the things they like to mark. Also, please don't let them pee on the legs of our bulletin boards. Also, when walking your dog, male or female, please keep an eye on them and pick up after they poop.*

*As you probably know by now, Quartzfest is a boondocking event. There are no facilities other than Porta-Potties which are reserved for our tent and car campers as well as our day visitors. There are no designated campsites, you camp out in the desert next to your favorite cactus, no hookups, and no sewage dumps. As with all camping, what you carry in, you carry out. This means trash as well.*

*RV tank pump outs have been scheduled. The pump truck will be out in our area both Monday and Thursday. The cost for pump outs this year is \$55 cash. To have your tanks emptied, you'll need to drop by the welcome tent and put your name, callsign and phone number on our list. When the pump truck gets to us, he'll go down the list and call each person on the list so you can let him know where your RV is or meet him and lead him to your RV. They pump out both black and gray tanks. No fresh drinking water is available for delivery.*

*If you arrive in Quartzsite with full tanks, low on fresh water or low on propane, there is a place in Quartzsite that's a one stop shop where you can fill your fresh tank with reverse osmosis water, fill your propane tanks and dump your tanks for a reasonable price. The place is called the RV Pit Stop and is located about 6 or 7 blocks north of I-10 on US95. It's located on the east side of US95.*

*If you're interested in having a solar and battery system installed in your RV, consider Discount Solar in Quartzsite. The store is owned by Craig who's a HAM and is also a huge supporter of Quartzfest. He always donates a bunch of items for our daily raffles. You can do a google search for Discount Solar to get their phone number to make an appointment.*

*Lastly, I'll need help either on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> or Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> (depending on weather). We'll need 5-6 pickups to go into town to load our tents, PA's and other equipment and bring it to our Quartzfest location. Once back at Quartzfest we'll need to form a work party to set up the tent and bulletin boards. We'll also need to tear down and return equipment to storage Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> after closing ceremony. Please monitor 146.550 simplex for announcements on when we'll go to town.*

*That's all I can think of for this final newsletter before I see you all at Quartzfest. Lyn and I wish you all safe travels.*

*See you soon.*

*Kris KR1SS and Lyn KJ7DSE  
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