

Quartzfest 2021

April Newsletter

Hello Quartzfesters, we're still early in the year but it's never too late to start planning to attend Quartzfest 2021. As I mentioned during closing ceremony back in January and again at the Yuma Hamfest during our Weinie Roast, the dates for Quartzfest 2021 will be January 17th thru the 23rd of 2021. Quartzfest 2021 will be our 25th Annual gathering in the desert. We hope to see all of you there.

A statistic from Quartzfest is..our total attendance for the week was 823. We had more than that, but we cut off sign-ins Thursday at noon. We do this because in the past we allowed folks to sign in all the way thru the Saturday Yard Sale and those that signed in the last day were happy to be eligible for the grand prize drawing. Once realizing this, I set the cutoff for sign-ins on Thursday because the manufacturers who donate prizes to us for the Grand Prize expect the prizes to go to those who have attended Quartzfest, not one's who just showed up for the Yard Sale (swapmeet).

At our 10th annual Quartzfest Weinie Roast/Potluck at the Yuma Hamfest we had well over 100 of you join us. I cooked over 140 Polish Sausage (only had 3 left over) and folks brought lots of side dishes, salads and desserts. We really had a good time and our grand prize can of (way out of code date) sardines was handed out again.

Our two top prizes this year were an IC-705 as the Grand Prize donated by Ray N9JA from ICOM who spent the week in the desert with us and a TH-D74A dualband handheld donated by Phil Parton from Kenwood. As the IC-705 has yet to hit the market (it's a brand new model), I haven't received it yet to ship to our Grand Prize winner. I think it's expected to be in manufacture and hit the Ham Radio stores by mid-May so I should receive it around then.

During Quartzfest 2020 we found that our new 20'x40' (800sq ft) tent worked really well for our power point computer presentations...fitting most folks inside anyway. Next year we'll set up the seating and projection areas a little differently so more folks can fit inside during presentations. We'll also, thanks to your donations, be buying a high lumen projector to use that will have no problem being seen on the screen.

We also found (happily) that we had large gatherings of the ladies in the game and craft tent this year. Unfortunately, we found that the 10'x20' tent we used just wasn't big enough to fit everyone in. So, a couple weeks ago we purchased a 20'x32' tent giving us 640sq ft to use as our game and craft tent. It'll make a world of difference.

This year, Tracy WM6T will be giving me a reprieve from seminar scheduling and will be doing our scheduling for Quartzfest 2021. If you have an interest in giving a talk/seminar next January, drop me a note and I'll forward it to Tracy. kristynweed@gmail.com

I want to again thank all of you who when I put out a call asking for volunteers to take care of a wide variety of tasks, you came out in typical Quartzfest fashion to get things done...thanks so much, again, for your help.

Our special event station, W7Q, got quite a bit of use this year. Experienced hams and newbies alike got on the air and made a huge number of contacts. We even had several participants partake in the DX Distance Challenge from the station. I can't thank Tom enough for again, volunteering to set up and man the station. I also want to thank Stephen for assisting many through making their very first HF contacts. Tom has new ideas for the station next year and I think they include a CW day and digital day which will include FT8 and PSK.

I also must thank those who spend their time during the year to help make Quartzfest a success. Tracy for keeping our software up to date during Quartzfest and for keeping you all informed by sending out our newsletters...and this year he'll be scheduling seminars, Neil for taking care of our Quartzfest property: tents, signs and other supplies. He was also the "guy" who made our 20'x32' tent purchase at such a great price, Russell for keeping the Hootenanny going (we loved the "stand by your ham" song), Gary for keeping our audio/visual, PA's and generators going during Quartzfest and last year repairing our PA's so they keep working for us, Gordo for being there for me to bounce ideas off of, Kevin for keeping our website looking awesome and updated and Lyn for picking up the slack during Quartzfest...she really made my job on the ground easier this year. Yep, I'm the organizer but without this crew it would be impossible to make this show what it is.

Something to think about now is that there were over 800 of you at Quartzfest this past January. That's a lot of folks. Keeping this in mind, when you come to our afternoon Happy Hour gatherings and for seminars, for safety's sake, please leave walkways between where folks are seated...from front to back. Just thinking, if we had an emergency and everyone had to evacuate, as we've been sitting (all packed together), it would be impossible for everyone to leave the area in a safe manner.

Until next time,

73,

Kris – KR1SS and Lyn – KJ7DSE