

December 2017

QUARTZFEST*

2018



An annual educational 7 day Amateur Radio/RV campout in the desert just south of Quartzsite Arizona

Don't miss it! Put next January 21st – 27th on your calendar
NOW!!!!

From the desk of our Quartzfest© Organizer.....



How to contact us:

Kristyn – KR1SS

kristynweed@gmail.com

Quartzfest© Website

www.quartzfest.org

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Quartzfest is only a short 3 weeks away and we'll need your help on Friday morning and Saturday, January 19th and 20th getting ready for Quartzfest by setting up our welcoming and seminar tents. We'll be making these announcements on 146.55 MHz (2meters) simplex. Your help will be appreciated.

We're still in need of someone who would like to be our morning campfire starter.

We're going to need volunteers to work Quartzfest talk in on 146.55 simplex from Thursday before Quartzfest thru Sunday before opening ceremony. If you'd like to get on the schedule, please drop me a note. kristynweed@gmail.com

HOBO Stew – Thursday afternoon will be our HOBO Stew dinner. The cost for one 16oz bowl of stew will cost each person \$1.00 and a can of veggies (or fresh veggies) to be put in the stew. Daily announcements will be made to let you know where to deposit your veggies.

ABOUT** Quartzfest* takes place Annually in January on Federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land and is free to all who participate for up to 14 days. Quartzfest* is not a group or organization and has no officers, members or dues. The success of Quartzfest* comes primarily from the love and dedication to both HAM Radio and RV'ing from its present and past Organizers who plan and schedule seminars, workshops and events for the gathering. Quartzfest* is financed solely thru donations which help offset our Organizers expenses. Please know that aside from donations, our Organizers do get physical help from many volunteers who attend...and that help is always appreciated. BLM rules do not allow groups to make a profit. In fact, we're not allowed by rules to accept one penny more in donations than actual expenses.

Quartzfest* is a 7-day long HAM/RV campout in the Arizona desert that is packed full of Amateur Radio, RV and Emergency Power Seminars and Workshops. The Focus of Quartzfest* is to provide an Amateur Radio and RV Educational Experience like no other in the world on a myriad of related topics. We hold 1-hour Seminars as well as Workshops and teach every aspect of a chosen specialty or mode of operation. During our workshops, you'll learn everything from "what is it" to troubleshooting your newly operational system. With 3 Seminars going on at the same time, Quartzfest* 2018 will offer over 100 Seminar/Workshop hours. Also during the 7 days of Quartzfest* we'll also have many craft and informational talks for the YL's and those not interested in HAM or RV Stuff.

The companies listed on the following page have full knowledge that Quartzfest has no funds to purchase prizes for raffles, nor the ability to even charge for raffle tickets to buy prizes. The amazing equipment we have received from them over the years were donated to Quartzfest because they believe strongly in the educational opportunities Quartzfest provides to the entire HAM community.

They believe in us, so, when it comes time to buy new equipment for your shack, keep them in mind. The same goes for our Media supporters. Buy and read their publications, use their websites and click on ads on their sites to help them generate revenue. Please Support them, they support us!

Where'd we get all the stuff we give away at Quartzfest® over the years?



Plus...Quartzsite's Discount Solar, Big Al's Pizza, KB3IFH QSL Cards, N4SVD's can of sardines...and others I know I've forgotten to mention.

Who are Quartzfest®'s media supporters?



*Now,
Hereeeee's Gordo*

With just days away from Quartzfest '18 , here are some answers to questions we have received :



SOFT SAND ? Noooo , the desert floor at Quartzfest is **HARD** sand , and where ever you decide to park will be fine !

PARK WHERE ? Anywhere you want ! But before you finally choose your spot , **CHECK IN** at the welcome tent .

WHERE ? When traveling South on US-95 , turn off just over 5 miles South of town . It is a right turn , and the US-95 has a right hand TURN LANE . Don't turn too soon , as the back way in **DOES** have some bumps - but turning off at the right hand turn lane , you are set . **THEN TURN RIGHT AGAIN** in 2 SECONDS , on to the hard sand entrance road with the "Roadrunner" sign (Traveling north on US95, it'll be a left turn in the left turn lane just past mile marker 98).

Check in with the camp host (during the day) , and then continue on the well traveled NO-BUMPS hard packed sand road which dead ends at the welcome tent . (8 am to 4 pm) Double park anywhere , and check in with our volunteers ! THEN , find the spot , just for you .

TALK IN ? Yes indeed , simplex , 146.550 MHz . Simplex , no split + or - , we'll be operating SIMPLEX . Call for Quartzfest net control . Also tune in each morning at 0745 sun-up for all sorts of GREAT NEWS !

LIGHTS OUT - We love the stars , so a little after 9 PM , kill those bright LEDs , bright porch lights , and NO STROBES - we use strobes only in an emergency for incoming public safety calls.

FIRE WOOD , yes , we can always use fire wood at the main fire ring . TABLES , we could use one table from about 6 of you , for our seminars - you will get them back .

PETS , sure , bring Fur Ball and Fidos , but keep them safe on a leash at all times , and NEVER leave them alone on a leash outside your unit unattended - lots of very WILD life out there looking for a snack .

TENTERS , we have 2 areas just for you . Yes , park your vehicle right next to your tent , in the tent area , NE of the welcome tent on both sides of the wash .

Spot the Porta Potties , just for you and only for youall hands , Porta Potties for our one dayers and tenters - no dumping , or the dump police will git you - Porta Potties just for visitors and tent campers , please , and thank you

MOVIES , bring them , and we might show them on the side of one of the big RVs by the Welcome area . Popcorn welcome . Butter pleasesalt.....

Yes , decent cellular coverage in the area , if you climb the ladder and stand with your phone.....never mind new cell towers let you phone home down to sand level - no problem . Strong signals for the desert !

14 day free stay - just be sure and check in with the camp host , and get the white paper that sits on your dash as your ID . Do not lick this paper and stick it to you windshield - it will stay there for life

Swap meet on that last Saturday , plus lots of us go in to the RV show in town mid week .

WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE - Fur Sure ! We have a camper who has been with us nearly 20 years , and wheels about on the hard packed sand with no problems !

GOT AUDIO ? Yes , all seminar sites have major PA speakers for good audio . You can also take a pair of Dixie (tm) cups , slit them in the center , and plop them over your ears for added directionality .

Thursday evening after HOBO Stew will be our 4th annual Hootenanny.

Here's a little more info about it from Russell

Hootenanny at Quartzfest 2018

Music at Quartzfest gatherings have been a fun part for many years. Since I have been helping out with the music at Quartzfest, each year has been different, fun, and often spontaneous. I think it was Gordon West that called the Thursday evening musical event, the “Hootenanny”. The concert is held after the “Hobo Stew” meal, Thursday evening, January 25th, starting around 6:30-7:00pm or so. The location is the Main Campfire area.

Webster's dictionary defines a “Hootenanny” as “*a gathering at which folk singers entertain often with the audience joining in.*” I would like to expand on that definition to include “a gathering of hams jamming together, sometimes with the audience, to provide a variety of music that warms the soul, and often a bit nostalgic.”

Our “Hootenanny” includes audience participation in the way of a sing-a-long or playing a percussion instrument, but much of it is in a concert like setting around the campfire. Some of its performers play a musical instrument. Some sing, and some do both.

Through the years, the music of the Hootenanny's repertoire has expanded to the point where the Hootenanny has lasted over 3 1/2 hours!! Since the cover charge for this musical concert is free, you certainly get your money's worth!!

We encourage everyone to stay as long as you can for the concert. Every year is a bit different, so you will hear us sing some old standards as well as new song additions. Instruments used for the hootenanny are the guitar, bass, keyboards, drums, flute, banjo, mandolin, fiddle along with audience percussion such as claves, maracas, shakers, tambourine, and general noise makers!! Remember to bring a flashlight, a chair, a coat, and your enthusiasm.

The core leaders of the "Hootenanny" are Russell Decker, Kevin & Michelle Hedgepeth, and Joe Herman. There are also many other musicians that help out by playing their musical instruments and singing. To help everyone out with the songs, Russell has had the webmaster upload many of the songs to the website (quartzfest.org) in order for them to be downloaded and printed out for the hootenanny. These songs are basically lyrics and chords saved in a .pdf format. Some of the musicians print out each song, then put them in a binder as a hard copy, and some of the musicians download the songs, then place them onto an electronic tablet like an iPad so they can be seen after dark, or when it gets breezy.

Russell, Kevin, Michelle, and Joe strongly encourage capable musicians to step up and be a part of the band. This year, any musician that wants to participate will have an opportunity to have a "Pre-Hootenanny Jam" to get used to the songs. Check the Quartzfest schedule for this. Last year, we had a flute, a snare drum, plus other guitarists. It sounded great. I am looking forward to including all musicians that feel comfortable with playing to join in.

To find the hootenanny songs on the website to print it out

- #1 - In your computer browser, go to: quartzfest.org.
- #2 - Click on "Resources"
- #3 - Click on "Hootenanny Music" at the end of that page.
- #4 - You should then be on the "Hootenanny Page".

To the left, you will see a long list of 107 songs. Just click on any title. It will then open up the .pdf for that song. Using a PDF Reader such as Adobe Acrobat, you will then have the ability to send that song lyric/chord to your printer.

I hope to see you at the Thursday Night Hootenanny!!

...Russell Decker, KB6YAF

That's all for now. We're looking forward to seeing y'all in just a few weeks.

Farewell until we see each other again

73,

*Kristyn Weed – KR1SS
Quartzfest Organizer*