

# Quartzfest 2020

January 19 – 25, 2020

*Final Newsletter (early January edition)*

*There's lots of last minute info in this one*

Before I get started, here's a word from Gordo....

HELLO Q'FERS 2020, SEE YOU NEXT WEEK....or whenever you plan to arrive!

Be sure and register at the WELCOME TENT after you get landed. You will be given a great welcome bag-package, PLUS.... a ticket to maybe become a WINNER WINNER WINNER on our final day, grand prizeS drawing. ( no tickets issued on last couple of days )

MOVIES, we have plenty that we are bringing, and bring YOURS TOO! We'll come up with a popular vote on movie nights. Movies will be presented just down a few yards from the main fire ring. Look for the major sized screen! Bring pop corn and poppers!

HELP - we can use all hands on deck Friday the 17th for setting up our tents and the big bulletin board at the Welcome Tent.

V/U contest the first weekend, so bring your gear - we are in grid DM23.

146.550 MHz simplex, talk in + daily announcements - make contacts locally and QSY, to keep this as a Q info channel and talk in.

GOLD in thar hills - bring your metal detectors and gold pans, and have a chuckle when I "spike" the gold panning demo with some real stuff! See schedule.

LADIES LADIES, we have lots of new activities for all you will enjoy - stay tuned for our 146.550 morning sunrise net, as each day will have special ladies activities listed!

Cast Iron cooking will indeed take place, thanks Rick! See schedule.

GO TAKE A HIKE !!SOTA ops - hill topper opportunities abound! Demos too. See schedule.

TESTING TESTING - bring ID copies, and test for a ham upgrade, or new ham, plus ALL commercial license testing, too. Wednesday, 10:30 AM, near the welcome tent. Bring chair and something to write on!

DX distance challenges most days, and you will get the details on scene.

Special Event station W7Q EVERY DAY for you to take part! See schedule. HF radios for you to try out!

IT'S A HOOT...hootenanny with Russell, Kevin our web expert, and Michelle - she says bring your noise makers to drum along! Also that evening, follow the bright LEDs for a Roger and Kymmers demo! See schedule.

ARRL info from Newington, with just-back Dick Norton and Rick, Friday morning.

ANTENNAS, and walk-about, Friday pm.

Saturday the 25th, Winter Field Day across the Country, and our final FINAL with GRAND prizeS drawings!

This year, Gordo and Suzy will be your exam testers, plus tropo presenter seminar, plus Dave and Tina with W5YI / National Radio Examiners. This year, Gordo and Suz will have the free time to hear the seminars. But have no fear that Kris and Lyn will have a team of committee members leading this year's new-century daily activities!

DESERT EXPLORATION on a "robust" trip for 4 x 4's and ATV's. See schedule.

WOW, with so many free event activities, here are Kris and Lyn to tell you last minute details for a great week...or a great day or two...on the desert floor!

*Thanks Gordo, now it's my turn...*

***As Gordo mentioned, he and Suzy will be providing W5YI testing on Wednesday. We'll also be holding ARRL exams on Saturday morning before closing ceremony.***

***Now I need to correct a boo boo from the last newsletter. When I mentioned our setup date, it was wrong (oops!!). Our actual set up date is Friday January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning about 9am. We'll need quite a few of you with pick up trucks to convoy into town to load our tents and supplies so we can get them to camp at the Roadrunner for setup. I'd like to start at 9 so we can get everything set up before the rain comes in. Extended forecast right now is showing rain possible late that afternoon. We'll need lots of able bodied folks to help with setup. Non-able bodied folks are welcome too. The more the merrier.***

***Speaking of the extended forecast, right now it looks like we'll have temps in the mid 60's and lows in the 40's. Best of all, it looks like there will be plenty of sunshine and little wind during the week.***

***Another big plus for you digital ICOM folks, it looks like there may be a Dstar repeater in the town of Quartzsite available for use. I'll have more info for you on this at opening ceremony.***

***Do you enjoy campfires? Shake your head yes...we all like campfires...just not being in the smoke. Well, if we're to have campfires throughout the week, we need everyone to bring 5 or 6 pieces of wood to add to the pile. A \$5.00 wood bundle from Walmart or a grocery store would work just fine if everyone could bring that amount.***

***From what I'm hearing, there is coming to Quartzsite a high speed internet service (for a fee) that should be reachable from our Quartzfest camp. That said, Gordo may just be able to check in to HamNation Wednesday evening from the main fire ring. Tradition since 2013 has been to light on fire a Ham Man Wednesday evening at the Main Fire Ring just in time for Gordo to send that video to Bob for the show. Join us in this fun gathering. More will be mentioned about this at our Happy Hour Announcement period Wednesday.***

***Big Announcement about our Grand Prize and our second Grand Prize. 1<sup>st</sup> off, Ray from ICOM is donating an IC-705 as our Grand Prize. This radio isn't in manufacture yet..Ray doesn't even have a prototype yet.. so, the winner will have to wait until the radio hits the market to receive it. Most likely, delivery to the winner will be in late April or May. Our second Grand Prize from Phil at Kenwood is a TH-D74A handheld radio. Both prizes are awesome pieces of equipment. To qualify to win one of these radios, you must sign in with us at the welcome tent and pick up your grand prize raffle ticket. The grand prize tickets will not be given out at the fire ring...they're given out to licensed amateur radio operators or those who pass their exam and can show their CSCE and only those who sign in with us at the welcome tent. I can't stress that enough. Once you get your ticket, write your call sign on the back of the ticket that you drop in the coffee can. Please write legibly so I can clearly read it.***

***Grand prize tickets will be given out to those who sign in during the week up until noon on Thursday. Noon Thursday is the cutoff. Some may say that this policy isn't fair but back in 2013 we took sign in's until right before closing ceremony and gave out the grand prize tickets. What we found out from this is that folks were coming solely for the yard sale (swap meet), signing in and getting a chance on winning a radio. The problem with this is that the prizes are donated by manufactures for those who attend Quartzfest, not for those who spend just a few hours on site. So, the policy of a noon Thursday cutoff was established way back in 2014. Additionally, you must be present to win any of our drawings. This includes our daily drawings as well as our Grand Prize drawings.***

***Ladies, I need some help...Pax was planning on being at the game and craft tent throughout the week, but medical issues are preventing them from making it to Quartzfest this year. I need one of you to step forward and head up activities there...or maybe a few who would want to be on a schedule. The biggest responsibility will be to host the morning 10:30am ladies circle. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please drop me a note right away so I can get you on the schedule. Thanks.***

***A lot of you were looking forward to the AZARA Youth Radio Club presentation and T-Hunt Sunday before opening ceremony. Unfortunately, the project that the youth were working on isn't going to be ready in time for Quartzfest, so it's been removed from the schedule. Heather did say that the project may be ready in time for presentation at the Yuma Hamfest.***

***We've had a handful of folks volunteer to help out in the welcome tent registering folks as they arrive but we can always use more of you. It would be nice to have a schedule this year of many rather than a few holding down the fort for hours each day.***

***Also, we need fire starters. No, not the wooden type..rather, the human type. Our morning campfire needs to be going around 6:45 for folks to gather for morning eyeball QSO's as well as evening fires lit after Happy Hour..around 6 for folks to enjoy the evening campfire. I do have a propane torch to assist in lighting the fires. If you want to be our fire starters, please drop me a note. [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com)***

***Steve and the WinSystem folks will be at Quartzfest again this year. They'll be providing morning coffee. If you haven't heard of it, the WinSystem is a linked repeater system that spans many parts of the globe. Stop by and talk to Steve and the crew about the system to learn more. Their motorhome will be located in the same place as last year...just west of the welcome tent along the road. They'll have a couple pop up canopies there. Ya can't miss 'em.***

***How to get to Quartzfest...drive south on US Hwy 95 from Quartzsite to just past mile marker 99 and you'll see a right turn lane. Turn right there on 53<sup>rd</sup> St N (the sign before the turn will read La Paz Valley). Travel no farther than 100' to the 45MPH sign and "Roadrunner" sign and turn right on the dirt road. Traveling from Yuma or the south, drive N on US Hwy 95 until you pass the 98 mile marker and you'll see a left turn lane. Turn left on that road and then turn right at that same 45MPH and Roadrunner signs. Travel north a couple hundred feet and stop to sign in with the BLM host. After signing in there, continue north. The road will split for about 50' and then come back together before it takes a swing to the right where you'll pass a lone Saguaro Cactus on your right. Once you pass that Saguaro, you'll be in our Quartzfest area. Keep to the right along the wash on your right until you come to an east/west dirt road. At that intersection is where our blue welcome tent will be as of Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Sign in with us at the welcome tent and then find your campsite next to your favorite Cacti...please don't camp in the washes. If it rains, the washes become raging rivers. Do you remember what you're supposed to pick up when you sign in? That's right, a welcome goodie bag and a RAFFLE Ticket for our Grand Prizes. Please take a look at the "site map" on our website <http://quartzfest.org> . It's is a layout of our camping and seminar areas.***

***I still am looking for folks who don't mind camping in our main seminar areas to block the wind from our tents. I need 2 large RV's at the Area 2 tent parked on both the north side and the west side and one on the north side of the welcome tent.***

***Lyn and I will be on site at Quartzfest this coming Saturday and will be listening on 146.55 simplex. Feel free to drop by to say hi...after 10am or so.***

***We'll see y'all real soon,***

***73,***

***Kris and Lyn  
KR1SS & KJ7DSE***