

Quartzfest 2019

January 20-26 2019

Talk In: 146.55 FM Simplex

January 2019 Newsletter

SEE YOU AT QUARTZFEST !

If you are arriving on Thursday or Friday, we could use a FRIDAY hand in shelter setups, signage, running electrical cords, fire pit clean outs, and all that good stuff associated with boondocking!

Call in on 146.550 simplex for arrival details. If you are in town Friday morning, also please come up on 146.550, as Neil and team need some in-town storage tents and stuff pick ups to get stuff down to our site at Quartzfest.

Bring your musical instruments - Russ has a fun selection of hoot songs, and we need percussion, keyboards, and a gut bucket or two. Let's give Russ our full musical support - his 1,000 mile trip down to Quartzfest had an incident where his towed Jeep and complete tow assembly SEPERATED from his Silver Twinky at 55 MPH on highway 99.

Totally separated, due to failed weld jobs holding the tow bar stuff on the underside of his RV. Wow - the Jeep mindfully

went to the side of the freeway and parked itself without a single scratch in a pool of oil pan black stuff. It was not even rated as "driverless" , but went to the side of the road to wait for Russ to look in his rear view mirror, and exclaim "..... (there will be a hoot song just for this incident...) ,yet the Russ caravan is still coming, minus the Jeep.

We have asked Mother Nature to hold down any dust on Friday for all our arrivals, so we have planned a rain shower or two on Wednesday and Thursday. But we're talking hard packed sand, so no need to take out any mud flats!

The Washington DC stoppage will have no effect on our BLM encampment. Still, be sure and sign in with the campground volunteer host when you make the immediate turn to the right off the main road to the smaller road from the right hand turn lane.....the only right hand turn lane is where you turn right - not before..... then turn right for 5 seconds, and then hit the hard sand road and sign in. Then, head straight for a 2 minute SLOW (please) drive to the welcome tent.

If you have firewood to drop off, hold until we get you registered - with such a big group coming, we are still working up our main fire ring area.

I am bringing lots of CQ Magazines, Nuts and Volts Magazines, band charts, and of course the ham and commercial tests for

Wednesday's test session. Even though the FCC is closed down, our Quartzfest team carries on for our Country!!!

See you in a week ! gordo and suzy, and now.....here is Kris with these final words

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

With this being our final newsletter before Quartzfest 2019, I have a few more tidbits of information for you..and a couple requests.

First of all, the government shutdown isn't affecting Quartzfest at all. BLM Federal employees are off duty except for the Rangers. The host here at the Roadrunner campground (Lyn and I are already here) is signing folks in so be sure to stop there and get your permit before rolling the half mile north to Quartzfest where you'll sign in at our welcome tent.

Speaking of our welcome tent, I was planning on having a tent erecting party on Thursday before Quartzfest, however, the forecast right now is for rain Thursday. So, let's get that done Friday instead. Weather is supposed to be much nicer on Friday. What we'll need is a few folks with pickup trucks...6 or 7 of them to run to our storage shed to load up our tents and stuff and bring them to our Quartzfest site. Once offloaded at Quartzfest, it'll be time for as many of you as are physically able, to set up the tents. We'll also need to assemble our

bulletin board (electric screwdrivers will help) and drill holes with our Auger for the bulletin board legs to stand in the ground. What we'll be setting up are the welcome tent, the seminar session 2 tent, the craft and game tent and the pop-up for the special event station. We'll plan on setting up the mast and antenna for the Special Event Station Saturday morning.

Frequencies for our W7Q Special Event Station will be:

40m: 7.275 +/- 10khz

20m: 14.285 +/- 10khz

15m: 21.395 +/- 10khz

10m: 28.415 +/- 10khz

If you've never been to Quartzfest and need directions, jump on 146.55 FM simplex and give a shout. Someone will be there to talk you in. To make things simple, if you're rolling north from Yuma, once you get north of the 98 mile marker you'll see a left turn lane..make that left turn. If you're rolling south from Quartzsite, once you get past the 99 mile marker you'll see a right turn lane...make that right turn. Signs will say "La Paz Valley". Once you make that turn, drive no more than 50 feet...not yards...but feet and turn right onto the dirt road that has a "Roadrunner" sign right off the road. Sign in there with the camp host and then proceed north. Go thru the "S" curve and then the road will curve a bit to the right. You'll then come to a narrow area in the road with a lone Saguaro Cactus on your right that has no arms. Once you pass that narrow area of the road and that cactus, you'll be in Quartzfest area. Keep to the

right..veer off of the dirt road and drive in front of the RV's camped there on the right. Keep coming north until you come to a cross road. STOP THERE!! Our bulletin board and welcome tent will be across that road right in front of you. Park and come sign in. I'm transmitting our welcome tent location on APRS. To find me, go to APRS.fi and search Call Sign KR1SS-5.

Speaking of signing in, make sure, if you're a licensed HAM, to pick up a Grand Prize raffle ticket when you sign in. Our grand prizes this year are a TH-D74A handheld from Kenwood and an Antenna Analyzer from MFJ. Our Grand Prize drawing will be held during closing Ceremony on Saturday the 26th of January. Cutoff to get your Grand Prize tickets is noon on Thursday the 24th. As with all of our drawings, you must be present to win. You must sign in at the welcome tent to get a Grand Prize raffle ticket. No sign in, no ticket!!

Before you show up for Quartzfest, make sure you've filled your water and propane as well as dumping your tanks. If that hasn't been done before you arrive in Quartzsite, you can go to the one stop shop called the "Pit Stop" which is located on US95 about 6 blocks north of Interstate 10 on the east side of the road. They have Propane which is currently selling for \$2.30 per gallon and they have fresh R/O water for varying prices depending on the length of your RV. For an RV under 40' they charge \$12.00. An RV under 30' is a couple dollars less. RV Dump is \$15.00.

When you arrive on site, please remember we're on a dirt road and dust kicks up easily...so, please remember to drive slow...10mph or less to keep the dust to a minimum. We'll all appreciate your consideration.

Volunteers will be needed in the welcome tent to help operate the laptop to welcome folks and get them signed in when they arrive. If you can help us out in the Welcome Tent, please drop me a note: kristynweed@gmail.com We'll be signing folks in Saturday morning from 9:am until 5:pm and Sunday from 9:am until right before opening ceremony...and all thru the week from 9:am until 3:pm.

Please remember to bring firewood for our morning and evening campfires. I do have an evening fire starter but still need a morning campfire starter. I do have a butane torch to assist in igniting the fire.

Also, please remember to bring tables. We need 6' tables at all of our seminar areas as well as in the welcome tent and Special Event Station. We could also use card tables in our Craft and Game tent.

As of right now, there's an RV camped in our Main Fire Ring area and they said they're not moving. So, we'll have to move our Main Fire ring to an alternate location which will be about 50' west of our regular Main Fire Ring..just west of the bushes. Because there's no fire ring there, we'll need to make one by

digging out a pit and surrounding it with rocks. The digging won't be an easy task but I hope a few of you are up for the challenge. It's supposed to rain Wednesday night into Thursday so hopefully the ground will be a bit moist to make it easier to do the digging.

Lyn and I have been on site since this past Monday and it's terribly lonely here without y'all being here with us. We look forward to all of you getting here and seeing, once again, your smiling faces.

I want to thank you all in advance for helping to get tents and things set up before kickoff. Without our volunteers, Quartzfest couldn't happen. Thank you all so very, very much.

See y'all in just a few days,

73,

Kristyn - KR1SS and Lyn (she's studying for her Tech)