

Quartzfest 2020

Late December Newsletter – Holiday Edition

QUARTZFEST IS NEAR! Last minute infos to follow.....

TENT CAMPING and car freeze-sleeping has been so popular for night stay overs, we have added additional porta potties for our wheeled guests and those tenting ! Tenters and car-sleepers will have their own exclusive area, same big spread-out location as last years, to the North of the welcome tent. Porta Potties's nearby, just for you, and those with walking restraints.

PUMP OUTS for RVs will take place, plus potable water delivery, too. Kris and Lyn will give you the schedule days, when the PP truck is finished pumping the 4 PPs.

BRING YOUR HT! We augment our daily 7:30am and noon nets on 146.550 with added excitement ANNOUNCEMENTS coming to Q'Fest 2020.

At anytime, you will hear announcements from Kris and Lyn on added activities, or slight seminar program adjustments, or lost and found (all found stuff taken to the welcome tent) , or weather reports of more warm sun, or a needed gizmo to get a camper back on the road....BRING YOUR HAND HELD, with a spare battery, so you don't miss out on the regular daily 146.550 simplex announcements all day long.

LOST?....F O U N D announcement in 2019 " ...come to the welcome tent to describe and retrieve your found hand held " which turned out to be a lost and FOUND Kenwood TH D-74 ! Q hams are honest hams!!!!!!

Join us as a member of the exclusive Q 2020 CREW ! Get in on daily CREW briefings, know our secondary CREW radio channel (UHF), and help our fellow campers for a day!

Talk in

Fire ring starter

Welcome Tent facilitator

Safety and Medical for a day

Movie starter at show time

.....and fun stuff to keep Q2020 humming! (but no hum on the PA)

ATV machines WELCOME! Just be sure and throttle down as you enter the camping area. We are talking CRAWL in the Welcome Tent area, to minimize noise, safety to walkers, and dust.

Yes, TALK IN on simplex, 146.550 MHz. Program this channel in your radio before you leave for Q2020 - 146.550 MHz simplex, no tone, no offset. Call for Quartzfest talk in after you turn South from the 10 on 95. 146.550, not the National Simplex on 146.520.

146.550 simplex

Remember, when heading South on 95, we are just 5 miles down the way, and you turn into the (only) RIGHT HAND TURN POCKET to do your right and then right onto the packed sand.

Yes, good cellular coverage in our Quartzfest RV area, but streaming long shows to the lone cell sites may take some time, so suggest bring your own DVDs!

MOVIES, MOST NIGHTS, Area 3, just south of the main fire ring. See our schedule of events for movie times in the evening, and we are bringing the most popular ones which drew large staying crowds over the last 20 years we have been doing MOVIESand YES, there is a fire ring at MOVIE Area 3 to toast your cold footsies as you take in the show. BRING POP CORN that we can munch over the flames. Butter please! EXTRA BUTTER!

FIREWOOD, bring a store-stack of wood, as there is no permitted wood harvesting on BLM land where we are staying. Dump your wood when you arrive, at the main ring by the Welcome Tent. Check with local regulations when bringing wood to Q2020 BLM land.

When you arrive during the day, check in with the camp HOST just as you enter the had packed sand - you will spot them on the right, about 100 yards from where you hung the right.

BLM rangers many times stop by and say hi. Give them a warm greeting, and perhaps some hot coco or coffee? BLM rangers remind ALL on BLM lands to stay totally DRIPLESS under your RV. There is zero tolerance of grey, black, aqua, or even FRESH water droplets from under our RVs.

HOOTENANNY on Thursday night with Russell, Kevin, and Michelle, and ALL OF US with percussion instruments! Bring those clip clops, castanets, juice harps, bongos, tambourines, and get in the sing along spirit - and we start earlier with the hoot, 'cause we had way too much fun last few shows that lasted into the dark...which was sorta neat!! The main fire ring keeps us all toasty!

On Wednesday, the day before the hoot, TESTING is offered for those who want to try and upgrade, or new ham licensing, or COMMERCIAL RADIO licensing including the commercial Telegraph license. And, if you passed your EXTRA license in front of the FCC, you get credit for the CW sending and receiving portion of the commercial Telegraph license, and only need to do the code Q & A written exam. Get your study course training materials, ham and commercial, from the W5YI Group, 800 669-9594, and study up with my stuff!

But WAIT....here's more from Kris and Lyn!

Thanks Gordo, that was a lot of really good information....now it's our turn.....

Quartzfest is only a month away...are you ready? We had 1050 signed in last Quartzfest. Let's beat that number this year.

A Cast Iron Cooking pit will be installed at the main fire ring (area 1) at noon Tuesday for those wishing to bring a cast iron cooked dish to the Tuesday night Potluck dinner. Rick Paquette W7RAP has some thoughts on this...and here they are:

"Here's a word from Rick.... Jeanne and I will bring spare pots, and we will have utensils there at the fire pit. I have some charcoal, but we could always use lots more. Be sure to remind folks that ALL of the main dishes will be brought by the attendees (Though the past years there have been many main-course dishes brought by attendees) I will be making a big pot of Elk Chili, and we are challenging cooks to bring a big batch of something good. One thing that is super easy and quick and always welcome is to make-up big pots of veggies and cook them ahead of time, then bring them over to the fire pit to reheat them. Particularly potato and corn dishes. BTW: Bringing a big pot and making a batch of Hobo Stew with just canned ingredients is NOT out of the question. Maybe we could get groups to try competing with each other.

Pies are also simple, since you can take a store-bought one and simply transfer it into a frying pan and bring it over to re-heat at the pit and everyone thinks it is homemade. Remind cast-iron folks to affix something to their pot ring or handle to identify it. I use my old GI Dog Tags with a short chain or snap ring."

For you first timers, here's just a short note. There is no advanced registration for Quartzfest. We do ask that you drop by the Welcome Tent when you arrive and both sign in with us so we have accurate attendance numbers and to pick up your *FREE* Grand Prize Drawing ticket (last Quartzfest thanks to Ray from ICOM, Phil from Kenwood and Rich from MFJ our top prizes were an ICOM IC-9700, a Kenwood TH-D74A handheld and MFJ 259C Antenna Analyzer. If you're traveling with a partner or friend or non-Hams, we also want them to sign in with us. I also need to let you know that although we do accept donations, they're not required and Quartzfest is absolutely free to attend. Mostly for us, we want you to have fun, learn, share your knowledge and gain friends.

Our schedule of seminars, events and activities is up on the website. It's currently on version 1.19 but I'm sure that will soon change. To view our 2020 Quartzfest Schedule, visit <http://quartzfest.org> and click on the schedule tab at the top of the page. After the schedule page opens, click on the .pdf file for "schedule". You also, on that same page, can read bio's and topic descriptions for speakers and the seminars they're presenting.

I've received a few emails about our "Yard Sale" which is our Saturday swapmeet. It is, of course on Saturday January 25th..our closing day and although the schedule shows it starts at

7:am, it actually unofficially begins before daylight. Yep, folks are out shopping with flashlights that early. If you're going to be selling at the Yard Sale, I recommend setting up your table in the main Quartzfest area..along the two roads near the main fire ring (area 1) and the road just west of the area 2 tent. If you're camped in the outlying areas, you'll not want to set up there because shoppers typically only shop in the main camp area.

As I mentioned in our previous newsletter, our plan, weather permitting, is to begin setup around 9 Friday morning January 23rd. We'll start out by running in to town to our storage shed to pick up our tents and supplies and then bring them back to camp. If all goes well we should be back in camp at the Quartzfest area by 10:am to set up. We'll need folks with trucks to make the run to town and will need able bodied folks to be hands on setting up tents, drilling holes with the auger for our bulletin boards and for our antenna party putting together our new Cobweb antenna for our Special Event Station (MFJ donated the antenna to us...they're such huge Quartzfest supporters).

Talk in frequency and our camp frequency is one and the same. As Gordo mentioned, we operate 146.550 FM simplex before and during Quartzfest. Lyn and I will be arriving in camp tentatively on the 13th of January. We're placing our Hitchhiker 5th Wheel trailer at the west end of where the Welcome tent will be placed. The rear of the trailer will be pointing toward the road. Feel free to drop by to say hi or to chat. We'll be monitoring 146.55 so if you need us or have questions, give a holler.

Our Quartzfest 2020 T-Shirts have been ordered. I ordered 300 of them in sizes ranging from small to 4XL and the vendor has promised to have them to us by January 1st. This is a vendor whom I've dealt with since 2007 and know her quite well as I do the quality of her shirts. If you purchased Quartzfest shirts between 2013 and 2015, those were her shirts. Note though that in the past, we've had very few small and 4XL shirts purchased so we didn't make a huge order of those sizes. The shirts this year will be pocket t-shirts in a desert sand color and will have the little Quartzfest trailer LOGO both above the pocket and across the back. We haven't set prices yet. That will be decided after we're invoiced where we're able to see the cost per shirt by size that we were charged.

Once you're at Quartzfest, as you now know, our in camp frequency for nets, announcements and operations is 146.55 simplex. That said, we ask that if you're going to hold an extended QSO, that you move off to another simplex frequency. Maybe 146.58? That will allow us in Operations to be available at a moment's notice if needed and so we can make timely camp announcements. Thank you in advance for your QSY.

Our morning informational net will be at 7:45 daily beginning Sunday January 19th except for our last day which is Saturday during the Yard Sale. We'll also update periodically during the day if there are changes to the schedule and for reminders of upcoming seminars. I'll also be

giving a rundown of the afternoon's schedule daily around noon. Also, daily will be our "Happy Hour" which is what we call our afternoon announcement period at the Main Fire Ring (area 1) at 3:45. Most days we'll not only make announcements and updates during Happy Hour, but we'll also have FREE prize drawings. Raffle tickets will be handed out to attendees attending Happy Hour. You must be present to win prize drawings and that includes our Grand Prize Drawing.

Speaking of our Grand Prize Drawing...and I don't know yet what that will be, but, the deadline for getting a Grand Prize ticket is noon Thursday January 23rd. This is because in the past anyone who signed in with us got a Grand Prize ticket. Well, we found that folks were coming only for the Saturday Yard Sale, signing in and getting their Grand Prize ticket which made them eligible to win the Grand Prize. I decided way back that this wasn't fair. The prizes are for folks who actually come and attend Quartzfest, not those who are only on site for a few hours. So, again, to qualify for a Grand Prize Drawing Ticket, you must sign in with us at the Welcome Tent by noon Thursday. As soon as you sign in, you'll be given your ticket. Write your call sign legibly on the ticket and drop it in the Grand Prize coffee can.

Remember, you must be signed in by noon Thursday to get your ticket. After you sign in you'll also receive a goodie bag provided by Russell KB6YAF. He's been bringing us goodie bags and goodies for years. Remember those amazing Bischoff cookies? Yep, it was Russell who brought them. He'll be bringing goodie bags again this year. Please though, only one goodie bag per camping unit so we have enough for each camping unit that arrives.

As it looks right now, the Welcome Tent will be open for folks to sign in and get Grand Prize tickets Saturday morning 9:am until about 5:pm and Sunday 9-1. Monday thru Wednesday we'll be taking sign-in's from 9-3:15 and Thursday from 9-noon.

We now have a Safety Officer and a volunteer to gas up and start the generators in the mornings but still need volunteers to log folks in at the welcome tent, someone to assist Neil selling T-Shirts and folks to take a day to introduce speakers before seminars.

We also now have a medical person who'll be on call in the event of emergency. Please don't ask for this person for band aids for boo boos. This person is only going to be available in the event of a serious emergency where First Responders are needed. They're there only to help stabilize (if possible) until First Responders arrive. Again and very important...this person is not going to be available for medical advice or anything other than Emergencies. I think I beat that dead horse but you get the idea.

Please bring firewood with you to add to our community fire wood stack. If everyone were to bring a few pieces of firewood, we'll have enough to last the week for our morning and evening campfires.

We have over 1000 of you on our email list and over 1000 in our Facebook group and of you all, there are a wide variety of religions and some are not religious at all. This said, I want to wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons for whatever you celebrate.

Our last newsletter of the year will come out in about 3 weeks. Look forward to it for last minute information.

73,

Kris – KR1SS and Lyn KJ7DSE