

Quartz-Pause 2021

November 2020 Newsletter

I hope that by now you've put the 17th thru 23rd of January on your winter travel schedule so you can join us at Quartz-Pause in the desert.

Only a few things are planned this year.

Our ARRL representatives, Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton N6AA and Arizona Section Manager Rick Paquette W7RAP will be there to talk to us on Friday January 22nd. Their talks will be at the main fire ring and will be viewable on your television via Amateur Television. You'll be able to ask questions over 2 meters on 146.55 simplex.

Amateur Radio Licensing Exams will be given on both Wednesday and Saturday. Wednesday will be given by W5YI and will cost \$14 and Saturday ARRL testing is \$15. Exact change is preferred. To take your test, bring with you a chair, small table or clip board, Government issued picture ID, your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN), a copy of your license if you are already licensed and test fee. If you don't have one you can request your Federal Registration Number at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>

What else? Well, how about Geocaching? Off Road Trip? Swap Meet? Cast iron cooking? Yep, they're all happening as well. We don't have dates yet for Geocaching, cast iron cooking or the Off Road Trip but will keep you informed over 2 meters on 146.55 simplex at 8: o'clock each morning beginning Sunday January 17th.

As for our Swapmeet, it'll be held Saturday morning beginning officially at 7:am but typically begins before sunup. If you were planning on selling your goodies at the Yuma Hamfest, you may want to come to Quartzsite instead on January 23rd as the Yuma Hamfest has been cancelled for 2021.

Some of you have asked about RV tank pumpouts during the week. The answer is yes...pumpouts will be Wednesday and Thursday. Cost will be \$25 per rig, cash. You'll have to see me to get caution tape to tie to your rig for pumpout..that's what the pump out truck will be looking for.

Some of you have also asked about our special event station. This year due to covid, we'll operate a little differently. Instead of setting up a station for you to come to and operate, you'll need to sign up for an operational period of a couple hours at a time. You'll need to operate from your own RV using your own radio and antenna. Call sign to use will be W7Q/W7*** i.e. W7Q/your own call sign. Only those signed up for a period of time will be allowed to operate during that period of time using W7Q. Logs must be turned in to Gloria and Tom our special event station trustees by 5:pm Friday January 22nd.

Another fun thing to do while camping is bring your guitar or harmonica or fiddle or the musical instrument of your choice and do some pickin' and grinnin' around the campfire (social distanced of course). Russell KB6YAF is always ready to do some picking.

It's very possible that we'll have a hidden transmitter "fox hunt" during the week as well. I'm working on that.

For those of you wondering about this Quartz-Pause thing..Quartzfest 2021 has been cancelled for this January due to Covid-19 and we're replacing it with an on your own campout we're calling Quartz-Pause to be held during the week of January 17th – 23rd. No Seminars, no tents, no sign-in's, no prizes. Just a good old time campout like the early years of Quartzfest where HAM friends got together to just have a good time.

Well, that's all for now. Lyn and I are looking forward to seeing all of you.

73,

Kris – KR1SS & Lyn – KJ7DSE