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September 2018

## QUARTZFEST - NEWS FROM GORDO & KRISS

### Quartzfest 2019

AND NOW SOME ANSWERS FROM GORDO!

***We're just a couple months away from our Quartzfest 2019 kick off and I have a bit of info for you but first, here's a word from Gordo...***

### HOT TOPICS FOR QUARTZFEST

At the recent Pacificon hamfest, we had scores of Quartzfest questions, and here are some hot topics with answers!

Quartzfest dates for 2019 are Sunday opening ceremonies January 20, through January 26th for closing ceremonies. YES, come early, and stay over - BLM gives us 14 days to stay for FREE !

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schedule for the day we go up town.

Dogs and pets are fine, on a leash. CAUTION, coyotes up in the hills come down to investigate, but we seldom see them. Never leave a pet outside on a leash unattended for this reason!

Tent campers WELCOME - we have 4 Porta Potties reserved (only) for tent campers, or the many day timers who arrive by car. We have a special area up close to all the action for dayers and tent campers!

No sewer hook ups, nor electrical posts, nor water faucets. We do have a water truck that may stop by, - same possibly with a pump out - and we always have some water for a thirsty camper. This is fun boondocking, where we all help each other in case of something.....other than a full black water tank.

We have two off road trips planned - see the SCHEDULE at [WWW.QUARTZFEST.ORG](http://WWW.QUARTZFEST.ORG), and be sure you are looking at the 2019 schedule of events. One off road trip is ultra rugged for only 4-wheelers, and the other is fine for cars with good clearance on the hard packed dirt roads.

Mobility devices like wheelchairs, scooters, and the like do well on the hard packed dirt/sand. Gary brings lots of generators to run during the day for coffee and the like, so you can get a mobility charge near the welcome tent if you need it.

Catch all the action on your RV TV by going to cable channel 57 - 58, hooking up simple rabbit ears to the cable input, and see lots of action on ham TV and MESH networks.

TALK IN on simplex, 146.550 . Not 146.520 National simplex calling, but 30 kHz up on 146.550 simplex. You can reach us as soon as you turn South on Hwy 95. You make your SOUTH 95 turn to get to the dirt road on the only right hand paved TURN LANE you will encounter, about 5 miles South of the 10. Turn right, go 3 SECONDS, and enter the dirt road on the right at the "Roadrunner" sign, and check in with the BLM campground host. Then mosey up the dirt road in the direction of RVs, antennas, flags, and Gordo's pink flying pig. The WELCOME TENT is open from sun up to late pm. If you come in after

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morning!

Yes, David and Heather will be there, Neil will be there with a ton of SK gear including a full Elecraft station, Russ will do the hootenanny, Marilynn will lead us FINDING GOLD IN THAR HILLS, Gary will be there providing power and keeping our audio and visual needs working and of course, Kristyn will be our fearless leader this year for exciting programs she has arranged. Gordo and Tracy will be rovers this year, so our team remains the same!

TESTING TESTING TESTING Suzy West and Gordo will offer both ham exams as well as commercial radio GROL exams several times during the show. \$15 ham test fee casharoo, also test fees for commercial radio exams.

The weather is warm during most days, and sparkling beautiful clear and cold at night. Bring a warm jacket for the evening campfire, star gazing, ISS pass, and spotting the big comet. Bring your telescopes!

With such a great shot at seeing the Milky Way and Mars Bars in the evening, we all ask for a dark campground after 10 PM. No strobes, no 1000cp LED porch lights, no flashing neon lights after 10..... enjoy the stars, and save some juice by turning off all outside bright lights at 10pm.

Movies on most nights, so if you have a good one, let's show it on our Panorama screen by a campfire.

The W7Q Special Event Station will have its own tent and 12 VDC power, so bring your favorite HF rig with Anderson connectors, and enjoy some unique antennas ready for you to hook in to. Or, operate the Icom 9100 HF with the Heil headphones and mic.

Gordo WB6NOA

***And, new this year....***

**ANNOUNCING THE  
"QF 2019 DISTANCE CHALLENGE"**

The Northern Arizona DX Association will be conducting a new radio challenge

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QF site to good use and see who can make the longest distance QSO from there.

This will be a one or two-day event starting Tuesday, Jan, 22nd and maybe again on Thursday, Jan 24th.

Three categories: QRP, SSB & CW

Power limit for QRP will be max 5 watts

Power limit for SSB will be 150 watts

Power limit for CW will be 150 watts

Bring your own radio and antennas to participate.

Our biggest concern for this event is the possibility of creating QRM for the W7Q Special Event Station. The best way for this to work out is to use the "DX Code of Conduct's" first rule: "Listen, listen then listen again before calling".

Calling CQ DX all day will create way too much interference. Only your two longest contacts will be turned in each day of the challenge so making additional shorter contacts just create unnecessary QRM.

If we create excessive QRM the challenge will be restricted to a single day. Making lots of QSO is not the point, rather be selective and answer others calling CQ! You could make one or two QSOs and win the challenge.

The restrictions are: You must be registered as a QF attendee. No assistance of any kind accepted, including the internet, clusters & spotting networks. No prearranged contacts. No use of phones, nor use of any remote stations or antennas. You must stay 5 KHz away from the W7Q station and you must not cause them any interference while they are operating or you will be disqualified.

There will be some small prizes and a lot of bragging rights going to the winners.

The final details and all the rules are coming in early December. This will be a fun and exciting challenge and we sure hope you will join us in this event.

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the "QF 2019 DISTANCE CHALLENGE".

Thanks & 73

Bob Wertz, NF7E

Chairman, QF 2019 Distance Challenge

***My turn now...***

***On our honeymoon, in addition to visiting the Grand Canyon and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Lyn and I dropped by our Quartzfest site to camp and so I could show her what the desert looks like without thousands of RV's surrounding us. Yes, she'll be coming to Quartzfest with me so y'all get to meet her.***

***Our Quartzfest 2019 schedule has been posted to our website. To access the schedule, simply go to [www.quartzfest.org](http://www.quartzfest.org) and click on "Program Guide". If the 2018 schedule comes up, from the home page, click refresh, then try "Program Guide" again. The schedule is not yet filled completely so if you're wanting to be added to the schedule to give a talk or seminar, drop me a message [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com) .***

***I'm looking for YL's to lead events for YL's while the OM's are busy doing HAM stuff at Quartzfest. Maybe leading a shopping trip to town other than our Tuesday outing for bead shopping or rock hounding? Your ideas and participation are appreciated.***

***I'll be adding to the schedule a less rugged 4 wheel drive trip more suited for 2 wheel drive vehicle operation. I'll also be adding our annual Pet Parade as well as night time seminars and movies. Heather won't be able to be with us in the mornings for Tai chi this year and folks love a morning warm-up so I'd like to find someone interested in leading us in morning exercises (any former military PT instructors in the crowd?). Additionally added to the schedule are evening talks on Natural History of Quartzsite and "SETI" (search for extra-terrestrial intelligent life).***

***As most of you know, each year since 2011 we've operated Special Event Station W7Q during Quartzfest...as we will again in 2019. This year we have a special request for the station. We're in need of an Antenna and***

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***Whichever, we need to borrow one. If you feel so inclined as to let us use your antenna, it would be greatly appreciated.***

***Ryan from Blue Sky Energy will be at Quartzfest again this year to give information about and demo of Solar Controllers. He could use 2 to 3 demo HF stations to show that the controllers don't put out noise on the radios. You would need an all mode radio, inverter and battery. Prize for bringing your rig and demo'ing will be a 10amp solar charge controller.***

***Coffee will be provided daily thanks to the WinSystem. When you drop by for your morning cup of coffee, take time to learn about the awesomeness of the WinSystem. It's an amazing combination of repeaters and the internet which allow worldwide Amateur Radio Access.***

***We're hopeful that we'll have a grand prize to give away again this year. We sincerely thank Kenwood and ICOM for past Grand Prize radios. That prize drawing will be open to licensed Amateur Radio Operators or one's who've passed their Technician Exam and have a valid CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination). To get a Grand Prize ticket, you must sign in at our Blue Quartzfest Welcome Tent. You'll be given a ticket when you sign in. DO NOT LOSE this ticket as none will be re-issued.***

***Porta Potties have been ordered and will be on site from Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> thru the end of Quartzfest. They are there for the use of our tent and car campers as well as our day visitors. If you have medical needs and aren't able to return to your RV to use the facilities, you're welcome to use the Potties but please don't take advantage of this. If you can make it back to your RV, please do. If you're tent camping and bring a porta pot with you, please go in to town to dump your pot...please don't dump it in the Porta Potties as your chemicals may have adverse reaction to the chemicals in the Porta Potties.***

***As we do every year, we ask that everyone bring few pieces of firewood... or a bundle... for our community campfires. If everyone brings a few pieces, we'll have enough to last the week for both morning and evening***

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***We'll have two simplex nets daily at Quartzfest. Our morning net will be at 7:45 daily on 146.55 simplex and will consist of the days weather forecast, a word from Gordo, rundown of the days schedule, reminders of upcoming hamfests including the February 2019 Yuma Hamfest [www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org) and comments and questions from net members. Our noon net will consist of updates or changes to the days schedule. These are not check-in nets. They're geared to provide daily information to Quartzfest campers. Make sure youo moitor 146.55 simplex throughout the day as we're quite flexible at Quartzfest and announce changes over the air as they occur.***

***As always, I'm looking forward to seeing our Quartzfest family. Every year it's like returning to a family reunion that I so look forward to.***

***See y'all real soon,***

***73,***

***Kris***

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