

QUARTZFEST*

October 2017



Don't miss it! Put next January 21st – 27th on your calendar **NOW!!!!**



Quartzfest is an annual educational 7 day amateur Radio/RV campout in the desert just south of Quartzsite Arizona

*From the
desk of our
Quartzfest©
Organizer.....*

How to contact us:

Quartzfest© Organizer

Kristyn – KR1SS

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Newsletter Editor

Kristyn – KR1SS

Quartzfest© Website

www.quartzfest.org

It's our Quartzfest attendees who volunteer to take a shift or two to help out who keep things running smoothly.

Quartzfest volunteer opportunities:

- Campfire starter/tender
- Welcoming tent helper
- Morning Coffee
- **Seminar Hosts (introduces seminar speakers)**
- **PA system and Audio-Visual helper for seminar areas**
- Seminar Tent set-up helpers

What we need you to bring:

- * Firewood for our daily campfires
- * 6' Folding Tables for our seminar areas

If you're interested in volunteering in one of these areas, please drop a note to us at kristynweed@gmail.com

*Kristyn
Quartzfest Organizer*

Page 1	Organizer notes from Kristyn KR1SS
Page 2	Quartzfest Supporters
Page 3	Notes from Gordo WB6NOA
Page 4	Here's Gordo
Page 5	Here's Gordo HOBO Stew "Elmer" Why tune your antenna?
Page 6	Why tune your antenna? (continued)
Page 7	Until next time

Where do we get all the stuff to give away at Quartzfest®?



KENWOOD



Hi-Q-Antennas

Plus..., KB3IFH QSL Cards, Quartzsite's Discount Solar, Big Al's Pizza, N4SVD's can of sardines...and others I know I've forgotten to mention. If I missed you, please let me know .

Remember, all of these manufacturers **donate** products to Quartzfest* for us to **give away** to you during our daily FREE prize drawings. When you're in the market for new equipment, keep these guys in mind...Steve

ABOUT** Quartzfest* takes place Annually in January on Federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land and is free to all who participate. Quartzfest* is not a group or organization and has no officers, members or dues. The success of Quartzfest* comes primarily from the love and dedication to both HAM Radio and RV'ing from its present and past Organizers who plan and schedule seminars, workshops and events for the gathering. Quartzfest* is financed solely thru donations which help offset our Organizers expenses. Please know that aside from donations, our Organizers do get help from many volunteers who attend...and that help is always appreciated. BLM rules do not allow groups to make a profit. In fact, we're not allowed by rules to accept one penny more in donations than actual expenses.

Quartzfest* is a 7-day long HAM/RV campout in the Arizona desert that is packed full of Amateur Radio, RV and Emergency Power Seminars and Workshops. The Focus of Quartzfest* is to provide an Amateur Radio and RV Educational Experience like no other in the world on a myriad of related topics. We hold 1-hour Seminars as well as Workshops and teach every aspect of a chosen specialty or mode of operation. During our workshops, you'll learn everything from "what is it" to troubleshooting your newly operational system. With 3 Seminars going on at the same time, Quartzfest* 2018 will offer approximately 70 Seminar/Workshop hours. During the 7 days of Quartzfest* we'll also have many craft and informational talks for the YL's and those not interested in HAM or RV Stuff.

The companies listed on this page have full knowledge that Quartzfest has no funds to purchase prizes for raffles, nor the ability to even charge for raffle tickets to buy prizes. The amazing equipment we have received from them were donated to Quartzfest because they believe strongly in the educational opportunities Quartzfest provides to the entire HAM community.

They believe in us, so, when it comes time to buy new equipment for your shack, keep them in mind. The same goes for our Media supporters. Buy and read their publications, use their websites and click on ads on their sites to help them generate revenue. **Please Support them, they support us!**

Now, Heeeeere's GORDO....



QUARTZFEST 2018 W7Q SPECIAL EVENT "open" STATION !

What is a special event "OPEN" station ? This is how Quartzfest 2018 W7Q will operate - we have a spot , antennas , and DC power for YOUR gear or ours ! Just like every year in the past ! Of course , our Icom IC-9100 will be a fixture on site , too , for you to use .

Our W7Q station will be RV wind protected on 3 sides , and will include big batteries (THANKS Ward K7PO !) and solar , plus the fabulous multi-band antenna , all set up (Thanks again , Ward) , ready to go with the Icom IC-9100 and Heil major sized , and comfortable , headset ! The Neil , W6FOG , station trailer will also be part of this setup , and he has inside gear , for one , from DC to Microwave !

The outside station will offer multiple plugs for DC power , both HF and VHF/UHF antenna cables , Heil headsets , and a BHI DSP speaker for demos , and CW paddles for YOUR gear , too . Use our gear , or bring your own , to play from sun up to sun down at the W7Q station !

If you need AC to runno , not MR. "AC " , but AC power to run a demo scope or something , bring a power inverter . We will have plenty of DC to power up your AC inverter !

For your presentations that are scheduled , bring you own favorite computer and projector , and the correct cables just for your OWN presentation . To minimize on cable and connector searches that delay a presentation , BRING YOU OWN , and be prepared for a fast set up !

Heat for evening operation is providedby warming your fingers on the rig in actionor warm up the CW key !

PUERTO RICO SUPPORT

Our annual event , Quartzfest , takes place on the same schedule hamfest weekend as Puerto Rico . Puerto Rico is re-grouping this coming year , so WE give them the year off , and provide Puerto Rico hams with a long distance support effort to get them back on the air .

We are working up the details , but be assured we won't leave out our fellow ham ops in Puerto Rico .

VOLUNTEERS !

Volunteers (noun) , we need you to volunteer (verb) ! We plan to outfit you with a special one day (or more) distinctive vest , and you can soon sign up for a fun day supporting Q'18 !

CAMPFIRE BUILDER , at sun up and down down , for a day + ?

PRESENTER assistant , to help with PA and the presenter's computer/projector .

GENERATOR assistant , to work with Gary keeping them quietly hummin' with AC .

AUDIO assistant , to work up the PA mics / volume at each site , new mic batteries

VEs , bring your VEC ID cards , to assist testing

SAFETY OFFICER - check for hazards

TENT CAMP ORGANIZER - help set up the tent camping area.

KRIS RUNNER - work with Kris , our CO , to keep things in order ! You will require wings on your footsies for this job !

Special Event Station 1 day manager - pick a day

Who are our EMT's in case of emergency ?

Night Patrol , no blasting porch lights after 10 PM - no strobes , no flashing lights , unless it IS an emergency . We all want to see stars at night , not a RV light show after 10 PM .

AC'S palm tree exempted - we use it for night talk ins ! WELCOME TENT , we can always use more welcomers !

Water Water , gotta have water ready for pouring .

...You get the idea - we need volunteers to pick a day , and lend support to making Quartzfest 2018 the best ever ! We have so many things going on , Kris will find you a fun day job with the distinctive vest !

We are 3 months away , and your volunteers are already making things happen in the organization of this event . But once it gets rolling , we need Y O U !

See you soon !

Your Q volunteers pullin' this together !

HOBO Stew

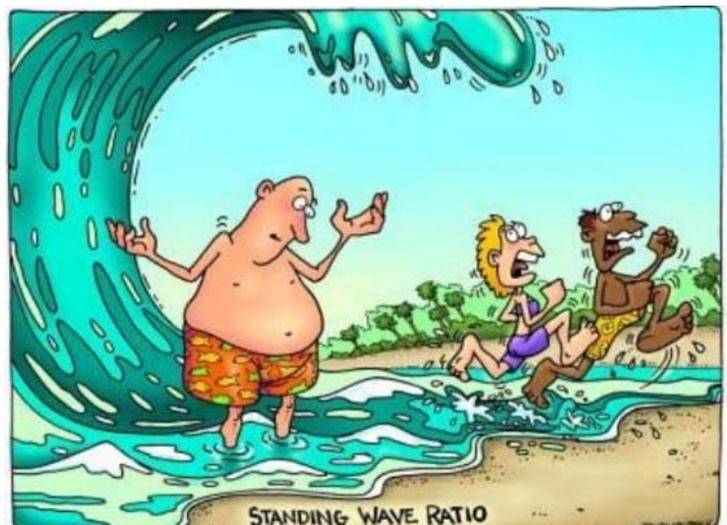
I know you hate to hear this but, there's a possibility we could lose HOBO Stew. As the crew gets up in years, fewer and fewer of them come to Quartzfest. At present, it looks like Rick and Jeannie as well as maybe Jerry will be with us this year. Jerry will only be there, if he can make it, to teach a new crew how the HOBO Stew is prepared.

What's needed? We'll need a new volunteer HOBO Stew Crew.

Rick has a list of what's needed to prepare HOBO Stew but he also added that the way they've made it for the past 11 years isn't how a new crew has to make it.

"What do you mean I need to tune my antenna? I bought my antenna at the HAM Radio Store, why does it need to be tuned?"

You've most likely heard about "SWR" or "Standing Wave Ratio". Well, as the sayings go, all electronic components are built with smoke in them and when they go bad, they lose their smoke (that's not really true, but they do look and smell like it when they go bad). The same goes for antennas...all are built with SWR's in them (just kidding here as well!). Some SWR's are too high which can cause your radio to lose its smoke (not kidding here!) and some are just



right....depending on how you've "adjusted" your antenna. The process of lengthening or shortening your antenna is called "tuning your antenna".

When you get your antenna home from the Amateur Radio Store, and, after you're finished drooling all over the package it came in, you'll quickly tear it open and find..."Oh NO...it has instructions!" And you thought you'd be able to take it out of the box, hook coax to it and be on the air in just a few minutes. Not to worry, the manual is a good thing, it will tell you how to "adjust" (there's that word again) your antenna. If it's a mobile antenna, it will also probably come with an "allen wrench" (hex head wrench). This is provided so that when you slide the whip into the top of the antenna base at just the right length (the lowest SWR at the frequency you're going to be operating); you can tighten it in place. You'll need an SWR meter or antenna analyzer to make these "adjustments".

Why does this "tuning" need to be done?

Here's some technical stuff you'll need to know. If your antenna is too long or too short, your SWR will be too high and too much power will be "reflected" from your antenna back to your radio. Too much of that reflected power is not good for your radio. With a perfect or "flat match", the needle on your SWR meter will not move, and will stay at "1" which means 1:1:1, and you will have full transmitted power going to your antenna (less your feed line loss of course). If your meter reads 1.5, it means 1.5:1 and will give you a 4% loss of your transmitted power. If the needle on your meter reads 2, it means your SWR is 2:1 and your loss of power will be about 11%. You will want to insure that the reading on your SWR meter (or antenna analyzer) is NOT over "2:1" (if it is, don't transmit until you have found the problem and lowered the SWR...improper adjustment or grounding of your antenna could be the culprits). An example of this is, if you're transmitting 100 watts output power, have an SWR of 2:1 and have 11% reflected power, you'll essentially have 89 watts going to your antenna and 11 watts coming back into the radio. If your SWR is higher, say 2.5:1, you'll have a 25% power loss..thats 75 watts to the antenna and 25 watts reflected power...that's 25% of your total power output returning back into your radio....your transmitter will overheat and won't last long at this rate!

OK, back to the original question...why do you need to tune your antenna when it's designed as a HAM antenna? As Amateur Radio Operators, we have privileges to operate in radio bands with wide frequency ranges. Because you want the lowest possible SWR for the frequency range you'll most likely be operating in, having an antenna that you couldn't tune would severely limit your operating abilities! That's it in a nutshell...I know, I know, why didn't I just say that in the first place?

That's it for this month....

Farewell until we see each other again

73,

***Kristyn – KR1SS
Quartzfest Organizer***