

Quartzfest 2020

July Newsletter

Hello Quartzfesters, we hope y'all are having a good summer and this finds you well. Lyn and I decided to escape the Tucson heat by spending a month or so at 8,000' elevation in the town of Alpine in the White Mountains of Arizona. We've spent a bit of time sight seeing and off roading...and fishing. Lyn caught her first ever fish yesterday.... a 12" Rainbow Trout.

With a quick recap of Quartzfest 2019, it was a record setting year with a total of 1050 of you in attendance. That's a whopping 197 more than our previous record of 853 in 2018. As those of you in attendance know, Ray N6AA from ICOM attended Quartzfest with us this year and was kind enough to donate a brand newly introduced IC-9700 to us as a Grand Prize. Our winner this year was Bob Strange (sorry, I don't have his call on hand). When the radio went into production in April, Ray shipped it to me and in turn I forwarded to Bob...and he didn't receive it "open box".

During Quartzfest 2019 I mentioned that we were in need of a new webmaster and a few folks stepped forward to take on the task. After a few difficulties) setting up a web host (and my lack of knowledge regarding web hosting protocols), we got our account set up. Kevin NB7O, our new webmaster began working on the website a couple months ago and it's looking pretty good. If you haven't checked it out yet, drop by www.quartzfest.org and take a look.

Now it's time to begin planning for Quartzfest 2020. To do this I'm in search of speakers to give seminars to our attendees. Of course, we'll have slots for Power Point with computer seminars in the tent but we also need seminars to be given at our two other outdoor seminar areas. I'd really like to see as much actual hands on as possible...show and tell, etc. These seminars can be HAM related but we'd also like to have topics of interest like Solar installation and Battery Technology, your fun RV trips and non tech topics of interest to the ladies and maybe some of the gents. A couple topics we haven't had in a couple years that I'd like to see come back are APRS and GeoCaching. Digital mode like RTTY, PSK and FT8 and maybe QRP operations and contesting would also be interesting. If you're interested in giving a seminar, drop me a note at kristynweed@gmail.com . I'd like to have our 2020 schedule posted on the website by September so the sooner I hear from you, the sooner I can get you on the schedule.

We'll still have our Potluck dinner on Tuesday evening as well as new this year, a Potluck on Thursday evening right before our Hootenanny. Also, this year we'll have two separate off road trips. One that requires 4x4 or high clearance vehicles and another trip that will be more suitable for cars. If you're planning on taking your Technician exam or upgrading your existing license, now is the time to begin studying. We'll have two exam sessions during the week of Quartzfest.

From me and Lyn, 73...

Kris – KR1SS and Lyn - KJ7DSE