

## **Quartzfest 2020**

### **November Newsletter**

Here's a word from Gordo....

#### **TENT CAMPERS - WE HAVE YOUR SPOT!**

Quartzfest is just over 2 months away, and your Q2020 volunteers are working hard to make this the best Q in many years!

Let's go over some facts.....

Last year, 1,000+ hams hit the sand at Quartzfest! A growing new record!

TENT CAMPERS, your tent and vehicle will continue to have your own dedicated area, just North of the Welcome Tent. Look for the yellow tape. Got the vehicle, but no tent? - FINE - car sleepers welcome in this same area. Just no running of the vehicle after lights out quiet hours. (noise and deadly exhaust to nearby campers) Vehicle sleepers may park in the overall restricted tent area, but at the South end, for minimal noise and exhaust to the tent campers.

CALL IN: Our net controllers will monitor 146.550 MHz simplex for talk in. We are off the 95, 5 miles south of the 10. Look for the only right hand turn pocket at 5 miles south, turn right, and immediately turn right again on the hard packed sand road. Go 200 feet, and sign in with the camp host during daylight hours. Then continue to drive north on the hard packed road, and look for the antennas all over the place.

Find a spot of your choice, and drop anchor!

VISITOR TENT CHECK IN! So park anywhere you want on the desert floor, and then check in at the visitor tent, mornings and afternoons. Get your free goodie bag, and continue to monitor with your HT 146.550 MHz for announcements and activities.

Our main meeting spot is the big fire ring and chair area around it, just 300' East of the welcome tent.

Wheel chairs will work on the hard packed sand and at the main fire ring area. Same with ATV 4-wheelers - they are welcome around the camp fire ring.

## PETS!

Bring 'em on! Keep them safe on a leash, and never leave them unattended - lots of critters in the hills nearby. Also, get 'em groomed for the PET PARADE!

Lots of room for antennas on HF. Just be sure and tag body-level long wires with bright white stringers, so no one walks in to them at night!

OH NO NOs.....

This year we will be doing a lot of night sky shows from our star-y experts, explaining the cosmos, and spotting satellites and the Space Station. Then, off to bed to further enjoy the dark after 10 pm !

If you have a 1,000 CP porch light to run all night, please DON'T ! Same with Xenon strobe lights atop your majestic vertical monopole. NO POWERFUL strobes blasting in the campground. Sure, a small blinking LED light to ID your camp site is fine, but no major pulsing strobes! We would also hope all LED strip lights go out, or are dimmed, from 10pm on.

## MUSIC NIGHT !

Bring your musical and percussion instruments for the Hootenanny night! Lube up your voice, too, for the new sing a longs at the hoot!

YOU ARE THE EXPERT.....and we might love a 50 minute seminar from you! The majority of seminar spots have a Garry-terrific PA system, so you won't need to shout. If you are an RV specialist, you might talk about RV maintenance issues, like slide outs, water pumps, refer coldness, and stuff like this that may not be ham radio related! Kris will continue with this newsletter to give you presenter and volunteer sign up details.

Ladies, we love your seminars, so come in with even more unique topics for us all!

All seminar would-be and fur-sure presenters, be sure and let Kris know what you may want to present ( [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com) ). Yes, we have a BRAND NEW dark-inside tent for computer and projection operations.

To see the schedule of planned seminars and activites already on the Q books, go to [WWW.QUARTZFEST.ORG](http://WWW.QUARTZFEST.ORG), and see how hard your volunteers have been working ahead of time for the best-ever Q2020.

Hey Kris, I know you have lots more info for our Q2020 arrivals.....HEREEEE ISSSSS KRIS :

Thanks for that info Gordo....

Well folks, a lot has been happening getting ready for our weeklong event in January. We now have a website that Kevin has been working on to perfect and it looks awesome. Our 2020 tentative schedule has been posted to the website as has been a page that hosts introductions of speakers and topic info. We're asking that all our speakers for January's talks send me their info so I can get it to Kevin. As you'll notice, all of our time slots for area 3 aren't filled yet so If you have in interest in being one of our speakers, please drop me a note with your topic info so I can get you on the schedule. [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com). We will be purchasing our new area 2 tent in a few weeks. Its fabric will be a heavier PVC material which will be much stronger than our previous tents...it'll be a bit heavier (and darker inside) too as it's 20'x40' and will give us a whopping 800 sq. ft of interior space so everyone will be able to sit inside during presentations.

Again this year, the Northern Arizona DX Association will be sponsoring our Quartzfest 2020 DX Distance Challenge. Those guys have been busy working on rules for the event and this year the Challenge will include FT8 operations as well as voice and CW. The sponsors have amassed a whopping \$1000 worth of prizes from several manufacturers for the winners. Also, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings of Quartzfest, if you didn't bring your radio and antenna with you, you'll be able to use our W7Q Special Event Station for your operations. If you're interested in participating in the Challenge, make sure to drop by our website <http://quartzfest.org> to review the rules.

Our plan for now (weather permitting) is to run to town to pick up our tents, etc. from storage on Friday morning, January 17<sup>th</sup>, and bring them to our Quartzfest site to set up for our week's activities. We'll need those of you who have pickup trucks to join us in this effort. We'll also need plenty of able bodied individuals to help load, unload and be involved in getting all this equipment set up. I thank you in advance for your efforts.

T-shirts will be ordered in a few weeks, so they'll arrive long before Quartzfest kicks off. We only ordered 150 shirts last year and they quickly sold out Saturday morning. This year we're ordering 300 shirts so we should have enough for all of you who want them.

We're planning a Star party one night during the week and that night will be announced during Quartzfest. The night we choose will be dependent on visibility of the skies. Hopefully, we'll have a night during the week with little moon and no clouds. If you have a telescope that hasn't been set up yet, please bring it with you as someone will be there to help you get it set up for operation.

For our special event station this year we have a brand new antenna. MFJ was kind enough to donate a Cobweb antenna to us. We need a mast for it though. If you have a 20-40' aluminum or fiberglass mast that we can use for the week, please let me know [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com). Also, if you have a 50-100' length of coax we can use let me know.

We do have volunteer needs during the week. As always, we'll need volunteers to help in the welcome tent registering Quartzfesters and this year we could use the help of a couple folks at the welcome tent assisting Neil in selling T-shirts. We also need someone to gas up our camp generators every morning, someone to start campfires in mornings and evenings (I have a propane torch to help with this) and we need a few volunteers to kick off seminars by introducing speakers. Hmm, what else?? Well, we also need folks to do talk in on simplex 146.55 and we need a volunteer to be our safety person to keep us safe during the week. Lastly, we need a first aid person in the event CPR or an AED are needed. Your help is always appreciated...our volunteers are the one's who make Quartzfest a success.

The schedule you find on our website is fluid and is updated frequently as I get more volunteer speakers for seminars. We'll be posting an updated schedule in a day or two. Make sure you check back on the website frequently for updates to the schedule. If you've volunteered to be one of our presenters, please check the schedule to insure you're available on the day/time I have you scheduled. If you're scheduled as a presenter, please take a few minutes to write up a brief bio of yourself and a description of your seminar and shoot it to me so Kevin can post your info on our Quartzfest website. [kristynweed@gmail.com](mailto:kristynweed@gmail.com)

Ladies, make sure you take a look at the seminars we have scheduled for you this year. Some of our previous titles will return but this year we have a few new topics that may be of interest to you.

Tuesday evening of Quartzfest we'll have a Potluck Dinner. Main Dishes are requested as we won't have the brisket this year. In addition to main dishes, we also need salads

and desserts. When you come to our Happy Hour Announcement time Tuesday evening, I'll make a few quick announcements before we line up for food (so food doesn't get cold) and then we'll eat. Please bring your plates, utensils, chair, table if you have one and whatever you're drinking with you when you come to Happy Hour at 3:45. After dinner we'll gather around the campfire for "RV Stories around the Campfire". If you have funny or memorable RV experiences, make sure you join us and tell your stories.

Thursday evening will be our Hootenanny and it's always a good time. If you play an instrument, make sure you bring it with you and join in. To prepare for the Hootenanny, there will be a Jam Session Wednesday afternoon with Russell, Kevin and Michelle. If you're planning on joining in and playing during the Hootenanny, please join them for the Jam Session.

Saturday morning, January 25<sup>th</sup> is our yard sale otherwise known as our ham swap meet. It'll kick off before daylight. That's right, folks will be out shopping with their flashlights. We ask that if you're selling, set up in the central Quartzfest area. If you're camped in outlying areas, you don't want to set up near your RV because shoppers typically only visit the sellers on the couple roads near and surrounding our seminar areas.

We're looking forward to seeing y'all again this year. See you soon,

Kris - KR1SS & Lyn - KJ7DSE