

Quartzfest Schedule

January 18 – 25, 2026

(Updated 1/23/2026)

Check the bulletin board on-site for last-minute changes.

Changes since previous schedules are listed at the bottom.

Email quartzfest@qrv.ht with corrections, suggestions, or to add your presentation.

Throughout the Week Presenters and Events Volunteer Opportunities

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Getting Ready

[Volunteer Opportunities--click here](#)

Kris Weed

KR1SS

Sunday

1300

Area 1 Quartzfest 2026 Opening Ceremony

Kris Weed

KR1SS

Monday

[{Top}](#)

0745	146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
0830		Pico Balloon Launch	Brian Basura, N6CVO	
0900 1000 Area 1 Welcome Seminar—Gordo and team give a preview of all the action				
1000	1100	Area 3 Cornhole Practice	Danette Key	KI7VEY
1030	1130	Area 1 ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits	Gary Johnson	AA6GJ
			Debbie Johnson	WB6LVC
			Gordon West	WB6NOA
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300	1500	Area 3 Cornhole Tournament	Danette Key	KI7VEY
1400	1500	Area 1 RV Upgrades Worth Investigating	Keith Shomaker	
1530		Area 1 Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1800	2100	Area 2 Star Party	Alan Kopp	AK9K
1830	1930	Area 3 Recruiting and Retaining New Hams	Stiv Ostenberg	K9STV

Tuesday{[Top](#)}

0745	146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
RV Dump today (did you sign up in registration tent?)				
0900	1000	Area 1 Powering the Starlink Mini Using Ohms Law	Carter Davis	KH6FV
0900 1000 Area 2 Disability Awareness				
Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX			
0900 1400 offsite Trip to Town and the RV & Rock Shows				
1030	1130	Area 1 Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months	John Kitchens	NS6X
1030	1130	Area 2 Why You'll Want to Add GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit	Jim Mohan	AA7JM
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1400	1500	Area 2 Quartz Rocks, Super Stars & Judging	Gordon West	WB6NOA
1400	1500	Area 3 Bunny Hunt—Presentation followed by hunt	Tony Levand	AA9CC
1530	Area 1 Happy Hour		Kris Weed	KR1SS
1600	Area 1 Pot Luck Dinner			
1700	1800	Area 1 Pet Parade	Lyn Weed	KJ7DSE
1830	1930	Area 2 What You Should Know About Gen-IV Nuclear Power	Scott Evans	KO3B
1830	1930	Area 3 First Aid--Stop the Bleed	Michelle Pelkey	KA7OQQ
2000	2100	Area 3 Nano VNA	Dave Smith	W6DPS

Wednesday {[Top](#)}

0745	146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
0900	1000	Area1 Pleasant Valley War Why AZ was late to be a state	Hal Key	KG5LVG
0900	1000	Area 2 Randy's Favorite Tools, Gizmos and Gadgets	Randy Hall	K7AGE
0900	1400	offsite Off Road Adventure	Frank Engstrom	KB7IQ
1030	1130	Area 1 Experiments with Radio Waves	Ernie Richards	K1NI
1030	1130	Area 2 Handiham Program	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
1030	1130	Area 3 Lift Off! Discover the World of Pico-Ballooning	Brian Basura	N6CVO
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300		Russ's Jam Session and Hootenanny Practice South of Area 3	Russ Decker	KB6YAF
1400	1500	Area 1 Antenna Launching for Ham Radio	Alan Biocca	W6AKB
1400	1500	Area 3 Metal Detecting—Old Rare Coins Buried!	Gordon West	WB6NOA
1530		Area 1 Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1830	1930	Area 2 Parks On The Air® (POTA)	Craig McVeay	N0CSM
1830	1930	Area 3 Antenna Physics	Avery Davis	WB4RTP
2000	2100	Area 2 Make an Antenna and Take it up a Mountain	Tobias Feltus	KK7BCO
2000	2100	Area 3 Digital Amateur Television	Joel Wilhite	KD6W

Thursday {[Top](#)}

0745	146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
RV Dump today (did you sign up in registration tent?)				
0830	1300 offsite	POTA: Drive to KOFA Park	Nancy Crowley	KD7S
Meet west of registration tent				
0830	1300 offsite	SOTA Hike to Cunningham Peak	Javi Beltran	K6TNT
Meet east of registration tent at bulletin boards				
0900	1130 Area 1	Onan Generators, RV Electrical and Solar Systems	Jerry Brown	K06GB
0900	1000 Area 2	YLRL Meeting & Presentation	Vicki Zumwalt	N6KLS
0900	1000 Area 3	Antennas	Tom Schiller	N6BT
1030	1130 Area 2	3D Printing for Ham Radio	Alan Biocca	W6AKB
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300	1500	Solar Walkabout--Meet at registration tent	Carter Davis	KH6FV
1400	1500 Area 1	A Simple Homebrew Hamstick Dipole	Dave Smith	W6DPS
1400	1500 Area 2	Crocheting	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
1530	Area 1	Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1630	Area 1	Hootenanny	Russ Decker	KB6YAF

Friday {[Top](#)}

0745	146.550	Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1030	1130	Area 1 ARRL Forum		
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 1	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300		Antenna Walkabout Meet at registration tent	Rob Fenn	KC6TYD
1400	1500	Area 1 Winlink Email Demonstration How to do it QRP	Frank Kostelac	N7ZEV
			Linda Kostelac	KC7IIT
1400	1500	Area 2 Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR)	Clayton Jacobs	KJ6QJS
1400	1500	Area 3 Getting on the Microwave Bands	Joel Wilhite	KD6W
1530		Area 1 Happy Hour, Daily Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1830	1930	Area 2 Talk like a Ham	Don Kelly	WA6ZMT
1830	1930	Area 3 QSO Party: Multi-County Expedition	Tim Thorson	KD6HOF
2000		Area 2 Movie: Making Waves	Don Kelly	WA6ZMT

Saturday {[Top](#)}

0745	146.550 Morning Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1000 1130	ANSR High Altitude Balloon Launch South edge of camp	Clayton Jacobs	KJ6QJS
1000	Volunteer Opportunities—click here	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1200 1400	Area 1 Closing Ceremony, Grand Prizes	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1400	Volunteer Opportunities—click here	Kris Weed	KR1SS

Throughout the Week [{Top}](#)

Quartzfestnet—146.550 Simplex announcements at 0745 and 1200.

The rest of the time, if there's someone awake--it's open.

Quartzfest TV: **Cable** channel 58.

Registration—Welcome Tent (Saturday through Thursday 0900 - 1500)

RV Dump Service Tuesday and Thursday. Sign up in registration tent.

License Testing

Go Find a Rock (Sunday through Tuesday) See Tuesday schedule

W7Q Special Event Station (Monday through Friday 0900 - 1500) **Canceled**

Pico-Balloon Launches

Brian Basura, N6CVO, and Jed Dyke, N6JED, will attempt one or two Pico-balloon launches during the week.

Work the Space Station Repeater [{See info below}](#)

Volunteer Opportunities [{Top}](#)

Saturday through Thursday 0900 – 1500, Registration in the Welcome Tent

Welcome attendees and enter their information in our database. Stop by the Welcome Tent to sign up for as many shifts as you like.

Friday Setup [{Top}](#)

Friday January 16th will be our day to set up our tent and bulletin boards. We start out with 5 or 6 pickup trucks which will run into town to load our equipment from our storage unit. We'll not only need drivers of those trucks, but we'll also need other volunteers to help load the trucks. Once we get back to our Quartzfest area, we'll need help setting up the welcome tent and the special event station pop-up as well as placing tables and setting up our PA systems.

Saturday--closing day [{Saturday}](#)

January 24th at about 10am we'll need volunteers to tear down camp...the same tent, bulletin boards, etc. so right after closing ceremony we can return the equipment back to storage.

After the closing ceremony we'll need those 5 or 6 pickup trucks which will run into town to return our equipment to our storage unit. We'll not only need drivers of those trucks, but we'll also need other volunteers to help load the trucks.

Presenters and Event Descriptions [{Top}](#)

Alan Biocca, W6AKB

Alan is an active amateur radio operator with a strong focus on portable HF operation, antenna experimentation, and practical field techniques. He combines decades of hands-on technical experience with modern tools such as Pneumatic Antenna Launcher Development, 3D printing, microcontrollers, and custom software to build reliable, real-world radio solutions. Alan enjoys sharing what works (and what doesn't) through demonstrations and practical talks that emphasize simplicity, safety, and results.

Antenna Launching for Ham Radio

Getting an HF antenna into the air is often the hardest part of portable and field operation. This talk covers practical, proven methods for launching antenna lines in real-world conditions—from simple throw-weights and arborist techniques to pneumatic launchers and line management—that actually work. We'll discuss safety, gear choices, deployment strategies for trees in backyards, forests and parks, and common mistakes that cost time and gear. Ideal for portable operators, POTA/SOTA activators, ARRL Field Day, and anyone who wants better on-air results with less frustration.

3D Printing for Ham Radio

3D printing is a powerful tool for solving everyday ham radio problems, especially in portable and outdoor setups. This session focuses on practical, RF-friendly prints such as antenna insulators, mounts, cable guides, power accessories, and field hardware—along with material choices that survive heat, UV, and mechanical stress. We'll cover what works, what fails, and how to design or adapt parts for your own station or field kit. No prior 3D printing experience required—just a desire to make better gear.

Alan Kopp, AK9K

Star Party—see note on page 1 [{Monday}](#)

We will have telescopes set up for all to enjoy and you may bring your own. Alan will be available at his motorhome starting January 14 to answer questions. Monday evening will be a new moon—unfortunately, a week out it looks like it will be overcast. Time will tell.

Avery Davis, WB4RTP

Avery Davis is an electrical engineer now retired from the aerospace industry. He holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license, WB4RTP, from the US FCC and was first licensed in 1970 in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated from Georgia Tech with an M.S.E.E. and worked for Georgia Tech Research Institute. In 1998, Avery moved to Tucson, Arizona, to work for Raytheon and retired in 2022, but still resides in Tucson. Avery is a past president of the Catalina Radio Club.

Antenna Physics {Wednesday}

This seminar is about antenna theory. Most of the textbooks (and seminars) on antennas fall into one of two categories:

1. Basic introduction and “how-to” books using various antenna types as examples, i.e. The ARRL Antenna Book.
2. Advanced textbooks for senior and graduate-level study (Kraus, Balanis, Stutzman, and several more classics--some dating back to the 1930s).

There is very little in print for “intermediate” level treatments. After many years of studying and working on antennas, author Bob Zavrel, W7SX, came to the conclusion that the traditional advanced academic texts could be simplified into a “transitional” text between basic introductions and the rigor of the formal academic treatments. Of course, there is no replacement for the more advanced texts with their detailed derivations, but hopefully author Zavrel’s book, *Antenna Physics: An Introduction*, will fill a problematic void. Also, after decades explaining antennas to innumerable people, author Zavrel found there were areas that were common to misunderstandings. Therefore, this seminar addresses these common misunderstandings by using author Zavrel’s book as the source of these explanations, with some additions by Avery Davis.

Brian Basura, N6CVO

I am an Amateur Radio Extra Class operator serving as Assistant District Emergency Coordinator for the ARES LAX High Desert District and a Board Member of both the Antelope Valley ARC and Acton Agua Dulce ARC. With decades of technical experience in aerospace, IT consulting, and hydroelectric power, I actively support communications infrastructure, STEM education, and technical projects ranging from Tesla coils to Pico-Balloons.

Pico Balloon Launch {Monday}

The launch area is marked with orange cones at Quartzfest grid F2

Lift Off! Discover the World of Pico-Ballooning [{Wednesday}](#)

Learn how tiny balloons carrying ham radios can travel vast distances — and how you can track or launch your own.

Carter Davis, KH6FV

Aloha, holding an amateur license since the mid-1970s, I have enjoyed many aspects of amateur radio. First, spending a number of years in HF and then migrating over to FM Analog repeater operations and now digital. Getting reacquainted with HF with the purchase of HF radios in 2020.

I have retired from a large metro fire department, was dispatched to national wildfire events to work in the communications unit and I continue to work as a telecommunications specialist with the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team. These responses to various events in my community and around the country have provided me with experiences of operating during dark sky events and large incidents, providing me with the opportunity to work with various RF & satellite communications systems during adverse and major events.

Powering the Starlink Mini Using Ohms Law [{Tuesday}](#)

The presentation is based on the PACE planning concepts and related to my experience of using non-OEM power sources and its challenges. The Starlink Mini is the only current Starlink terminal that can operate under a significant variation of DC voltage sources. I will be discussing and displaying equipment I use to keep a Starlink operating even when commercial power is not available.

Solar Walkabout [{Thursday}](#)

Program your HT for 146.600 simplex and meet at the registration tent. The group will visit a number of solar installations and the owner will share their experience.

Clayton Jacobs, KJ6QJS

Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR) [{Friday}](#)

ANSR High Altitude Balloon Launch. South edge of camp [{Saturday}](#)

Craig McVeay, NØCSM

Craig has previously presented at Quartzfest, where he shared his experiences deploying to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria as part of the “Force of 50” in 2017. During that talk, he credited National Parks On The Air with helping prepare him for the deployment—specifically by making him comfortable setting up and operating a portable amateur radio station in less-than-ideal conditions. Craig is still a big fan of the ideas behind POTA and enjoys getting out and activating parks whenever he can, and he is an active participant in the FEMA SHARES program. These days, he also serves as the Nevada Section Manager,

responds to help requests on the POTA Help Desk, and acts as the Operations Officer for a search and rescue team in Southern Nevada.

Parks On The Air® (POTA) [{Wednesday}](#)

POTA grew out of ARRL's 2016 *National Parks On The Air* event—the largest and most popular single event ARRL has ever run. Today, POTA has several hundred thousand registered users worldwide. It's still pretty young by amateur radio standards, but it's grown fast and shows no signs of slowing down.

At its core, POTA is simple and fun. An amateur radio operator—called an **activator**—operates from within the boundaries of a recognized POTA park or entity and makes contacts (QSOs) with other hams known as **hunters**. Hunters might be operating from home, mobile, portable, or even from another park. Activators upload the logs, hunters are automatically credited, and then it's on to the next park.

This presentation examines POTA from the activator's perspective. We'll cover:

- Where you need to be and the basic rules for a valid activation
- Ideas for setting up and getting on the air without overthinking it
- Logging options that work well in the field and the minimum requirements for a log
- Uploading logs and what to do if something goes sideways
- A few friendly reminders about things we probably *shouldn't* do while hamming it up during a POTA activation

Danette Key, KI7VEY

Retired resident of Young, Arizona. Band member of Polyurethane and the Acetones since 2023. Loves to play games--the "fun" grandma with the grandkids! (Haha) Has hosted several cornhole competitions--however, NOT a professional at the game.

Cornhole Tournament [{Monday}](#)

Registration is going slowly, so a practice session has been scheduled for 1000 Monday in Area 3. If not enough partners register, the doubles tournament format may be modified.

Register with a partner at the registration tent. Doubles-only competition starting at 1300 hours. Official rules apply--rules will be posted on bulletin board. We will have two sets of cornhole boards. Winners will receive a nice gift. Contact Danette Key, KI7VEY, with questions (Salem travel trailer just west of registration tent).

Dave Smith

I have attended Quartzfest several times over the last ten years and have made several presentations. I have been licensed since 1977, and an Extra since 2001. I am an ARRL registered instructor and a VE accredited by ARRL, GLAARG, and WM7X.

Nano VNA [{Tuesday}](#)

This will cover the basics of using a NanoVNA for hams. This device is very useful for antenna testing as well as for testing and tuning filters, traps, and other tuned circuits. A NanoVNA can also be used to test coaxial cables and isolate faults in antenna systems.

A Simple Homebrew Hamstick Dipole [{Thursday}](#)

This is not my invention, but I have used them to good effect and have a simple method for putting one together. It can be built with simple hand tools and an electric drill. This is a simple option for POTA activations and Field Day, as well as operating within HOA restrictions.

Don Kelly, WA6ZMT

Like most hams, Don was disassembling small appliances as a toddler. In the Air Force, he met hams who dragged him into the hobby. Licensed as a Novice and Tech in 1962, he couldn't manage 13 WPM, but now is an Extra so he doesn't ever need to take a test again. In the 60s, he had an auto electronics shop but fell into the computer rabbit hole in 1968 and has been a computer nerd ever since. He actually spends more time in amateur radio club administration than he does on the air. He's on the boards of Saint Paul Radio Club, KOAGF, the Desert Circle ARC, NU7DE, and Minnesota Amateur Radio Consortium. He's ARRL Minnesota Affiliated Club Coordinator and recently got suckered into handling Quartzfest registration and presenter scheduling.

Talk like a Ham [{Friday}](#)

This will be part poorly-prepared presentation and part discussion group about the “time-honored” lingo that hams use that is Greek to newer hams and the stuff that newbies are talking about that is completely unintelligible to OTs (Old Timers—get the idea?). Warning: Don may include stuff he hears from time-to-time in some sort of book, app, or on-line mess.

Movie: Making Waves [{Friday}](#)

Ham radio enthusiasts exaggerate who they are to the other listeners assuming they'll never meet but then have to try and live up to their fantasy personalities when they meet.

Ernie Richards

He has been researching bioenergetics and subtle energy, and exploring the nature of the universe throughout his life. He was born into a dairy farm family on the midcoast area of Lincoln Co. in Maine where as a teenager; he discovered world-wide radio communications. He has worked in the early computer, digital and microwave engineering. He has traveled extensively, contemplating ideas and experiments all along the way, while concentrating on studies and personal experiments in consciousness, breath-work, planetary and stellar energies, vibration healing, the resonant harmonic aspects of physical matter, and is presently focusing on the nature of our bio-cosmic evanescent communication. Through writings and poetry, Ernest has shared his vision of our intimate, instantaneous communications link with the Earth, its life-forms, the Galaxy and the whole Cosmos, by drawing upon his many vibration measurement experiments.

Experiments with Radio Waves [{Wednesday}](#)

Richard will share his unexpected discoveries about radio waves, particularly low-frequency radio waves and the vast electromagnetic spectrum including the brain-wave connection to the Earth.

Frank Engstrom, KB7IQ

Off Road Adventure [{Wednesday}](#)

Frank Kostelac, N7ZEV

Linda Kostelac, KC7IIT

Winlink Email Demonstration--How to do it QRP [{Friday}](#)

Gary Johnson, AA6GJ

Debbie Johnson, WB6LVC

Gordon West, WB6NOA

Gary R. Johnson, AA6GJ, is an amateur radio educator and instructor with Gordon West's Instructor Academy, where he focuses on helping instructors teach amateur radio concepts clearly and confidently. An experienced HF and VHF/UHF operator, Gary emphasizes practical operating skills, modern digital modes, and instructor-ready lesson design. His work supports the Gordon West mission of making amateur radio education engaging, accurate, and accessible.

ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits [{Monday}](#)

This Quartzfest session features hands-on instruction using four simple circuits with associated Lesson Plans.

- Demonstrating a Simple Current Amplifier with Two LEDs
- Understanding Diode Directionality
- Demonstrating Capacitor Charging and Discharging
- Varying LED Brightness Using a Potentiometer

Each lesson directly reinforces concepts tested in the Technician Class Amateur Radio Exam, including Ohm's Law, basic components, semiconductors, and circuit behavior.

I hope you will join us in our session and have some fun learning about Elmering.

Gordon West, WB6NOA

Gordon West is the ham who needs no introduction—except for a few newbies who should know that he's been writing books for hams since before they were born (sorry, Gordo). He currently serves as the ambassador for the ARRL National Instructor Program as well as continuing to publish in cooperation with ARRL. An Amateur Extra, he's been a ham for more than 60 years. He has been coming to Quartzfest since the Saguaros were short.

ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits {Monday}

Quartz Rocks, Super Stars (Sunday through Tuesday) {Tuesday} {Throughout the Week}

All who wander are not lost--some are looking for quartz rocks to enter in the Quartzfest contest for the best find, best decorated, best whiteness, ...something different never done before for EVERYONE--no ham license required! Wander Sunday afternoon through Tuesday morning in the Road Runner BLM camping area and bring your finds to Area 2 at 1400 on Tuesday for judging.

Metal Detecting--Old Rare Coins Buried! {Wednesday}

Gordo's Metal and Coin detecting, meet up at Area 3, and walk to nearby buried-treasures grounds!

Work the Space Station Repeater

Learn, with a live demo, how to talk through the International Space Station cross-band repeater with Gordo! Bring your handheld on 437.800 MHz FM in the VFO mode! Watch this space for time and place.

Hal Key, KG5LVG

Hal retired from the Mesa Fire Department in 2010, was in upstate New York for a while, then Emergency Preparedness in Allen Texas made getting an amateur radio license a good idea. Since 2017, Hal has lived in Pleasant Valley (with a Young, Arizona, mailing address).

Pleasant Valley War—Why AZ Was Late to be a State

The feud between the Tewkesburys and the Grahams that started before, and ended after, the Hatfields and the McCoys—resulting in more deaths--kept Arizona from becoming a state for nearly thirty years. This occurred in Pleasant Valley, Arizona. It had nothing to do with sheep!

Javi Beltran, K6TNT

SOTA Hike to Cunningham Peak [{Thursday}](#)

All are invited to the 1,800 foot steep hike to Cunningham Mountain. Everyone hikes at your own pace. For those interested in SOTA, a group photo and a raffle will be conducted on the summit.

Jerry Brown, KP6GB (formerly KO6F)

Jerry is a retired electrical engineer and Vice President of engineering for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona. He is also a 65 year DIY-er and RV enthusiast. For the last 20 years he has been repairing and refurbishing Onan Generators, designing and installing solar and lithium battery systems, and repairing any other RV issues. He focuses on teaching people to do their own upgrades and installations with hands-on experience.

Onan Generators, RV Electrical and Solar Systems [{Thursday}](#)

This presentation will cover a wide range of topics likely to be of interest to most RVers. There is a troll in the basement that is expensive and frustrating. We will be discussing generators in general and Onans in specific. What are the various models that we see in the shop and useful tips on how to rapidly troubleshoot and repair them yourself. We will discuss what's in the RV electrical systems--both AC and DC systems. What equipment you need . How to troubleshoot them. What fails and how to repair them yourself. The next topic is batteries, system monitors, and inverters. Batteries are changing rapidly, and we will discuss past present future of deep discharge batteries for RVs. Solar panels are also changing rapidly. When do I need to put up new ones, what fails on them and how to install them.

These topics will be covered in a Q&A format where you get a chance to ask questions from someone who designs and repairs and installs these systems on a daily basis.

Jim Mohan, AA7JM

Why You'll Want to Add GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit [{Tuesday}](#)

In this presentation we'll do an overview of Part 95 Personal Radio Service radios focusing

mainly on GMRS. We'll look at the radios, license requirements, repeaters, and the growth of this radio service. The goal is for you, as a ham, to see value in adding GMRS capability to your communications toolkit.

Joel Wilhite, KD6W

Joel was the chair at the international amateur radio microwave update conference held at Tucson last year.

DATV—Digital Amateur Television [{Wednesday}](#)

Converting television from analog to digital, the broadcast industry was hoping to revamp the television industry in an attempt to keep the medium of broadcast television relevant by taking advantage of cutting-edge features. This effort can be summarized in two main steps, first the conversion of video and audio data into a bitstream and second, converting the bitstream into a wave form that can be run through a transmitter. These two concepts will be discussed at length to help the amateur radio operator understand the complexity and challenge with deploying a low-cost solution for several different instances found in the amateur radio hobby.

Getting on the Microwave Bands [{Friday}](#)

Introduction to getting on the microwave bands with your choice of near low cost or exuberant amounts of money. We need to utilize these bands before they are handed over to other users. Use it or lose it.

John Kitchens, NS6X

Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months [{Monday}](#)

I did a three month mostly-QRP POTA rove last year, activating parks in 47 states--74 unique parks, SSB, CW and FT8/4. I traveled with an evil cat in a small travel trailer, visiting Four Days in May, Hamvention, LonsterCon, and OzarkCon.

Keith Shomaker

RV upgrades worth investigating [{Monday}](#)

Marcia DeRuntz, KG6FIX

As her mother became totally deaf by the time Marcia was ten and Marcia was losing her sight from age 18, she would be well positioned to discuss disabilities even without her A.A. in Recreation for the Physically and Emotionally Disabled, B.S. in Special Education, and Masters in Psychology. She has been giving disabled awareness and service animal presentations for over 33 years. You'll meet Nico, the latest of her five guide dogs. In 2000, she was challenged to get a ham license and followed her Tech shortly with a General license, then started a Handiham net to encourage ham radio in the disabled community. And, of course, she enjoys sharing her knowledge of crocheting.

Crocheting [{Thursday}](#)

Disability Awareness [{Tuesday}](#)

Handiham Program [{Wednesday}](#)

Michelle Pelkey, KA7OQQ

Stop the Bleed [{Tuesday}](#)



Learn how to **STOP THE BLEED®** and potentially save a life. Life-threatening bleeding can happen anywhere, not just in serious accidents or disasters, and is the number one cause of preventable death after injury.

You'll learn three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out:

- 1) How to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound
- 2) How to pack a wound to control bleeding
- 3) How to correctly apply a tourniquet

A slide presentation is followed by hands-on practice.

Participants will get a completion certificate after the course.

Presented by Michelle Pelkey, KA7OQQ, a **STOP THE BLEED®** certified instructor.

Nancy Crowley, KD7S

POTA: Drive to KOFA Park--Meet at registration tent [{Thursday}](#)

Nick Newsom, K7CFO

Reliable Mesh Networking with ICMesh [{Friday}](#)

I'll walk through how we're deploying MeshCore in Trabuco Canyon, and scaling coverage across Southern California. The talk will explore:

- Meshtastic vs. MeshCore – different approaches and reliability tradeoffs
- Repeaters vs. Flood Routing – which works better in rugged terrain
- A behind-the-scenes look at the K7CFO Repeater Link Planner, including Fresnel zones and why I built this tool out of necessity to model link quality
- A live demo from Quartzfest: pings from our campsite to a hilltop repeater, into town, and even over to the Discount Solar repeater

The goal is to give attendees both a technical comparison and a hands-on demonstration of how mesh networking can provide resilient communications when traditional systems fail.

Randy Hall, K7AGE

Randy's Favorite Tools, Gizmos and Gadgets [{Wednesday}](#)

Rob Fenn

Antenna Walkabout [{Friday}](#)

We will meet at the registration tent and walk around the camp looking at and learning about various antennas suitable for portable operation. If you have an antenna of interest, add your name and phone number to the list in the registration tent—include your Quartzfest grid square, too (grid map is on the bulletin board).

Russ Decker, KB6YAF

Jam Session and Hootenanny Practice. South of Area 3 [{Wednesday}](#)

To participate in the Hootenanny, check out the song list at <https://quartzfest.org/hootenanny-files>

Hootenanny [{Thursday}](#)

Scott Evans, KO3B

Scott is a serial entrepreneur, electrical engineer, and an enthusiast about all things nuclear: power, physics, and medicine. He lives and dances (tango, swing, blues, and fusion) in Colorado. He's been extra-licensed for 16 years but has only recently become active in the hobby via POTA.

What You Should Know About Gen-IV Nuclear Power [{Tuesday}](#)

Gen-IV nuclear technologies offer exciting advantages over the existing fleet of Gen II, III, and III+ nuclear power stations. In addition to more efficiently and safely generating electricity, they will also open important new applications: hydrogen generation, chemical process heat, and synthesis of carbon-neutral fuels.

Stephen Hutchings, WM7X

Licensed since 1996, with a few years off for raising children, I have always enjoyed Amateur Radio. Dipping my toes into the various aspects of it, I find there is always something to engage me. I bubble forth excitement when a receptive ear wants to know more about Ham. Directing a repeater association for 10 years provided me more experience with repeater coordination, membership, transmitter site maintenance, and the networking of people! As a full-time RVer, I have been able to explore more of the beautiful country over the last 8 years. Southeast, you're next on my list! I began to assist as a Volunteer Examiner 11 years ago. I quickly ramped up my activity with the help of Gordo WB6NOA during Quartzfest 2020

Establishing our test team later that summer, our impact on the hobby became measurable. From remote testing sessions every other week, to now, 13 hours daily, our team averages about 3000 applicants yearly, with no sign of slowing down. Testing applicants from Antarctica to Fiji with a team of

Volunteer Examiners from Singapore, Malawi, Sweden, and the Czech Republic, our modest 11-member VE team has grown to nearly 200 that serve regularly. Well over a dozen WM7X VEs are on site at Q-Fest this year, from ME, TN, MI, CA, UT, WA and OR! We believe in freestyle remote testing! Test at YOUR leisure, without the stress of travel, foreign environments, or someone at your elbow. Remote testing is quickly outpacing in-person testing due to its convenience! Stop by the testing compound west of Area 2 to say hi and see how you, too, can help promote radio-activity!

License Testing {[Top](#)}

At Quartzfest, we have in-person testing using touch-screen tablets that handle the test and submission to the FCC. If the daily sessions (1230-1330, Monday through Friday) don't work for you, drop by any time to see if VEs are available. All license classes are being tested for during the week at Quartzfest. The testing area is just east of Area 2.

Stiv Ostenberg, K9STV

Stiv is a retired Sales/Systems Engineer who is using his experience promoting products to "sell" amateur radio. Still feeling overwhelmed by all the information out there, and hoping to help himself (and folks like him) get the resources they need to become successful hams.

Recruiting and Retaining New Hams {[Monday](#)}

Ham Radio is facing a generational cliff as new hams fail to replace old. What can we do to increase interest in Ham Radio? I will discuss how Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System is reaching out to younger audiences, aligning with their interests, and bringing them onboard. I will also discuss how you as an individual Ham can make a difference, regardless of experience. We will also open discussion to share other people's ideas to promote Amateur Radio.

Tim Thorson, KD6HOF

Tim is a retired computer / electronics field service technician who covered Northern California and Nevada. While traveling 50k miles a year, he soon discovered ham radio while listening to his "police scanner" – He eventually advanced to General class and thoroughly enjoys many aspects of the hobby.

QSO Party: *Multi-County Expedition* {[Friday](#)}

This will be a video of Tim's 2024 California QSO Party "Expedition"--a follow-up with an Q&A / discussion of the QSO Party and research to scout out locations. He'll include tips for finding a successful "County-line" location and what it takes to prepare and execute a successful expedition.

Tobias Feltus, KK7BCO

I got my Technician in 2021 and found my focus to be the merging of many interests: hiking and radio (SOTA), kits, and DIY. I'd harbored an interest in electronics from a very young age--but never had a mentor or focus. I spent years working with analog photography and got a couple of degrees in

industrial design. I have been working as a bicycle mechanic for over a decade. Ham radio has given a focus to my childhood interest in electronics, and is a wholesome marriage of many things I have been interested in over the years. I have activated SOTA summits in 5 countries over 4 years, dealing with all the elements: Earth, Rain, Wind, and Sun--mostly using HF, QRP and SSB.

Make an Antenna and Take it up a Mountain [{Wednesday}](#)

I used home-made antennas for my first HF activation, and have continued to do so most of the time. I will describe linked dipoles, endfed halfwaves (linked endfeds as well), off-center-fed dipoles, verticals (and linked verticals that become inverted L), and even a weird folded random wire. I am not hugely technical in my approach, so I hope that my experience will inspire the solder-shy to make their own portable antennas.

Tom Schiller, N6BT

Antennas [{Thursday}](#)

Tony Levand

Bunny Hunt—Presentation followed by a hunt [{Tuesday}](#)

Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS

YLRL Meeting & Presentation [{Thursday}](#)

This schedule includes the following changes. {[Top](#)}

Changes since the 1/21-2025 Schedule

Bios and descriptions have been added.

Added:

Fri 0900 Area 1 ARRL Forum (John Kitchens is unable to attend)

Fri 1400 1500 Area 3 Getting on the Microwave Bands Joel Wilhite KD6W

Meeting places for Thursday POTA and SOTA changed

Canceled as Nick has medical issues:

Fri 1830 1930 Area 3 Reliable Mesh Networking with ICMesh Nick Newsom

Changes since the 1/19-2025 Schedule

Location changed:

Wed 1400 1500 Area 3 Metal Detecting--Old Rare Coins Buried! Gordon West WB6NOA

Changes since the 1/16-2025 Schedule

Added:

Mon 1000 1100 Area 3 [Cornhole Practice](#) Danette Key K17VEY

Wed 0900 1000 Area1 Pleasant Valley War Hal Key KG5LVG
Why AZ was late to be a state

Fri 1300 [Antenna Walkabout](#) Rob Fenn KC6TYD
Meet at registration tent

Changes since the 1/14-2025 Schedule

Canceled as Bill Mader has RV issues:

Mon 1400 1500 Area 2 [The Art of Mentoring](#) Bill Mader K8TE

Tue 1030 1130 Area 1 Reasons for Millennials and
Gen-Zs to Join ARRL

Tue 1400 1500 Area 1 Ferrite is Your Friend Bill Mader K8TE

Wed 0900 1000 Area 1 Why Aren't You Contesting? Bill Mader

Day and location changed:

Tue 1030 1130 Area 1 [Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months](#) John Kitchens NS6X

Changes since the 1/10-2025 Schedule

Canceled as Rick Paquette has medical issues:

Tue 1200 1530 Cast Iron Cooking at Rick's place east of Area 3 Rick Paquette W7RAP

Fri 0900 1000 Area 1 ARRL Forum (AZ Section Manager) Rick Paquette W7RAP

Added:

1400 1500 Area 1 [Antenna Launching for Ham Radio](#) Alan Biocca

Location corrected:

[License Testing](#) is west of Area 1—across the road from the registration tent.

Changes since the 12-21-2025 Schedule

Time changed:

Mon 1300 1500 Area 3 [Cornhole Tournament](#) Danette Key KI7VEY

Thu 0900 1000 Area 2 YLRL Mtg & Presentation Vicki Zumwalt N6KLS

Thu 1400 1500 Area 2 [Crocheting](#) Marcia DeRuntz KG6FIX

Location changed:

Wed 1400 1500 Area 2 [Metal Detecting--Old Rare Coins Buried!](#) Gordon West WB6NOA

Wed 1830 1930 Area 2 [Parks On The Air® \(POTA\)](#) Craig McVeay NOCSM

Added:

Mon 1400 1500 Area 2 [The Art of Mentoring](#) Bill Mader K8TE

Tue 1030 1130 Area 1 [Reasons for Millennials and Gen-Zs to Join ARRL](#) Bill Mader K8TE

Wed 0900 1000 Area 1 [Why Aren't You Contesting?](#) Bill Mader K8TE

Deleted (Entry in error—session is on Monday):

Tue 1030 1130 Area 1 [ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits](#) Gary Johnson AA6GJ

Changes since the 12-15-2025 Schedule

Day, time and location changed:

Tue 1830 1930 Area 2 [What You Should Know About](#) Scott Evans KO3B
Gen-IV Nuclear Power

Added:

Tue 1030 1130 Area 2 [Why You Want GMRS to Your Ham Toolkit](#) Jim Mohan AA7JM

Canceled:

Wed 1030 1130 Area 1 Gas/Electric Refrigerator Paul and Mao
Safety and Troubleshooting

They invite you to see their home page: <https://www.arprv.com/> or contact them at fridgedefend@gmail.com with any questions.