

## Quartzfest 2026

January 18-24

Hi all, Quartzfest 2026 is getting so close...it's only a month away. I hope you've made plans to join us and that the weather allows you safe travels.

Some of you may be wondering where on earth you are going to park your rigs when you get to Quartzfest. Well, the answer is, anywhere you'd like. There are no reservations nor campsites. You simply find your favorite cactus or creosote bush and park your rig next to it. But stay out of the washes. There's lots of desert to camp in.

What to do when you arrive? After you get set up, turn your radio on to 146.550 simplex so you don't miss any announcements, then drop by the welcome tent between 9am and 3pm to sign in with us at Quartzfest. Signing in with us is different than signing in with the BLM. When you sign in with us, make sure you have your \$5 registration fee. The \$5 per person is for the entire week and breaks down to about .75 cents per day. This \$5 fee helps us pay for our Quartzfest gear storage unit, insurance, porta potties, website and BLM fees. So, we ask that you all sign in with us so we don't go into a negative balance.

What do you do when you sign in? Simply get in line (if there is one), present the volunteer with your \$5 and give them your callsign if you're a licensed ham. If not, your name is sufficient so the volunteer can type your info into the computer. We use an Excel spreadsheet for this information. Also, if you're a licensed ham, be sure to pick up a Grand Prize ticket. Drawing for our Grand Prize will be held during closing ceremony on Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>. You must be present to win during all our drawings. Our Grand Prize this year is an ICOM IC-705 which was donated to us by ICOM. Ray and ICOM have donated radios to us for our Grand Prize every year since 2018, so, when you're looking to buy new radio's, keep ICOM in mind. You must be signed in by noon Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> to receive your Grand Prize ticket. If you're not licensed when you register with us but pass your amateur exam during the week, simply show your CSCE (certificate of successful completion of examination) to me and I'll give you a Grand Prize ticket.

Before you come out to our Quartzfest site, you may need water, propane or to dump your tanks. There are a few places in town to get propane, but I usually go

to the RV Pit Stop on US95 just a few blocks north of Main Street in Quartzsite.  
Their address is: 425 Central Blvd

Quartzsite AZ 85344

RV Pit Stop is a one stop shop with Reverse Osmosis Water, Propane and a Dump Station.

Make sure you monitor 146.550 simplex throughout the event, so you don't miss out on any announcements. I make announcements throughout the event including morning and noon nets and to update you on events and changes happening throughout each day.

We will have Porta Potties just north of the Welcome Tent in the car and tent camping area. These Porta Potties are strictly for the use of our tent and car campers and for our day visitors. Please, if you have toilet facilities in your RV, we ask that you use them instead of the Porta Potties.

Lots of you have pets and walk them. Please be courteous to all our campers and pick up after them as stepping in a dog mess is never any fun. Also, when you come to the welcome tent or when you visit our bulletin boards to view the schedule of events, please don't let your male dogs pee on the bulletin board legs or on our tent because our volunteers must handle these items when setting up and tearing down our site.

Also, concerning pets, we are in the vicinity of wild animals, i.e. coyotes and bobcats. Please keep your dogs on a leash and cats indoors and don't leave them out so they don't become a meal for one of these predators.

Don has been working hard putting our schedule of events together, but we still have some openings for seminars. If you're interested in giving a seminar, drop [Don](#) a note so he can get you on schedule. Seminars don't all have to be amateur related. Talks about your RV travels, RV maintenance or anything you think may be of interest to the group, Don will be happy to get you on the schedule.

I'll be arriving on site Sunday a week before Quartzfest kicks off so I can reserve our spot and lay caution tape out around our seminar and tent camping areas. Friday January 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Also, on closing day, January 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

Events during Quartzfest...Tuesday about noon, Rick W7RAP will have set up coals and rigging for cast iron cooking. So, bring your cast iron Dutch ovens to make your favorite dish to share. Share? Yes, because right after your dish is ready, it'll be time for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual potluck dinner. If you're not cast-iron cooking and want to participate in our potluck, bring a main dish, salad, side dish or desert to contribute. Also, bring a chair, your dishes and eating utensils, napkins and whatever you're drinking. If you have a small table, you may want to bring it as well to eat on. Remember, there's always room for a few folks to join me and Lyn at the table up front. We will have trash cans available to deposit your plates, etc. when you're finished eating. After the potluck, stick around for our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Pet Parade which will be hosted by Lyn KJ7DSE. For this, you can dress up your pets or show us their talents to be judged by audience applause. If you don't want to dress up your pets and want to enter them anyway, bring them along with you to enter. The more pets we have, the more fun it is. In the past we've had dogs, cats and even birds. The next day, Wednesday, is our Off -Road trip. High clearance 4x4 is always recommended. For the past 16 years, Frank KB7IQ has led this trip and does a wonderful job talking about the flora and fauna of the desert. We've been using 146.000 simplex for the off-road trip, but I found out that frequency violates Arizona 's VHF band plan which is used for satellite communications. So, this year we'll use 146.600 instead for the off-road trip.

Since 2012, we have had a special event W7Q radio station where you can drop by and get on the air on HF. Rick W7RAP will be our special event coordinator again this year and if you're new to HF, he'll be happy to help you through mic fright and walk you through getting on the air and making contacts. The Special Event Station will be about 50' east of the welcome tent and bulletin boards.

For the past 10 years Gary W6KVC has been responsible for setting up and maintaining our PA systems and computer projector. As he's getting up in years

and having a hard time taking care of all this, he's looking for someone to take over this responsibility. We have PA's, projector and screen and will buy a generator to power it all. All we need is someone with AV experience to do these setups before and at the end of Quartzfest. Also, this person will need to gas and start the generator daily to power the PA's and to shut it down when no seminars are going on and set up the projector for nighttime seminars and take the projector in after the evening seminars. I know this is asking a lot, but we really need one of you to join our planning committee and take on this responsibility if we're to continue using AV equipment during Quartzfest.

That's about all for now. Lyn and I are really looking forward to seeing you all during Quartzfest.

73 for now,

Kris – KR1SS  
Quartzfest Organizer