

Quartzfest 2027 January 17-23rd

HEY QUARTZFESTERS,



YES, Here we are, just a little less than 4 months from Quartzfest 2027 kickoff and the excitement and Learning from Quartzfest daily seminars is growing! Looks like 3 seminar areas as year's past - Main Fire Ring, then another 400 feet away with the big screen area, and 400 feet away, a set up near the WM7Q testing quad. and of course, the areas are wheelchair accessible with professional mic and speakers. Yes, tables are provided for presenters; all you need to do is to decide which seminars you want to attend! Just bring your lawn chairs and you are ready!

YES, the screen area is also for our night presentations, with Joel's very bright projector. Just bring your computer and plug in. Movies or seminars, we can choose, but we will see....and YES, We still have seminar session times and CLUB days AVAILABLE. Go to Quartzfest.org to learn how YOU and your club can be a presenter! Or contact Don at quartzfest@grv.ht. CLUBS- pick a day, where YOU will be featured as the Quartzfest V.I.P. club of the day!

SOME EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES:

- GOT ROCKS? Show off your most unusual Quartz rock from the area, (where it was found out in the open- no digging without your mining permit) so you just bend down and pick it up.



MUSICIANS...Bring your instrument(S), and we will have a fireside jam session one night - or every night!

MOVIES & POPCORN? SURE, WHY NOT? We'll bring out the download of a movie of your choice. Gosh, 25 years ago, we packed the house with RIVERDANCE on VHS shown on the side of an RV. (shows our age, huh?)

- LIKE COMPETITION? A friendly Corn Hole Tourney will be featured daily, come with your best attitude and TOSS LIKE A BOSS!
- BURIED GOLD AND SILVER, to be found! Bring your metal detectors for another twist to Gordo's buried treasure hunts - a half hour for beginners who needed tips on their new metal detectors from the experts on finding buried loot....and then the second hour trip to the treasure field where found coins could be solid silver- and gold-plated U.S. currency, usually older than the treasure hunter. You must bring your own metal detector - even a metal detector on e-bay for \$59 found a gold coin last year!
- 10 AM DAILY DOS. (as in "YES, let's do it!") Non-ham spouses or significant others or hangers on-can participate in friendly get togethers instead of sitting in your RV. Poi spinning, Camel tour, crafts, rock painting and more!



T-SHIRTS ARE BACK!!! You can preorder a T shirt on our website to wear and show your pride in our annual event! Go to [Quartzfest](https://quartzfest.org) and scroll down to 05-22-2026 link for Qfest Merch. Click on the link and you will get a choice of a camel or a trailer logo. They run \$25 each (\$27 for larger sizes). BLM is not allowing us to sell any shirts on site, so once you order & pay, we will bring them to Quartzfest 2027 and hand them out.



PLEASE add your call sign to your order in the comments section for us to find you at Quartzfest! If you want them mailed to you, you must add that in comments and we'll get you the price to mail or email Danette Key at yaya_key@yahoo.com for any questions on that. YES, wear your Quartzfest 2027 T-shirt you purchased beforehand and we will have a special surprise for you on Friday, January 22nd at our Happy Hour! Order today!

YES, PLEASE make sure you start collecting firewood now to bring with you to Quartzfest. Our seminar area 1 hosts our main fire ring and is where you'll drop off your



firewood. If everyone brings a couple bundles of wood, we'll have plenty to last the entire week.

As we did last year and per BLM rules, and to help pay for our equipment storage, porta potties, insurance, website, BLM permit fees, etc, we need to collect a donation from you

when you sign in with us.

Speaking of signing in with us at our Welcome Tent-if you're a licensed amateur radio operator (not expired license), pick up your free Grand Prize ticket when you sign in (by Thursday, noon the 21st). We don't know yet what our Grand Prize will be this year but I'm sure it'll be something awesome. Our Grand Prize drawing will be held during closing ceremony on January 23rd and you must be present to win. ANOTHER YES!

YES, Rick Paquette (W7RAP) will be setting up his equipment for "Dutch Oven cooking" Tuesday around noon for those of you who are bringing your cast iron Dutch ovens with you. Tuesday afternoon, directly following our abbreviated happy hour announcements will be our potluck dinner around 4pm. Hopefully your Dutch Oven concoction will be part of this!

AND YES, FOR THE POTLUCK, we'll need you to bring main dishes, salads, side dishes or desserts for all to enjoy. You'll also need to bring with you, flatware, plates, what you're drinking and a chair and/or table if you don't feel like eating with your plate on your lap. Trash cans for you to discard your trash will be provided. Over the past couple years, we've had folks forget to pick up their serving utensils after the potluck and they've ended up in the lost 'n found. Lost and found is disposed of after the event. So, don't forget to pick yours up after the potluck!



Tuesday evening, we'll hold our 14th annual Pet Parade where folks bring their pets-dressed up or not- to the main fire ring to show them off. In the past we've had dogs, cats and YES, even birds. So, bring your furry or feathered baby out and have some fun with us.

Wednesday will be our off-road trip. 4x4 vehicles with moderately high clearance are preferred. Although Frank KB7IQ will be in charge of this event, Rick and Charlie will also be leaders on this trip through the desert and we thank them for again taking on this task. The frequency they'll be on is 146.000MHz simplex. Make sure to program your radio before the event so time isn't lost programming while trying to meet the 9am pull-out time.

If you're new to amateur radio and not licensed yet or if you want to upgrade your current license, Stephen, WM7X, and crew, will be giving exams every day during Quartzfest. The cost is \$15 to test. You'll need your FRN (FCC Federal registration number), a copy of your current license if you're upgrading and a photo ID. If you don't have your FRN, Stephen may be able to help you log on to the FCC website to register for that number.



YES, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Every year since 1997 when Quartzfest first began, we've held an antenna walkabout where a volunteer guide has taken a group around camp to look at unique antenna installations and listen to the antenna owners talk about their installations. We will need someone to volunteer this year to lead this demonstration. Please contact Hal Key KG5LVG at hkey073@gmail.com if you can volunteer. More recently, we've also had a solar-installation walkabout and can use a volunteer for that, too.

We plan on having a DX competition; however, we need a volunteer to step up and run the contest. If you have some kind of mobile set up for others to use, that would be great, but we do not require it. Please contact Hal Key if you are interested at hkey073@gmail.com

We plan to setup of our welcome tent, PA systems, bulletin boards, etc., on Friday the 15th of January. We'll need five pickup trucks with empty beds to go with us to the town of Quartzsite to our storage unit to pick up our equipment and bring it to our Quartzfest area for setup. We'll plan on leaving for town at 10 am. After we return, we'll need folks to volunteer to help with setup. Also, closing day, we'll tear down the tent and other equipment at 10 in order to take everything back to storage right after closing ceremony and will need volunteers and trucks again.

FOR TENT & CAR CAMPERS: we'll again have four Porta potties available for you. These potties are for tent and car campers and day visitors only. Please, if you have restroom facilities in your RV, please use them instead. If you need your black and gray tanks emptied during the week of Quartzfest, Ironwood Pumping will be available to pump out your tanks twice during the week. Tuesday and Thursday. Cash is \$60-card about \$63. Ironwood will also be bringing water if you need it. Cost will vary on that depending on your RV size and what you need, but you must sign up at the Welcome tent to get these services.



A message from Gordo,..... I look forward to seeing many of you again at Quartzfest 2027 in January. This is a family camp out event. All of our volunteer organizers work this up for free. Like you, we hope for a variety of seminars and activities, like our popular off-road day ride in the desert with Frank in the lead.

New spontaneous events happen hourly, so bring lots of hand-helds on 146.550 to stay in the KNOW! Danette and her team have plenty of NEW ideas for every single day we are on the sand, too. Kris, our fearless leader for decades will be there in retired form, yet very-active grand style with Jeep and 5th wheel as Danette & Hal's mentor.

See you all in a few more months! Gordo

Make sure you plan on attending our morning talks. YES, at sun-up every morning, a Gordo preview of the day's planned activities on 146.550MHz. Gordo and Rick will also present Monday or Tuesday, hints on "How to pass the Ham radio exam", providing information on the test process & tips on studying. YES, this will be Gordo's near-30 year consecutive showing at Q (as he calls it) with his team of ARRL Registered Ham Instructors. Thank you Gordo!

Friday morning we'll hear from our ARRL Arizona State section manager, Rick Paquette, (W7RAP) about what's going on at ARRL and ARCA. It will be very interesting, so make sure you attend at the main fire ring at 9am. We are also hearing from the ARRL Division Director, Dick Norton and Vice Director, John Kitchens. They will conduct an ARRL-Southwestern Division forum covering the latest activities of the League and inviting comment from attendees.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING AND MEETING OLD FRIENDS
AND NEW FRIENDS!

73, Hal Key (KG5LVG) & Danette Key (KI7VEY)

2027 Quartzfest Organizers