

Quartzfest Preview Schedule

January 18 – 25, 2026

(Updated 12/15/2025)

This schedule is preliminary--items will be added, locations and times will change.

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

0900 1000 Area 1 Welcome Seminar—Gordo and team give a preview of all the action

1030 1130 Area 1 [ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits](#)

Gary Johnson

AA6GJ

1030 1130 Area 2 Activating 74 Parks in 47 States in 3 Months

John Kitchens

NS6X

1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 2	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
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
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	ARRL Instructor Seminar with Live Kits	Gary Johnson	AA6GJ
1200	1530		Cast Iron Cooking at Rick's place south of Area 3	Rick Paquette	W7RAP
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 2	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1400	1500	Area 1	Ferrite is Your Friend	Bill Mader	K8TE
1400	1500	Area 2	Quartz Rocks, Super Stars & Judging	Gordon West	WB6NOA

1400	1500	Area 3	Bunny 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 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	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	RV Gas/Electric Refrigerator Safety and Troubleshooting.	Paul and Mao	
1030	1130	Area 2	HandiHams	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
1030	1130	Area 3	Introduction to Pico-Ballooning	Brian Basura	N6CVO
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 2	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300		Russ's	Jam Session and Hootenanny Practice. Near Area 3	Russ Decker	KB6YAF
1300	1500	Area 2	Cornhole Tournament	Danette Key	KI7VEY
1400	1500	Area 1	Parks On The Air® (POTA)	Craig McVeay	N0CSM

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 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
0830	1300	offsite	POTA: Drive to KOFA Park--Meet at registration tent	Nancy Crowley	KD7S
0830	1300	offsite	SOTA Hike to Cunningham Peak--Meet at registration tent	Javi Beltran	K6TNT
0900	1130	Area 1	Onan Generators, RV Electrical, and Solar Systems.	Jerry Brown	K06GB
0900	1000	Area 2	Crocheting	Marcia DeRuntz	KG6FIX
0900	1000	Area 3	Antennas	Tom Schiller	N6BT
1030	1130	Area 2	3D Printing	Alan Biocca	W6AKB
1200		146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330		License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 2	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1300	1500		Solar Walkabout--Meet at registration tent		
1400	1500	Area 1	A Simple Homebrew Hamstick Dipole	Dave Smith	W6DPS
1400	1500	Area 2	YLRL Meeting & Presentation	Vicki Zumwalt	N6KLS

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
0900	1000	Area 1 ARRL Forum (AZ Section Manager)	Rick Paquette	W7RAP
1030	1130	Area 1 ARRL Forum		
1200	146.550	Noon Net	Kris Weed	KR1SS
1230	1330	License Testing--WM7X RV west of Area 2	Stephen Hutchings	WM7X
1400	1500	Area 1 Winlink email demonstration, how to do it QRP	Frank & Linda	N7ZEV/KC7IIT
1400	1500	Area 2 Arizona Near Space Research (ANSR)	Clayton Jacobs	KJ6QJS
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 Reliable Mesh Networking with ICMesh	Nick Newsom	K7CFO

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

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.

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

Go Find a Rock (Sunday through Tuesday) See below [{Go Find a Rock}](#)

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

The special event station in the tent behind the registration area is available for anyone to operate, from the simply curious to long-time hams. If you're not licensed, or you're a tech wanting to experience general/extra privileges, a licensed control operator will be there to help.

Pico-Balloon Launches

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

Volunteer Opportunities [{Top}](#)

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}](#)

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

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, K0AGF, the Desert Circle ARC, NU7DE, and Minnesota Amateur Radio Consortium. He's ARRL Minnesota Affiliated Club Coordinator a 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.

Gordon West

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 2 Big Screen, and walk to nearby buried-treasures grounds!

Work the Space Station Repeater

Joel Wilhite, KD6W

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.

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.

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.

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.