

Quartzfest 2020

Happening the last full week of January just south of the town of Quartzsite Arizona is an Amateur Radio event called Quartzfest. Quartzfest is a weeklong Operating Specialty Convention sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League and is packed with seminars on a wide variety of topics ranging from technical radio operating modes and practices to survival, first aid, RV'ing, solar and battery technology and many other



topics. This year, among other talks, we had a talk and slide presentation on "Parachute Mobile Operations" where these guys jump at 14,000' (HAHO) and open immediately which gives them close to 15 minutes of float time to operate their radio's during descent and we had an awesome and very informative talk and demo on Dstar by ICOM's Ray Novak N9JA and A.C. N4SVD. Not to be left out are the ladies who attend who aren't



interested in the tech talks. For them we have a tent set up for games and crafts as well as for talks of interest. This year we even had a talk on "the Well-Armed Woman". The week also consists of morning and evening campfires, an off road trip, an old fashioned "Hootenanny", a potluck dinner which begins with a class on "Cast Iron Cooking", nighttime talks and movies and amateur radio licensing exams. We also have in

operation a Special Event Station featuring an HF (high frequency) radio where attendees are free to pick up the microphone and make contacts across the country or around the world. Some folks prefer to operate Morse Code and make their contacts using that mode of operation. Next year we'll have the



ability to have digital operations including PSK and FT8. We have raffles every day which are free and a free grand prize raffle at the end of the convention where we gave away a radio that covers the HF, VHF and UHF bands donated to us by ICOM plus to another winner, a handheld radio that covers VHF and UHF donated to us by Kenwood. We just wrapped up our 24th year with close to 900 in attendance. For those of you wondering how much it costs to attend a spectacular event

like this...it's absolutely Free to attend. As we camp in RV's, tents and cars in the middle of the desert, we learn what it's like to live off the grid for a week or two..no water, electric or dump stations at our site (we do provide port-a-potties for our tent and car campers). You can find us on the web at <http://quartzfest.org> or on Facebook groups by searching "Quartzfest". Quartzfest 2021 will be our 25th annual convention and will be held from January 17th – 23rd. We hope you can join us.

73,

Kristyn Weed – KR1SS & Lyn – KJ7DSE
Quartzfest Organizers