

NET CONTROL STATIONS

1st Tuesday; Jeff KG7HZT

2nd Tuesday; Mihai W4MHI

3rd Tuesday; Duff WA7BFN

4th Tuesday Craig W7CDP



RV-Travelers Net

Tuesdays 7PM PNW/Digital WA-2

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2020

CAMPING In a Coronavirus world



With concerts, sporting events, conferences, schools, restaurants and many social events and businesses taking proactive measures to cancel or postpone to support social distancing, we are consuming an overabundance of streaming entertainment and taking on home organization projects for entertainment. Zoom anyone? Personal fulfillment family bonding and connection time has increased. The growth in family connection time is a great thing, but we're all getting a bit crazy. I mean ham radio can only go so far. Radio has certainly offered a continued connection to the

outside world but with summer approaching, weather in the PNW finally warming up, it's the real outside that calls forth.

Phase II is still in effect in Spokane County and elsewhere in the inland northwest. And even with that, the cloud of anxiety still shrouds enjoyment for dining out, and shopping trips. We want something, anything, to help escape the gray cloud of melancholy and our news feeds. Collectively we realize that an obvious cure will be to pack up our cars, RVs, and trailers and head out on a good old-fashioned road trip to the great outdoors.

Nature has all the essential elements to boost our happiness and immune systems, with the fresh air, open spaces and poor cell reception. Not only does the outdoors support mental and physical strength, it's open space is a great escape from potential airborne and surface droplet infections from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Once outdoors, social distancing can more easily occur, whether hiking or sitting around a firepit by giving yourself 10 feet of space between you and others not in your household.



But seriously, Is camping safe in this Panavirus world?



As they say the best way to "flatten the curve" is to avoid close contact with anyone outside of your immediate household, anywhere. With that said you will still want to take precaution during your adventures. Consider how crowded and dense a potential campground is. How close you will be to your friendly neighborhood campers. For the rest of 2020 we will all need to be mindful of keeping a safe social distance. This would mean staying out of visitors centers (many of which are closed or closing) and generally avoiding groups. Many campgrounds are making additional efforts to keep restrooms clean and disinfected, anticipating the concerns of the patrons, but we won't be able to assume that these steps will guarantee the spread of the virus. The most likely risk of contracting, or spreading the virus will be during possible pit stops at grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations. Take accountability and avoid making too many stops during your adventure by packing up all of the necessary food and gear prior to leaving home. Don't forget to bring along your bucket of sanitizing wipes, disposable gloves, and your masks as a precaution for yourself and others! And don't forget to take along a goodly amount of common sense.

Can we safely camp in a panavirus world? Yes! With common sense, and precautions set forth, we can enjoy the many benefits of the "great outdoors". Hope to see you out there... but at a distance. Hi...
Ed

Checkeriners

RV Travelers Net
June 16, 2020

W7CDP	Craig
KG7BPX	Gerald
W4MHI	Mihai
WA7HAA	Steve
W7HLO	Dale
N7JAG	Craig
N7ER	Brad
K7AMF	Jim
NX7O	Benton
WA7DUH	Steve
KG7HZT	Jeff
NO7RF	Mike
WA7BFN	Duff



Questions, comments or ideas
for the net or newsletter,
drop em off to: Duff
WA7BFN@msn.com



*The true way to live is to enjoy every moment as it passes, and surely it is in the
everyday things around us that the beauty of life lies.”*
— Laura Ingalls Wilder

What Don't you like about CAMPING!!!

Tuesday's RV/Travelers net topic was what you dislike about camping or RVing. It seems that quite a few of us had some experiences with that.

1. "It has to end"!! Got ya there, just seems that camping just ends too soon.
2. "Dogs not on leash". Most camping spots other than boondocking, have leash laws much like cities. Tough call. We keep our dogs on leash and when free ones come around always produces some spontaneous barking :) Be a responsible pet owner.

3. "The Geezer Pass". The Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. This is a lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder plus three adults, not to exceed four adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Senior Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some expanded amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where expanded amenity fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally **does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires**.

4. "BAD WEATHER!!" Ha! Hey that's camping, just be Prepared. ,
5. It's NOT HOME!. Well there you go. That's why some have taken their home on the road. Hi. Glamping is what they call it.
6. "Forgetting those Critical Items". Underware, wine openers, beer! Let's here it for Walmart!! :)
7. "Avoiding Critters" Raccoons specific.
These masked bandits are known for disliking:
Garlic
Cayenne pepper
Black pepper
Ammonia

Lots of great articles on critter avoidance....

Well there you have it. I'm sure there are a few other "dislikes"
But thought I'd share the comments

Dale Did It!

Dale W7HLO



A New Table for Chara

When we moved to Newport about 2-1/2 years ago, the folks we bought our house from left behind some old teak patio furniture that had seen better days. There were a couple of Adirondack style chairs that we were afraid to even sit in for fear of a total collapse. I was going to take them to the dump but my ever frugal wife suggested I try to repurpose the teak.



I ran the wood through my planer to remove the weathered surfaces and cut off the ends where the screw holes had been. Then scratched my head trying to decide what to do with this newly salvaged teak.



Our Airstream came with a typical plastic laminate dinette table. While certainly serviceable we decided a teak one would look much cozier. I took the recycled teak, edge glued them together with biscuits and made a new table top for the trailer. Total cost was a few bucks for stain, polyurethane and some glue.

Got some ideas or have you accomplished a "re-do". Drop us a line. We would like to see your project. ED.



From the End of the Road

Mazama Mike N07RF

2012 ROAD TRIP WITH A MOTO-TRBO REPEATER

Once upon a time in a land far far away (Yellowstone National Park), DMR coverage came to Old Faithful. Actually it was a road trip from Mazama/Spokane to Dayton for Hamvention 2012. So what's the big deal about this? Auh, well not much in today's DMR but 8 years ago is about 3/4 of a Buzz Lightyear and things were very different back then.

I picked up my friend Ray, WA6NVL at the Spokane airport. Ray was first ham I QSO'ed with in the early '70s in San Diego CA. So we were off to Dayton on a 15 day road trip. I had my first mobile repeater running in the back of the SUV networked to the DCI network through a 2G/3G router and all powered by 50AH of SLA's. For more about the tech side of the trip: www.trbo.org/dayton2012/mobile-repeater.html.

Back then there were no Chinese radios and no hotspots, only MotoTRBO repeaters and client radios. Repeaters were few and far between and fixed in major populations areas. So when hams came onto The Bridge (3100) or Comm 1 from oddball areas, it was instantly attention getting, a curiosity.

We arrived at Yellowstone and within 30 minutes we were on the air from the ring around Old Faithful and announced that we were watching her blow. Big news back then, the common

response was, didn't know there was a repeater in Yellowstone. This was the common refrain wherever we went. Just traveling through towns and announcing our location and generated QSO's in all the states we passed through. It was was big news and fun to do just to elicit QSO's.

We stayed in Dayton for 5 days. We installed the repeater in the hotel room and had mobile coverage in and around Hara Arena. There were no DMR repeaters in Dayton back then as Ham DMR was still a new and nitch mode. It really was the cheap import radios that broke open Ham DMR.

It was a tough way to work DMR mobile back then. It took a navigator to man the laptop to keep the repeater on the network. It is far more seamless now with better cellular data and coverage and very easy to do without the 100 pounds of repeater/batteries now that there are hotspots and even mini-TRBO repeaters. I am on my 3rd and 4th mobile repeaters now including a 10W pole-mountable TRBO repeater in a suitcase living in the summer car. The winter car still has the SLR-5700, the workhorse repeater now on many of the PNWDigital sites.

So it's no big deal today. We spent 10 days on the road, stayed off the freeways as much as possible, played tourist and found some neat tech stuff and photo spots along the way as well as offbeat places, good local's restaurants and local motels with

the trip done on the fly, no planning except to be in Dayton on Wednesday and back to the Spokane Airport on a day certain. I don't travel much any more but now, I always plan everything out before departure. But that trip was a special one with the wandering and radio comm.

I highly recommend visiting the Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton (allow 2 days to see all 3 museums), EBR-1 near Idaho Falls and any National Park that is within a 50 mile radius of blocking your path. Allow time to travel slowly and enjoy the times and places you travel to and through, freeways should be optional, IMHO.





June 23, 2020

As I just mentioned on the net, Jane and I did some scouting around today. We had heard that last weekend all the campgrounds were maxed out. We also heard yesterday that USFS campgrounds, at least those around Priest Lake, have done away with the non-reservable, first come first serve sites. So wondering if things were as bad as we had been told we headed up to S Skookum Lake Campground to see how full it was.



We were told that it was full last weekend but today there were only 3 tent sites occupied and no RV's. There is a really nice trail that goes all the way around the lake which we have hiked on numerous times. We did that today with the two pups and didn't see a soul other than a couple of kayakers out on the water. There were a couple of fisherman on one of the two docks that had manage to get 5 or 6 nice rainbow trout. Dale & Jane Scott





Quartzfest has been going on for 25 years. It takes place on BLM land just outside of Quartzsite AZ. What started as small group of RV Hams meeting in the desert has morphed into an event where over 1000 Ham/Rvers converge in the Arizona sun to partake in a unique fusion of the two disciplines.

My wife Donna (N5EY) and I decided to stop by Quartzfest 2020 on our way to Hamcation 2020. Because of a family event in San Diego the same week, we didn't get to Quartzfest until Wednesday

of the event (it runs Sunday through Saturday).

Though it does have the elements of a normal hamfest (seminars, swap meet, VE testing), it also encompasses other activities that can be offered due to the rugged character of the surroundings. The attendees are largely in RV's, as there are no hotels or hookups here. You have to be self contained, and Solar power on RV's is really a thing down there. That didn't stop some attendees from pitching tents or living out of their vehicles. A few porta-potties are rented for the event.



After travelling for several hours from San Diego, we arrived at the La Paz area of the BLM land. We registered with the volunteer BLM manager, then heads to the Hamfest area. Fortunately, another Whidbey Island ham (Alan, K6ZY) had arrived a couple days ahead of us, and "reserved" a spot for us. A reservation isn't really necessary – there is so much space out in the Quartzsite area, no one really has to set up camp very close to each other.

Once set up, most hams will visit the check-in tent. There, you can register for the event, sign up for raffles, and peruse the bulletin board of announcement and schedules.

Most mornings start with "eyeball around the campfire", and with your cup of coffee in hand you can get some morning conversation and some short announcements about the days happenings, or updates on any issues that may have arisen during the previous day. A similar morning announcement is done every morning on 146.550 simplex, and throughout the day as needed (usually done by Gordon West, WB6NOA – one of the long time organizers).



Most mornings start with "eyeball around the campfire", and with your cup of coffee in hand you can get some morning conversation and some short announcements about the days happenings, or updates on any issues that may have arisen during the previous day. A similar morning announcement

is done every morning on 146.550 simplex, and throughout the day as needed (usually done by Gordon West, WB6NOA – one of the long time organizers).

Most events happen near the campfire area (across from check in), or one of two other presentation areas. The variety of presentation was pretty diverse – lots of ham related topics to include Tropospheric ducting; Mesh networking; How to pass a Ham exam; Direction finding; Grounding and bonding; APRS; Dstar; Pneumatic antenna launchers; and some others.

But this venue also lends to other seminar topics: Gold Panning; Land ops (daily navigational courses in a 4wd vehicle); Cast Iron cooking; 3D printing; Solar controllers; Stop the bleed (emergency medical treatment in the field); Basket weaving (really!); The "Well Armed Woman"; RV Maintenance tips; Windows 10 Upgrades and the Hams of Youtube. There was also a "solar walkabout" and "Antenna walk about", where the group meandered through the camp area and looked at various RV Solar and antenna installations.

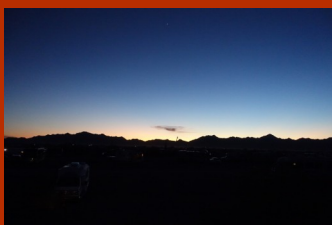


Donna and I, along with Alan and his girlfriend Beth, participated in the "Off Road Trip". This was about 50 or so 4wd vehicle that embarked on a day-time exploration of old mining settlements in the desert. The event was advertised as "not too rugged, but 4x4 is highly recommended". When we arrived at the departure line, the "Wagonmaster had us deflate our tires somewhat to assist in negotiating the trail. That should have been my first clue....



The first half was rather rough on my truck – I had a Chevy extended cab long bed, and that extra wheelbase was not helpful. In some of the washes we went through, my front bumper gouge bottom, and I could hear my exhaust tailpipe scraping on the uphill transitions. At the second stop, an abandoned miners camp, the “Wagonmaster” told us that it would “now start to get a bit rough”. Because I really needed my truck un-damaged for the rest of our trip, I (and several other participants) opted out of the second half.

There are also some social activities scattered through the week: A nightly campfire, occasionally with live music provided by the musically inclined of the bunch (on the schedule as a “Hootenany”). There was a star party, where participants brought out their telescopes to enjoy the spectacular Arizona sky; and at least one (perhaps more?) movies were played on the big screen.



And of course on the last day, there is a tailgate style swap meet that happens throughout the camp area. There was plenty of people offering their wares, and it took me a bit over an hour to see all of the tables.

For now, Quartzfest 2021 is scheduled; however, with the unknown path of Covid-19, that could always change. If you are a Ham that likes to travel in your RV, I would recommend Quartzfest. It's a wonderful event with a lot to offer, in a unique setting that isn't duplicated anywhere else. And, the weather is going to be better than what you find here in the PNW! Their website is www.quartzfest.org.

Go and see Quartzfest for yourself. Its unlike any ham event you'll ever attend. You'll probably find yourself going back.

[Quartzfest.org](http://www.quartzfest.org)

What? Quartzfest© is an annual HAM Radio RV'ers Boondocking event which is held in late January every year with dates coinciding with the Quartzsite Arizona "RV Show".

When? January 17th thru 23rd of 2021 (make sure you add these important dates to your 2021 calendar)

Where? 7 miles south of Quartzsite Arizona - on US 95 at La Paz Valley Road

Who Can Attend? ANYONE! If you don't have your Amateur Radio Operators License yet, you'll be able to take your Amateur Radio Operators License Exams at Quartzfest©

Cost? FREE!!!! Our Annual Amateur Radio "get together" is called "Quartzfest©" and is open to ALL to attend. Quartzfest© is not a club, no officers, no budget and no dues..and although we do accept donations, it is absolutely FREE to attend!!

NET DOINGS

Well the third month almost complete for the Rv/Travelers net. So far it's been a good run. We'd like your input.


1. Is WA-2 a good TG for the net?
2. Are Tuesdays good or would another day be better?
3. Format? Is there something missing? What would you like to see?

Please respond to PNW or WA7BFN@msn.com.

Thanks all for joining in. Remember you don't have to be an RVer to join in.

Safe Travels, Stay Safe.

Side Notes



The advertisement features a dark green background. On the left, a hand holds a smartphone displaying the 'Discover Pass' logo, which includes a mountain and a tree. Above the phone is a car's rearview mirror showing a mountain landscape. A circular arrow icon with the text 'Before you go' is in the top left corner. To the right of the phone, the text 'To safely enjoy your Washington state parks' is displayed. Below this, a white banner contains the heading 'Purchase your Discover Pass' and the subtext 'Ensure you'll be ready to park and limit the need for contact with park staff'. A circular arrow points from this banner to the website 'discoverpass.wa.gov'. At the bottom left are the hashtags '#RecreateResponsibly' and '#ResponsibleRecreation', followed by the website 'parks.state.wa.us'. At the bottom right is the Washington State Parks logo, which is a shield containing a mountain, a tree, and a lake, with the words 'WASHINGTON' and 'STATE PARKS' around it.

Plan before you go. Purchase your [Discover Pass](https://discoverpass.wa.gov) ahead of time so you'll be ready to park and limit the need for contact with park staff or lines.