Event Description Details

Birds of a Feather (BoF) Annual Q Rally

- **This is the second largest yearly gathering of Blue Bird Wanderlodge coaches, and the largest yearly gathering of Blue Birds west of Pine Mountain, GA.**

Location: GPS 33°36'43.3"N 114°12'01.3"W

Come to the Blue Bird Quartzsite Rally to Enjoy Yourself. Participation is strictly voluntary. No one is expected to attend all the events. However, we like volunteers. As you read through the Event Details and you wish to volunteer to lead an event(s), send an email to your BoF organizers at lvdonahue@gmail.com or donelec555@gmail.com .

Sign Ups: We need to know if you are going to attend. There is no cost to attend. Email Laura at lvdonahue@gmail.com with the name(s), Year and Model of RV, name of RV (if applicable) City, State, Date of arrival, Date of departure, email address.

Volunteers needed:

Current Needs:

- Brunch: Pancake Sponsor/Cook Extraordinaire
- Jeep/Trail Leaders for the more challenging jeep runs
- Commitment to bring FireWood (every log counts!)
- Somemores by the Fire (sponsor a night)
- Fire Master (any early risers? Evening Fire Master needed also.)
- Host a gathering (movie night, blind wine or beer tasting, etc).
- Tech Seminar Facilitator and RV Rounds Facilitator (can host all days or only one.)

Sign Up: Please read/follow the instructions on the Q21 Participants list and let us know if you plan to attend or not attend. The rally dates are the same dates as the Quartzsite Big White Tent RV Show. Just come on out, spend the days you can, enjoy yourself, meet old and new friends, and enjoy the desert sun.

Time: The rally events are on Arizona time. **Set your clocks**.

Fluid Documents: The Calendar and Event Descriptions are fluid meaning they will change as time moves forward. Check back often. The documents are in PDF format and located https://www.keepandshare.com/doc27/115826/2027-quartzsite-calendar-q21-pdf-249k?da=y

Due to weather conditions, specific event dates may need to be changed, you will be kept informed while at Q, with updates to our daily information on the White Board.

Print the Calendar and the Event Details: Just before you depart for the Q rally, please print a copy of this document and the Calendar document and bring them with you. The Calendar and Event Details can change and will change as things happen.

Rally Dates: The official rally dates are the same as the Quartzsite Big Tent dates. PreRally is the week before. Many coaches arrive before, some arrive weeks before.

Rally Location: The rally location is on BLM land in the La Posa South Long Term Visitor Area. We'll plan to be camped (parked) in the same location as prior years. La Posa South is about three miles south of Quartzsite on the east side of Hwy 95 between mile markers 102 and 103. Drive in past the kiosk and park in the area to your right. Take a photo of your license plate number(s). Go to the kiosk and pay the fee, cash or USA bank check. Go back in the morning and pay the fee if the kiosk is closed.

Then drive on the road, going past the dump station on your right and water stations on both sides, to about the end of the blacktop. Look to your left for Blue Bird coaches.

Open Evenings: OPEN evenings (nothing scheduled but the camp fire), allowing you to do what you want, go to town to eat, etc. But please join us at the evening campfire.

Some suggested places for lunch or dinner.

Q Yacht Club – 1090 Main Street, Quartzsite, AZ 85346. From the BoF Nest go out to hwy 95, north to the first light after crossing over I-10, turn left on Main Street, it's on your right on Main Street.

Silly Al's Pizza – Great Pizza. It's located at 175 W Main Street, Quartzsite, AZ 85346. From the BoF Nest go out to hwy 95, north to the first light after crossing over I-10, turn left on Main Street, it's on your left just a short distance on Main Street, just before the BBQ place.

Lacasa Del Rancho, Mexican/American Food – North of business 10 on the east side of hwy 95.

Fire Wood: Bring a bunch of **good** firewood. A bunch means A LOT! All you can! A giant pile! Good hardwood, the junk wood in a plastic wrapper from the grocery store usually burns up in 5 minutes. Our morning fires to warm up by and our evening bonfires are what make Q so much fun. But we need your help in bringing lots of good wood. Green wood or those bundles from the grocery store are not very good. Old rotted giant firewood pieces end up making more smoke than heat. Drop your firewood near the camp fire circle. If you are coming through Williams, other rallies have stated that Williams has forest service land with lots of wood to pick up for free.

Shopping

Quartzsite offers some unique shopping opportunities. There is lots of RV equipment usually represented at booths, such as Demco, Blue Ox, Dometic and others.
The Tent and Surrounding Area – Shop for RV Stuff, Rocks (Gems), Flag Poles and Flags, tools, craft items, all sort of miscellaneous stuff.
Food Stores – Big Market west of 95 on the south side of Main Street. Road Runner, Quartzsite General Store, and Family Dollar Store, all three are east of 95 on the north side of Main Street. Produce Stand on Main Street just west of 95.
Blythe – Blythe, CA is approximately 25 miles from the Birds Nest. Good stores. Most everything one would need.

Holding Tank Dump Service: We will be parked within a half mile of two BLM dump stations, eight fresh water stations, and trash dumpsters. Going there early morning or late afternoon will help to avoid lines. However, they sometimes have to shut off the potable water. Please bring plenty of water jugs with you so you don't get stuck without water for drinking/cooking.

On Site Dump Service: The past years, holding tank dump service was available at your coach on their scheduled dates to come to La Posa South. Assuming the service is available this year, you can call All Pro Pumping in November the prior year to get on their list. If you want to organizer pumping, please call to arrange it and let the Donahue's know so they can list it on the white board.

Water Fill Service: No water delivery service is available currently. But again, fresh water is available within a half mile. However, they sometimes have to shut off the potable water. Please bring plenty of water jugs with you so you don't get stuck without water for drinking/cooking. There is water and dump available in town, also.

Name Tags: If you have name tags from any function, bring them with you to wear. Or make one yourself. Let's face, we can't remember names or we "blank" on a name – please wear a nametag.

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Event Details

First Arrivals

Locate/Secure the Q Area – The first unit(s) to arrive at Q will hopefully locate the same Q nest or nearby, and follow on with the items below. Keep in mind that a large area (circle) is needed to park 30+ coaches. The bigger the circle the better.
Do not unpack everything until a final area is secured. See Help Secure Parking Area PDF.

Communicate with RV/Camper units in the area – There may be units already parked in the Q nest. Inform the folks that a large group of very large diesel-powered coaches with large noisy generators will be parked around them according to the BLM rules (15 feet between units). Let them know that you are making them aware and they might want to move, or invite them to join the party.
Mark (X) out coach parking – or a small stack of rocks. Make as large a circle (or close to a circle) best you can. Leave room behind coaches for others to drive behind them. Use a scratch tool to mark an X, or rocks, where each coach left front bumper is to park. Leave 25 feet between the Xs/rocks. There must be 15' between coaches (law).
Build the Fire Ring – In the center of the camp, build a 12' diameter circle using rocks from the area. Rocks that are 6" to 8" work best. Hopefully the fire ring from previous years is still there.

Please save 3 consecutive spaces for the BoF Organizers/Cooks/Staff. Thank you.

Campfires - All are welcome to gather at the morning campfire and enjoy conversation and the latest stories. Each day near sundown the evening campfire will be going for all to enjoy until the last "good nights" are exchanged. We hope everyone will participate in the campfires. So come out with your favorite camp chair and refreshment and enjoy the warmth of the blazing fire and the Arizona night with the desert sky filled with stars or a full moon as bright as daylight. If you have a telescope, bring it.

Information Board - A White Board will be updated each day with the day's activities. Schedule changes will also be noted on the board. Also, near the board will be the Lost and Found area.

Medical and First Aid

- **Medical & First Aid Trained Attendees** – If you have medical or first aid training and can be available for emergencies that may occur in the Birds' Nest, please let the BoF hosts know. Send an email to lvdonahue@gmail.com and briefly describing your training or certification and we'll list it here.

How to get medical attention if it is a true emergency: If you are in your coach and have a medical emergency and need help, **repeatedly** blast your horn 3 times (honk honk honk, rest, honk honk honk, rest, etc.) until help arrives. You can also use an air horn, car/truck horn or even a whistle if you are not in your coach. You get the idea. Be persistent until help arrives. The most common avoidable medical calls are due to dehydration and falling. DRINK WATER, don't get overly intoxicated, especially around the campfire where you might fall and hurt yourself/get burns/cuts. Use Sunscreen and wear a hat. If your urine isn't straw yellow, you are not drinking enough water (unless you have a medical condition that restricts your water intake). TMI? Nah- just trying to keep you safe.

Nurses/Medics/EMT – Laura Donahue (RN) will attend this rally. She is in the 78FC (brown/cream) and has an AED in her coach.
Volunteer if you are willing to provide medical assistance (e.g. you know how to do CPR, basic or advanced first aid training, etc.) Laura is currently (and gratefully) retired but has medical experience in ER, Geriatrics, Med-Surg, Nursery/Babies, a little pediatrics, NICU, Critical Care Transport and has too many stories she cannot tell (FYI never trim your horny toenails with a hacksaw. It doesn't work out well.) Let's avoid the avoidable medical calls. **Do you have an AED on board? Let Laura know.**

Quartzsite Facilities –

La Paz Medical Services, 150 E Tyson Road, 928- 927-5067

Blythe (Palo Verde) Hospital - Palo Verde Hospital, 250 N 1st St, Blythe, CA **92225, (760) 922-4115**

Bring your own first aid supplies, COVID test kits, etc. If you have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), please bring it. Chewable baby aspirin (5 tablets for chest pain) can be a lifesaver – have a small bottle of it in your RV, Tow, etc. On jeep trips, bring plenty of water, food, a blanket, first aid supplies, a communication device, emergency equipment to make a shelter, keep trauma victims warm, etc and emergency jeep fix-it stuff. It might be a "day trip" but be prepared for at least 2 nights in the desert, just in case.

There are NO Veterinarian hospitals in Q – you will be driving quite a distance to get your fur-buddy medical care. Bring fur-buddy supplies and first aid supplies with you.

The Big Tent

Pow Wow Gem & Mineral Show - At the Quartzsite QIA Community Center downtown (see calendar). Also, many venues sell beautiful rocks. This is a Shopping Event, lots of mineral specimens and beautiful jewelry inside and outside plus "homestyle" food to buy for lunch.

Tent & Outside Area RV Show – The Big Tent in Quartzsite hosts the annual RV Show during the official (last) week of the BoF Q rally. More RV stuff is outside of the tent area. Don't miss Tyson Wells – a fun place to look for things you need and things you didn't know you needed. Laura highly recommends the Orthotics guy, Randy, in the Big Tent. Once you buy the orthotics, he will adjust them for free forever more.

Q Hill, Group Photo

Drive to Q Hill and take a group picture. Short 4-mile drive to the base of Q Hill, 5 to 15 minute walk to the top. This has a spectacular view of all the RV's, all the sales areas, and the beautiful mountain scenery. **If you want to do the hike, let Laura know and we will plan it.**

Kite Flying

Kite Flying Day(s) – Bring one with you and one for a friend, and please fly them at Q during the mild breezy days. There were some beautiful kites up last year.

Spare Parts and Stuff Sale (Swap Meet)

Sell your spare parts and stuff…Every day, All day, Anytime, out front of your rig. Put a price tag on your items (or FREE). Sell them, swap them, and make another owner happy.

Walks – Drives – Etc.

Ladies Morning Walk – Many of the ladies get together for morning walks, hunting for crystals and "cool rocks" along the way. Bring water, a hat and wear sturdy shoes. Men are not excluded, by the way.

Take a Drive to:

- **Blythe Intaglios** (to be scheduled)
- **Crystal Hill for Rock and Crystal Hunting (a shimmering rockhound's paradise**) (see calendar) Difficulty level 2 offroad. Consider this an easy level – high clearance or 4X4 strongly encouraged.
- **Jasper Springs OHV Trail (Kofa) – 18.7 miles. Parts easy, parts are moderate difficulty (2-4).** If Mark and Laura can pre-trial this, we will schedule it in. Anyone want to go with us on the pre-rally test, email Laura and Mark.
- **Desert Bar** – The easy route is no problem. IF you want to take the 4X4 "back trail" (experienced driver with high clearance 4X4), we need a leader to step up. Get to Desert Bar early to get parking and take lots of cash.

Moderate to hard level Off- Road trips: We will need an experienced Jeep/Off-Road leader to step up. To go on these harder trips, some level of previous off-road experience is very helpful (Dripping Springs, Oh Shit Run, etc). If you are a newby or rusty to this activity, you will need some initial education on what to expect, what to bring in your vehicle and tips for bouldering, how to not almost roll your jeep, etc.

Game Time – Bring your games (horseshoes, scrabble, corn hole, card games etc.) and start up a game anytime. That's what we're here for. Add extra quarters to your laundromat supply so pilfer for some low level betting.

Coach Technical Sessions –

Tech. Seminars – Two 2-hour sessions in the AM. This has always been a favorite activity. Bring your chair to the center of the circle to listen, learn and participate in 'Bird

topics of all kinds. Make your list of things you'd like to discuss with the group. FC topics are welcome, too! Ladies are encouraged to attend, also.

Coach Walk Around Tech. Sessions –Two two-hour sessions in the PM. This has always been a favorite for everyone. You get to see firsthand the upgrades, modifications, etc. others have done during this walk-around technical session. Ladies are encouraged to attend also.

Ladies "Tech Talk": Get to meet other ladies and find out what skills they have. Ask your questions about RVs and Rving, share tips, etc. If you have a question, we will find the answer.

Craft Time or Craft Projects

Prior Q experience tells us that at any given day or time the ladies get together for different types of crafts. Sometimes making jewelry, painting rocks and making many other neat craft things. We will post notice of these craft events on the information board if we get notice in advance. Some people bring their sewing machines. Do you have unwanted cotton fabric laying around? Donate it to the sewers/quilters for charity Cuddle Quilts. This is a good place to exchange, donate or sell your excess fabric, crafts or things you make.

Entertainment -Play a musical instrument? Don't be shy ….Please bring and share your talent whenever you want, maybe during happy hours, dinner, after dinner. Your choice. We thank you for sharing your talent.

Food Gatherings

While our pot luck dinners are a huge part of the Q experience and attended by many, we have divided up side dishes, salads and desserts by last name. <u>This is not mandatory</u>. You fix/bring what you want, of course. It's just an attempt to get a good variety. **Please bring enough to feed 8 people. Potluck Tips: Many** dishes can be made ahead of time and then frozen. Don't spend the day at Q cooking (unless you want to). We start promptly on time (too keep food at a safe temperature. Bring your items out 5-10" before dinner. We need extra table to set up, so if you have an extra table, we would appreciate the "loan" for the length of the event.

Other Dinner information:
There are several evenings that include potluck gatherings where we ALL contribute something per the suggested theme. For BOYD (Bring Your Own Dinner): The idea behind this is we can still get together for dinner, but the pressure is off for the cooks. This might be a fun night for a juicy steak or other drool inducing culinary treat.
Bring your own table and chairs. If you have room for table guests, meet someone new and invite them to your table.

Open Evenings – These evenings are open so folks can do whatever they want. The Calendar shows the Open Dates. This is a great time to invite new or old friends for a little mini-dinner party, go out to dinner, have a quiet evening, etc. Remember to join us at the evening fire. Feel free to bring after dinner libations, your favorite after dinner treat, your guitar, ghost story, tall tales of Qs Past, etc to the fire.

Chili Evening, not a Cook-Off – Cook up your favorite batch of chili or similar to share or bring the "goes with it" items such as salads, vegetables, corn bread, deserts, etc. and gather in the camp center and enjoy the food and the evening. Chili Verde, Chili Colorado, Chili with smoked tri tip . . . Show us your favorite dish. Chili freezes great! Do the hard work at home and defrost and heat at Q.

Note: If you are not cooking chili, last name beginning with A thru E bring Salads/vegetables, F thru M Desserts, N thru Z bring starches such as cornbread, rolls, Mexican pasta salad, etc. We will try to not create an explosion at the fire from the outgassing later.)

Wine Happy Hour at the gathering area. Appetizers encouraged but not required. BYOB. We might have a Blind Wine or Beer tasting at some point, also.

Italian Food Evening – Always a favorite.

Note: Last name beginning with A thru E: Salad/Veggie, F thru M bring Desert, N thru Z: bring main dish.

Sunday Brunch Potluck Morning– The Sunday Brunch potluck continues to be a big hit. Everyone else that would like to participate, please bring the breakfast meat, eggs, Pancakes, waffles or anything else that you love for breakfast. If anyone wants to be the official Pancake Cook, let the Donahues know. Otherwise, it will be just a potluck brunch.

Margarita Happy Hour – Bring your favorite Margarita mix to share at the Center of the rally area. Feel free to bring Mocktails, Horchata, etc. Hey, not everyone drinks the strong stuff. Munchies to share is encouraged.

Mexican Food Evening– Bring a dish and/or the "goes with the theme" and enjoy good food and great company. Wear your South of the Boarder fashions if you have any.

Note: Last name beginning with A thru E: bring main dish, F thru M bring desserts, N thru Z: side dishes

Vendors / Presentations / Meetings

We are reviewing possible presentations from vendors. If you would like to arrange a specific presentation(s) held at our Q rally, please coordinate with Laura and Mark Donahue. Laura is looking into at least one presentation she will give and inquiring of Blue Ox for a short presentation on Towing Safety, but, what do YOU want to learn about?

Q Event Ends

The BoF organizers thank you for your participation. Drive safe. See you next year at the BoF Q Rally, or sooner. Do not hesitate to send in your ideas for improving this year or next year's Q rally to your BoF organizers lvdonahue@gmail.com.

Your BoF organizers: Laura and Mark Donahue
Email us at lvdonahue@gmail.com or donelec555@gmail.com