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.

Google Maps: http://goo.gl/maps/6Grhe Takes a few seconds to load. Instructions are on the left.

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 birds.of.a.feather.bof@gmail.com.

Sign Up: There is no need to sign up for the BoF Annual Quartzsite Rally. There are no Reservations and the rally dates are the same dates as the Quartzsite Big White Tent RV Show. The norm is 80 plus coaches joining the rally. Just come on out, spend the days you can, enjoy yourself, meet old and new friends, and enjoy the desert sun. Or you can send birds.of.a.feather.bof@gmail.com your name and planned Q arrival date and you will be recorded on the Q Participant list. As we get closer to the event dates the Participant list will be noted on WOG and published on the BoF site http://birdsofafeather1.shutterfly.com/ password is flocktogether. Many have said they plan to return and are already on next year’s Q Participation list.

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 on the BoF website http://birdsofafeather1.shutterfly.com/ the password is "flocktogether" one word, no quotes.

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 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 January 16 - 24, 2016. Many coaches arrive before, some arrive weeks before. The Calendar covers 16 days, the relaxed week before the rally and the actual rally.
**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 a circle and 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. Write down your license plate number(s). Go inside the kiosk and pay your $40.00 for up to a 14 day stay. You will need $40.00 cash. Go back in the morning and pay your fee if the kiosk is closed.

Then drive on the black top road to about its end. Look to your left for Blue Bird coaches.

**Google Maps:** [http://goo.gl/maps/6Grhe](http://goo.gl/maps/6Grhe) Takes a few seconds to load. Instructions are on the left.

**Open Evenings:** Every other evening is an OPEN evening (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** – A great place. It’s located at 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 makes 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. Fred is very picky about his firewood's quality! Drop your fire wood near the camp fire circle.
**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 a BLM dump station and fresh water source. Going there early morning or late evening will help to avoid lines. Holding tank dump service is available. Let one of the organizers know if you need the service, we will probably have them come to our group.

**Water Fill Service**: No water delivery service available at this time. But again fresh water is available within one half mile.

**Name Tags**: If you have name tags from any function, bring them with you to wear. Or make one yourself.
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 80+ 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 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 – 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 where each coach left front bumper is to park. Leave 25 feet between the Xs.

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 5 consecutive spaces for the BoF Organizers/Cooks. 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.

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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 birds.of.a.feather.bof@gmail.com briefly describing your training or certification and we’ll list it here.

**Defibrillator** – Volunteer if you have a Defibrillator in your coach.

**Nurses/Medics/EMT** – Volunteer if you are willing to provide assistance.

Robert Britton - Firefighter/EMT - (831) 801-9229

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

The Big Tent

1.1 - Tent & outside area Gem Show – The Big Tent in Quartzsite usually has The Gem Show during the first week of our 16 day Calendar.

1.2 - 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.

Q Hill, Group Photo

2.0 - 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.

Kite Flying

3.0 Kite Flying Day(s) – Bring one with you, and please fly them at Q during the mild breezy days.

Spare Parts and Stuff Sale (Swap Meet) – Guys & Gals

4.0 - Sell your spare parts and stuff…Every day, All day, or Anytime. Put them out front of your rig. Put a price tag on your items. Sell them, swap them, and make another owner happy.
Morning Ladies Walk

5.0 - Morning / Afternoon Walks – Many of the gals get together for morning and afternoon walks.

6.0 Game Time – Bring your games (horseshoes, scrabble, card games etc.) and start up a game anytime. That’s what we’re here for.

Shooting Events

7.0 – The Shooting Event is one of the rallys most popular events. Where you can learn about hand guns, their proper use, safety, etc. Due to its popularity, the event is now two days during the second week. The first day includes a Ladies session in the morning and an open session in the afternoon. Bring your hand guns, rifles, shotguns.

Birds of a Feather Quartzsite Shootout

This is the proposed agenda for shooting events. Instead of us all going at one time, we will schedule certain time for each level selected. Class size will be limited so each shooter can be active throughout the session instead of waiting for others to finish. We are happy to have back Rick Paterson, a seasoned law enforcement officer and tactical weapons instructor. You can read more about Rick at: http://mancationnation.com/Bio_Rick.html.

7.1 - Briefing – Tom McCarthy & Rick Paterson (ManCation Nation Firearms Instructor) will hold a briefing at camp prior to going to the two shooting events.

7.2 – Ladies Basic Pistol – For any skill level from experienced who want to hone accuracy and refresh gun safety procedures to inexperienced or beginners that want to learn how to handle a pistol. Activities mostly consist of lecture, demonstrations and target shooting.

- Weapon safety & fundamentals
- Operating functions of the handgun
- Basics of shooting (grip, stance, shooting mechanics)
- Basic marksmanship
- Dry drills: drawing from holsters, magazine change, load/unload of firearm
- Weapons handling & basic shooting techniques (different positions & different directions)
• Reloading & stoppages (basic and under stress)

7.3 – **Open Session**: Anyone can attend. See 7.2 for details.

7.4 – **Bouse House Tactical from TV Show - Intermediate/Advanced Pistol – Rifle Shooting included.** If Mancation Nation property in Bouse is available, we will go there. If not, we will stage at the regular shooting area. For the more experienced shooter who wants to learn or refresh on self-defense pistol techniques, unusual situations, and other techniques. Includes the safety refresher from the Basic pistol.

• Advanced shooting, multiple threats & different directions
• Shooting while moving & using available cover
• Magazine changes & stoppages on the move, under stress
• Situational Draws- Seated, Prone, Back, Kneeling
• Situational Target Engagement- Seated, Prone, Back, Kneeling
• Strong/Weak Hand Target Engagements- Distance, Disabled, Situational

7.5 - **Trap Shooting** – Maybe? Let us know your interest.

7.6 - **AR-15 Familiarization and Proficiency**

You might have recently read in the November 2014 issue of Motorhome Magazine a feature named "7 Adventures and Sports for RVers." One of the 7 described was shooting.

When we started the Shootouts at the Q many years ago, I had in mind reinforcing the ubiquitous rules of gun safety for all RVers that carried weapons for competition, fun, or self-defense. Those rules are:

1. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded
2. Never point a firearm at anyone or anything you are not willing to put a bullet through
3. Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot
4. Know your target and what is beyond it

We added one unofficial rule to the above; make sure your weapon is operable and you can operate it. We were astonished by the number of weapons that failed to function and the weapons that the owners could not shoot for various reasons. All in all, hundreds of Q attendees have enjoyed the training of our expert, Rick Patteson, our instructor from the beginning.
We have strived to improve this event to keep it interesting. This year, Rick is offering a special session, "AR-15 Familiarization and Proficiency" where rifles and ammunition are provided. Students will learn safety and operational features of this rifle, marksmanship fundamentals, and how to hit human-sized silhouette targets at 50 yards and 150 yards.

This class is structured to be a fun and learning event intended to provide an experience with an easy to operate, small caliber, but high power, semi-automatic rifle. If you already own an AR-15, please join us to enhance your skills. Remember to bring ear and eye protection. A mat to sit or lie on is highly recommended.

This program should last about 3 hours. The cost per person is $50.00 payable to Rick Patteson. We would like to get a count of how many are interested. If you plan to attend this event, please indicate your intent by email to Tommy Two Shoes at tom.mccarthy44@gmail.com.

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**ON and Off-Road Runs**

8.1 - Castle Dome Mountain – 54 miles, moderate trail, time 5 hrs, bring lunch and fluids.
8.2 - Dripping Springs - 12.6 miles, moderate trail, time 3-4 hrs, bring lunch and fluids
8.3 - OFF-Road Run (Need volunteer(s).

Hwy 95 North, turn east on Cienega Springs Rd, travel less than 5 miles. Open Saturday & Sunday noon to 6. Drinks and food available. Cash only. One or multiple trips. Easy to locate. Need volunteer(s) to lead the group.

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**BLUEBIRD Olympic Games**

9.1 – Sign up, Choose Teams, Games Rules
9.2 – Let the Games Begin

Helping celebrate the 10 years of Bluebird and SOB’s gathering in Quartzsite Arizona, Your honored HOSTS Derek and Frank HEREBY declare the Games of the Bluebird Olympics to be held at the Rally.

Team Medals will be awarded based on 1st Place = Gold, 2nd Place = Silver, 3rd Place = Bronze, 4th place= Tin
Form 4 Teams of 4, 5 or 6 persons (depending on how many sign up initially and at the Rally).

Teams and teammates will be chosen the DAY before the OLYMPICS to go over the game description and rules; and choose a Team Captain. ** Games are subject to change due to Mother Nature **

Teams will be designated with a color bandana of RED, GREEN, BLUE and YELLOW and a Team Flag.

POINTS will be awarded based on where you place and a point system in 12 events. In case of a tie at the end of the 12 events, a TIE BREAK GAME will be chosen.

POINTS per event: 1\textsuperscript{st} is 10 points, 2\textsuperscript{nd} is 7 points, 3\textsuperscript{rd} is 5 points, 4\textsuperscript{th} is 3 points

We need volunteers of 4-6 persons not participating in the events to be judges or time takers and go over the rules per event.

Estimated amount of time to complete each event is: 5-10 minutes. Estimated amount of time to complete all entire events is 2 ½ hours.

To sign up or if you have questions, please email Derek Haberman or Frank Peredo at: Franklin145@aol.com

**SUMMARY**

1. **PASS THE BOOKMAN:** TEAM RELAY
2. **DIESEL PUSHER HULA HOOPER:** TEAM RELAY
3. **WATER THE CACTUS:** 4 PERSON TEAM EVENT, ELIMINATION
4. **GENERATOR RATTLE:** 2 PERSON ELIMINATION
5. **CUP O’SAND:** 2 OR 4 PERSON ELIMINATION
6. **TORNADO SCRAMBLE:** 2 OR 4 PERSON ELIMINATION
7. **FLIPPIN ROCKS:** TEAM RELAY
8. **KANGAROO RAT TEA:** TEAM OR 2 PERSON ELIMINATION
9. **SWAP MEET SPOONING:** TEAMS OR 2 PERSON ELIMINATION
10. **NUT STACKER:** TEAMS OR 2 PERSON ELIMINATION
11. **Q HILL HORSEPLAY:** TEAM ELIMINATION
12. **FORWARD CONTROL ANXIETY:** TEAM OR 2 PERSON ELIMINATION

**OPTIONAL TIE BREAK GAMES:**

1. **FACE THE COOKIE**
2. **SHOOTING STARS**
3. **PING TAC TOE**
10.0 - Geocache Hunt – Drive out in the desert for Geocache hunting guided by Don Bradner.

Don will have a short orientation meeting of about half an hour, then head out to find at least a few caches, returning by 3 p.m. If you would like to participate, a suggested prerequisite is to register at geocaching.com (free registration is fine, paid registration not required). This will establish your geocaching "handle" that will be used to record finds in the log books of caches we find, and also allow them to be logged online if you wish. Handheld GPS units are necessary for caching, but in a group event like this there is no need for everybody to have one. As long as we have at least a few we will be fine. 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended, and again I expect there will be sharing. There will be some walking, but nothing strenuous. All experience levels are invited; in fact it would be great to have some other experienced folk to help the novices.

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Men’s Coach Technical Sessions
11.0 - Coach Walk Around Tech. Sessions – Two two hour sessions in the AM. This has always been a favorite for the guys. You get to see firsthand the upgrades, modifications, etc. others have done during this walk-around technical session.

11.1 - Men’s Tech. Seminars – Two two hours sessions in the PM. Fred Hulse will lead this. This too has always been a favorite for the men. 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.

Coach Tours
12.0 - Coach Tours – If weather permits, secure your door OPEN if you want to participate. If you do not want to participate CLOSE your door. Open up your coach for others to tour. Explain changes, upgrades, etc. that have been done, or leave a write up on the dash for others to read, telling about what you have done with your coach interior. Please don't open any closets or drawers in any coaches and no pets.
Craft Time or Craft Projects

13.0 - Making Greeting Cards – Prior 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. Note: Ladies with good craft project ideas send us an emailed description so we can include it in our final printout.

14.0 – Morning Coffee – Fred Hulse will have his LARGE coffee pot brewing in the early AM. Watch for the coffee pot on a table a good distance out front of Fred’s coach. Bring your cup and anything that you like with you coffee. Thank you, Fred.

14.5 - MAI TAI FINE Happy Hour - Jim & Denise Benson will host a MAI TAI FINE Happy Hour 3:30 to 5:00, Saturday January 24th at their bus. They will be serving (and possibly introducing many) to a traditional MAI TAI, from Trader Vic's Original 1944. This ain't no fruit juice mixer and some rum, this will be the real thing and they welcome everyone to enjoy some old fashion Hawaii style living, right there in the desert.
Food Gatherings

While our pot luck dinners being a huge part of the Q experience and attended by many, we have divided up side dishes, salads and desserts by last name. This is not mandatory. You fix/bring what you want of course. It’s just an attempt to get a good variety. Please bring enough to feed 8 to 10 people.

15.0 - Many evenings include pot luck gatherings where we ALL contribute something per the suggested theme.

15.1- Open Evenings – Usually every other evening is open so folks can do whatever they want. The Calendar shows the Open Dates. Remember to join us at the evening fire.

15.2 - Hors d'oeuvres to Share Evening – Bring your own bottle (BYOB) and your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share. Bring lots, we like to eat!

15.3 - Chili Evening, not a Cook-Off – Cook up your favorite batch of chili to share, or bring the “goes with it” items such as salads, corn bread, deserts, etc. and gather in the camp center and enjoy the food and the evening.
   Note: If you are not cooking chili, last name beginning with A thru F: bring Side Dish or Corn Bread (bring one), G thru N: Salads, P thru Z: Deserts.

15.4 - Italian Food Evening – Always a favorite.
   Note: Last name beginning with: A thru F: bring Deserts, G thru N: Main Dishes, P thru Z: Salads/Sides (bring one or the other).

15.5 - Sunday Brunch Potluck Morning– The Sunday Brunch potluck continues to be a big hit. The Marsh’s will bring their very large grill, pancakes, syrup and champagne. Sprenger’s will bring the butter, Orange Juice, and scrambled eggs with ham. Everyone else that would like to participate, please bring the breakfast meat, eggs or anything else that compliments pancakes.

15.55 – Group Therapy
GROUP THERAPY will be in session during the SUNDAY BRUNCH POTLUCK MORNING. This was a hit last year so Derek & Frank will be your Bar Keep during the breakfast. They will serve Mimosa’s, Bloody Mary’s, Poinsettia’s, Champagne and other assorted juices.
Donations from you all of champagne and other assorted beverages helped last year and would appreciate this to continue.

There will be an Extra charge for requests of Psychiatric or Psychological Evaluation and Consultation.

15.6 - Stew/Soup/Stoup/Choup/Chowder Potluck – Your choice, will be enjoyed by all. This was a big hit at previous Q rallies.

15.7 - S'mores Night at the Fire - Bring some chocolate/graham crackers/marshmallows to the center fire ring and share. Yum, Yum. This event runs every evening, assuming someone brings the goodies. Volunteer.

15.8 - Prime Rib Roast Dinner – Ray & Leslie Thomas will prepare their wonderful Prime Rib Roast. $10.00/person. This will be pot luck style. Ray will let you know (via email) a side to bring, either a side dish or a desert. The dinner will be weather dependent. Please bring enough to feed 8 to 10 people.

We have the facilities to cook for 150 people. The expected attendance for this rally is more than 200 people, and growing.

Please send your sign up email now to duckmanr@att.net with your answers to the following questions. It’s best to reply even if you do not plan to eat the prime rib.

Copy the following and paste it in your email with your answers.

1 - Do you plan to eat Ray’s prime rib roast? (Yes or No):
2 - If yes, how many people?
3 – How cooked - # rare, # medium, # more well done?
4 - You agree you will pay the per person $10.00 fee? (Yes or No):

The last day to sign up for the dinner is January 6. Please pay Ray & Leslie at their coach before the dinner date.

15.9 - Mexican Food Evening & Margaritas– Bring a dish and/or the “goes with the theme”, bring Margaritas if you can, and enjoy good food and great company at the Center of the rally area.

Note: Last name beginning with A thru F: bring Salads/Sides, G thru N: Desserts, P thru Z: Main Dishes.
15.10 - Smokn' BBQ – Brisket, Pork Butts Evening – Ray Thomas and Curt Sprenger will prepare the Smokn' BBQ. $5.00 per person for the BBQ’d meat. Everyone bring the “goes with it” fixings. Deposit the $5.00 in the container on the carving table.

16.0 - Wine Buy In, Tasting, Vote
$5.00 Buy In – This event gets a lot of participation and enjoyed by many. Take your favorite wine ($5.00 per bottle entered) to the MacAttack Racing coach between 2:00 and 3:00pm the day of the event. Your selection(s) will be placed in a paper bag and numbered for participants to taste and judge. If you prefer not to enter a bottle of wine you can taste and vote for a $5.00 fee.
16.1 - 3:30. – Wine Tasting - for those participating in the event.
16.2 – 4:30 - Best Red & Best White Voting – The most votes for a Red and a White each take half of the buy in purse.

Vendors/Presentations
17.0 - If you would like a presentation(s) held at our Q rally, please feel free to make contact with the vendor(s) and invite them. Coordinate vendor date/time with the BoF organizers before committing with vendor(s). It is your responsibility to set the area, tables/chairs, etc. for the presentation.

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 birds.of.a.feather.bof@gmail.com. Please forward your rally photos to Rick Archie at Gardendoc.Rick@gmail.com. Rick will load them to the website for all of us to see. Thank you for your participation and making this a wonderful, enjoyable, exciting event.

Your BoF organizers: Fred, John, Rick, Curt

birds.of.a.feather.bof@gmail.com