



## 2016 Quartzsite Shows

### A perspective by Mark Nelson, Pasadena Lapidary Society

At the risk of sounding dramatic, a visit to the Quartzsite Shows should be on every rock and gem enthusiast's "bucket list". You can't accurately compare it with any other rock and gem show you've been to. It's a small desert gas stop that is transformed almost overnight!

People come from all over the world with shipping crates and 55 gallon drums of amethysts, jaspers, fossils, and many other lapidary items. Also available are Moroccan fossils, swap meet items, tools, camping and RV's and their parts and supplies, LED lights and bulbs, custom signs, crafts, lapidary equipment (new and used), food, drink, entertainment with swap meets. You've got to go. Look for tips on our web site: [www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org](http://www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org).

#### **The Main Event:**

The Main Event has had an annual show here since Quartzsite's shows began in the early 1980's. A beautiful food court with a stage for daily entertainment and a fun environment. Large restroom trailer. Some rocks, gems and minerals. Mostly known now for imported goods and antiques. On the west side of the Main Event are two wholesale tool buildings, similar to Harbor Freight.

#### **Main Street Traders Swap Meet:**

Shops on Main Street open all year round. Variety of vendors with collectibles, jewelry, beads & supplies, rocks, new items and food court. 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. daily Location: 1170 Main Street across from the Pilot and McDonalds.

#### **Hi Ali Swap Meet:**

Lots of antiques and collectibles and "good junk" to dig through. Also some rocks and new items like palm leaf hats.

#### **Prospectors Panorama:**

Lots of Gems & Minerals, Jewelry & More plus a Beer Garden and Food. Highlights include the best prices on small pieces of amethyst, fossils from Morocco, wholesale rocks at the El Paso Rock Company.

#### **Desert Gardens:**

The Largest Rock, Gem and Mineral Show in Quartzsite! Mostly collectors-to-collectors. Wholesale prices on rough rocks. Vendors from around the world selling thousands of rocks, fossils, gems and minerals to daily visitors, wholesalers, and among each other. Desert Gardens offers free parking, free admission, a food court, and ample public restrooms.

#### **Rice Ranch Y'All Come Show:**

New items and collectibles with food vendors.

**Tyson Wells:**

Probably the most varied of all the shows. Many vendors and a huge variety of items, including tools, RV supplies, gems, jewelry, crafts, beads & supplies and more.

**QIA Pow Wow Rock & Mineral Show:**

This annual Show has vendors coming from all over the world. They have over 520 vendor display areas inside & outside the building. All the merchandise displayed by vendors must be 75% gem, mineral or jewelry related. **Free Admission and Free Parking** with 2 Shuttle Buses running all day to help get people from their cars to the Vendors. There are **2 ATM's on-site and a cafeteria area**. Mostly items from other collectors and artisans. All gems and minerals including supplies and items made from them. Be sure to visit the Abalone King and Dyer Wyr!

**Big Tent Sports, Vacation & RV Show:**

Recreational vehicles and accessories.

**Greasewood Swap Meet:**

Folks coming in to sell out of the back of their cars, along with craftsmen making signs and other items. Some good bargains to be had!

**Quartzsite Show Dates:**

A variety of shops, including antiques, tools and RV supplies - on both sides of Kuhn Road.

**Quartzsite Market Place Street Fair** Oct. 31, 2015 - March 1, 2016

**Tyson Wells Market Center Swapmeet** Oct 01, 2015 -March 31, 2016

**Desert Gardens - Gem & Mineral** January 01 - February 28, 2016

**Prospectors Panorama** January 02 - January 15, 2016

**QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry** January 20 - January 24, 2016

**Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show** January 01 - January 10, 2016

**Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama** January 15 - January 24, 2016

**Tyson Wells Arts and Crafts** January 29 - February 7, 2016

**Sports, Vacation & RV Show** January 16 - January 24, 2016

**Quartzsite Quilt Show** - Quartzsite SR Center TBA

**Quartzsite Gold Show** February 12-14, 2016 QIA building.





# Map of Town of Quartzsite

## "ADDICTED TO DEALS"

**1270 W. MAIN ST.**  
THE BRIGHT PINK BLDG.  
ACROSS FROM MCDONALDS AND  
1196 W. MAIN ST. ACROSS FROM PILOT.  
928-927-DEAL (3325)

VITAMINS, SCRAPBOOKING, BOOKS, DVDS, ITALIAN  
LEATHER BELTS, WINOCHIMES, COLLECTIBLES,  
JEWELRY, CHOCOLATE, CANDY, AUDIO BOOKS, PET  
SUPPLIES, GREETING CARDS, LEATHER OF ALL  
KINDS, ARIZONA MEMORABILIA AND SO MUCH MORE.  
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IF YOU'RE NOT SHOPPING AT  
"ADDICTED TO DEALS"  
YOU ARE MISSING  
A BARGAIN SHOPPING EXPERIENCE.



**Inland Builders Supply - ACE**  
1224 West Hobsonway, Blythe, CA 92225  
Phone: 760-922-0361 • Fax: 760-922-0374

**Town of Quartzsite**  
465 North Plymouth Ave.  
P.O. Box 2812  
Quartzsite, AZ 85346-2812  
(928)-927-4333  
Fax (928)927-4400

Website: [www.ci.quartzsite.az.us](http://www.ci.quartzsite.az.us)  
Email: [townclerk@ci.quartzsite.az.us](mailto:townclerk@ci.quartzsite.az.us)

**Quartzsite Business Chamber of Commerce**  
110 W Main St  
P.O. Box 2566  
Quartzsite, AZ 85346  
(928) 927-9321

Website: [bizchamber.com](http://bizchamber.com)  
[quartzsitebusinesschamber.com](http://quartzsitebusinesschamber.com)  
Email: [quartzsitebusinesoc@ids.net](mailto:quartzsitebusinesoc@ids.net)

### KEY TO SHOW CODES

- DG** DESERT GARDENS INTERNATIONAL ROCK, GEM AND MINERAL SHOW—PAGES 14-15
- ME** THE NEW MAIN EVENT—PAGE 18
- PP** PROSPECTORS' PANORAMA—PAGE 20
- QIA** QIA POW WOW GEM & MINERAL SHOW—PAGES 22-23
- QM** QUARTZSITE MARKET PLACE STREET FAIR—PAGE 24
- QRV** THE QUARTZSITE SPORTS, VACATION & RV SHOW—PAGES 28-29
- RR** RICE RANCH "Y'ALL COME" SHOW—PAGES 30-31
- TW** TYSON WELLS SHOWS: ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW \* MARKET CENTRE SWAPMEET \* ROCK & GEM SHOW \* SELL-A-RAMA—PAGES 32-33

### KEY TO LOCAL ADVERTISERS

- 1 Addicted To Deals, 1270 W. Main St.: See ad on p. 10
- 2 D&L Auto, 180 E. Main St.: See ad on p. 18
- 3 La Paz Medical Services, 150 Tyson St.: See ad on p. 21
- 4 Mr. Motorhome, 363 W. Main St.: See ad on Back Cover
- 5 RV Pit Stop, 425 N. Central Blvd.: See ad on p. 23.
- 6 Town Hall, 455 N. Plymouth Ave
- 7 Quartzsite Business Chamber of Commerce, 110 W. Main St



<http://www.xpopress.com/quartzsite-shows-swapmeets-schedule.html>



I only have a limited amount of time. What should I plan on seeing?

For years we have finished work as early as possible on a Friday, and driven to Quartzsite, where we camped out in the BLM land or motel camped in Blythe. The shows are open from 9am to 5pm Arizona Time (same as Mountain Time in January). We would see as many of the shows as we could, and often come back for a second weekend before the shows conclude.

**Field Trips:** If you are attending the Quartzsite shows in conjunction with the Society's field trip and you enjoy collecting in the wild, you should plan on attending at least one of the field trips planned by the Society or by the Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Club. More information on this will be available on the PLS web site as soon as the Field Trip Committee coordinates this with the local club.

**The Shows:** Considering that your interest is most likely around lapidary, minerals and specimens, I would suggest this priority:

QIA Pow Wow  
Desert Gardens  
Tyson Wells  
Prospector's Panorama

If you have more time, it is fun to wander the shows and see what various items are new for camping or the home.



## Lodging for the Quartzsite Shows

### Camping:

There is a whole desert out there in which to camp. People who have been going to the Shows for a while will have their own preferences of where to camp. The Society will select a place to recommend as our "group camping" area. Members are free to camp there or to camp elsewhere. You can camp near your fellow members or far enough away to allow privacy. We will generally get together in the evenings for a camp fire. Bring your fire wood from home. Here are a few that we can recommend from personal experience:

#### La Posa Long Term Visitor Area

Exit Interstate 10 at the city of Quartzsite, AZ. Take highway 95 south to the four campgrounds. The campground entrances are approximately 2 miles south of town. The campground is approximately 11,400 acres in size, flat landscape, sparsely vegetated with plants. 10 vault toilets (handicap accessible), dry dump station, dump station with water, water station (eight faucets), trash services, some paved / improved roads, dance floor and ramada. Cost: A Short Term Permit can be purchased for a 14-day stay. This permit is \$40.00. Permits may be purchased on site.

#### Plomosa Road 14-Day Camping Area

This is a free short-term camping area north of Quartzite, Arizona. There are no designated campsites and you may camp anywhere within the boundary of the site. This site is an excellent place to stay for a few days and is approximately 10 miles north of Quartzsite. No toilet facilities. Take U.S. Hwy 95 north of Quartzsite to the Plomosa Road turnoff and turn right. The free camping is on the north and south sides of Plomosa Road.

#### Scaddan Wash 14-Day Camping Area

This is a free short-term camping area north of Quartzite, Arizona. There are no designated campsites and you may camp anywhere within the boundary of the site. This site is an excellent place to stay for a few days and is approximately 3.5 miles east of Quartzsite. No toilet facilities. To reach Scaddan Wash take the Interstate 10 Frontage Road (Kuehn Street) from the mile marker 19 exit east. The camping area is south of the Frontage Road.



## **Motels:**

Motels in Quartzsite are usually booked well in advance of the shows. Most of our members who choose not to camp will stay in a nearby motel, such as those only 20 minutes away in Blythe, CA. Here are some motels near to Quartzsite:

Motel 6 - \$76 - 500 W Donlon St Blythe (760) 904-6990

Super 8 - \$76 550 W Donlon St, Blythe (760) 922-8881

Willow Inn - \$65 - 900 West Rice Street, Blythe

Dutt Relax Inn - \$45 - 1843 E Hobsonway(760) 922-0273

M Star Inn and Suites Blythe - \$90 9232 E Hobsonway

Blythe Inn - \$50 401 East Hobson Way

Quality Inn Parker - \$95 604 S California Ave, Parker, AZ (928) 669-2133

Harbour Inn - \$109 4749 Highway 95, Cienega Springs, AZ (928) 667-2931

Ocotillo Lodge - 27866 AZ-72, Bouse, AZ (928) 851-2219

Reservations can be made either directly through the motel or with an on-line source such as Booking.com.

Ask for Senior Rates if you qualify - usually 10% less.  
10% less.

