



Quartzsite Trip Report

As it turns out, I don't have much to report from my trip to Quartzsite, Arizona. So, depending upon your reaction to my trip reports, this dearth of information may elevate your sense of relief higher than the clouds or plummet your zeal for knowledge into a fathomless pit—in either case, your fellow club members could find some benefit. Because if you end up higher than the clouds, you could scout out new areas for us to explore and if you end up in a fathomless pit, you could let us know what material exists at each level on your way down.

Since I was selling at the show, I didn't get a chance to explore with the rockhounds on the many field trips around the area. But, we had plenty of club members in attendance that did go on the trips and might be able to lead us to those sites in the future, or at least share some stories at an upcoming meeting!



A few things I've learned about Quartzsite over the years: for the collector, there are innumerable mineral specimens available (and most at about 1/4 the cost of similar pieces in Tucson); for the seller, there are very profitable days and there can be a few not-so-profitable days; for the rockhound, there are at least two field trips a day; for the wanderer, there are several scenic routes one can take to travel from San Diego to Quartzsite; and, for the lead-footed driver, it is better to drive the 'boring' route of Interstate 8

to Highway 95 than to enjoy the 'rush' of flying over the big rollers on Highway 78 past Glamis, thus attracting the unwanted attention of a CHP officer who clocks you at 90+ mph.

Seriously, the crowds seemed to be about 50% larger than they were last year and there were many more vendors in attendance as well. People seemed excited to get outdoors, walk around, meet new people, explore new minerals and even do some buying from time to time.



The weather during the show was varied, but mostly wonderful. The sun was shining, the clouds were occasional, the wind was calm, the mornings and evenings were crisp, the afternoons were pleasant and most importantly the dust wasn't dancing. There were two moderate showers on Saturday afternoon at around 4, which drove the crowds away for the day. But, that just meant we were able to rest a bit more that evening.



The most enjoyable part of the trip from my perspective was that every evening a group of people would gather and chat around a fire pit at the home of the late Quartzsite Charlie. Lots of warm and friendly people, plenty of interesting rockhounding stories, a plethora of peculiar drinks, several chemistry experiments in the fire pit, and a bunch of very mediocre jokes. As I thought back on each evening, the only thing I could vividly recall was a continuous flow of laughter and joviality. At one point, we had more people from our ECVGMS around the fire than all other locations combined (five from ECVGMS and four from other parts of the country).

To those in attendance, thank you for sharing your time and wisdom with the rest of us. A special "Thank you" to Cheryl Boney for many of these images. Great to see... Neil, Yvonne, Richard, Rick, Madeline, Randy, Anita, Irving, Cheryl, Wes and others. **Our club is not only growing, we're GOING!**

As it turns out, I did have a fair amount to report from the Quartzsite trip.



Until we dig again,
Brian