

Earl's Diary - Tuesday - February 5, 2013

The day dawned bright and clear. There was not a cloud in the sky. The temperature last night was cool, but I didn't need to turn the heater on. I was able to play solitaire and finish a book I had started a couple days ago. As someone once said, retirement is full of options. When I arose this morning, I didn't know which options to choose - so I chose none of the above, and just enjoyed sitting outside and watching people or traffic go by!

I think I mentioned before that the official "cult" gathering begins on Thursday. However, this morning there are about a dozen trailers already here. Since this is BLM land, it doesn't cost anything to park here for 14 days. People come in all different days and times.

I decided to go into town (it's 5 miles down the road). You have to understand something about Quartzsite. First of all, it's out in the middle of the Arizona desert. The summer time population is about 4000. That's when the temperature regularly reaches 117 degrees, during the day. The nighttime temperature may dip to a cooling 95 degrees. The Northern Snowbirds flock to Quartzsite during the winter months when the temperatures are very comfortable (compared to where they originally come from). The population swells to hundreds of thousands.

Someone got the bright idea that as long as these people are all here, why not have an RV show in January. Someone else had the brilliant idea to have a rock and gem show in January. Of course, this swells the population even more! Thank goodness these shows are now over and the population is now decreasing slightly. Quartzsite is still one HUGE flea market and sale with every type of vendor one could imagine. I spent a couple hours walking among the rock and gem, kitchen gadget, hardware, health products, hat, RV products, sock and shoe, candy, belt, Indian jewelry, booths. There are others too numerous to mention. If any of you have been to the Galt Sale, the Quartzsite sale is just like that. The only thing is the WHOLE town of Quartzsite IS the sale!

At one point in time, I thought I was in Mexico. One Hispanic vendor thought I might be interested in buying a belt. He said, "Hey, come on over. You need a belt? I give you a good deal." I said, "no thank you". "But, I give you a good deal. Look at this one." - - Fortunately, my impulse buying filter was engaged and I said no again. "But I give you a good deal." He was still saying that as I walked away. I did purchase a couple of other impulse items that I will certainly use when I get home. After a couple hours, I had had enough walking around and headed back for camp.

When I returned to the Dome Rock area, I was surprised to find that more "egg" trailers had arrived when I was gone. Now there were at least a dozen and a half eggs on site. It's been interesting to find where everyone is coming from. So far, Canada is represented by someone from Ontario. Other trailers (and their occupants) have come from Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, California, and of course, Arizona. During the night several other trailers (and their occupants) have slipped in.

Earl's Dairy - Wednesday - February 6, 2013

Again, the Day arrived bright and clear. The sky is blue and clear. There are only a few wispy clouds floating by to the south. It's really night shirt sleeve weather AND so far, no wind. That could change in moments! My option this morning was to take a few pictures of the area.



Why this area is called "Dome Rock".



My "Peanut" with a couple of Scamp 5ers nearby.



I am using my new solar panels for the first time. Actually I purchased them last year at this same time. They are coming in handy this year since I am boondocking for a whole week.



This is where all the gathering action will be taking place. As you can see, some people have already arrived. We'll see how this area changes over the next few days.

That's my report for today. I'm sure there will be more to report that happens this afternoon. That will have to wait until my next diary page. In the mean time, thanks for traveling along with me. Bye for now - - Earl

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