

Earl's Diary - Tuesday - March 6, 2012

Dear Readers, One and All;

Right now I am sitting through a wind storm in Hawthorne, Nevada. I arrived yesterday afternoon to beautiful sunny weather - in the low 70's. I even had the door open for ventilation. However, the weatherman called for a big change to come. Before I continue on that subject, let me digress a little.

Sunday morning I left Valley of Fire heading south toward Las Vegas. In LV I stopped for gas and McD's for e-mail service. It was then onward, heading north on Highway 95. I wasn't sure whether to stop in Death Valley or not. I was keeping my eye on the weather report for Northern California. A storm system was on its way later in the week.

I did decide to stop at Mesquite Springs (in the northern end of the valley near Scotty's Castle. I love that part of the valley and the campground was not full. The weather perfect for this visit - and for once it was not excessively windy! At this point I had to make a choice - stay one night and continue on toward Tonopah and Hawthorne, or spend two nights in Death Valley. I made the choice to continue on after one night.

The weather was perfect for travel. I made a couple of rest stops before arriving in Hawthorne at 1:00. The Peanut attracts attention wherever it goes. In Death Valley a couple came over to look. They had purchased a small sticky and had to do lots of remodel on it. A little further down the road (at one of the rest stops) I met a couple who had sold a Scamp 5er to someone from Redding, CA. We had a nice visit talking about Scamp, and they had been to Bandon, Oregon several years ago for the "cult" gathering. When I arrived here in Hawthorne, my next door neighbor came over to see. The general comments I get are "I've never seen a Scamp fifth wheel before." My comment: "There are a few around, would you like to look?"

So, here I am in Hawthorne. After checking the weather report for the Sierra Nevada, I know I made the right decision to spend two nights here at Whiskey Flats RV Park. As of this morning, chains are required on all the cross Sierra highways. Tomorrow should be a better day for travel. Whiskey Flats is a "cord wood" park. However, the sites are far enough apart - AND they have full hookups AND WiFi. It is clean and well kept with very good gravel roadways. It's sure nice to have the electricity to run my heater. They do have a small camp store, and they have a reasonably priced selection of DVD movies. That might be my entertainment for today since outside the weather is terrible! I also have several books to help keep me entertained! The Peanut's cupboard is well stocked, so I won't starve to death. I feel like a bug in a rug!

Last night, after I went to bed, the wind was blowing. Sometime after 2:00 the wind really started howling again! It was one of those winds that tried to tip The Peanut on its side. However, once again The Peanut persevered and withstood the challenge!

After a couple hours, it calmed down. Then later this morning the wind continued. I mean, a really, REALLY BIG wind. The sky clouded over and hail came down. I couldn't tell if the cloudy sky was from clouds or dust. I heard the tinkle, tinkle on the roof and thought it might be rain. No, not rain. The sidewalk wasn't getting wet. Then I noticed the little white pellets falling from the sky. No, not hail. I think it's snow flakes that aren't sticking. I think the system traveling through Northern California has reached Nevada!

That's about all to report for now. Perhaps tomorrow will be a better travel day. Thanks for coming along with me. This sure is a new adventure for me! - - Earl



The Peanut is standing up to the wind and snow.

More flakes are beginning to fall but still aren't sticking.



Hawthorne is (or was) the site of an Army ammunition plant. I guess that explains its existence way out here in the Nevada desert.