

Earl's Diary - Saturday, December 12, 2015

Greetings to all my faithful readers. Remember yesterday I was telling about the rain falling? Well, it rained most of the night. Sometime in the middle of the night it turned to snow! Yes, that's right! snow!!

There was not a whole lot of snow - just enough to cover the windshield of the trucks and form an ice island in the campground. The trailer tours was scheduled to start at 10:00. I'm sure they must have happened because by then the snow and rain had stopped. I was firmly planted inside my trailer with the heater going!



21' Escape



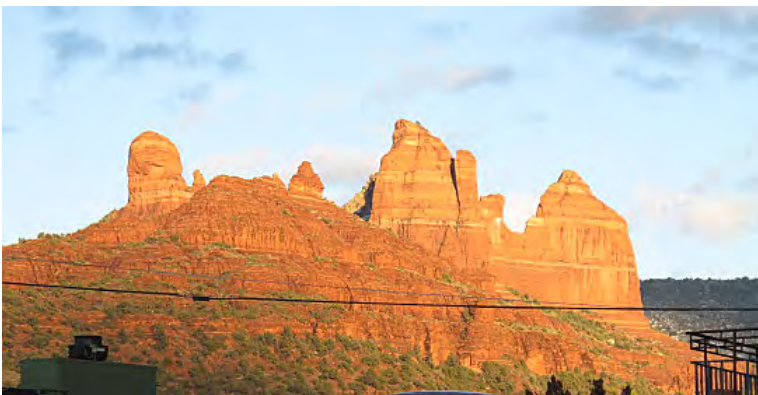
Someone once asked me, "What do you do at these gatherings?" My answer usually is, "Take your chair and stop by a group of people gathered. Visit for awhile, then move the chair to another group." That didn't happen at this gathering. The weather was not conducive to sitting around and visiting. As these pictures demonstrative, standing around with hands in pockets was the form of visiting.



This is an SOB (Some Other Brand)



In the afternoon the sky cleared and the sun shone brightly - although not warmly! Several of our group headed for nearby Tlaquepaque (I encourage you to try and pronounce that word) for the Festival of Lights event. Let me give you a hint on pronunciation - Tla-keh-pah-keh. Does that help?



At 4:30, the late afternoon produced brilliant orange, red, and yellow colors off the nearby cliffs.

You might ask, "What is a Tlaquepaque?" According to their own website, Tlaquepaque is an internationally renowned Arts and Crafts Village. The village is authentically fashioned after a traditional Mexican village with its vine covered walls, cobble-stoned walkways and magnificent arched entryways.

Tlaquepaque was conceived as an artist community. It now has over 40 specialty shops and art galleries that illustrate every type of artistic expression from bronze sculptures, ceramic, blown glass, fine art paintings, weavings, decorative arts, photography, jewelry, clothing of all types. Tlaquepaque, meaning "best of everything, has been a Sedona landmark since the 1970's. Someone mentioned to me that I wouldn't have to have my Impulse Buying Filter engaged because my wallet wouldn't allow me to buy anything anyway!

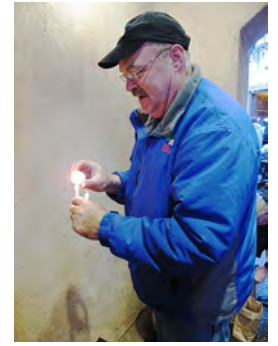
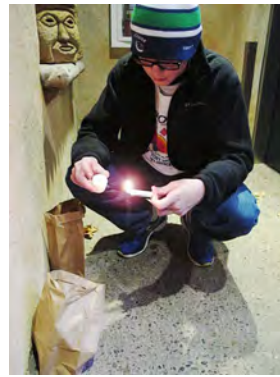


One of the entertainment courtyards featured a kettle drum musician. He helped understand how the drums are still handmade and how they are tuned. Yes, they are tuned to sound like music and not a pile of tin cans!



As darkness approached, the crowd swelled (in my estimation) to 2000 or 3,000 people. All were well bundled up and partaking of the free hot apple cider dispensed from booths placed around the center. It was then that I noticed those attending were beginning to light the 6000 luminaries located everywhere. Yes, that's right, 6000 luminaries. No wonder they needed the help of everyone in attendance!

Someone mentioned (some time ago) that I never appear in any of my pictures. Now they cannot say that is true!



OK folks, just to prove that I lit at least one!



A giant cross, made of luminaries, was formed in one of the courtyards.





The large choir from River of Life Church, Phoenix, provided Christmas music for a large enthusiastic audience.



I was traveling with Greg, Janea, Dalton and Kate. With cold hands in pockets and red noses on our faces, we trudged two blocks back to the car and made a bee-line for Picazzo's Pizza.

Everyone else must have had the same idea. The place was very busy and we had to wait 15 minutes for a table. Once we were seated, service was fast and friendly. Our fresh spring green salad was served as we eagerly awaited the serving of our two pizzas. I might add - expensive pizzas, but that's another story.

This day was full of interesting activities. Thank you for coming along with me. - - Earl