

A Solera Story

Who's Emmert? Emmert James Schmidt, a resident of Solera for the last eight years is Jim, as known to most of us and originally from Audubon, Iowa. After earning his degree at Missouri Valley College, he got the job he always planned to have as a district executive with the Boy Scouts of America. Thirty seven years later, he retired, moved to Las Vegas and helped raise money for the National History Museum before “really” retiring.



The visit with Jim in his lair really reinforces the concept of successful retirement. Without interests, retirement might become idleness and thus fails. One is struck by the sheer number of Jim's interests, e.g. knife collecting, rock polishing, J.R.R. Tolkien and of course hiking. The author may have missed a few.

Jim (Always James to his soulmate Maria) is known to all who are early risers and users of the Community Center's fitness center. A proponent of the “use it or lose it” philosophy, it seems to work for him. Being quiet and respectful earns him reciprocal respect.

Jim expresses gratification that much of his family remains nearby. Jake, a Metro PD officer, Matthew, a master electrician and Tracy, a TV executive are not far and the grandchildren (God Bless them!) are near enough to spoil.

Jim's Outlook on Life? Religious in his own private way and committed to his beliefs, his views are his own and his tolerance for those that believe differently is what, as most would agree, makes him a better person.



Speaking of hiking.

When you want to know where to hike, what the trail's like and how to prepare for it, Jim's your go to guy. Whether it's Mt. Charleston or a rope bridge in the Philippines, listen to Jim. As the leader of the Happy Wanderers, Jim's

responsible for a lot of folks that may not have his level of experience.

Jim's seen a few things in his life and sadly has experienced some personal tragedies. Nothing prepares us and no one is ultimately spared but..

Jim is, by his own admission, not a participant in Solera's active social scene, preferring to spend time with family and his hobbies.

He makes his positive mark in a number of ways. Currently serving as Administrator for the Solera Independent Facebook page helps keep his pulse on the happenings in the neighborhood.

As the interview for this piece was winding down, Jim presented the author a polished stone. He called it an “Apache Tear”. It has a history and it's an indicator of things we never stop learning, if we only pay attention.

Thanks to Jim for his time. It's clear that all of us have something to share and we should know that all of us have something to learn.

