

22 May 2009

Greetings. Here I've put together a few highlights of my 2009 trip behind the shredded remains of the Iron Curtain. And what a delightful trip it was. These photos are just of the Karlovy Vary part. If the Muse returns I'll do some highlights of the Prague days too.

One should know, I was a member of Carlsbad's Sister City Committee (now the Carlsbad Sister City Ambassadors). In that capacity I spent the first week of May in the Czech Republic. One of our two sister cities, Karlovy Vary, invited us to send a representative to the 651st opening of their spa season (yes, over six centuries ago it was founded by Charles IV). And this year said delegate was Yours Truly.

Karlovy Vary is situated along a series of hot springs that have the same mineral content as was found in the first well dug here in Carlsbad, CA.



Thus, Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad in German) is our namesake city. They have been a destination for those seeking cures from the mineral waters and mountain air. It is located in the western "mountains" of Bohemia and is now in the Czech Republic.

I paid for my flight to Prague, stayed a few days there before and after my visit to Karlovy Vary where I was their guest during the three-day festival. Such a beautiful city!



This was quite a special visit for me. I was introduced to ambassadors and burgermeisters (German mayors) and notables from the area. They had festive dinners, concerts, parades, breakfasts and lunches to boot.



Karlovy Vary's Lord Mayor accepted my offer of a round of golf at The Crossings when he visits here with his delegation around November. He was thrilled that we both have the same high golf index. I'm the one on the right.

Also among the folks I met was well-known healer, Dr. Milada Sárová, M. D. <http://www.harfa.cz/en/mudr.php>. She treats the Czech president as well as previous Soviet officials before the fall of the Evil Empire. Dr.

Sárová asked if I would be willing to introduce her to the healing community here in Southern Cal?

Sheesh! Me? I told her I was only somewhat familiar with them but would give

it a go. I think she'll be here as part of the Lord Mayor's delegation when



they visit our Carlsbad this fall. The cup I am holding was hand-crafted by her daughter-in-law.

Karlovy Vary cups are designed to be used to drink the thermal well spa waters as one strolls the colonnades; such as we are standing in here. The handle is a ceramic straw that allows you to drink from the coolest portion of the cup, i.e., the bottom. Clever.

The healing of the Czech national soul continues. It has been 20 years since the Velvet Revolution and I saw that their history still lives when I chanced upon this statute of Karl Marx. The next day the graffiti and "blood" had been removed. I suspect that this is a Czech example of "living art". They are not only creative in music. Throughout the country their public art is proudly displayed.

Fond regards,

Tommy, *Lord Representative*

