

Opinion: SnowGlobe 2013 – one local's opinion

By John Spinola

Below is my 2 cents about the SnowGlobe festival that has our town somewhat divided (and for some of us sleep deprived). As someone who lives relatively close to the event and has their life and routine disrupted by it, I just feel the need to vent. I consider myself to be a reasonable person and am well aware that tourists are the lifeblood to this community. I have lived here continuously since 1976.



South Lake Tahoe's SnowGlobe ends at 12:30am New Year's Day. Photo/Lesia Witkowsky

Now on with my rant:

To the people that say – “Just pack up and leave for 3 days”

I say – You are aware that most of us have jobs and or businesses that we need to be at during the week between Christmas and New Years. It is the busiest part of the month for this town and as a local we cannot just pack up and leave during this time. We have commitments to our employers and customers. That might be the only week that we make \$ within the month of December

To the people that say – “Just get some earplugs”

I say – You are aware that earplugs do not stop the boom, boom, boom that the bass creates. Earplugs do nothing to stop my deck from vibrating under my feet or the constant thump, thump, thump that permeates my house during the SnowGlobe event. Should I really be required to wear earplugs in my own house?

To the people that say – “If it’s too loud, you’re too old”

I say – That’s a tired cliché and has been around since the ’50s. It’s got nothing to do with it being too loud. It’s got to do with the event not having a proper venue and that the noise (actually bass level) being disruptive to myself, my family and my dog. I am all for people having a good time and enjoying themselves, but when it invades my house I feel I have a legitimate complaint.

To the people that say – “Quit complaining and get over it”

I say – Dismissive comments like that do nothing to solve the issues that this event present. All this tells me is that you are ignoring me or anyone else who wants to voice an opinion that differs from yours.

To the people that say – “It brings a lot of good to the area”

I say – No. It just brings money to the area – which is a good thing. But I am not sure how much because you have to figure in the extra man hours that are spent on the city side preparing for, policing and cleaning up after this event. It has also divided our locals as to whether it is a good or bad thing. It really doesn’t present the best image of a family-friendly mountain town. And, yes, I know we are a 24-hour town with gaming, drinking and access to illicit.

To the people that say – “We are tourist town and it brings \$ to the area”

I say – Yes, I know this is a tourist town and I know that it brings \$ to the area. Again, it needs a proper venue that isn't disruptive to the people that live here or even the ones that are vacationing here. I have seen vacationers cut their visits short because of it. I live with the fact that tourists overtake our town on all the big holidays and during most of the summer months. I live with them overrunning this town and clogging up the highway, grocery stores and restaurants. I'm OK with this. It's why I am able to live here. But again, when they invade the peace and quiet that is my household, I feel I have a legitimate complaint.

To the city –

City says – “We set up a hotline”

I say – You set up a number that goes to a token recording that does nothing to address concerns or grievances.

Recording states – “We are aware that the noise is louder than last year. The lack of snow is the reason for this.”

I say – Have them turn it down because of the lack of snow.

Recording states – “Some have addressed concerns about fireworks. Fireworks are shot off over the paved/parking areas and fire personnel are on scene.”

I say – Paved parking is covered with buses, vendors and staff parking. There are also islands between all the parking areas that have trees and underbrush. Trees and underbrush also surround the parking areas. There is a reason that we shoot off fireworks over the lake and not in the woods.

City says – “They are taking over the play fields and college.”

I say – They also took over Bijou park and eliminated any access to the gazebos, play areas and dog park.

City says – “They have a curfew.”

I say – They regularly play past their supposed curfew.

I will end this letter by stating once again that I am all for having events here in the area that bring people and money to the area. We do need to offer more than just gaming. We need people to come to South Lake Tahoe and not just Stateline. I am all for SnowGlobe. It just needs a proper venue that isn't disruptive to the populace and the rules imposed by the city need to be enforced.

I'm hopping off my soapbox.

John Spinola is a resident of South Lake Tahoe.