

My Solstice Event Marking System

In my backyard, when I put the pool in, I laid out a very specific orientation of one of the sand-stone “spokes” around the pool. Now keep in mind that the sand-stone is called Arizona Rose. It comes from the four corners area of Arizona, close to Chaco Canyon, where the oldest Solstice Marking System in North America exists. I felt it appropriate that I use the Arizona Rose Sand-stone around the pool out of homage to those ancient observers.



Solar Seasonal Markers

As you can see in the picture the “spoke” I am talking about leads from the maximum curve of the beach area of the pool and aligns more or less with the direction of the yard. The length of the “spoke” is the width of the pool patio. But perhaps you don’t know that the alignment is more specifically laid out along the Solar North/South axis, at the point in time of the Solar Maximum for what-ever day it happens to be. There are 4 “Key” days for observation; the **Summer** and **Winter** Solstice, and the two **Spring** and **Fall** Equinoxes.



(Also note that my Mother passed away on December 21st 2018 – the Winter Solstice.)

Summer Solstice



Spring and Fall Equinox



Winter Solstice



If I (or anyone 6' 4" tall) stands with the heels of their feet at the edge of the pool, @ Solar Noon, a shadow is cast. If this is done on the four Key days, the shadow line marking the top of the person, will fall marking one of the three concrete seams of the “spoke”. Note that Spring and Fall Equinoxes fall in the same spot, hence that piece of Arizona Rose sand-stone is arrow shaped pointing to the east, the shadow having progressed throughout the morning from the west. Note also that the Winter Solstice (the end/beginning of the solar year) falls at the end of the pool deck. The width of the pool deck only has to accommodate lounging in the sunlight of the day, year-round. It’s called deck design.