

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

President's Message

The last twelve months have been an awful time for our families, our institutions, and our businesses. However, I think we have good reason to believe that this pandemic is coming to an end. I don't want to play down the need to be cautious. However, given the decline in the number of new cases, it looks like we may be back to normal before year's end.

The proof that things are improving is in the numbers. I did a little number crunching to improve my understanding of where we may be headed with regard to the pandemic. I found that since January 1, 2021 the number of new cases and the numbers of deaths have dropped dramatically.

For example, on April 19, 2021, twenty four States reported zero deaths and twenty six States reported under 50 deaths. In addition, thirty seven States reported that the number of new cases had dropped to fewer than 1000 and ten of those States reported fewer than 100 new cases. Only the State of Michigan reported an increase in the number of new cases for April 19, 2021.

So the numbers indicate that fewer Americans are getting sick or seriously ill and fewer are dying due to Covid-19 infection. The numbers seem to indicate that the vaccinations are working and the nation is approaching herd immunity.

I am optimistic. I don't think it will be long before we resume normal family life, our institutions serve the public in a normal way, and our businesses fully reopen.

See you at the May Zoom meeting on Thursday May 13

Barry Kinney

Virtual Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Barry Kinney. We had seven Zoomers attending.

It was with great sadness that John Bettencourt reported the passing of his wife from Parkinson's Disease in March.

John is now caring for her very cute dog, Bernie. John also reported that he joined the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. He said they do a car show and maybe he will be in the market for another car.

Barry reported that the next Pandemic Luncheon will be Friday April 23rd at Saint James Gate in Belmont. Barry will send out more information and details later.

Walter reported that St. Ann's Home, where Bob Farina lives, is still on lockdown.

The group discussed COVID-19 and if anyone knew someone who had caught it.

The group then discussed restaurants in San Francisco that have reopened and have nice outdoor seating. Then they talked about some of the neighborhoods they live in. Barry and Ralph had movies filmed in their neighborhood. The TV show **The Streets of San Francisco** was filmed near Ralph's house. Barry said the area where his office is was real fussy about what businesses could operate there. He had to prove he was opening a dental office and not a strip club, thrift store, or a bar when he began and set up his dental practice. Barry also talked about doing dentistry for veterinary hospitals. He has done dental work on dogs and an ape.

There wasn't much more discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Respectfully submitted,

Joan Peterson, Secretary

Pandemic Lunch at Saint James Gate

It was a pleasure to see so many (thirteen) club members come out for lunch at "The Gate." It has been a long year of sequestration and isolation. We stayed home out of fear of getting sick or passing the disease on to an elderly family member. Only recently, with the creation of effective vaccines, have we dared to venture out of our homes to work or to visit friends and relatives.

The protection afforded by the vaccination has given us a shared sense of relief and a desire to begin living normally. With the possible exception of one person, everyone who came to lunch on Friday April 23 at St. James Gate had been fully vaccinated. The result: We sat relatively close together and although the restaurant required masks, few of us wore them during or after lunch. We were certainly closer and more relaxed than we were for our first Pandemic Picnic in Golden Gate Park.

We have become so sensitized and fearful that, vaccination or not, it will take time for most of us to feel comfortable around strangers or people who are suffering from something as common as a cold or hay fever. Certainly, we are not completely out of this pandemic. We are reminded daily to wear a mask and to wash our hands. The fear is now ingrained in all of us and will stay with us long after this pandemic ends.

I want to thank Joan Peterson and Cynthia Torres for finding/suggesting we lunch at St. James Gate. It was a comfortable place and we had it all to ourselves. Thanks also to Walter Caplan for getting the message/invitation out to everyone.

If you have an idea for our next outing please let me know. We are looking for an open and interesting place with good food, reasonable pricing, space for a group, as well as ample parking. I hear there are some good places in Alameda?

Barry Kinney



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Dan Sullivan	May 6
Victoria Amber Martinez	May 10
Maria Rosario Young	May 14
Jean Kling	May 19
Maria Victoria Young	May 19