

BADGER MARBLE CLUB

March 21, 2021

Show Update

Yes, believe it or not we have our dates for the show 'penciled in', but no guarantee that it will happen until we get closer. There have been a few shows that could be successful. Bill has attended and with a little juggling of the schedule, it can happen. We will not have the 'ball room', at least not now, but we will be working with the hotel to adjust the schedule and work out the safety guidelines....e.g. covid proof as much as possible. The usual guidelines will prevail. The dates are October 7, 8, 9, 10. Pencil in your calendar. We are confident of the possibility and flyers have been printed. That's a good sign!

We might even have a 'meeting', open air in one of our parks...masks and distancing of course. Looking at August. We will be following all the local guidelines for both Waunakee and Dane County. The good news is that the virus won't harm your marbles. If you can make it be sure to bring one or more of your covid stories.

Nona and I are in Hawaii and this state is tough. We missed our window when we landed and were told to quarantine for 10 days. Lucky we had a place to stay, but the rules are 'tough'. We weren't allowed to leave for any reason and we had our groceries delivered by a cousin and my son. Today (Feb 2) was our last day. I've included our story if you need an interesting read. Wasn't fun, but so much of the world is a mess....we feel lucky.

NOT a Marble Story!

After getting our Covid test in Madison we were at ease knowing we would be enjoying Hawaii as in past years. We were packed and ready to go. We got tested on Wed (20th) and received our Covid (and QRcode) test results on Thursday p.m. I regress....we went a few days earlier to ask when we should take our test to assure we'd be in the 72 hr window. The pharm, and we shared some logic that assured us that we would have our results to board our plane. We (the pharm and I) got lost in the confusion and I never reasoned how it guaranteed that we would be inside our 72 hr window.

We left Madison at 8 am on Sunday am and were not asked for a QR code. We knew (wrongly) we were probably going to show the code when we boarded in MPLS. We had our QR codes ready to display with our PDF hard copies. The few passengers boarding the plane were not asked to scan the code. We were sure we needed the docs to board. They just waved us through. In MSP our nonstop flight to Honolulu, which seated 400 passengers had less than 100. We were in the comfort seats and the whole section was ours. We were told to sit anywhere we liked. A great start to the grueling 9-1/2 hr flight.

We landed 30 min early, collected our baggage, and were able have a quick exit off the plane. As we exited we noticed other planes had also arrived. The other planes must have been scheduled to arrive so they could handle all the arrivals at one time e.g., not throughout the day. Made sense to me. I dread long lines but we adjusted our attitude and got in line. It was one of those 'weaving' lines several hundred bodies long. We got to a door and paused while the greeter told us to go to the paddle waving receptionist, number 13. There were 30 or 40 of the same tables scattered about a large area. Airport officials and local police provided security. We had our phones out and our paperwork ready expecting, maybe, a 5 or 10 minute delay. No problem.

We placed our phones and docs on the table to make it easy for examination. She looked down, read our hard copy...which showed our test and date we received our results, then dropped her head to look down at three large numbers displayed on her desk.... 21, 22, 23....our arrival was 24. We stood silently while she explained our violation (we were outside the 72 hr window) and proceeded politely tell us we had to quarantine for 10 days.... No Exceptions! I ask to see a supervisor. He showed up and without looking up he repeated our consequences. We began to 'steam' a little, but I understood, rules are rules. They ask where we were staying, then ask for my phone number. She called me and my phone laying in front of us rang. She now possessed my phone number as I saw on the phone she held. I had a thought that we could be tracked if deemed necessary, (although that did not happened during our quarantine). Lucky us, we had a private apartment at a friend's house. My son and our grandchildren were waiting to meet us. We have another vehicle which we use while here. We loaded up and proceeded to our confinement quarters for the next 10 days.

Additional details, just for a laugh. We are confined...and not allowed to leave for any reason, including a visit to the mother who is in hospice care. We receive an email every morning and required to reply stating we have not left our room and are still at our address. If we don't respond within an hour or so we receive another mail with a P.S.... reminder of the fine and the 1 year in prison. After several letters that I wrote to request for a medical (or otherwise) exception, we were denied. Lucky, we had my son and a cousin to deliver groceries. We are doing fine, but we walked in the driveway to get some exercise, knowing we could be fined \$5000 and have room and board for 1 year at Halava prison. Violate and you're gone.

Several tidbits of the quarantine

1. We had almost no wifi. Comes and goes. Compare to good piece of string and two cans. I purchased a WiFi repeater to increase the signal. Worked sometime. Of course we left our digs soon after our quarantine was over. Much better....updated iPhone to unlimited data and used "personal hotspot.

2. *We had sore butts from sitting around. We've read and wrote a lot. I stood to read and write for the final days of our sentence.*

3. *Keep in mind.....Hawaii is number one in combating the virus. Now I know why!*

4. *We miss winter and the snow....LOL.*

5. *We have to turn the air conditioner off at night or cover with blankets. Which would you do?*

6. *Recent News report: "A Gainesville, Fla., couple was arrested at a Waikiki hotel Friday morning for violating the state's mandatory quarantine rules. Special agents from the Department of the Attorney General arrested Andrew J. Edmonson, 43, and his wife, Gabriela Girao Edmonson, 34. The couple checked in with reservations at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, and the hotel staff, who had been informed of their required quarantine, were told they would be issued a one-time entrance key and could not leave their room until their quarantine was over, per the Department of the Attorney General. The couple got angry and told the staff they were not prisoners, and asked how they were supposed to eat and left the hotel. Hotel management informed the Investigations Division. Special Agents were able to get information on the whereabouts of the couple, and were sent to locate them. (Phone track maybe?). They found the couple in the morning at another hotel and arrested them for violating quarantine. Bail was set at \$2,000 each. They were booked and charged."*

Presently, we are living with my son and family and making visits every day or two to Nona's mother, now with a visiting hospice nurse. She is living in a care home with two other ladies in their late 90's. Nona's mother is 97 and wishing only to go home which is impossible. We have extended our stay for at least a month pending any decline in her health. We will probably return to WI, if only for a short time before we will need to return to HI. It's a challenging time, but we do what we have to do as we have done for 55 yrs.

Since our 10 day quarantine we've been living the normal life we always have since we've been coming for many years. Don't miss the snow and cold. Luckily, we've had an adequate place to live and will be moving in with son Scott and his family in another week or so. Had our 1st vaccine shot yesterday (10th) and will have 2nd on March 10. No reaction's for me and Nona has a sore arm. Nothing else. I guess the 2nd shot has a bit more bite, but where we are living now....with Mike Kennedy and Melanie, a nurse....she's had her 2nd and very little reaction. We had the Moderna vaccine. We were able to get ours as 'snowbirds'; we're here more than two months. Tourists are not eligible. Hawaii has it right....saw that it has very low rate of infection..... best in country.

With that in mind.....

Planning to continue planning for a BMC meeting possibly late August/Early September to do what we have to do to have our 'show', albeit, modified to the needs of Howard Johnson and consideration for those who plan to attend. Bill has been going to a few shows and has observed things that work and what didn't work for other shows. We hope there is still plenty of enthusiasm for what we have done for over 20 years.....host a quality show for those who enjoy marbles and marble collecting. So.....keep us penciled in for October 7,8, and 9.