



GETTING TO KNOW MARK PIGHIN ONE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Hi, my name is Mark Pighin. I am 63 years old and live in Martinez. My nephew Josh and his dog Blue live with me. I am a counselor for the California State Department of Rehabilitation, where I have worked for the past 20 years. I specialize in helping blind and visually impaired persons live independently, and assist them in finding the jobs of their choice. Before that I worked for the Internal Revenue Service where I answered tax questions over the phone. My very first job was as one of the very first blind telephone operators for American Telephone and Telegraph Company before they split up. That job was made possible by a very forward thinking management team consisting of Bill Truesdell who as most of you know is a member of the Diablo As. Thirty-five years later I unexpectedly ran in to Bill when I joined a volunteer equal employment watch dog group for Contra Costa County. Bill sponsored me to join the Diablo A's club.

I have a 1928 sport coupe that I have had since I was 16 years of age. As a blind kid in the late sixties, I had many friends at school who always worked on their cars. My dad got me the Ford so I could tinker with it like my sighted school mates. Some of them got involved working on it, and along with ham radio, it kept me busy. The car sat for close to 40 years until recently when my nephew Josh came to live with me and got it running again. With his assistance and the fantastic help of many of the very helpful people in the club I hope to continue working on putting it back to its old self in a respectable condition, as that has always been a dream and goal of mine.