

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April 2011

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K6KPH on the air Saturday 30 April

K6KPH, the amateur station of the Maritime Radio Historical Society, will be on the air for this year's International Marconi Day on Saturday 30 April.

K6KPH will use the transmitters of ex-Marconi, ex-RCA coast station KPH at the 1913 Marconi site in Bolinas, California. Operators will be at the 1929 ex-RCA receive site at Point Reyes, California.

Several volunteer operators, will be manning the K6KPH operating positions. Among these will be ace operator Rick Wahl, ex-NMC, ex-KPH. Hours of operation:

1700 - 2359GMT

Frequencies: 3550.0 7050.0
14050.0 21050.0

Transmitters will be Henry commercial HF5000D units except for 7050.0 which will be using a 1950s vintage RCA transmitter. TPO for all transmitters will be 1.5kW.

Visitors are welcome. The receive site is located at 17400 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Inverness, California (the station is actually well past Inverness but that's the town name that works with most on-line mapping programs).

Coast station KSM will also be on the air with the usual press and weather service on all Morse and RTTY frequencies.

For details on IMD see:

<http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/>

For details on K6KPH and KSM see:

<http://www.radiomarine.org>
VY 73, RD >>>>>>>>>>

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET COMES TO AN END.

Friends-

We regret to inform you that after nearly two decades of monthly Sunday morning amateur radio and electronics swap meets, the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) is pulling the plug and canceling all future swap meets effective immediately. There will NOT be a May swap and all swaps for the foreseeable future have been canceled. We greatly appreciate your support over the years, it has been a fun ride while it lasted. LARK would especially like to thank all those who volunteered and rose at the crack of dawn on Sunday mornings to get the swap meet up and running to provide this fun and rewarding event for the amateur radio community at large. The swap will be missed.

LARK is looking at the possibility of a bi-annual event that may look more like a Hamfest including a swap meet. For that reason we are keeping the Yahoo swap list alive and we hope that you will keep your subscription active. Stay tuned as we work out those details.

73 from the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK)

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Richard Dillman
Chief Operator, Coast Station KSM
Maritime Radio Historical Society
<http://www.radiomarine.org>
=====

Board of Director's Meeting Thursday, April 14, 2011

Members present: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, Augie Koehler KØCQL, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW and Matt Schallock K6OHD. Phil Dunlap K6PHD was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs by President WA6UDS.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report presented with no comments. Doug will make deposits as necessary in Dave's absence, and will also have his signature approved for check signing.

Committee reports:

Membership- Phil K6PHD reported that the roster is in the process of being updated. Later renewals will not make the 2011 roster.

Recreation- Marilyn N6VAW contacted Calif. State Parks and found she cannot make reservations for Redwood Grove at Samuel P. Taylor State Park at this time. With the uncertainty of Park closures and construction on the adjacent bridge, our alternative is to call the Park Ranger 2 weeks ahead and have him section off several tables for our use on the opposite side of the creek. It was also noted that John Collins KE6DDA had offered the use of his place. Marilyn will ask him if we could take him up on his offer as a backup plan. Public Service – Bridge to Bridge is staffed; need more operators for the end of the month Relay.

Technical Committee – Doug KF6AKU has the part/s for the Barnabe input in the back of his truck and is working Next page, column 1.

to arrange a trip to the site. Probably will happen on Monday. Also, he will get the former Tiburon input link returned to that location from its temp site in Berkeley now that the Tiburon site is complete.

Comm Truck – Doug reported that he is waiting for a call back regarding the generator repair.

RACES – Discussion among the group on the hierarchy & infrastructure of RACES. Matt suggested a table with RACES handouts at Field Day.

Building Manager – Matt K6OHD reported that the new front door was installed in the apartment. Thanks to Randy and Stanton. He also reported that he should be able to get estimates on the kitchen floor from \$1,800 to \$2,000.

It was moved and seconded that Matt should go ahead with the job for an estimate under \$2,000.

Field Day Committee – Matt and Rich are meeting with the REDXA Field Day Committee members on May 19th. Doug indicated he would also attend.

Old Business:

The prescriptive easement sign – Matt and Doug will pursue posting the sign

Personal property – Removal from the store room is in progress.

Web Hosting – Matt announced that the FaceBook account is up. Log on and "Like." Domain is up for renewal; webhosting is paid for. Matt volunteered to update our current website and will pursue that.

Tree Letter – It was noted that our neighbor removed half of the trees overhanging our roof, but the remaining branches are jeopardizing the deck with leaves clogging the drains, which back up. Matt is going to talk to the neighbor about further removal. Postponement of a letter until Matt speaks to him. There is a possibility of rainwater from a downspout getting into the radio room. (note added by Rich via Marilyn)

Apartment Rent Increase - The motion to increase the rent was determined to be non-actionable as passed. The subject will be revisited at the May Board of Director's Meeting.

Garbage Collection – Doug will make a call inquiring if we can get a 2nd can just for special events.

New Business:

New digital repeater pairs – Doug spoke to the issue of the D-Star System. The 2 Meter Band Plan Modification Proposal would leave only 13 Simplex Frequencies by default. This proposal would have an impact on RACES. Marilyn noted that the RACES leadership team had discussed the topic under the Digital Backbone component of RACES upcoming planning.

Go to this website for details of the proposals on the table.

<http://narcc.org/>

Doug noted that of interest was the fact that the Spectrum Coordinating Committee is composed of those who already own repeater pairs. Doug will attend the May 7th meeting regarding this issue. It was decided that our club does not need to take a stand on this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW

Temporary Minutes Appointee.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporate Office.

The exception proves the rule? Not bloody likely. Quite the opposite, it disproves the rule unless prove is used in its old fashioned meaning to test. Think 'proving ground' for cars. As Sherlock Holmes said to Dr. Watson, "I never make exceptions. An exception disproves the rule." From *The Sign of Four*.

General Membership Meeting

April 01, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs by President Curtis Ardourel. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the March 2011 general membership meeting were approved as published in QSA-5.

President Curtis WA6UDS reported on actions at the March Board of Director's Meeting. There were no substantive actions to report.

The Treasurer's report showed \$2,160.00 income and \$5,872.88 expenses.

The recreation committee will make the reservation for the picnic as soon as State Parks will accept it.

Randy Jenkins and Michael Fischer reported on the 2011 public service schedule. Ridge to Bridge, The Relay and the Miwok 100 were next. We will have more information on Waves to Wine.

Education: Randy KA6BQF reported that a Technician class had concluded. A general class may be planned for the fall. Randy reported that a VE session was held on Saturday, March 19.

Races: Jerry WA6BXV reported on the Novato evacuation drill.

Building: Rich Carbine reported that there had been no additional leaks. Matt is doing a good job.

Field Day: Rich reported that a RTTY station was planned.

Old business:

The status of personal property removal from the store room was questioned.

New business:

President Curtis reported on being contacted by a commercial real estate agent about the building.

Randy Jenkins reported on a donation of chairs to the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:48 hrs.

The program was a video on digital voice communication modes.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary. The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's records.

Here is the 2011 Public Service Schedule:

MARS Sponsored Events

Sat. April 30 Ridge to Bridge 5AM to 7PM 7 Volunteers needed

Sat. May 07 Miwok 100K 5AM to 11PM 12 Volunteers needed

Sun. June 12 The Dipsea Race 7AM to 1PM 15 Volunteers needed

Sat. June 25 Double Dipsea 8AM to 4PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sat. August 6 Marin Double Century 5AM to 11PM 25 Volunteers needed

Sat. August 20 Holstein 100 7AM to 7PM 20 Volunteers needed

Sat. September 17 ZBC Dipsea Lite 9AM to 12PM 6 Volunteers needed

Sat. September 17 MS Waves to Wine 7AM to 8PM 15 Volunteers needed **

Sat. October Escape from Alcatraz 9AM to 5PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sun. October 2 BCF Peak Hike 8AM to 5PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sat. 21 May Davis Double Century

Contact Michael, K6MLF or Randy, KA6BQF

**** Tentative**

Other Events:

Sat April 30 to Sun May 1 The Relay 3PM to 6AM 10 Volunteers needed Marin Contact Gary, KG6JHS or Jerry, WA6BXV

**Sun May 1 Grizzly Peak Century 6AM to 7PM 20 Volunteers needed East Bay
Contact Randy KA6BQF**

**Sat May 14 Davis Double Century 4AM to 12AM 35 Volunteers Central Valley Contact Dave,
KC6YFG**

Sun. September 18 Waves to Wine (Day 2) 15 Volunteers needed Sonoma County

Contact: Sonoma Coordinator TBD

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510 526.4089

Secretary, East Bay Amateur Radio Club www.eastbayarc.org

Secretary, VE Liaison & Public Service Co-Coordinator, Marin Amateur Radio Society, www.w6sg.net

PO Box 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

Join the Elderfahrten Net Mondays and Thursdays at 0800 on 3892kc

Sunday morning check-ins are held at 10:00 on 3915kc for all HFers and at 10:15 on the 147.330 repeater for all VHFers. Those members who are suffering from hangovers, are out of town or have a better thing or two to do on Sunday mornings are excused.

The clubhouse furnace used to fire up at 0700 on Sundays as required until, we suspect, some clown played with the thermostat. However, temporarily, the furnace is turned on manually at about 0800 on Sundays so if you show up, you won't freeze your ass off. Take a chance. Come on down 0800 to 1100 +/-.

I met a fairy today that said she would grant me one wish.

"I want to live forever," I said.

"Sorry," said the fairy, "I'm not allowed to grant wishes like that!"

"Fine," I said, "then I want to die after Congress gets their heads out of their asses!"

"You crafty bastard," said the fairy.

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<p>Wherefore does not mean 'where'. It means 'why' as any student of Shakespeare will tell you. Juliet is not looking for Romeo in the famous balcony scene. She's asking why it must be that he has to be a Montague, the family which is a bitter enemy of her family, the Capulets.</p>	<p>UK CLASSIFIED ADS</p> <p>You have to appreciate British humor! These "adverts" were actually placed in a U.K. newspaper:</p> <p>FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER. 8 years old. Hateful little bastard. Bites!.</p>	<p>Ever hear gun shots "ring out"? Neither have we.</p> <p>A man sitting at home on the verandah with his wife and he says, "I love you." She asks, "Is that you or the beer talking?" He replies, "It's me..... talking to the beer."</p>
<p>Mrs. O'Leary's cow could not have started the Chicago fire. She had earlier milked the cow and was in bed when the fire started. A reported, Michael Ahern, admitted he made up the story to add color to his account of the fire.</p>	<p>FREE PUPPIES. 1/2 Cocker Spaniel. 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.</p> <p>FREE PUPPIES. Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd. Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.</p>	<p>Eat healthy food? Not likely. Except for a few possible exceptions—oysters, goldfish?, etc.—our food is dead.</p>
<p>Greta Garbo didn't say, "I want to be alone." What she said was, "I want to be let alone."</p>	<p>COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED Also 1 GAY bull for sale.</p>	<p>Lemmings don't intentionally commit suicide by drowning but they do cross bodies of water in their migrations.</p>
<p>Robert Fulton didn't invent the steam boat. Twenty years prior to Fulton's boat being in operation, John Fitch's boat was operating on the Delaware River carrying both freight and passengers between Philadelphia and Trenton. And Fulton's boat was never registered or referred to by the name Clermont until two years after his death in a biography "The Life of Robert Fulton." Nobody knows why the author chose to call the boat by a name it never had. Even the Encyclopaedia Britannica printed the error. Popular Error Survives in the Face of Plain Evidence to the Contrary.</p>	<p>JOINING NUDIST COLONY! Must sell washer and dryer £100.</p> <p>WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE Worn once by mistake.. Call Stephanie.</p> <p>FOR SALE BY OWNER. Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.</p> <p>And by the way: Statement of the Century:</p>	<p>The Medal of Honor is one of two military neck order awards issued by the United States and is the sole neck order awarded to members of our armed forces. As the award citation includes the phrase "in the name of Congress", it is sometimes erroneously called the <i>Congressional</i> Medal of Honor; however, the official title is simply the Medal of Honor.</p>
<p>The earth is not round, north to south, but bulges at the equator making sea level some 14 miles further from the center of the earth. Therefore Everest is not the highest mountain as measured from the center of the earth. Chimborazo, in the Ecuadorian Andes is higher.</p>	<p>From the Greatest Living Scottish Thinker, Billy Connolly: "If women are so bloody perfect at multi-tasking, how come they can't have a headache and sex at the same time?"</p> <p>Ostriches do not bury their heads in the sand.</p>	<p>This was found under "Fun Things to Do."</p> <p>When leaving the Zoo, start running toward the parking lot, yelling 'Run For Your Lives! They're Loose!'</p> <p>If you can, follow this up with a small group doing the same. Some tattered clothing and fake blood would be a nice touch.</p>

THE WAYBACK MACHINE -- ISSUE #2
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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Monday, April 15, 1912, 12:30 AM. "The Wayback Machine" is over the North Atlantic, at 41 degrees 46' North, and 50 degrees 14' West. Down below is a majestic ship, the largest and most luxurious ship in the world, on its maiden voyage. In the wireless room is a 5 kW Marconi station, and before it sit two tired operators, who make \$20 per month, not as employees of the shipping line, but rather as employees of the Marconi Company. The "in" basket is still full of messages, everything from personal telegrams to stock market quotations. They are so busy working Cape Race, Newfoundland, that they didn't even notice the slight grinding jar 30 minutes earlier. As the two wireless operators, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride, passed the routine traffic, the Captain came in, said the ship had struck an iceberg, and told them to send a distress call at once. The blue spark jumped across the gap as Phillips sent "CQD" (come quick danger). "Send S.O.S." Bride said, "It's the new call and it may be your last chance to send it".

Thus began the moment in history that changed radio. Two hours later, Jack Phillips and over 1500 others were dead, the "Titanic" lay at the bottom of the ocean, and 713 survivors huddled in half filled lifeboats waiting to be rescued. The tragic errors in the story of the "Titanic" pointed out the need for wireless regulation.

The first ship to answer the distress call was the German Liner, the "Frankfurt". While the "Frankfurt" wireless operator was informing his captain, the "Carpathia" and Cape Race chimed in. When the "Frankfurt" operator came back to get more information, Phillips tapped back "SHUT UP, SHUT UP, YOU FOOL. STAND BY AND KEEP OUT". While this would seem bizarre by our standards, it made perfect sense to the operators of 1912. The "Titanic", "Carpathia", and Cape Race were equipped with Marconi

operators and stations, while the "Frankfurt" utilized the services of Marconi's German competitor, Telefunken. This commercial war was extended down to the individual operators. No routine traffic would EVER pass from a Marconi station to a rival, and, even in an emergency, if Marconi stations were available, the others would be shut out.

The wireless controversy would continue after the "Carpathia" picked up the survivors. A wireless message was received, allegedly from the "Carpathia", which said "ALL PASSENGERS OF LINER "TITANIC" SAFELY TRANSFERRED TO THIS SHIP AND "S.S. PARISIAN". SEA CALM. "TITANIC" BEING TOWED BY ALLEN LINER "VIRGINIAN" TO PORT". Other wireless messages appeared, also stating that ALL passengers were safe, and the ship was being towed in. There was just one problem--these messages were not coming from the "Carpathia". For one thing, her wireless had a maximum range of 150 miles. For another, the "Carpathia" wireless operator had made only a few transmissions to the "Olympic" (sister ship of the "Titanic" and another Marconi operation), in which he tapped out the list of survivors, some coded messages from Bruce Ismay, President of White Star Lines, then shut down his station. So complete was the radio silence from the "Carpathia", that they refused to answer the calls from Navy cruisers sent to the scene by President Taft.

The White Star Line, owners of the "Titanic", were still insisting that everyone was safe and the ship had not sunk. But even as they made these claims, they had all the horrific details from the "Olympic". And so would the rest of the world, thanks to a 21 year old operator named David Sarnoff, who managed to detect the faint signals of the "Olympic", and broke the story. Faced with the truth, and hounded by thousands of reporters and outraged relatives of passengers, the White Star Liner officials finally broke down and revealed all.

Meanwhile, the 'Carpathia' steamed

toward New York City. When she passed within range of shore stations, there were "frenzied attempts by amateur wireless operators which formed a hissing mixture from which scarcely a complete sentence was intelligible". It didn't matter, because the radio silence continued.

At the Port of New York, the "Carpathia" was met by Senator William A. Smith of Michigan, a no-nonsense Populist who was the Chairman of the committee investigating the shipwreck. He immediately slapped subpoenas on everyone possible, including Harold Bride and Harold Cottam, wireless operator on the "Carpathia". Marconi himself, who was in the U.S. at the time, (and had planned on taking the "Titanic" back to England), was also summoned to appear.

The hearings revealed the information given above, plus the disturbing fact that the "Californian" was just 10 miles from the "Titanic". Not only did the "Californian" not have a full time wireless operation, but the ship's captain ignored the eight distress rockets sent up by the "Titanic". As to the origin of the false messages concerning the saving of the ship and passengers, no answer was ever found. However, Senator Smith sarcastically noted that, in the interim, the "Titanic" was quickly reinsured, and stock in the Marconi Company jumped from \$55 to \$225 per share. The Senator DID find out the cause of the "Carpathia" radio silence--it was Marconi himself. He had sent wireless messages to Bride and Cottam stating **"MARCONI COMPANY TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU-KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT-HOLD YOUR STORY-YOU WILL GET BIG MONEY-NOW CLEAR"**. It turned out that Marconi had an agreement with the New York Times for an exclusive story. Thus, essential information for desperate relatives and official inquiries from the President took a back seat to Marconi's interest.

When Marconi got on the stand, Senator Smith pounced on him with astonishing vehemence. Next page, column one.

Marconi had been lionized by the nation, and now the Senator was treating him like any other entrepreneur who put profit above the public. Senator Smith was warned that his attack on a man as popular as Marconi was political suicide, but he didn't care. In his obsession with his belief that the unregulated wireless spectrum was partly to blame in the "Titanic" disaster, he painted Marconi as a man willing to subordinate the public good to his goal of a complete wireless equipment AND spectrum monopoly. Senator Smith used the "Titanic" hearings to condemn the laissez-faire status of the wireless, and appeal for the international regulation of radio.

On May 18, 1912, Senator Smith introduced a bill in the Senate. Among its provisions: 1) ships carrying 50 passengers or more must have a wireless set with a minimum range of 100 miles; 2) wireless sets must have an auxiliary power supply which can operate until the wireless room itself was under water or otherwise destroyed; and 3) two or more operators provide continuous service day and night. In response to the interference generated over the years, and especially when the "Carpathia" was within range, a provision was added that "private stations could not use wavelengths in excess of 200 meters, except by special permission". To avoid "ownership" of the spectrum by the Marconi Company, licenses would be required, issued by the Secretary of Commerce. Each Government, Marine, or Commercial station would be authorized a specific wavelength, power level, and hours of operation.

The initial legislation had considered the elimination of all private, non-commercial (i.e., amateur) stations, but Congress realized that would be difficult and expensive to enforce. Therefore, since it was a "well known fact" that long wavelengths were the best, and anything below 250 meters was useless, except for local communication, it was decided to compromise and give the

amateurs 200 meters, where they could work 25 miles maximum and would die out of their own accord in a few years. How the amateurs coped with 200 meters will be our focus next time. Hope you'll join us then for another trip on "The Wayback Machine."

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A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab.

Then, the still shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the dogsh.....daylights out of me."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle the driver so badly. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault, today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. From hwy 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light a block off the highway. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend and try to keep the clowns honest.

Sunday morning informal meeting, grinningly called the bible/babble class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours +or-. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

The Sunday Emergency nets. Come on down and watch Matt K6OHD do the nets. You could try it yourself, while Matt stands by, and get rid of any mike fright you might have. If at any time you feel a panic attack coming on, Matt will get you thru it.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494 Vice President: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 Secretary: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Treasurer: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Additional Board Members: Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3136 John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419 Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ 459-6163 Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676</p>	<p>Education Chair: Randy? 491-0318 VE Liaison: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Building Co-Managers Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Sunday Emergency Nets: Matt Schallock K6OHD Assistant to the Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p>	<p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET Public Service Event Coordinator Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG Editor of QSA-5 and Procurer of The Bellywash Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET Membership: Phil Dunlap K6PHD</p>
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Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dues structure is: \$25. per year. \$30. for family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Stamp

The Mailing
Address
Goes Here