SSA GENERAL MEETING
Sunday August 6, 2017 • Jaqua Ranch • Noon – 4:00pm

Join us for our annual summer potluck lunch and presentation. We will meet on the shaded patio of the Jaqua Ranch on Langley Road (directions below).

This is a potluck picnic. Please bring an entrée, salad or dessert to share. SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade and soft drinks. All SSA members and Skyline residents are welcome.

Presentation: Meet Our Local Authors

Joe Cottonwood: author of “San Puerco Trilogy” and much more
Sheri Jansen-Olliges: author of “Timber Barons and Tree Huggers”
Ami Jaqua: illustrator of “My Little Friends’ Alphabet” authored by Rebeka Jaqua Karmitz

Our talented authors and illustrator are all from our Skyline area. They will share some of their work with us while we enjoy a delicious lunch and a bit of socializing with mountain neighbors.

Information about our authors is on page 2.

Directions to Jaqua Ranch: The SSA Meeting will take place at Dick and Ami Jaqua’s ranch on Langley Hill Road. From Highway 84, drive south on Skyline Blvd. 4.5 miles. From Page Mill Rd. drive north on Skyline Blvd. 3 miles. Turn west at Rapley Ranch Road which is across from Thomas Fogarty Winery.

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July 2017 – SSA Membership Report
By Debra Born

OK, So We’re Only 1,660 Strong!

In the April 2017 edition of *Skylines* we reported a total membership of over 1,800. But after evaluating the number of members who paid 2017 dues, our current total membership as of June 11 is actually only 1,660. That still reflects exponential growth, given that in 1995 when the SPUG program began, our roster contained only 200 members. Each year since we’ve added increasingly more members. For example, in 2016 we added 340 new members. This year already another 195 households have joined. Consequently, record keeping and communications with members is keeping our volunteers very busy.

Fortunately, our on-line payment system has been a huge success with approximately 70% of all new and renewing members making on-line payments. But even with this our volunteers log in scores of hours performing record keeping and data entry. To this end, the Board decided in June to solicit paid part-time help to relieve some of the work of our volunteers. Please, if you know anyone who might be interested, pass along the Employment Opportunity notice in this newsletter on page 8. Or if you are willing to volunteer your time and you meet the “Key Competencies” outlined in our notice, please contact membership@southskyline.org.

To further offset the increased workload on volunteers our website developers are working on improvements to our website/online payment system that should reduce volunteer workload. We shall provide a hardcopy notice to all members in early December to remind you to renew, which should reduce the effort to send out lapsed dues notices. And speaking about renewing, we apologize to all of those members who received lapsed dues notices in March but who had already paid. Our automatic payment system experienced technical difficulties and failed to automatically update members’ accounts after they had paid online.

Next year we expect the renewal process to be smoother for all of us and to allow us to focus on activities and programs that will benefit our members. As always, we appreciate your support of SSA.

Meet Our Local Authors at the Next General Meeting

**Joe Cottonwood** has worked in the building trades — carpenter, plumber, electrician — for most of his life. He is the author of novels for adults (*Famous Potatoes, Clear Heart*) and for children (*Quake! The San Puerco Trilogy*), a book of poetry (*Son of a Poet*), several songs and many podcasts. The setting for many of his books is the little town of “San Puerco” which bears a striking resemblance to the town of La Honda. His most recent book is the award-winning memoir *99 Jobs: Blood, Sweat, and Houses*.

**Sheri Jansen-Olliges** - Paul Olliges and I fell in love with an old log cabin in the Middleton community in 1985, and as it always happens in such places, you often wear more than one hat. We commuted to our jobs over the hill for twenty years and now enjoy the retired life, and we have a few more hats in our collection. My story "From Timber Barons to Tree Huggers" was born under one of those hats. One of the neighborhood’s old-timers was talking about old times. One tidbit led to another. I started poking around and found plenty of humor, irony, and drama to share. The rest is history.

**Rebeka Jaqua Karmitz** grew up in the Bay area, spending much of her early years at her grandmother Gerda Isenberg’s native plant nursery. Later when she and Alan Karmitz married in 2001, they lived on Rapley Ranch Road. She is best known for her music. Her children’s albums have been very popular. Rebeka had the idea in 2011 to write an alphabet book for children, “My Little Friends Alphabet” which her mother, **Ami Jaqua**, illustrated. Rebeka now lives in Normandy, and will soon move to Scotland. Ami Jaqua still lives on the land where she grew up. Among the many of her art works, Ami also illustrated a poetry book for Dayton Hyde. Editor’s note -- Ami Jaqua designed and illustrated the banner and logo for the SSA newsletter *Skylines*. 

What is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Michael Rowe, President

First up, an announcement of personnel change: we sadly say "good-bye" to Larry Watson, who has stepped down from active board duty, but remains an active board watcher and helpful neighbor. Larry, we thank you for all your countless hours and hard work on the website modernization project. I'll miss your input and guidance at our monthly board meetings.

The second half of this personnel change involves a warm welcome to our newest board member, Jeff Beaman. Jeff is a Bay Area native, who brings his broad software development and startup management experience to the SSA Board. As an avid trail runner, he has great appreciation and respect for the natural beauty found near Skyline and the Santa Cruz mountains. His interest and hobbies also include home energy efficiency, solar power, electric cars, local crafted goods/building, and architecture. We are happy to include Jeff in our merry band of do-gooders!

CalTrans Updates on Skyline Repairs

On other topics, I had a call with CalTrans last week to get a status update on the Skyline repair project. Moaid Laymoun, a CalTrans engineer on the project, told me that the smaller project at mile marker 9.5 has progressed to the point where they are ready to pave the westbound lane this week (June 19th). CalTrans estimates that there are still 2-3 months of work remaining before the repair is completed. They still need to install a "soil-nail" retaining wall on the hillside above the road. Also, they will be installing a segmented retaining wall on the lower hillside, below the road. Once the lower wall is installed, they can reconstruct the eastbound lane.

For the big Skyline repair at mile marker 10.5, similar to the repair at mile marker 9.5, CalTrans has cut in to the uphill slope in order to permanently realign the road (i.e. put a kink/curve in the road). The uphill slope will also get a soil-nail retaining wall (if you look at the recent repair that was completed on Highway 9, you'll see an example of a soil-nail retaining wall). This repair is on track for completion sometime this fall (previously scheduled for end of September). However, Moaid cautioned that because this is a "fast-track" project, construction and design proceed in parallel and may result in iterative designs that extend the construction time.

Consider Serving on the SSA Board

There are currently 2 positions available on the SSA Board of Directors. If interested contact Michael Rowe at rowe517@gmail.com
Take A Hike: Mount Umunhum  
By Ruth Waldhauer

Experience Mount Umunhum. Mount Umunhum is a spectacular peak in the Santa Cruz mountain range with unique habitats, 360-degree views, an incredible cultural story, and opportunities for rich trail and nature experiences. This special place will be open to the public for the first time thanks to you, local voters, who passed MROSD’s Measure AA in 2014 making this project possible. The official opening will be held on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday September 17, 2017. Reservations for this event are required via an online registration system. Visit [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org) then go to the Grand Opening page.

The prominent mountaintop, located within the 18,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve south of Los Gatos, has remained closed since 1980 when the former Almaden Air Force Station, which was located onsite, was decommissioned. Since the region’s earliest written records, this mountain has been called “Umunhum”, which contains the root word for hummingbird in five different Ohlone languages. Hummingbird brought fire into the world through an act of great courage. Mount Umunnum is often referred to as the resting place of Hummingbird. This great peak has been tended for the last 10,000+ years by the region’s native people who continue to maintain an important spiritual and cultural connection with this mountain. In 1850, it was part of California’s very first mining claim and was inhabited, explored and timbered extensively by settlers. In 1957, the summit was the site of the Almaden Air Force Station (1957-1980), one of dozens of radar stations in California that operated during the Cold War. MROSD purchased the 43-acre summit in 1986. In 2009, MROSD received $3.2 million in federal funds to clean up the site and began a comprehensive public planning process to open the summit.

Mount Umunhum is an island in the sky with a geology and diversity of plants and animals unique to the Santa Cruz Mountains, including rock gardens, rare trees, buzzing hummingbirds, soaring raptors, blooming wildflowers and colorful butterflies.

**SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT**  
By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the agreement, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website: [www.SouthSkyline.org/spug/](http://www.SouthSkyline.org/spug/)

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Kamps, Propane, Suburban Propane, and FerrelGas. The open market price is about $5.00/gallon. Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices SSA posts are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service.

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Don’t Lose Your SPUG Discount. Propane members who have neglected to renew their SSA membership for 2017 will no longer qualify for the SPUG price. To renew go to [southskyline.org/membership/](http://southskyline.org/membership/) and follow instructions to pay online or by check.
Ask not, what your South Skyline community can do for you…
An invitation to those experienced in healthcare
By Rich Lee M.D.

This may be an overused paraphrase of those famous words by JFK, but for anyone with experience, interest or passion in health and health care, it is still a noble question to ask yourself what you can do for your community.

I started asking this when I first moved into the South Skyline community on the day I completed my medical residency training over 25 years ago. Years before that, I was already fortunate to know and be mentored by neighbors like Dr. Bill Fowkes and Dick Schwind on the value of serving the community in times of disaster or medical crises. Dr. Fowkes was one of my most cherished mentors in medical residency, introduced me to the land where I built my home and taught me some of the most precious lessons in helping those at the end of life in my family, my practice and in our community. Bill was also one of the early volunteers with South Skyline Fire and Rescue along with Dick Schwind who was a main force behind South Skyline Fire Safe Council. Dick was also a mentor to me when I first began white water kayaking in 1974. It is the sense of duty and the joy of accomplishment that Bill and Dick inspired in me that I’m hoping to bring to others via this call to join up and join in.

This article is simply an invitation for anyone who has experience in all aspects of health and healthcare to consider sharing their talents with our community in times of need. This list includes doctors, nurses, paramedics, EMTs, pharmacists, psychologists, physical therapists, CERT team members or anyone with a skill or a desire to be useful in an emergency situation and get to know SSEPO. The idea for South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) began with the formation of our first CERT class in the fall of 2001 and we became a formal organization in 2004. Since then, we have been slowly developing resources and relationships to improve our community’s ability to respond quickly and effectively to local disaster situations. Among our efforts, SSEPO is continually seeking those with interests and skills in helping out in both medical emergencies and unmet community health needs. Professional medical training and licenses are helpful, but not necessary. Some of the best ideas and efforts in projects and training sessions have come from accountants, software engineers and construction workers, to name a few.

If you are willing, or even curious, we would like to know what your background and interests are in healthcare or just simply staying healthy. It would also help to know which neighborhood community you are in, what special skills, equipment and supplies you may be willing to bring with you in times of need, and of course, how to contact you. What’s in it for you is a better understanding of how you and your community can work together to help each other. More specifically, you will get to know and work with people you can really count on when things go bad and at the same time become pleasantly aware of how much your particular knowledge and experience are appreciated. Aside from that, you are sure to come away with more useful knowledge, a greater sense of self-sufficiency and the priceless sense of confidence, purpose and satisfaction when you do something unexpected and extraordinary.

Want to know more or do more? Go to the SSEPO webpage: www.SSEPO.org and take a look at who we are and feel free to contact any of us with questions or offers of assistance. If you have not done so, seriously consider going through the CERT training. If you do, you will get to know the wonderful Peggy Wargo who will be part of your training. For all things health or medically related, let me know what you might have to share and how to contact you. Unless otherwise stated, that information will be kept confidential. My best contact is through my email on the SSEPO website: rdlmd@sonic.net. Please include the subject line “South Skyline Health/Medical” so it doesn’t get lost or filtered out. I also encourage you to contact your local neighborhood coordinators and share that information with them. If there is not one listed for your neighborhood, you might consider becoming that person.

Finally, there are no formal obligations to your involvement. We simply want to know who you are and how we might be able to count on you in times of need. Hopefully, you will soon find an answer to the question of what you can do for your community and you will never be the same.
South Skyline Fire & Rescue News
By Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

The last quarter was a stressful time. After the Skyline Blvd. washout on February 10, our next nearest emergency resource for incidents south of the washout was 20+ minutes away. The team made an outstanding effort to be available many more hours than usual. In this difficult time, we had someone available to respond to incidents from Las Cumbres Station nearly 24/7.

In mid-May, as construction on Skyline ramped up, workers completed a temporary road for heavy equipment, with access for emergency services. We have already used it several times, in both directions, and we are happy to have access restored to the northern, busier part of our response area and our anchor Cal Fire station.

Incidents
We had several notable incidents in the last few weeks. In mid-April, an early morning structure fire off Mountain Lion Road stretched our ability to get resources to the scene. The bridge from Mountain Lion to Bear Creek Canyon had washed out in January, so firefighters could only enter from Las Cumbres, and that section of Mountain Lion Road is compromised by storm damage and slides.

There was a vegetation fire in Lost Valley on May 21. Once again, gaining access to this area was difficult due to compromised roads. Copter 106 from Alma dropped 4 loads of water before any fire engines could get to the scene. The fire was held to less than one acre, but it points out the difficulties we are having with access, and that fire season is here, now! You should already be working on your defensible space. And if you see or smell smoke, and it’s not obvious that it’s your neighbor’s BBQ, do not hesitate to call 911.

Events
We will be hosting a recruiting and general information open house at the Las Cumbres fire station on Saturday, July 1, from 10AM to 2PM. If you are new to the community, it’s a perfect opportunity to learn about how emergency services work in the area. If you have thought about joining the team, this is a great time to stop by and talk to us about the program. We will also schedule a recruiting info session for August. Stay tuned.

We Need New Volunteers Now
We need several new volunteer firefighters for 2018. If you have ever thought of joining the fire department, now is the time! Your community needs you. It’s not necessary to wait for one of the open house events — contact us any time via the form on our web site: http://southskylinefire.org/join.php

Adopt-A-Highway
By Jerry Peters

On Monday, April 17th, volunteers Armen Leonian and Jerry Peters met at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter. About 5 minutes later, first-time participant Margaret McNiven arrived, despite having an injured foot. She did a good job cleaning the flat areas. Her vivacious spirit buoyed my attitude because we had some last-minute cancellations from other volunteers. More committed volunteers are needed!

There was no rain while we worked and fortunately the number of cans, bottles and plastic containers was again smaller than usual. We managed to clean the area in about one hour and collected 3 large bags. The area was less littered than usual probably due to the rainy winter weather. Jerry Peters took the photo.

South Skyline Association & Skyline Historical Society volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep normally takes about an hour and a half. So far over 185 names are on the honor roll listing those who have participated. We love getting new recruits. Please volunteer once. You will find it both rewarding and fun. Jerry Peters is the Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway project. Contact Jerry if you wish to volunteer.
JPontheridge@gmail.com
In Rememberance of Marianne Rose

Marianne Rose passed away on June 23, 2017. She is survived by two siblings and daughter Charlette Rose. Marianne was a 50 year resident on Skyline Boulevard.

Earlier this year, Marianne Rose was diagnosed with cancer, and began chemotherapy. The cause of death was a heart attack brought on by chemotherapy.

Janet Schwind writes:

In the 1970s and 1980s there were few people, including Marianne, living in the area between Page Mill Road and Highway 9. Fortunately, we had small children. We depended on each other to care for our children during emergencies, or to transport them back from school. Other times, we would get together just to play.

When we moved to the mountain, our friends around the Bay Area wanted to visit, sometimes with little advanced notice. Marianne and I had an agreement to both keep on hand the makings of a spaghetti dinner, so that we could borrow from each other in time of need.

In 1969 she became involved in the effort to found the South Skyline Association (SSA) in response to nearby very bad logging practices, and the threat of a motorcycle park planned on the land that is now the Portola Heights community. Nita and Bob Schulte with Dick and Janet Schwind organized a meeting to found SSA. It was held at the Bar-Wy Ranch on July 20, 1969. The necessary business had barely concluded when all eyes became glued to a small black and white TV brought to the meeting by Marianne Rose. All watched Neil Armstrong take the “first giant step for mankind” on the moon.

Dick Schwind was elected first president of SSA and Marianne Rose followed him as the second president. Marianne also assisted Janet Schwind with formatting the Skylines newsletter in those early years. In 2015 she returned to the Skylines team as the layout editor, and was still serving at the time of her death on the SSA board of directors.

Phillippa Siersima writes:

I am still deeply in shock and disbelieving. Mare was the closest to a sister I’ve had. We were in some ways quite different but as sisters do love each other in spite of the differences. We shared our families and so much of our adult history.

For those of us close to Marianne her obit would not be complete without a mention of her love for her dogs and donkeys. At the time of her death, it was the first time in her life that she didn’t have a dog. Garth and Heather, German Shepherds in the 1970’s, Greystoke her beloved Great Dane in the 1980’s and many more as the years went by.

Then there was the day when she casually asked, “how would you feel about driving to Susanville?” the east side of the Sierra’s in winter. Donkeys were being rounded up in the desert and Marianne decided to adopt two. We used a trailer owned by Jackie Donovan, loaded up our kids and set off. We fishtailed up and over the Summit before finding out the trailer hitch was faulty. We arrived back on Skyline with two adorable donkeys whom she named Hither and Yonder. A few months later Hither gave birth... and as only Marianne could, she named him Kalulah; he was dark brown and had one heck of a kick.

Marianne was a private person, deeply loyal to those she loved and the community she chose to call home.

Marianne was also a very active volunteer at Garrod Farms with the Mt. Eden Vaulting Club for almost 40 years.

Marianne Rose was a very special Skyline resident, with a strong commitment to our mountain community. She is revered and missed.
Preparing for Rattlesnakes

It’s that time of year again for a neighborly reminder on behalf of guests and residents; as well as utility, emergency and other service workers who come to our homes and property. In other words, it’s rattlesnake season!

By weed-whacking, mowing or otherwise clearing around water spigots, gates, propane tanks, electrical meters, sheds, walking paths, picnic tables, etc., we allow people to see where they are walking and reaching, which can reduce the risk of surprising a snake. A little preventative maintenance goes a long way, as the wisdom says!

Skunkweed on the Trail

By Sarah Schoen

“I smell skunk” is a comment refrain along Skyline trails in late spring and summer. It seems like the hills are alive with skunks! But the next time that happens to you, look down at your feet. You might instead be treading on skunkweed (*Navarretia squarrosa*).

Skunkweed is an annual native forb, growing 4 to 8” high. The stems are spreading, glandular and hairy. Tiny lower leaves are pinnate (branched like feathers) or doubly pinnate. Upper leaves are prickled and lance-shaped. At the ends of the stems are clustered sepals, also spiny. Nestled in these spiny pincushions, are tiny, light pink to deep blue tubular flowers, at most ½ “ long. Inside, stigmas are 3-parted and stamens are attached to the base of tube. The flowers are lovely to look at, if you’re willing to get close, and bloom from June to October. Fruits are tiny oval capsules, containing many seeds.

A member of the Phlox Family, *Polemoniaceae*, skunkweed is found at up to 3300’ from Monterey County north into British Columbia. It prefers wet, open gravelly slopes and flats, including the sides and even centers of trails. So, the next time you smell a remarkably skunk-like (mephitic) odor, look down at your feet. Our black and white friends might

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

South Skyline Association
Membership Assistant

*South Skyline Association* is growing and we need your help!

We are seeking part-time help to manage our membership data. Work hours range from approximately 10 hours per week in December and January to as few as 4 hours per month from April thru November. Work from home and help our community!

Primary Responsibilities:

- Manage membership applications and renewal forms;
- Enter and edit data entries on the SSA website based database;
- Contact applicants/members to clarify or complete required information;
- Work with other Membership Committee members to resolve questions.

Key Competencies:

- Excellent Communication Skills
- Information Collection and Management
- Problem Solving
- Attention to Detail
- Ability to maintain confidentiality

Other requirements include owning a computer with internet connection and a telephone. Experience with database entry or WordPress is desirable, although not a requirement.

Compensation will be dependent upon experience.

Contact membership@southskyline.org
SC4 Amateur Radio Club Welcomes those interested in amateur radio for emergency communications and neighborly talk. License is free. Simple exam: No Morse code. We offer classes. Visit www.sc4arc.org or write: SC4ARC, PO Box 237, La Honda, CA 94020

Free Fire Fitting for those in the South Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area. This 2-1/2 inch fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. Please visit http://southskylinefire.org/ for more information under the “Help us help you” section.

Learning Strategies One-on-one tutoring in your home by qualified educators. K-12, all subject areas including test prep ISEE, HSPT, SSAT & SAT, Contact Learning Strategies, www.creative-learning-strategies.com or email victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com or call 650-747-9651 for a free phone consultation.

Local debris and dirt box services for Coastside and S Skyline. Debris box is 20yds. Contact Rob Skinner, 650-740-0809 cell. Or email: rob.skinner@gmail.com

Pineda Tree Service Inc. A local and reliable business that specializes in crown thinning & cleaning, hazardous tree removal, poison oak removal, and property cleanup, 24/7 emergency. Free estimate Insured and bonded. CSL#991767. Phone: 650-208-2734 Email: pinedatreeserviceinc@gmail.com

Barbara and John Mountain Realtors Residents here for 21 years. We LOVE the mountains...even with all the rain & road closures! John 408-332-4780 Barbara 408-656-8209 With Coldwell Banker You set the pace. We make it easy. john.harriman@cboncal.com barbara.harriman@cboncal.com Check out our testimonials! www.therimanteam.com

The BirdHayes Real Estate Team... Local experts serving the area for over 25 years. Professionals with experience who specialize in local rural properties. Contact us for a consultation to help you prepare your property for sale. Karin Bird and Scott Hayes with Alain-Pinel Realtors 650-851-8100 www.BirdHayes.com

Russian Ridge Winery 919 Washington Street, San Carlos. Award winning wines, many Santa Cruz Mountains varietals. Tasting room opens Fridays 5-9 pm and Saturdays/Sundays 12-5 pm.

Skyline Broadband Service Offering high-speed wireless Internet with speeds up to 50 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area. http://skylinebroadbandservice.com phone: 650-712-5900

When placing an ad: Please limit each ad to 45 words.

Due to many requests, we will attempt to keep a list of ads that will run every issue. However, there is no guarantee that an ad won’t be missed because of our changes in staff. If you want be on the list, make a request to “run until canceled”. It is best to resubmit ads for each issue.

Classified Ads are free to SSA members. Membership is $20 per year. The online SSA membership application is at www.southskyline.org.

Email ads to: skylineseditor@yahoo.com
SSA 2017 CALENDAR

SSA General Meeting- Sunday August 6, 2017 at
Jaqua Ranch • Noon – 4:00pm

Board Meetings will be held on:
August 10
September 14
October 12

For locations and more information contact
Michael Rowe rowe517@gmail.com • 408-872-1775

Current SSA Board Members
Dave Anderson …… Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County…… Website, Public Safety
Kristen Anderson…. Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County…. Treasurer
Jeff Beaman ………. Skylonda
Patti Begley .......... Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County...... Communications, Website Committee
Barbara Bekins.... Highway 35 - Rocky Creek .......... Public Safety/Water, Website Committee
Debra Born ............ Alpine Road.......................... Membership Chair, SSFC
John Harriman....... Las Cumbres ................................ Secretary, Outreach
Joshua Littlefield.... Highway 35 – Rocky Creek........ Vice-President
Maura McNamara.. Waterman Gap.......................... Board Insurance
Jerry Parsons ......... Las Cumbres ............................ SSEPO
Michael Rowe ....... Highway 9 – Santa Cruz County.... President
Ruth Waldhauer….. Portola Heights.......................... Communications, SPUG, Website

Board positions are available. Contact Michael Rowe if interested— rowe517@gmail.com

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