

# MOSQUITO BYTE

**JANUARY 2005, VOLUME 18 #5**

The Editors and Reporters of the *Mosquito Byte* want to wish all our subscribers the Happiest of New Years!

## OUR BELOVED MOSQUITO ROAD

Chief Leo Chaloux

One question that keeps popping up is why are there not more accidents on Mosquito Road? The only response I can come up with and it is not a very intelligent one is, "beats me." Seems with all the cars going up and down the road and the way some people are driving we should be pulling out of the station at least once a day to deal with a vehicle accident. But fortunately that is not the case; in fact we haven't been dispatched for a car accident on Mosquito in several months.

One thing we can almost always count on is the first rainy day of the season. Usually that is when the roads are the most slippery and we kind of hang around the station just waiting for that dispatch to come along. This fall at the first rain we did not have one accident. Now there were signs of them all over the place, like skid marks going over the edge, brush bent over around some curves, mud kicked up and the occasional bark knocked off a tree. But fortunately again there was not one vehicle into another one that needed a 911 response.

Usually we get a few dispatches around three in the morning and lately we haven't even had one of those. Those calls are almost always a drunk driver coming home after the bars shut down who just can't seem to negotiate the road. What normally happens with those clowns is they manage to make it down the road from Placerville, across the swinging bridge after whacking the side of it a couple of times and then the great part of it is as they come up the first real sharp switchback they just kind of keep on turning their steering wheels until they simply turn all the way off the road ending up on their roofs down below. At that point they simply can't get out of their vehicles as they are upside down and cannot figure out how to get out of their seat belts with out thumping their heads on the roof so they end up getting popped by the CHP. I call that first curve the "drunk trap." Not like some of the other drunks now days that wreck their cars and simply walk away. On more than one occasion as I am responding to the accident I will see someone staggering up the road

and I know it is a drunk driver trying to avoid a drunk driving charge by walking away. When I stop and ask them what is going on they almost always tell me they didn't do it, their best buddy who was driving the car and wrecked it. When you ask them where their best buddy is they say, "don't know man, I was too drunk to know where he went." That is when I ask the CHP to tow the vehicle out with malice and impound it somewhere like Davis or Lodi.

Another question that I get asked a lot is, "do you know who drives such and such a car because it almost ran me off the road." Even though I will hear the same car being described over and over and I know who it is I will not tell that to anyone. No need to fan the flames of hatred and have neighbors trying to gut shoot each other. Although there are some people out there who are simply out of control when it comes to driving Mosquito Road and deserve to be gut shot. I don't know what it is with those who aggressively drive the road as fast as they can. And while doing it instead of having both hands on the steering wheel they usually have one hand out the window with a finger sticking up. I guess it is because some people feel so inadequate they must challenge the road and people on it. Some of those bozo's also must think they can out drive Dale Earnhart Jr. and they prove it daily by being an idiot on Mosquito Road. Then there are the others who I think are simply just on the verge of insanity and can't deal with the vigor of driving anywhere at anytime.

The great thing about Mosquito Road is no matter how fast the clown behind you wants to go after you let them go past they always end up at Union Ridge just barely in front of you and are usually stuck at the first traffic light on US 50 right along with yourself. Sometimes though they do not get that far because they just have to go to Starbucks and get a \$4.35 cup of coffee that takes 3 minutes to order and 22 minutes to make.

And then there is the tide, that continuous inflow and outflow of traffic with the ritual of going like a bat out of hell to work in the morning and then coming home like a beat up rat in the evenings. In the wintertime it is down both ways in the dark and the summer with the sun in your eyes and in all cases not slowing down enough to look around and actually see how beautiful things really are. I once had an ole timer tell me, "the slower you go the more you will see." He was never in a hurry to get anywhere but could tell me what he saw on his way getting there and always got

there. He was an example of using common sense to make it through a lifetime.

Please drive safely on Mosquito Road, always leave on time so you are not risking eternity to catch up on a few minutes. There are other people who use the road and your half is not out of the middle and curves are supposed to be used not cut. Above all, not only does Mosquito Road demand respect in the way it is driven but also people need to show respect in the way they use it.

## CRAFT REPORT

Sharon Hem

The Crafters final craft sale in December and the drawing for the "Levi Quilt" on December 18<sup>th</sup> made an additional \$416.00 for our Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department. The Crafters made approximately \$2228.55 this year. The final accounting and the distribution of the monies will be

announced in January.

We have had a very good year and again a huge "Thank You" all of our community members who have made crafts, sold crafts and especially those who purchased crafts and tickets for the "Levi Quilt". All of our proceeds go to our Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, so again, thank you for helping to support our community.

A very special "Thank You" to Sandi Miller who once again donated the "Levi Quilt" for our drawing. The lucky winner of the quilt this year is Clair Petee.

### Meetings:

Next Meeting: January 28, 2005

Future meetings are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at Darlene Rood's home.

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am

Location: 2211 Swansboro Road

Dates for 2005: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28 and November 18 (dates tentative)

## GEORGETOWN DIVIDE HEALTH CARE AUXILIARY

The annual Georgetown Divide Health Care Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Odd Fellows Hall in Georgetown. Once again our Mosquito/Swansboro area came through with donations to their drawings and baked goods sale. My car looked like a bakery shop delivery truck going over to Georgetown on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you to all who donated in the name of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department.

## MAIL BOX THEFT

It has been reported that several mail box thefts have occurred in our area since this last summer. Not only theft of incoming mail but theft of mail left for postal pick-up. The thefts have occurred at sites where there are multiple mail boxes as well as at individual mail boxes. If you notice anything strange at a mail box location, such as a car not normally seen at that location or it appears that some one is opening all of the mail boxes, please call the sheriffs department immediately with the car description and license number. The next mail box theft could be yours.

SMUD's Iowa Hill Power Plant Meeting  
Information and Idea Exchange  
Wednesday, January 5, 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Cozmic Cafe  
594 Main Street, Placerville

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MVFD

Belinda Brent

We had another great Christmas Party in December. Everyone enjoyed great food and holiday cheer, a chance to catch up with neighbors and friends and the kids got to tell our wonderful Santa Claus what they wanted for Christmas. A big thank you to everyone who helped out setting up, cleaning up and roasting turkeys. And a special thank you to our friends from the north pole, Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elf!

There was a brief general meeting after dinner. Debbie Minor was reelected to the MVFD Board. There will be a closed meeting just prior to the regular board meeting in January to elect Board President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Regular Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Mosquito Fire Station.

Stay tuned for information on the Events Committee. An initial meeting for everyone interested in helping out with our fund-raising events will be scheduled soon.

## BREAKFAST CREW

Joe Lima

We would like to thank all the residents that came out this year and supported the breakfast for the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department. We had a great time feeding all of you and getting to know you this year. December was our last breakfast and we wanted

to take the time to thank all who volunteered their time and sometimes their blood to the breakfast. It would be too large of an article to name each and everyone of you, but thanks for the help and I only hope that someone from the community will set up and take over the breakfast.

## NEXT FIRE SAFE COUNCIL MEETING IS JANUARY 23

Len Newell, Mosquito Fire Safe Council

We were tempted to rest on our laurels in December, but kept on with needed Council work in preparation for 2005. Len attended a workshop for grant writing on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Len, Leo, and Mary Joseph assembled before-and-after pictures, and wrote text, for a "Success Story" that is being forwarded to the state Fire Safe Council. It shows how Mosquito's top priority Evacuation Routes looked last September, and how they look now. We expect this bit of bragging to help us compete for another grant in 2005, in a much more competitive grant environment than we experienced in 2003.

The next applications for grants are due on February 4. Do you have concerns and ideas for improvement? This will be your chance to get them reflected in work plans proposed for grant funding. Review of our draft Grant Application will be the top order of business at our January 23 meeting, from 2-4 PM at the Fire Station. Are there some things you want to learn about making your own home more fire safe? We'll also discuss workshops to be planned to help you become more confident. Bring your most vexing questions, because those are the ones that hold everyone back. Many individual properties need reduction of fuels to promote owner and public safety.

Until January 23, Happy Holidays from the Mosquito Fire Safe Council.

The *Wildfire Evacuation and General Preparedness Plan for Mosquito Fire Protection District* has been published and is available at the Fire Station. There is no charge for a copy of this. Stop by and pick one up. Let's all be prepared.

## SCPOA REPORT

Kim Purcell

We want to thank everyone who was able to attend our December meeting and give us their input on such important matters as the Dogwood well and the budget.

Our maintenance person Johnathan was able to attend and give us an update on all the work he has

been doing. He has been burning some of the piles of brush that have accumulated from all the cleanup that has been done, road patching continues as conditions allow and fence replacement will continue, about half of the fencing bought has been installed. Johnathan felt that a roller could be a valuable tool to have for compacting the road patch, he suggested that he would be able to make one to fit on the tractor for around \$300.00. This is significantly less than anything we might be able to purchase, he will fabricate a roller that fits with the box scraper and uses the down pressure to compact the fill. A question was brought up about the light in the pavilion being left on and should it be put on a timer. The bulb is currently burned out and after some discussion it was decided to replace the bulb with a fluorescent one and leave it on during the night for security. This will hopefully deter some of the vandalism that occurs, we will try this and reevaluate in the future.

Our secretary Lynda has our delinquent accounts down to three, there are properties that will be up for tax sale and we should be able to collect past dues owed on them after the sales. Lynda has worked very hard to get everyone caught up and to get the right paperwork done to get money owed after sales, and we want to thank her.

The budget committee has had to work overtime to try and get a reasonable budget for us in light of some of our rapidly rising costs. Tee and her committee had several proposals that ranged from a 15% increase to a 22% increase. Our biggest problems are our legal and insurance expenses, they exceeded our budget by \$36,000 this year and we can expect an increase for next year plus we have to pay back the money borrowed from reserves to cover this years costs. The association cannot run with a deficit, this would be irresponsible and only cause more problems in the future. At a 22% increase we would be just over breaking even but anything over 20% require a vote of the membership which also costs money. By reducing funding to a few areas that we don't anticipate needing as much the budget committee was able to put together a balanced budget with a 20% increase. There was a fair amount of discussion amongst the board members and from the floor but in the end we all had to agree that anything less than a 20% increase would be irresponsible. This will put next years dues at \$526 or an \$88 per parcel increase, we know that this seems very high to many who have lived here for a long time but it is still reasonable compared to most other associations.

The architectural committee has completed a review of two more sets of house plans and has another to review. The building boom seems to be continuing in our community.

We will have four openings on the board for next year, and at the meeting still only had three people willing to run. With a bit of begging and pleading the

committee was able to get five names on the ballot and a couple of probable candidates for the following year.

The website has had a few problems with the change in providers due to a buyout of the original company. The committee did some research and found several alternatives one would be less expensive and keep it local so it was voted to change providers. The site should be updated and running again.

The Dogwood well issue has been an ongoing discussion for quite some time, many issues have come up which needed clarification, legal questions had to be resolved but we finally had all the information to make a decision. Our biggest concern became the issue with liability, we have had enough costs due to insurance and felt we could not assume an unknown risk with the ditch. EID could not provide us with any assurances about liability should the ditch fail and cause flooding so the well and ditch offer were turned down.

The annual packet is due to go out this month and all items to be included were reviewed, the budget will be presented in an easier to read format that will include pie charts. The minimum amount will be sent out since most people don't seem to want the details and to save on costs, anyone who wishes more detailed information can request it.

We hope everyone has very safe and happy holidays and hope to see you at our first meeting next year on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Fire Station.

It is time to start gathering names, phone numbers and addresses for the Mosquito Phone Book that will be published in April, 2005. If you are new to the area and want to be listed in the phone book or if you want your name taken out of the phone book, please call Lela at 626-8265 or Sharon at 626-5268. Also, check on your neighbors – has someone moved in – or out? Let us know!

## YOUR PET QUESTIONS

Pam Steinke, DVM

**Q:** How do I know if my pet is in pain?

**A:** We know what pain feels like. I was trying to make some burn piles and while using my weight to pull some brush into place it gave way and I fell, resulting in a broken arm. I babied that arm, wrapping it in my tee shirt, placing a magazine around it then sling before heading down the hill to have it set. I could tell the doctors exactly where it hurt and what not to touch. I wanted all the help and sympathy I could get.

Animals are different. They try to hide their pain, if possible. With obvious injuries such as lacerations, fractures or swellings, assume your pet is in pain even if not "acting" painful. Your pet may act grumpy (aggressive) or withdraw from you or others. He/she may refuse food or eat very little. Other injuries may not be as obvious such as joint pain, disk disease or internal pain. Look for panting while at rest, shaking or reluctance to move. Any behavior that is strange or different for your pet is a sign to make an appointment for an exam with your vet.

If you have any questions concerning your pets you would like answered in this column, please send them to [drpjjs@hotmail.com](mailto:drpjjs@hotmail.com)

A comment about personal signs on the roads: Yes, they are needed to help our "flatlander" friends find the way to the party or lunch or whatever. And it is important to try to find lost animals. But, please, when the event is over or the animal is found or a reasonable time has passed, take the signs down. With the wind and the rain they become unsightly.

Also – it would be helpful if the sign is big enough to read with out bringing a car to a full stop. If it is important enough to post a sign, please make it legible!

## GOOD AND EASY POTATO RECIPE

Evelyn Potter

### Onion Roasted Potatoes

1 envelope Lipton Recipe Secrets Onion Soup Mix  
 4 med potatoes, cut into large chunks ( about 2 lbs )  
 1/3 cup olive oil or vegetable oil

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a 13 x 9 inch baking or roasting pan, combine all ingredients until evenly coated.

2. Bake uncovered, stirring occasionally, 35 minutes or until potatoes are tender and golden brown.

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook time: 40 minutes  
 Makes 4 servings



The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$12.00 per year. Mail check to 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA, 95667-8358. Deadline for news and advertising is the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The editors reserve the right to edit, limit or refuse any article submitted for publication in the *Mosquito Byte*. The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

Editors: Lela Edson - 530-626-8265  
[laeknit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laeknit@sbcglobal.net)

FAX: 530-295-1589

Sharon Hern - 530-626-5268  
[7062hern@hnet.us](mailto:7062hern@hnet.us)

## ADVERTISING

There is no charge for advertising in the *Mosquito Byte* for our subscribers. Deadline for advertising is the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month. Call Sharon at 626-5268 or Lela at 626-8265. Ads in the "For Sale" department will run for three months unless you call to say the item has been sold, or you want the ad extended.

## RENTAL

Puerto Valletta condo available May 29<sup>th</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>, sleeps 4 but perfect for 2. I also have a flex time and size condo with options in Mexico and Hawaii I will not be able to use. They are very nice places, make great vacation destinations and are very reasonable. Give me a call for more information 621-1049.

## MEETINGS

**PRESCHOOL AGED KIDS GROUP.** Meets every other Tuesday from 10am to 11:30am. For kids aged 2-5 to get together and play and do hands-on activities. Call Jeanine at 621-3875 for more information or email at [kobza@sonicisp.net](mailto:kobza@sonicisp.net)

### MONTHLY STAMP, SCRAP AND CHAT- LADIES NIGHT OUT!

Come and bring what supplies you have or use/ purchase from me. Work on your own projects or I will have several projects each month for a small fee. Make your own greeting cards or start your personal memory scrapbooks, fast and super easy with simple kits ordered from our Close To My Heart catalog. Light refreshments served. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday beginning January 19. 6:30pm-9:00pm. Please RSVP to Lori Loree 626-0691 3822 Dogwood Lane, [comer of Maidu and Dogwood], See you there!!

## MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Mosquito/Swansboro area residents and visitors are invited to attend Christian fellowship, Bible studies for all ages, and participate in ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of this area without driving off the hill. The Sunday Bible study begins at 9:30am followed by a Celebration service at 11am. MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP is a Bible teaching congregation of Christ's church. The Celebration service features contemporary music, prayer, testimony and the Word of God. All events are held at 3342 Stope Drive in Swansboro. For more information about MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP call 295-0503 and visit our Web site at [www.cmna.net/mfom](http://www.cmna.net/mfom)

## NEW GROUPS

HORSE BUDDIES: <http://www.horsebuddies.com> If you would like to ride with me, give me a call. 642-8753; Yvonne McGregor

## WORK WANTED

RETIRED ELECTRICIAN looking for electrical jobs on the hill. Please call John at 344.1912

## FREE

MAGIC CHEF REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER SIDE BY SIDE. Pale Ivory Color. In Very good Condition. FREE! Please, call Mel or Siegiinde at 626-3898

Used Jenn-air 4 burner gas white stove top with down draft, extra griddles and grates, (missing one burner grate). Replaced unit with new stove top and will give to anyone who wants unit. 626-9565

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## SERVICES

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SIGN PAINTER: Signs, Logos, Pop Art, Screen Painting. Phil Langdon 622+-5378

CRYSTAL MILK HOME DELIVERY. You can have milk, butter, orange juice and more delivered to your front door. Call Arthur at 295-1518 for more information.

10 WHEELER/EQUIPMENT for hire. Landscaping, garbage hauling, material delivery, earth moving, reasonable rates, local business. For a free estimate call Kurt Kimm 295-9203 or 916-496-7284.

I am a MOBILE NOTARY PUBLIC living right here in Mosquito. I am experienced in all areas of notary work, including loan packages, real estate transfers, etc. Save time and money, call me now. Elaine Galvan 621-2433

LOG SPLITTER owner operator \$25.00 hr. 2 hour min...Swansboro area only. 344-9066

HANDCRAFTED POTTERY. Swansboro studio open by appointment, or visit the website anytime. Classes available. Pam Angelo 621-3688. [www.clayimpressions.com](http://www.clayimpressions.com)

ASPEN LITES ELECTRIC CO Electrical wiring: all phases: specializing in new construction and remodeling. Serving our local Mosquito-Swansboro area for over 15 years. Competitive rates and excellent dependability guaranteed! Keep the business up on the hill! Call Rich at 621-2911 or Cell 409-9931.

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVING THE MOSQUITO AREA. Complete design and build service. New homes, residential remodels, additions, garages, decks, barns. Top quality construction at a reasonable price. Modena Builders. License #809494. Call 530-622-5307.

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GUTTER CLEANING, we work in Swansboro, we are fast and reliable. Call Tim for quote (916) 879-0362"

We build METAL BUILDINGS, CARPORTS, SHEDS, STALLS, FIFTH WHEEL COVERS, etc. Local family, free estimates. We also do concrete work, sidewalks, foundations, etc. Call Jeremy at home 530-626-4406 or work 916-826-9758.

AMERICAN DREAM - the ownership of a home and a little acreage to call your own! Sally Long Johns, your Resident Mosquito Road Realtor, will help you buy or sell any property in El Dorado County! Utilize your new neighborhood website [www.mosquitoadneighbors.com](http://www.mosquitoadneighbors.com) (530) 295-4641 or toll free 866-SALLYRE [snlongjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:snlongjohns@yahoo.com)

DENTISTRY: Dr. Robert Catron, a Mosquito resident, has 13 years of experience in General Dentistry and Orthodontics. Dr. Catron donates 5% of his earnings from Mosquito residents to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department and has been one of the largest financial contributors to the department. Please mention that you are a Mosquito resident as he has a separate bookkeeping account for this donation program. For a no charge consultation please call and schedule an appointment at 676-7777.

SWANSBORO LAND AND HOMES: Specializing in Mosquito/Swansboro real estate. Debbie and Rusty Harris have 35 years experience "on the hill." Our office is located next to the fire station. 530-622-6822.

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CREATIVE MEMORIES - I help busy people get their albums done! Spend an afternoon at my home having fun with fellow Mosquito scrapbookers or host a class in your home and earn free products! Diana Adams 642-9441.

FAX AND PHOTOCOPY service here on the hill. Call Fred Adams at 642-9441.

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? You need an honest, reliable, hardworking real estate agent on your side! Serving El Dorado and Sacramento counties. Call Jessica Dillender at 295-3331 or (916) 765-1256 cell.

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AVON INDEPENDENT SALES and Leadership Representative would like to fill your shopping needs. To buy - or if you would like to sell Avon products - give me a call. 957-8518.

PILOTS - ARE YOU CURRENT & PROFICIENT? Flight Reviews and Instrument Proficiency Checks. Also ask me about the FAA Wings Program. Ratings include CFI Single & Multi-Engine Land and Instrument. Bill George 530-642-8063.

CHIMNEY SWEEP for hire, 27 years experience. Wood stoves - pellet stoves - fireplaces - dryer vents - gutters. Repairs - installations - problem solving. Richard Smith 622.2990.

IS MOSQUITO ROAD ROUGH ON YOUR VEHICLE? Give "Hippie" a call at Mosquito Auto, specialist in transmissions, brakes, tune-ups. 642-2867.

DON'S CRITTER CARE: Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. Reasonable rates. References. Call 622-7622.

HOUSE CLEANING Reference available. Free estimates. Lisa Harvey, 626-1496.

## FOR SALE

OAK FIREWOOD \$200 per cord. \$10 delivery fee. Call 626-1341.

SCENTED PINE CONE FIRE STARTER BASKETS. Makes a great gift. Baskets made to order and will deliver. Call Kelly Knoll Farm at 295-9165.

NEW CEMENT BLOCKS (approximately 20) \$1.50 each. FIREWOOD - Oak \$245 for a cord, Cedar \$200 for a cord, Pine \$140 for a cord. Easy access, you pick up. Call Eileen at 622-9492.

THREE 8' X 7' GARAGE DOORS. Avalone, with extra insulation. TWO GARAGE DOOR OPENERS. Call 295-3548.

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MAN'S CORDUROY JACKET, with fur collar, size 40. \$65.00; Wilson's new LEATHER JACKET, size large, real deal at \$150; All kinds of MEN'S CLOTHES - best offer. Call 622-9492.

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ENCLOSED 5' x 8' TRAILER bought in 2000. New spare tire, current license. \$1,500. Call Larry, 621-1071

ESSENTIAL OILS for sale \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 Please call Connie at 845-0678 for more information.

<b>JANUARY 2005</b> ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE MOSQUITO FIRE STATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 
2	3	4	5	6 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00PM	7	8 SCPOA BOARD MEETING 10:00 AM
9	10	11	12	13 MVFD BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	14	15
16	17  Martin	18	19	20	21	22
23 FIRE SAFE MEETING 2:00 PM	24	25	26	27	28 CRAFT MEETING SEE PAGE 2	29
30	31					



Mosquito Bite  
8801 Rock Creek Rd  
Placerville CA 95667-8358



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