



THE NEWSLETTER

March 2013

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Superintendent Profile: Jay McGrail South Shore Country Club

By: Michael Hughes

The GCSANE Newsletter will be profiling each monthly meeting's host Superintendent and golf course. Our first installment will be of Jay McGrail, Director of Operations at South Shore Country Club, located in Hingham, MA



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As the days begin to get longer, the snow starts to melt, and the greens covers are peeled back, we are reminded that the Bear Cup is right around the corner! This year's 7th Annual Bear Cup, in honor of the late Gary Luccini, will be contested on Monday, April 29 at South Shore Country Club (SSCC). I had an opportunity to speak with host Superintendent, Jay McGrail regarding his history in and out of the business, along with some interesting background on SSCC.

Jay's path to being a successful Superintendent can be categorized as being both familiar and unique. Jay got his feet wet in the business at an early age, however, not on a grounds crew. His first job, as a teenager, was in the cart barn at Old Barnstable Fairgrounds, where a course had just been built. His boss, The Head Golf Professional quickly recognized Jay's work ethic and dedication when he said to Jay, "A job on the grounds crew might be a better fit for you." From there, Jay set out to become a Golf Course Superintendent.

Upon graduating from high school, Jay enrolled at Stockbridge School of Agriculture, interning at Oyster Harbors Golf Club for long time Superintendent, Jack Nugnes. After graduating from Stockbridge in 1999, Jay received his Bachelor's Degree at UMass Amherst. While at UMass, Jay worked on weekends at Hickory Ridge Golf Club. Once graduated, Jay earned his first Assistant Superintendent job at Nantucket Island's Miacomet Golf Course.

It was at Miacomet where Jay met Charlie Passios, CGCS, and the man responsible for Miacomet's ambitious project of adding a second 9 holes to the layout. Not only did Jay get the experience that came with the project, but he cultivated such a relationship with Charlie that he was asked to follow Charlie in his next endeavor, which was to build The Golf Club of Cape Cod. In 2006, when The Golf Club of Cape Cod opened, Jay left Charlie and his management company for SSCC to fulfill his goal of becoming a Head Golf Course Superintendent.

At SSCC, Jay holds the title of Director of Operations, and, in that roll, is an employee of the Town of Hingham. He attributes much of the grounds department's success to Jake Silva, the Course Superintendent, who handles what Jay calls, "the heavy lifting" and "day to day operations". Jay also holds a seat on the Board of Directors for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod, where he is the Golf Chairman. He is thrilled to be having the 2013 Bear Cup, the first Association event held at SSCC.

The host course is a Wayne Stiles design, opened in 1922. The course was private until the mid 1980's when it was purchased by the Town of Hingham. Jay describes it as a typical Stiles design, with many elevated greens and blind shots. The club is in the middle of bunker renovations, trying to restore the bunkers to their original design. As a public course, SSCC absorbs about 50,000 rounds per year, which, as you can imagine, provides unique challenges to Jay, Jake, and the crew. Regardless, Jay considers SSCC "the best public fee course around."

Away from the golf course, Jay has his hands full with four women in the house. His wife Tarja and he have three daughters; 7 year old Emily, 4 year old Caitlin, and the newest member of the McGrail family, 5 month old Allison. While Jay enjoys playing golf, he is also an avid skier, going up to Vermont as often as he can.

Jay considers it an honor to host a GCSANE meeting and the 7th Annual Bear Cup. With the location of the host course and Jay's involvement in the GCSACC, Jay hopes the event will promote integration between the GCSACC and the GCSANE. Along with the golf course, Jay is excited about the opportunity to showcase some of the other amenities SSCC has to offer. The club has three indoor golf simulators that will be available for use after the meeting. Also, SSCC has a golf bar, called "The Tour", but you will have to attend the meeting to see what that entails.

The April meeting at SSCC is going to be a great opportunity to be a part of the latest happenings in your Association. It will also provide a unique golfing experience, as well as a chance to network with colleagues. So please, email or call Don Hearn to attend the April Meeting, compete in the Bear Cup, and meet Jay McGrail on Monday, April 29, 2013! ❖

About the writer - Michael Hughes is the Senior Assistant Superintendent at Walpole Country Club in Walpole, MA and Assistant Newsletter Chairman.



Jay McGrail

NESTMA presents MTE Turf Equipment Solutions with 2012 Vendor of the Year Award

The New England chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA) recently awarded Jacobsen dealer MTE Turf Equipment Solutions with its 2012 Vendor of the Year Award. The award was presented during the organization's annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. Jacobsen is a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) Company.

MTE Turf Equipment Solutions is the exclusive Jacobsen dealer for Upstate New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

"MTE Turf Equipment Solutions has been a long-time supporter of NESTMA and the sports industry as a whole. They continue to be active in the association and consistently participate in our workshops and field days," said Nick Caggiano, President of the NESTMA. "The MTE staff makes a difference in the field by truly putting the customer's needs first."

NESTMA members come from all segments of the sports turf industry: municipal parks, public and private schools, universities, colleges, professional stadiums, educators and vendors. The association works in cooperation with local, regional and national sports, grounds landscape and other related organizations to produce safe, playable sports fields.

"There is no higher honor than to be recognized by your customer base as an outstanding supplier," said Tom Houseknecht, President of MTE. "I'm extremely proud of our dedication to customer service and to know that our company works as a team to do what's right for our customers." ❖

Source: *Golf Course Industry* www.golfcourseindustry.com



Visit us at
www.GCSANE.org

History of the Bear Cup Tournament

The Bear Cup Tournament was started in 2007 in memory of Gary Luccini who passed away in 2001. Gary was the long time superintendent at Franklin Country Club and was a friend to many.

Below is the history of tournament winners for the Bear Cup

Bear Cup- first held in 2007 at Franklin Country Club

2008- Pinehills GC - Cape Cod wins 13.5-12.5

2009- Franklin CC- New England wins 9-6

2010 Poquoy Brook - New England wins 8.5-7.5

2011 LeBaron Hills - New England win 8-7

2012 Segregansett CC - Cape Cod wins

The 2013 Bear Cup Tournament will be held on [April 29th](#) at South Shore Country Club with Jay McGrail as our host. More information to be sent to membership.



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Thoughts From Your Association Manager

All invoices for the various categories of Membership dues have been sent. Many have paid within the thirty-day period, but there are still some with outstanding balances. Soon I'll be sending statements as a gentle reminder to let you know your payment is behind schedule. Many times dues payments are placed in a pile of "to do" things and are easily forgotten. Other times bills are forwarded for payment and get lost in the shuffle. A reminder is usually sufficient to get things squared away. If anyone has a question about their payment please contact me. Be certain to return the Member Information Form since it's what's used to publish your information in the Membership Directory.

As many of you know, Past President Ron Kirkman suffered a spill at the Needham Golf Club and the result was a concussion, then internal bleeding and a lengthy stay in a rehabilitation facility. I spoke with Ronnie after his discharge from rehab and can report he's doing well and rebounding quickly. I have a feeling he'll be back on the course playing his usual winning game in the future.

With the golf season approaching now is a good time to establish your handicap and GHIN number with the GCSA of New England. This service is available to our members and offered as a benefit of your membership in the Association. If you'd like to have your GHIN number with the Association contact me and I'll make the necessary arrangements to put you on the roster. Once you're in the GHIN system you'll be able to enter your own scores, track your handicap and have your current updated handicap sent to you automatically.

A number of emails have been sent to the general membership in March. If you haven't received them a couple of things could be happening. It could be that I don't have your correct email address or your spam filter isn't allowing the messages to get to your in box. If you didn't receive these emails please let me know and we'll square away what's causing the problem.

I attended a meeting of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEWIEY pick) held in Providence, March 12. The meeting was to review where the commission stands with suggested guidelines for fertilizer use. They are trying to create a document that will address fertilizer applications in a way that makes sense for producers, applicators and regulators. Our industry was well represented and our concerns were expressed. I believe the regulators listened and will be reviewing their suggestions with more information to help make reasonable guidelines for all

users. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA's Regional Representative, attended and presented an excellent written statement detailing how our management of "performance turf" differs from the application of fertilizer to home lawns. If you would like a copy of Kevin's statement let me know and I'll send it to you.

Elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER is this month's etiquette article about cell phone usage. ❖

Don Hearn

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Etiquette

Virtually all of us use cell phones. These devices have evolved from telephones to powerful computers that we can put in our pockets. They've made some things we do a lot easier and others more difficult – like leaving work at work. One of the most annoying things I've encountered is the rudeness some have displayed while using their cell phone. Have you ever been behind a person at the grocery checkout fumbling for their payment while juggling their phone between their ear and shoulder? How about that rude loudmouth driving you crazy as he or she talks about their business like the entire world cares and wants to know all the details? There are many instances where aggravating behavior is associated with a cell phone being used at the wrong time and the wrong place.



How about the proper use of your phone when meeting with a sales representative? Most superintendents I know request a specific time to meet and discuss business. And representatives build their schedule based on the agreed time. During these times full attention should be given to the business at hand. It's important to be respectful and attentive. Don't put your phone on vibrate and place it on your desk. Keep your phone silent and in your pocket. If you know ahead of time that you may have to answer a call during the time of the meeting, it's important to let the person you're meeting with know this at the beginning.

What follows are some common sense pointers for using your cell phone.

- It's not **other people's** responsibility to cope with your mobile phone use; it's **your** responsibility to use your mobile phone inoffensively. Please note that "inoffensively" is not defined by what you expect others to tolerate, but by what others do in fact find offensive. **Ignore this principle, and you are sure to be rude.**

- Maintain at least a 10-foot zone from anyone while talking on a cell phone.
- Never talk in elevators, libraries, museums, restaurants, cemeteries, theaters, dentist or doctor waiting rooms, places of worship, auditoriums or other enclosed public spaces, such as hospital emergency rooms or buses. And don't have any emotional conversations in public — ever.
- Never "multi-task" by making calls while shopping, banking, waiting in line or conducting other personal business.
- Avoid text messaging while you are engaged in an activity or meal with someone else. Text messaging in front of others is the equivalent of whispering behind someone's back. Even though it's a typed message, it's just as bad as chatting with someone who isn't there.
- In a casual restaurant, it's usually considered impolite to both the counter staff and the person on the other end of the line to stop in the middle of a conversation to place an order.
- Whether you use a cell phone or landline always return calls. There are few things that show a lack of respect more than someone who does not return a phone call.
- If a game of phone tag goes on for 4 calls (that is, both parties make 2 calls that go unanswered), it is within the boundaries of proper etiquette to end the game and stop calling. Communication has occurred. In placing 2 calls each, you've both sufficiently said your hellos, and by the voicemails you've left it's clear the call has no urgent purpose. It's the same as running into someone on the street and saying, "Hi, great to see you, I'm in a rush, let's catch up later." No one minds, even if you're not actually in a rush and don't really feel like catching up later, because the other person likely feels the exact same way. ❖

By Don Hearn



Massachusetts to Invest \$2.6M in Golf Courses

The state is looking to improve operations at Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course in Weston and Ponkapoag Golf Course in Canton by hiring new managers, reclaiming golf cart and driving range operations, and purchasing 120 new carts. The plan for Ponkapoag includes reopening nine closed holes at the 36-hole course, continuing drainage improvements, and starting an irrigation project this spring.

The state of Massachusetts is spending \$2.6 million to improve operations at Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course in Weston, Mass., and also at Canton, Mass.'s Ponkapoag Golf Course, where it hopes one day to host a major pro tournament, the *Boston Herald* reported.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) plan for Ponkapoag includes reopening nine closed holes at the 36-hole course, plus drainage improvements already under way and an irrigation project that is slated to start this spring, the *Herald* reported.

Conditions at the courses haven't always been the best, said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert, but the state has hired new managers, reclaimed golf cart and driving range operations from private vendors, and purchased 120 new carts, the *Herald* reported.

"Now we'll be making the profit and putting it back into the operation," Lambert said. "It will be used to pay some of the investment in staff and capital that allows us to raise even more money."

Golfers, fees will remain at current levels and cart rentals will cost less. Both courses will also start accepting reserved starting times for Friday through Sunday and holidays, the *Herald* reported.

The 77-year-old Donald Ross-designed Ponkapoag and the 18-hole Leo J. Martin course, which opened in 1930, are "great old establishment courses that people always have been passionate about," said Joe Sprague, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Golf Association, which promotes amateur golf in the state.

"If they're going to keep the prices the same and have the conditions improve, that's a win-win for golfers," said Sprague.

The improvements follow unsuccessful efforts to privatize the courses in years past. Last year, the legislature agreed to let the DCR keep 80 percent of its revenue, up to \$14 million annually, instead of returning it all to the state's general fund and awaiting a smaller re-appropriation, the *Herald* reported.

"It's really an entrepreneurial way for us to operate, and it reduces costs to taxpayers," Lambert said. "This year we've already increased [the overall DCR] revenue stream from \$1 million to \$2 million."

The DCR scheduled a public hearing for March 6 at Ponkapoag to discuss the proposed changes, the *Herald* reported.

Source: *Club & Resort Business*
www.clubandresortbusiness.com

The Vermont Golf Course Superintendent's Association Hosts First Annual Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Ski Resort!

The Vermont GCSA hosted the first annual "Nor'easter Ski Day" on February 28, 2013 at the Killington Ski Resort in Killington, VT. Golf course superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families came together for a day of camaraderie, powder skiing and competition on the slopes of Vermont. In 1993 members of the Vermont GCSA and the Northeastern GCSA began a friendly rivalry to be held on the slopes of Vermont's ski areas each year. This year, members of both associations decided to open up the event to all the GCS associations throughout the Northeastern US and Canada.

The turnout was fantastic for the inaugural event as over 100 members from the Northeast made the trek to Killington for the day's festivities. The weather gods blessed the event with 12-14 inches of new snow the night before so the skiing was superb! Ironically enough the giant slalom race had to be canceled due to the heavy snowfall the night before. Conditions were deemed unsafe on the course and all racing was halted for the day including the Killington Mountain School program.



That did not stop anyone from having a great day in the fresh powder. The 2013 trophies will be stored until next year's event, so start making plans to join us in 2014! After a great day on the slopes, attendees were treated to an outstanding Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn on the Killington

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Affiliate Committee Update

Thank you for the many companies responding and renewals of Friends and Affiliates for 2013. Additional commitments have rolled in for the new Partnership Promotion. A special thank you to Patron Partners; COUNTRY CLUB ENTERPRISES, and support from Dave Farina, Mike Turner and Keith Tortorella; also JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES, and support of Chris Leonard and Ron Tumiski. Great thanks also to ATLANTIC GOLF & TURF and the support of Scott Mackintosh, CPAg and Chris Cowan for their participation and SILVER PARTNERSHIP.

Nor'Easter Ski Day - continued from page 6

access road. Killington was very gracious in hosting the group by providing affordable pricing on lodging and highly discounted lift tickets for those who stayed and skied through the weekend!

The Planning Committee, after seeing what a great success the day was, is already working on plans for the 2014 Nor'easter Ski Day. Watch your emails this fall for registration information! The combined ski day is a great way for the golf industry to get together in the off-season, enjoy the outdoors and to build on the unique camaraderie that the industry presents. The ski race will be a team event in which each association fields at least a 6-man team with prizes for individual accomplishments as well as the coveted team



From L-R: Jim Santoro, Augie Young and Andy Drohen

“Nor’easter Cup” which was custom built by local superintendents.

This year’s Nor’easter Ski Day also served as a fundraising event for fellow superintendent Matt Dutremble of Ardsley C.C. Matt was seriously injured after Hurricane Sandy while cleaning up storm damaged trees on his

golf course. Matt is recovering and the funds raised by the attendees will help him and his family get through these difficult times.

The Nor’easter Ski Day was made great, because of the overwhelming support of its sponsors! We would like to thank the following companies for their help in making this event a huge success; Harrell’s, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Syngenta, Atlantic Golf & Turf, N.E. Specialty Soils, Valent, Jacobsen, Toro, Sportscapes, Yamaha, Bayer, MTE, Sipcam, Arysta Life Science, Reliable Racing, Grassland Equipment, Fertl Soil, BASF as well as the support of the VTGCSA and NEGCSA. ❖

Hope to see you next winter on the slopes!!!

Andy Drohen

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Patron - Bayer, Syngenta, Matrix Turf Solutions, Lazaro Golf Course Supply/Hammond Paint & Chemical, BISCO, John Deere Landscapes, Country Club Enterprises

Join the current list of Partners and put your company front & center before the membership at meetings & in the newsletters!

The Affiliate committee will be formulating additional sponsorship ideas that will be offered for meetings & on course at golf events. If you have any suggestions or would like to participate, please do reach out! The Affiliate Committee aims to be part of shaping better organization through mutual support of one another. ❖

Thank you,
Mark Casey
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Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Updates



As spring fights its way in, and winter grudgingly gives up its hold, there are some important pieces of information you should take note of before the golf season takes hold of all your time. First, on the advocacy front, the Voluntary Turf Fertilizer Initiative being undertaken by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) has completed the stakeholder phase of their process. GCSANE

was well represented. GCSAA has been engaged with NEIWPCC and offered the services of the GCSAA members in the region to craft a suitable measure of involvement in the Initiative. As consumers of turf fertilizer, golf is a likely choice for inclusion in the voluntary program. However, the unique needs of maintaining performance turf at high standards are critical to the vitality of the game. These needs were expressed to the Commission, and the desire to engage golf directly at a later date was welcomed. Golf course superintendents continue to be undervalued as environmental stewards, protecting and even improving our water resources through proper turf management. By working with the Commission in this effort, our role and message can be clearly defined.

A special thank you goes out to David Johnson and Don Hearn. They recently represented GCSANE at the Chapter Leader/Chapter Executive Symposium at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. Twenty six of the ninety-nine affiliated chapters were on hand. An agenda packed with information and opportunities provided them with tools that will hopefully benefit your association. Look for more specifics from your delegation soon.

A quick recap of the Nor'Easter Ski Day is in order as well. On the 20th anniversary of the event, invitations were opened up to Chapters all over the northeast. Superintendents from as far away as New Jersey participated, and GCSANE was represented by a few members as well. Thanks go out to Andy Drohen, Chris Cowan, John Bresna-

han, the Vermont and Northeastern Chapters, all the sponsors, and our host, Killington Resort. I will readily admit, I am not a ski person. But for those of you who are, please heed my message: **This will quickly become a must attend event.** When the notice for the Nor'Easter Ski Day 2014 hits your inbox, I highly recommend you act upon it and sign up immediately. Most, if not all, of the over 100 participants from 2013 can hardly wait for next year's event and will be bringing friends and colleagues. If you don't believe me, just ask someone who went. Don't get left out in 2014.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Don't forget the **Most Valuable Technician** award sponsored by Foley United. Nominations close on March 30th. Let's get this award east of the Rocky Mountains! It only takes a few minutes to nominate your tech.

The Legacy Awards: Knowing the costs of higher education will continue to rise, the Environmental Institute for Golf developed this program to provide scholarship assistance to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been active Class A, Superintendent Members, Class C, Class A-Retired, Class SM-Retired or Class AA members for five or more consecutive years. Honorees receive a \$1,500 award. Deadline April 15th.

Upcoming Webcasts:

April 2: Planning for More Dry Days

April 4: Today's Turf is ... Buffalograss

Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.



Kevin F. Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff-Northeast Region

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Great News! The Alumni Turf Group's 10th Annual Joseph Troll Classic at the TPC-Boston in Norton, MA is moving the event's date to May 6, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Alumni Turf Group is pleased to announce May 6, 2013 as the date for the Dr. Joseph Troll fundraiser. Proceeds from the event benefit the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Michael Wallace, CGCS, will be this year's honoree. The event will be hosted by Tom Brodeur, Superintendent.

Tournament entry forms will be available next week on the ATG's web site at www.alumniturfgroup.com

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Sharon Brownell at 508-758-6474, sbrownell@verizon.net or visit us on our web site at www.alumniturfgroup.com

ROUNDS OF GOLF DONATIONS

Visit our website to download the round of golf donation form or contact Sharon for additional information.

The donations of rounds of golf for three or four people are from clubs throughout the North-east. These rounds are the major source of fundraising revenue for the ATG's annual donation to the turf programs at UMass Amherst. The donated rounds are sold through raffle tickets. Please help us support the turf programs by donating rounds and purchasing raffle tickets. Raffle ticket forms will soon be available on our website.



**2013 Honoree
Michael Wallace,
CGCS**

PROGRAM

10:30 am Registration

11:00 am Lunch

12:30 pm Shotgun

Best Ball of Four

Cocktail Reception Immediately Following Golf

Dress: Golf Attire

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Dinner and Ceremony

General Information

Field limited to 120 Players

Singles will be accommodated.

We will find a foursome for you!

Showers and locker room will be available.

Dinner only option available.

GCSANE Calendar of Events 2013

- April 29** **South Shore Country Club - Bear Cup Tournament
(joint meeting with GCSACC)**
- May 6** **Alumni Turf Group– Joseph Troll Classic
TPC Boston**
- May 13** **Pittsfield Country Club**
- June 10** **Nashawtuc Country Club - Member/Guest**
- July 1** **Walpole Country Club**
- August 19** **Marlborough Country Club -
Superintendent Championship**
- September 25** **Wedgewood Country Club -
Assistants meeting**
- September 23** **Essex Country Club - S & B Tournament**
- October 1** **Black Rock Country Club -
Pro/Super Championship**
- October 7** **The Ledges Golf Club**
- October 15** **Sterling Country Club -
New England Superintendents Championship**
- November 4** **Milton-Hoosic Club - 9-Hole Tournament**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to David and Lori Mihailides on the passing of Lori's father, Robert Clausen, who passed away on March 7, 2013.

Our condolences are extended to the Stimets family on the passing of Richard "Rick" Stimets, Jr., 53 who died peacefully March 16, 2013 while skiing in Vermont with friends. Rick was the financial advisor for the Troll-Dickinson Fund.

Our condolences are extended to Tom Brodeur and family on the passing of Tom's mother, Constance Brodeur, who passed away on March 21, 2013.

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

Peter J. Rappoccio, Editor

UMass

Great News from UMass Amherst

Since 2007, our student Turf Club teams have participated in the annual Collegiate Turf Bowl held every year during the Golf Industry Show sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Our teams have come close to winning in previous years, but this year, they did it! **We're #1 in the Country!**

Congratulations to team members Peter White, Evan Bradstreet, Kevin Shewmaker, and Sean Raposa.



Source: UMass Press Release



**GCSANE Offers
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For more information, please contact Jeff Urquhart at 781-828-2953 or jmartin101@gmail.com

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