



1999, 2000, & 2001 EFMLS  
Trophy Winning Newsletter

# CRACK 'N CAB

## Fantasy Trip to Easter Island

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Map from internet Website <<http://www.crystalinks.com/easter.html>> Permission to reprint was requested and received for this

Easter Island lies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile (S. America). Most of us will never be able to visit this strange and enchanting isle because of its location and the difficulty and cost in arranging travel there.

But on **Monday, March 15th at 7:30PM**, club member **Len Sharp** will share with us his experiences and the insight gained from personal research on Easter Island. Be there Monday night, for a free fantasy trip to mysterious Easter Island.

*newsletter only. The Website is a good starting point to learn more about Easter Island. Internet surfers can use <[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)> for more information about Easter Island.*

### Special points of interest:

- Beading Group meets at 6:30 PM.
- Youth Group meets at 6:30 PM
- Regular Meeting meets at 7:30 PM
- Refreshments served after the program
- Guests are always welcome

## Ready, Set, Bead!

*Submitted by Cathy Patterson*

Although I can't be there, plan to arrive Monday March 15 at 6:30 PM for the first practical work session of the Beading Group. Bring your beads (any kind at all), thread, and tools if you have them and get started. Our first projects don't have to win a blue ribbon for great design. As NIKE said, "Just do it." Don't be shy. Getting started can be a real obstacle but you can cross that hurdle Monday night. You will get better at beading with practice. Come and have some hands on fun

before the regular meeting. Carrie will have some beads, thread, and findings available if you need supplies to get started. Since our time is limited to one hour, please confine bead and supply purchases, as much as possible, to other than class time. For larger quantities, Dick Stimer was at the last meeting with some price lists and has a wide selection of beads and beading supplies at his home. Dick can be reached at 315-469-6214

## President's Message

### Desert Hunt

The car bottomed out as we rounded a corner and hit a rut in the dirt road. My daughter was driving while she tried to read her short hand notes and looking for the right outcrop in a landscape of outcrops. I asked if this was a quarry road, which she said probably was, she didn't really know, it could just be a track through the dessert. I thought we were in the quarry because of the chain link fence. She thought that was funny and asked if I noticed the razor wire at the top. I hadn't. She said that's the border. Border? Of the quarry? (I think she likes her dad around just because I'm so entertaining. I remember when I use to think her innocent remarks were cute.) No dad, The Border... as in the US-Mexico border, and this white truck coming towards us, the one that's slowing down, that is the border patrol.

Well, the border patrol slowed to look us over, but didn't stop and my daughter finally paused near an outcrop that looked the same as all the rest and said she thought this was the place. My wife and I piled out of the car and gawked at the border, the mountains, the rocks, the dessert... and really everything. New York State is so green and this state, wherever we were, was so brown. Jaylynn told us to watch out for everything – the plants have thorns – the animals and insects bite and watch where we walk, this is an active quarry, where they do blast from time to time. I wasn't sure I wanted to move...

We did finally make our way over to the outcrop where the layers of rock were inclined to about 35

degrees. Jaylynn said this is where the dinosaur footprints should be, if she read her notes right... and if she found the right unmarked roads.... and.... Anyway, I started investigating all the depressions in the exposed very uneven layer, but I could not see anything that looked like a footprint. Jaylynn wasn't having much better luck. I put my hand in a large depression that came to a point at one end – and there was another here... and one more next to it, just on the other side. I finally turned to Jaylynn and asked her how big are these prints? She didn't know but she was tracing another set of pointed hand size depressions.

We both realized about then, that the depressions we had our hands in, were left by just the animal's toes, and the points were from the claws. The prints were huge! On hearing this my wife, who was standing back more, saw the patterns and pathways up the rock.



*Photo by Jay Tinker*

The tracks were large, many and made on top of each other. The whole surface had been trampled, starting when it was a soupy mud, right up until it hardened. That was why the layer was so uneven. The earlier footprints, made in the

sloppy mud, had softened and filled in or been stepped on later. The later prints were when the mud was firmer and those were more distinct and sharp.

We made our way across the open pit, some 40 feet to the other wall, which was many layers higher up in the rocks strata and found footprint casts on the under side of those layers. I spent some time picking cactus thorns from various places (the plants do bite) and taking pictures of the prints and casts we saw.

A grad-student from the University of Texas (known as a UTEX) came along right about then to throw us out of the quarry, until he found out Jaylynn was from the local museum. We also discovered that both he and I graduated from the same small Western NY college – small world. He was there leading a field trip of geology students (more UTEXs) in another part of the quarry farther up the mountain, but he took some time with us. He told us how he was studying these newly discovered tracks and this was what his thesis was going to be done on. This site had just been discovered in December of 2003 and it is not yet public knowledge – he asked that we not tell anyone its location and I told him that's not a problem for me, because I had no idea where I was, not even what state I was in. Jaylynn was amused and made the geology student promise too.

He directed us farther into the quarry – (scary, more unmarked tracks) - where he and a squad of UTEXs had recently cleared and cleaned a large area. They were able to count over 150 individual

*-Continued on page 3-*

**President's Message***Continued from page 2*

tracks of these large 3 toed, meat eating, dinosaurs as well as some other plant eating dinosaur's tracks.

My wife was a good sport (but it's still going to cost me at some point in the future) and allowed us to venture deeper into the quarry and spend hours climbing, walking and photographing the footprints. Jaylynn said the museum told her that the best time to photograph the footprints was early in the morning, or just before sunset. The low angled sunlight created shadows in the footprints that made the pathways stand out. It was getting on towards late afternoon. Jaylynn also shared the fact with us, that she was told never to come to this site alone, or at anytime-near dusk or dark, because there were bandits in the area. We checked our watches and decided our pictures were fine and it was time to go.

I hope that thru the grad-student's work – something can be learned of these tracks and that some may be preserved in area museums. I know Jaylynn will report this and work to secure samples for her museum before collectors invade the area or the quarry starts mining that area again.

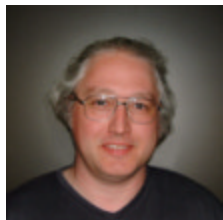
*Photo by Jay Tinker*

Paleontologists need to study the pathways more than the actual

prints. So much will be lost if the prints are cut out of their context. What age of rock are they in? How long were the animals' strides? How fast were they traveling? These answers could all be lost soon to collectors or the quarry's work.

I was impressed that the quarry noticed the tracks and how they have a working relationship with the UTEX geology and paleontology students and on the other hand, perhaps it was the UTEX's that noticed the prints. These are the first prints ever found in the area. I don't think there is a NY state quarry that would give students such free access. There really is a difference in procedures down there.

Our plane was able to take off even with my suitcase of returning NY rocks and a few pounds of desert rocks, but I doubt it would have if I had tried to bring back more than just pictures of those huge footprints.



**Club  
President  
Jay Tinker**

*Photo by  
L. Patterson*

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

The Executive Board discussed last minute details of our big July Gem and Mineral Show in a meeting February 9 at the home of Lou Budell. Part of the discussion, now moot, was the \$3 parking fee that was to be charged visitors to the fairgrounds this year. The state has since dropped that plan and the club probably will face higher rental to help meet fairgrounds expenses.

George Powell from the D.C. area will have three tables at the Gem Show to display his large

collection of shark's teeth. The Executive Board voted to share his expenses.

Field trips for Eastern Federation and American Federation guests are planned at Gouverneur, NY and Crystal Grove (St. Johnsville).

It was agreed to sell one-day or three-day passes to the July show with the one-day fee of \$5 and a three-day fee of \$10. There will be dollar-off coupons in advertising and a discount for seniors. There will be hand stamps for those leaving and returning to the show.

**Reg. Meeting Minutes**

The 34 people who showed up for the February Gem Club meeting were treated to an interesting slide show presented by Dr. Steve Chamberlain of magnetite crystals from Balmat, N.Y., one of the most significant occurrences in the world. Dr. Chamberlain, a professor and dean at Syracuse University and a club member, spiced his talk with occasional humor and we gained knowledge about the rare crystals.

Winners in this month's drawing were Marge Mathis, Dr. Chamberlain, Dick Ackerman and ? (Sorry -- name missing from notes). Dr. Chamberlain gave his prize to junior member Elizabeth Russell.

A table-full of club members showed up early for the first "Introduction to Beading" class taught by Carrie Gannett. The class will meet at 6:30 before each club meeting.

Club President Jay Tinker announced that help was needed at PRI.

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**Reg. Meeting Minutes***Continued from page 3*

Volunteers were asked to meet at 8 a.m. Feb. 28 to go together to PRI. There was to be free entry and a tour of the museum for volunteers.

Jay also announced there would be an April 17 field trip for youths to Crystal Grove in Herkimer.

Lou Budell said that there are 10 new display cases, for a total of 50, for the Gem and Mineral Show.

Helen Chamberlain urged Syracuse club members to attend the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium scheduled for April 15 to 18.

Jay Tinker provided refreshments at the close of our meeting.

Submitted by  
**Rollie Allen**

Club Secretary

*Photo by Loren Patterson*

**Many Hands Make Light the Task – March 15th**

*Submitted by Bob Livingston*

Please consider coming earlier than usual for the March meeting as we have "Eastern" packets to stuff. We need to take advantage of all the hands and talents to handle a really short work night project before our meeting on Monday, March 15. Into 9 x 12 envelopes, we need to stuff a sheaf of papers and 3 little fliers and close and seal same. We only are doing 300 but that is a lot for two people to do. With ten people, we can probably knock it off in 15 - 20 minutes. Appreciate your help.

Thanks. Bob Livingston and Lou Budell.

**My Science Fair Project**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Russell*

Hi, my name is Elizabeth Russell and I'm seven. I decided to do fossils as my science fair project because they are so interesting and I wanted other people to learn about fossils. I used my Penn Dixie fossils because they are my best to show.



*Elizabeth and her science fair project on fossils. - Photo by Loren Patterson-*

I brought my science fair project to show and tell at the January club meeting. I joined G.M.S.S. to learn more about gems, minerals, and fossils! I can hardly wait till spring so I can go on some digs!!

**Shop Hints****Denture Cleaning Geodes**

Denture cleaner is useful for cleaning out the insides of geodes- no more rubbing and scrubbing. They will sparkle like diamonds. It also removes powder residue from cabs after polishing.

*Elmer Yoker, via Rock Rollers. 1999  
via Lodestar 11/02*

**Explosive Tumblers**

Did you know that you might be harboring an explosive device in your shop? Well, actually not a high explosive because I've never heard of one actually exploding with sufficient force to take out a wall, but tumblers have been known to blow their tops and create an unholy mess on the shop floor. The reason is the coarse, medium, and fine grits are all

composed of carborundum, which is silicon carbide. As in the case with all carbides, this material reacts with water to release acetylene gas. In the summer, considerable pressure may be generated by the combination of carbide and warm water. The reaction is much slower in winter when temperatures are cooler. Preventive medicine is very simple: Take the lid off the tumbler about every third day instead of once a week or more. Be sure you carefully clean the mating surfaces of the tumbler container before reassembling to prevent leaks. Sure saves mopping!

*from Rock Rollers, May 2002 via Gem Cutters Guild, Baltimore 10/02*

**How to Burp a Tumbler**

If you're running a tumbler and it keeps burping out gas and making a mess in your shop, here's a tip that I discovered several years ago. I even got it published. The burping is due to gas generated by acids and formed by grinding other rocks. Simply drop a couple of antacid tablets in the tumbler and the problem will be reduced or go away. Tums for the tumbler, so to speak!

*from Canaveral Moonstone 4/00 via  
The Rockcollector 3/04*

**Purple Sea Glass!**

If you wish to know if a clear glass bottle will turn purple without exposing it to desert sunlight, place it under a black light. If it fluoresces green, it will turn purple when it is exposed a long time to sunlight. This is due to small amounts of manganese within the glass. Manufacturers stopped using manganese some time before the twenties, so you know that this glass most likely was before WWI

*Author unknown, source: T-Town  
Rockhound 5/00 via Rockcollector  
3/04*

**EFMLS News****WILDACRES CLASSES**

from Ginger Posthumus, Director

Have we enticed you to come to one of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops? Here are the classes which are scheduled for each session.

**June 26 -July 2**2-day Classes:

Cabochohs  
Chain making Basic  
Chain making Intermediate  
Prerequisite: Basic  
Fluorescents  
Mineral ID  
Precious Metal Clay  
Wirecraft Basic  
Soapstone Carving

4-day Classes:(you only take 1)

Faceting  
Certified Judging  
Micromounting  
&Photomicrography  
Silversmithing

Guest speaker for the session is Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine.

**September 20-26**2-day Classes

Cabochohs  
Wirecraft Basic  
Soapstone Carving or Forging

4-day Classes:

Faceting  
Certified Judging  
Micromounting  
&Photomicrography  
Silversmithing  
Wax Modeling and Casting

Guest speaker for this session is Dr. Steve Chamberlain of Syracuse University.

We hope to see YOU at Wildacres this year.

**Visit A Show**

*from William Lema*

**March**

**6 - 7:** New York City Gem & Mineral Show Hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan 440 W.57th St, New York City, NY.

**6 - 7:** 41st Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. New Location: Delaware Technical and Community College @I-95 Exit 4B, Churchmans Road (Rt 58) Newark (Stanton), DE 19713

**20-21:** 40th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street. Gaithersburg, MD.

**20-21:** Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. The Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Info: 610-971-0620 or <cal@pafa.org>

**27-28:** 14th Annual Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. Harmony Hall Regional Center, Fort Washington, MD. Info:<Michael.patterson@pgpark.com>

**April:**

**2 - 4:** 32nd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tyson's Westpark Hotel, McLean, VA. Info and registration: Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

**3 -4:** 36 th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the **Buffalo Geological Society, Inc.** Erie County Fairgrounds, Hamburg, NY.

**3 -4:** 35th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the **New York Southern Tier Geology Club, Inc.** Senior Citizen Center,30 Brocton Ave., Johnson City, NY.

**May:**

**22:** Annual Swap/Sell at Goucher, sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium Pavilion. Dulaney Valley Rd. just off I-695, Towson, MD.

**July:**

**9 -11: Combined EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show sponsored by the Gem &Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY.** (AFMS meetings July 7 &8).

**September:**

**25-26:** 40th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral &Jewelry Show sponsored by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Inc. Howard County Fairgrounds, I-70 at MD 32, W. Friendship, MD.

**November:**

**6 -7:** Golden Anniversary Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry & Gem Show sponsored by the Stamford Mineralogical Society. New location: Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Av; Old Greenwich, CT.

**December:**

**6-7:** 31st Annual Gem and Mineral Show, sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Senior/Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT.

*from EFMLS News 03/04*

## AFMS/ESFMS Combined Convention & Show Info



*By Bob Livingston*

Fellow members here is the next installment on info being passed on to potential show attendees here in July.

### Syracuse Convention/Show, Third Monthly Installment

*by Bob Livingston, Member of Host Syracuse Club.*

As I write this, it's the end of February, the snow is melting fast, and birds are migrating north. Think July. Think lots of Fun. Moreover, think Syracuse, where a great show and convention awaits in less than 90 days from the time you read this.

Recently I had E-mail from a former president of EFMLS who said, "Your articles about the Syracuse convention are making me think maybe I should get packing my bags now". Obviously, that is good to hear as we have a strong cadre of dedicated Syracuse club members working long and hard to bring you a super show and convention. We continue to add things -- latest being a realistic Canadian quarry exhibit with unbelievably huge crystals.

This issue, we give you several websites so you can really start searching and formulating your vacation plans in earnest. Central New York is a neat area that many of you have never visited I bet. Therefore, we encourage you to build in some extra days to maximize what this area has in store. Remember it has been 7 years since "American" has been in the East and the American convention/show has never been in New York before! I will detail several Herkimer digging sites as well.

First, a reminder re Ramada Inn (Hdqrs Hotel) Reservations: You cannot use the national 800 number to get the rate or room. Instead, call 315.457.8670 and tell them you want a room for the Eastern Federation convention. Rate will be \$89 including a cooked to order breakfast.

Helpful Websites for the visiting nitty gritty for you:

<[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)> This will let you see the regions of interest: Finger Lakes (where the Syracuse convention and show will be) and Leatherstocking Country (area where the Herkimer Diamond digging places are located). I suggest you contact them for their nifty 1/4" thick booklet "I love NY -- New York State Travel Guide and Vacation Map". They also have a toll-free phone -- 1.800.CALLNYS.

Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau -- can tell you anything and everything you might wish to know about the area in and around Syracuse within a 25-mile radius. Phone: 1.800.234.4797. Website: <[www.VisitSyracuse.org](http://www.VisitSyracuse.org)>

Coveted Herkimer locations (all are fee locations)-- driving time from Syracuse, 1 hour and 30 minutes. Here, is the info so you can make some good judgments, plus we list the nearest (quickest) to Syracuse first and furthest by perhaps 12 miles, last:

Treasure Mountain Diamond Mine, Little Falls, NY. This is the newest of the four we will cover, plus it is the one made famous when those Quartz scepters began hitting the market from there in the mid 90s. Their Website has outstanding photos and says it is "Easy Digging", which granted is easier than the next two, but decent hammer/chisel work for the most

part. They also have camping. <[www.treasuremtnmining.com](http://www.treasuremtnmining.com)> E-mail: <[Einfo@TreasureMtn.com](mailto:Einfo@TreasureMtn.com)> Phone: 315.823.7625

Herkimer Diamond Develop., Middleville, NY -- has a huge rock shop and displays. Serious miners get set-up here early in the season as they do at Ace, which makes getting a good spot kinda hard for a short timer. Great crystals if you are lucky enough to hit a pocket of them. This one and Ace are hard rock ledge mining requiring sledges, chisels, wedges, strong back, patience and lots of energy, luck or a 6th sense in smelling out a pocket. <[www.herkimerdiamond.com](http://www.herkimerdiamond.com)> or E-mail: <[diamonds@ntcnet.com](mailto:diamonds@ntcnet.com)> There is a KOA nearby.

Ace of Diamonds Mine -- Their property butts up to the previous one. Digging conditions are similar. Most people think they need to work at the wall which has all the complications noted above. In so doing, you are staring at a vertical wall probably 10 to 12 feet high. Others, however, are successful busting up the rubble and or screening herks from same. We were unable to find a web site, but their phone number to get literature or whatever is: 315-891-3855. Also, here is a great website which will let you see exactly what you will be dealing with digging at either second or third location above -- <[www.Towercrystals.com](http://www.Towercrystals.com)>. (All four locations rent tools.)

Last, but not least, is Crystal Grove, St. Johnsville, NY.

Continued  
on page 7



**AFMS/EFMLS Convention -**

-Continued from page 6-

A special discounted flier will be included in each of the Eastern Federation packets and will be mailed about the 3rd week of March. Why? They offered them and albeit a few miles further drive, for a novice wanting to get some Herkimers, this is probably the "easiest" of the four places to hunt for gems. They bill themselves as "a Gem of a place!" I have seen very nice specimens from here, but note I didn't say best specimens -- two and three would be hard to beat for quality/clarity. However, for family fun this is our pick. We convention goers get a group rate of \$2 off discounts on the reasonable daily fee.

Make plans now to meet your friends old and new, in Syracuse.

Forms: <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)>

Next Issue: Our scheduled field collecting trips (Biggest on Friday, July 9) and other stuff. Any questions? <[loubudell@gmss.us](mailto:loubudell@gmss.us)>

**PRI – 0% Work – 100% Fun**

*Photos and text by Jay Tinker*

Our Saturday's volunteer work crew arrived at the Paleontological Research Institution's *Museum of the Earth*, to find the Collections Manager with a problem. She had strained her back and the other museum staff ended up convincing her to go to the ER to have it checked. This left us on our own with no work.... well really with no boss.

We spent over 3 hours roaming the museum and I was even able to get us into the back rooms to explore the many drawers with over 2 million specimens.

Refreshments this month will be provided by **Rollie Allen**.



*Lou Budell & Dick Ackerman with a 39" eurypterid fossil on the wall.*

We will schedule another workday in the future. Maybe other members can come enjoy the *Museum of the Earth* and the back rooms of PRI.



*GMSS club members Gloria Royer, Dick Ackerman, Lou Budell, & Bill Royer in the drawers at PRI  
Photos by Jay Tinker*

**Recent Albany Show Notes**

Photos and text by Loren Patterson

The recent 11<sup>th</sup> Annual James Campbell, Memorial Gem & Fossil Show and Sale, co-sponsored by the New York State Academy of Mineralogy and the Capital District Mineral Club was a qualified success depending on whom you talked to. Cathy and I enjoyed attending and finding some slightly rare treasures to bring home. Cathy found some beady

things and I collected a chunk of that special form of magnetite from Balmat, NY that Dr. Steven Chamberlain referred to in his recent presentation for the club.



*Blue aquamarine at Hunza Ranger's booth – Photo by Loren Patterson*

The Albany Show is somewhat unique in that a portion of the dealers are around the corner and down the hall from the main show area. Without a map and not being aware of this, we missed that "down the hall part" completely last time and were determined not to this time. Cathy found some of her best beady things there this year. Concurrent with the mineral show there was also a flower show in the New York State Museum. For a small extra fee, you could go through the museum and see the Gem & Mineral Show on the same day.



*Banner over Gem Hunter booth –  
-Photo by Loren Patterson-*

At Gene Ridall's booth, we spotted a huge banner announcing the AFMS/EFMLS Convention & Show in Syracuse this July. We also spotted a number of GMSS members enjoying the Albany Show. If you haven't gotten out to a show yet, please do and be sure to show your club badge to let people know that we are attending other shows as we would appreciate them attending ours.

P.O. Box 801

Syracuse, New York 13201



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# Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc.

## Crack 'N Cab



Eight persons organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Individual interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals and fossils, and many aspects of jewelry design and fabrication.

The monthly meetings stimulate the social and educational factors. Frequent field trips provide collectors with opportunities to find specimens as well as to enjoy the benefits of outdoor exercise and potential friendships.

The Society meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Parish House of the First Presbyterian Church, 620 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York.

Visitors are always welcome.

Annual membership dues:

Single Adult - \$6

Junior - \$3

Family - \$9

Honorary Life Membership - \$3

For more information write to the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, P.O. Box 801, Syracuse, New York 13201



### Officers 2002-2003

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696-8274

Vice-President

Tim Hart

625-4485

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Lou Budell

673-1891

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xxx-xxxx

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