

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

FEBRUARY 1992

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RABUN CHAPTER WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 18TH AT THE Rabun County Library, Clayton, Georgia. The social hour [really, just a half hour] begins at 6:30; the meeting at 7:00. After our business meeting, the program, "Fly Tying by Burley" will begin. With the Spring season just around the corner, now is the time to bring your fly tying gear to the meeting and learn how to tie the PARACHUTE ADAMS, by Adams; or perhaps, the BUMBLE BOMBER, by Nixon. After that, maybe Kyle will demonstrate how to really tie real flies!

BUSINESS AGENDA:

1. Mike Hogelin will report on the "Rabun Rendezvous" and we'll discuss next year's event.
2. Our bank account is now approximately \$6000 (\$4000 from the Rendezvous!) and we need to sensibly dispose of some of it:
 - a] Thermograph for the U. S. Forest Service
 - b] Donation to National TU ?
 - c] Your suggestions ?
3. Doug Adams will report on the Opinion Survey that you surely have completed and sent in by now!
4. I'll report on the Chattooga River Coalition meeting.
5. Jim Kidd will bring us up to date on the Chattooga Creel Survey:
 - a] The 1991 Survey results.
 - b] Creel boxes for 1992 survey.
 - c] Printing of survey cards.(Rabun TU members will service the boxes in February, April, June, August, October and December in 1992. The Chattooga River Chapter will cover the alternate months.)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Tuesday Feb 18	Monthly Meeting 6:30	Rabun County Library
Month of February	Service Chattooga Creel Survey Boxes	
Saturday March 7	Tri-State Conclave 10 AM	High Falls County Park, South Carolina
Tuesday March 17	Monthly Meeting 6:30	Rabun County Library
Friday April 24	Meeting & Campout	Reed Creek
Saturday April 25	Work Project - Structures	Reed Creek
Month of April	Service Chattooga Creel Survey Boxes	
Saturday TBD May	Kids Fishing Day	Nancytown Lake



'Rabun Rendezvous'

x

Were you at the Rendezvous? You missed out on a really great evening! It was a huge success thanks to all the Rabun TU members who came out and helped all evening and, of course, all the work that went into it BEFORE the event itself. You know who you are. The same names come up every time and the chapter is grateful for your loyal support. A special thanks to JOHN DILLARD and the staff of the Dillard House. They did a great job and even though we underestimated the crowd, everyone had plenty to eat (John, I didn't get any roast beef, you owe me) and as usual, it was good, close to home cooking. There were people in every seat and over in the corners on the auction item tables. They acted like they were with friends - they were!

Another special thank you to Steve Burch and Ken Henderson. Their short talks were both timely (see Steve's editorial elsewhere in this newsletter) and interesting. We are fortunate to have such good friends in such high[?] places.

There were more donated items than you could shake a stick at and helped us to take in more money for our cold water resources than ever before. We owe special thanks to all the individuals and companies who helped us. Rather than leave someone out, I want a list so everyone's name appears in next month's newsletter.

I knew we were in a good kind of trouble as Jim Harris and I gathered in the bills and checks at the door. They just kept coming. They also kept buying raffle tickets from our HOOVER "GIRLS" (You remember the depression don't you? When you can't afford the very best you do with what you got - Clem, Walt, Jeff and the like. One glaring exception - Karen!)

And to this I swear, I only went out to the truck twice, maybe three times. Yet, as the festivities got underway I could have sworn I saw a gigantic pink bunny rabbit wearing dark glasse and playing a bongo. I rubbed my eyes and sniffed my glass, but the vision just wouldn't go away - it just kept going and going and going and going. Others saw it too, or were they just trying to comfort me?

But now our primary fund raising is over. It was fun. It was a big success. Now, let's get outta here and go play and work in the water!!! Whhhhaaaaaaaahooooooo!!!!!!

HELP FOR HANDI- CAPPED

FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

Bobby Cannack is the President of FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES, a national, non-profit organization based in Wisconsin whose mission is to aid disabled people in the pursuit of sport fishing. Mr. Cannack has met many TU people in his work in behalf of disabled fishermen. He has provided assistance to TU chapters who sponsor activities for disabled fishermen. You will be receiving a letter from Mr. Cannack to introduce you to FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES, and to offer their assistance in the development of programs for the disabled for your Chapter or Council. We applaud Mr. Cannack for his outstanding program. Want to contact him quickly?

Bobby Cannack, President, Fishing Has No Boundaries
P.O. Box 175, Hayward, WI 54843 Tel. (715) 634-3185

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 87 members (family and individual), including Larry Phelps, newly signed up from Clayton. Glad to have you with us, Larry. Also, welcome to Wayne Haines who has transferred his membership to the Rabun Chapter. Wayne is from Toccoa. Kyle Burrell, Eric Esche, David Giles, Jim Harris and I. J. Kranats have renewed. Buck Chastain, Alan Hooper, Fredrick Hooper, Rodney Kilby and if you have read this far, HENRY WILLIAMSON, we need you and most of all, we want you back!!!!



William P. Defino
Rt. 1 Sweetwater
Box 1940
Clarksville GA 30523

Tom Hawks
District Ranger
Clarksville, GA 30523

Dear Tom,

Recently, my chapter and I called an informal meeting to discuss the proposed alternatives for the Upper Chattahoochee River Basin. To facilitate the process we addressed each topic of concern individually and referred to the alternatives to decide what we liked or disliked about each.

I've enclosed a summary of these comments that best expresses the concerns of our chapter members, not only as avid fishermen and women, but also as citizens interested in protecting our natural resources.

Sincerely,
William P. Defino
William P. Defino

Head of Regulatory Affairs
Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Director: Tom Hawks USFS

T.U. Opinions To Alternatives:

Recreation: We are aware of the problems of trying to accommodate a large number of people in a limited amount of space. We would like to see restrictions imposed to protect and enhance the watershed's natural beauty. However, paving roads, erecting signs and building large facilities would greatly diminish the near "wilderness" experience.

Specific comments to Recreation Alternatives

- keep campers off stream banks 25 to 50 ft
- No permanent wildlife ranger on payroll
- Designated horse trails and horse camps (minimize conflicts)
- Primitive toilets OK
- No wells in upper section of headwaters
- Fees OK
- No new hiking trails within sight of stream
- Do not close Chattahoochee road
- No new roads for recreation (rebuild & maintain existing road)
- No viewing deck at falls
- No gross increase of campsites
- Designate one section for semi developed campsites

Timber: Decision making should be left up to the professionals. We are confident that management policies are used with the best interests of the watershed always in mind.

Specific comments to Timber Alternatives:

- Control erosion into and around streams
- Reduce conflicts with logging and other activities
- Wildlife and Fisheries: We believe that protecting the quality and quantity of all wildlife species is very important. Any activities we do on the land can and will affect terrestrial and aquatic life alike. Our concerns that all proposed activities on the watershed be carefully considered as to the potential damages they may inflict on all life contained in the forest.

We would like to see improvements on the hunting and fishing opportunities inside the forest. Special studies performed by your professionals would help to assess and inventory some possible solutions to increasing certain game species. Communicating with the public as to how they can help improve hunting and fishing conditions within the watershed is an important consideration as well. Overall, we encourage proper management of all wildlife species on behalf of the health of the entire watershed and for the enjoyment and pleasure of the people who use the forest.

Specific comments to Wildlife and Fisheries Alternatives:

- Use stream improvement structures where necessary
- Look into areas where put and grow stocking might be a viable alternative to put and take stocking
- More emphasis on wild trout populations
- Increase wild trout management
- Educate and enlighten public to wild trout management
- Investigate health of Brook trout populations
- No discriminating restrictions on fishing (no special regulations)
- Special study for Spocane Creek
- No more wildlife openings (reduce road building)

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
112 Andrew Pickens Circle
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
(803) 638-9568

PROGRAM

TROUT UNLIMITED TRI-STATE CONCLAVE

Sponsored by
Chattooga River, SC

With the Participation of
Mountain Bridge, SC
Rabun, GA
Highlands, NC
Land O'Sky, NC

Saturday, March 7, 1992
From 10 AM until 3 PM

High Falls County Park
From Seneca to Walhalla follow Route 130 to Route 183
(Past Keowee Key South Gate about 1 mile on the left)

STAY AS LONG AS YOU WANT; SWAP TACKLE ALL DAY; ATTEND
THE PROGRAMS; VISIT THE TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT BOOTHS

10:00 AM Tackle Swaps; Fly Tying Demos and Rod
Building; Tackle and Equipment Booths
- ALL DAY -

11:00 AM "Trout Fishing Techniques for the Southeast"
Bill Eubanks, Hunter Banks, Asheville, NC

12:00 PM Lunch and Fellowship - Donations Accepted

1:00 PM "Trout Fishing Tackle for the Southeast"
(To Be Announced)

2:00 PM Fly Casting Videos and Demonstrations;
Lake Side Instruction; Eubanks and Others

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION - NOW ON TO THE RIVER!

CHATTOOGA RIVER COALITION

1992 Annual Meeting Agenda

January 28, 1992

1. Research - Andy Dolloff
2. Temperature Monitoring - Monte Seehorn
3. Fish Population Surveys - Jeff Durniak
4. Angler Creel Surveys - Frankie Green
5. Invertebrate Monitoring - Monte Seehorn
(Outfilters Offer)
6. Stocking - Randy Geddings/Jeff Durniak
7. Regulations - Biologists
8. Wilderness - Monte Seehorn
9. Angler Access - Kelly Russell/Perry Shatley
10. Habitat Improvements - Monte Seehorn
11. New Business

**Gov. Zell Miller is About to Tap Sportsmen for \$3.8 Million a Year to Buy Land
As Hosts of This Land Buying Party, We Should Invite Other Georgia Groups
to Belly Up to the Bar with Us. I have Eight Targets on My List.**

Now I Need YOU!

After all, you're going to pay for this party whether you come or not!

What you are about to read is not an article - it is an editorial and more importantly, a call to action.

I have been very careful and conservative in issuing calls for action. They are rare. But, thanks to you and your strong response, when GON has issued a call in the past, we have achieved our common goals.

Before I launch this call to action addressing the Governor's vision of wild land and our money, I thought we'd take a quick review of the calls to action we have issued before and the results you produced.

Pritch Morgan was walking to his deer stand early one morning during bow season when he was shot to death by a poacher with a rifle. The laws of the state of Georgia were inadequate to deal with such a situation. Under the laws then in effect, the only choices were to call an accident or to call it murder. Since it would have been impossible to prove that there was prior intent by the poacher to kill Pritch - only the lesser criminal charge could be prosecuted.

GON called for a change in the law, in addition to the law that would deal specifically and harshly with incidences related to hunting. Your response to this call was overwhelming. Pritch was shot in October. By January we had a bill in the legislature and by March we had a new law on the books, a new tool for DAs to use against poachers. There have already been convictions under our Pritch Morgan bill.

In another call to action, the US Fish & Wildlife Service was being pressured to stop hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges including Piedmont. The Service asked for public input and we printed a response card in GON. Result - Georgia produced almost half of the 55,000 nationwide responses received in Washington. The Ants were over-whelmed by our positive response and had to retreat. The second round of that battle is going on now and we expect to have to fight it again later this year.

Perhaps our finest hour came when our own Georgia legislature was about to skim some of our land acquisition

of it. And as sportsmen, we should and must take a leadership role in ensuring the preservation of these wild lands.

Understand... our support of this program should not be contingent on whether or not the land purchased is "hunting" & "fishin'" land. We need to support this concept even if we never get to hunt or fish a foot of it.

By the same token, if the lands purchased will support hunting and fishing, then hunting and fishing should be permitted and encouraged.

But our leadership role needs to transcend our simple ability to pay for some part of a worthy program. We have an opportunity to take the Governor's plan and build on it. We can easily double the funds pledged to Preservation 2000. That is, we can if you support this call to action.

Compared to the need to protect critical habitat that exists in this state, Gov. Miller's "\$100 million over three years" plan is paltry. The real Preservation 2000 is now a three-year-old Florida program. Florida's Governor and legislature are spending \$100 million each year from general funds to buy land, and hunting and fishing license fees have not been increased. Their on-going program is already three times larger than Miller's entire proposal.

So what do we do?
I say that if we're going to have a program like this, let's have a strong program.

The principle is simple. As sportsmen, as true conservationists, we are going to belly up to the bar and gladly pay the price to preserve valuable and unique land. But we don't think we should be the only ones bellying up. After all, the land Gov. Miller is trying to save is not threatened by those who hunt and fish. And the reasons for buying the land is certainly broader than simply providing public hunting land.

It is therefore reasonable that we ask that other group's taxes, those who do pose a threat to wild land, should also shoulder a 20 percent tax increase.

Because we hold the moral high ground, because we represent a leadership role in this plan, because we've got our money where our mouth is; we have a right to ask others to also support this important plan.

We need our legislators to add eight steps to Preservation 2000. I am asking you to present these needs to your legislators and to require that they respond to you about these eight steps. And I'm asking that you do it NOW and CONTINUOUSLY.

FEBRUARY 1992

GEORGIA OUTDOOR NEWS

Step One:

Include a Sunset Provision in the License Fee Increase

The Governor says that our license fee money will be used to buy land. Our license fees increase on April 1, 1992 by the full amount. However, he will fund the \$60 million program over three years - \$20 million each year - IF he can get the legislature to agree to the funding. I believe the Governor believes he can do it. But just in case he can't, a sunset provision gives sportsmen several key types of protection. First, it strengthens our claim that these funds we are paying are intended for land acquisition. Second, should the legislature fail to fund a portion of the Governor's program, we would have standing to ask that license fees be reduced, rather than having the money siphoned off into other state programs. An third, 23 years from now when the mortgage is paid off, either our fees would be decreased or the politicians would have to tell us where the money would be going beyond. A Sunset Provision simply says that when it is paid off, you don't have to pay for it any more.

Step Two:

Create a WMA-like Non-Hunting and Non-Fishing Stamp

The lands we are currently using as WMAs and PFAs, the 62,000 acres sportsmen alone purchased, the lands the Governor proposes to purchase, are and will be open to all Georgians for many forms of recreation. Yet, historically, only sportsmen have borne the financial burden for these lands. Particularly because the Governor intends to be special land for reasons not related to their ability to serve as WMAs, it seems appropriate that these other users should be provided some opportunity to help expense this unique opportunity to preserve Georgia's natural heritage. A WMA stamp will cost \$19.00 per year. This proposed WMA-like stamp would likely cost considerably less than that. It does cost some amount for DNR to provide services for campers and hikers at trail riders and spelunkers and bird-watchers. That cost should be covered and then a \$3.00 worth of Preservation 2000 increase should be matched by these other users. We are pulling our weight - they can pull theirs.

FOR YOUR ONLY INFO

Step Three: Make Poachers Pay More

As the law stands today, when a poacher who shoots at a deer from the road, at night, with a light, and kills the deer, the fine is the same as when he shoots and misses. That ain't right. A dead deer should cost more than a missed deer.

Currently all Game & Fish violation fines are collected and retained by the county where the offense took place. I don't suggest we attempt to change that.

But we should add a restitution charge to the poacher equal to the value of the fish or wildlife he illegally killed. Currently, the only monetary fine collected from poachers is for criminal activity. This concept of restitution acts sort of like a civil penalty as well. A list of the value of most state wildlife already exists. The restitution charge would simply be added on to the current Game & Fish fines but, unlike the current criminal fine money, this restitution money would be routed back into the land acquisition program. In effect, poachers would wind up protecting wildlife by helping to secure and preserve more land for wildlife.

Step Four: Make Criminal Polluters Help Us Buy Land

In the same spirit as the restitution charge listed above, there are many industries and developers and even some cities and counties who have permission to pollute the air or water or create land fills or disturb the soil, etc. These entities have permits that allow them to conduct these activities within specified guidelines. As long as they operate within those guidelines, I have no quarrel with them. When they violate the limits of their permit, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) can and does levy fines on these illegal polluters. Since it is these polluters who can cause the most damage to the environment, it seems fitting that they help preserve some of Georgia's best habitat. When EPD fines a violator, a Preservation 2000 surcharge of 20 percent should be tacked on top of the normal EPD fine and that surcharge should be used exclusively for land acquisition. If holders of these permits don't want to have to pay these fines, their course is simple - don't violate their permit. If they do, while we deplore the added pollution, at least they will be helping to set aside some quality land for the future.

Step Five: Make Dischargers Pay Something - Not Nothing

You just aren't going to believe this one. If you want to go fish in a lake or stream, or to hunt on it and hunt, you have to pay for a hunting or fishing license. But, if you want to discharge waste water into that same stream, the state will give you a permit to do that for FREE!

But under the Governor's new idea of charging users for the services they use, I believe that a fee system could be established that would not only cover the state's cost of issuing these NPDES permits but I also believe that a 20 percent surcharge on top of the cost of administration should be included - those surcharge funds to be used for land acquisition. One of the most important types of land to be purchased under Preservation 2000 is bottomland hardwoods in flood plains. One of the most important functions of these lands is to filter out some of the pollutants in the associated streams. It seems logical that those who are dumping the offending chemicals in the streams should help preserve the natural systems that help clean up the mess. We can expect a strong lobby against this from counties and cities because they dump a lot of water into our streams. But they would pass this increase cost on to their customers. Think about it this way - by charging dischargers, every time we flush the John we'll be helping the Governor fund Preservation 2000.

Step Six: Increase the Real Estate Transfer Fee 20 Percent

The next three steps are going to be tough to get. There is a fair number of real estate types serving as legislators and they are unlikely to embrace this proposal with open arms. I included the real estate transfer tax and the excise tax on concrete, asphalt, kaolin, sand and gravel because I believe that these industries account for the greatest loss of wild land in Georgia. After all, Zell Miller isn't trying to protect this special land from the ravages of sportsmen, is he? Yet, through real estate development, and paving and road building and mining operations, Georgia is losing 300,000 acres of her wild lands each year. Heck, it's going to take us three years to save a third of what we'll lose this year!

But back to the proposal. If you want to buy a candy bar in this state, the state will tax you four cents on the dollar. But if you buy real estate, the tax is only one tenth of a penny on the dollar. That's equal to 10 cents for \$100 dollars of real estate.

I propose raising this tax all the way up to 12 cents per \$100 dollars. If the Real Estate Transfer Fee was increased from 10 cents to 12 cents per \$100 and the increased funds were used for land acquisition, that smidgeon little two pennies per \$100 dollars would raise more money than all us sportsmen and boaters put together and - right off - the Governor could double his vision and call his plan Preservation 4000.

Step Seven: Add a 1 % Excise Tax To Concrete and Asphalt

We are up against the bull of the woods here boys. Contractors and road builders are the most generous of all the various groups when it comes to making contributions to politicians. Still, this avenue offers a tremendous method of creating a way to pay-as-you-pave for Preservation 2000.

Every time we pave over land we reduce the amount of potential wildlife habitat. In 1990, about 7.5 million cubic yards of Ready-Mix concrete was produced and poured here in Georgia and that was a slow year.

For the past 50 years, while concrete was being poured and asphalt laid all over Georgia, sportsmen have been paying a federal excise tax (currently an 11 percent tax) on all our hunting and fishing and boating gear. That money is channeled through the US Fish & Wildlife Service and back to states to be spent on land acquisition, hunter safety, operating fish hatcheries and stocking fish, re-establishing wild turkey and striped bass, all kinds of things. That 11 percent excise tax has done a great deal of good for an awful lot of wildlife.

I propose that we set up a similar system here in Georgia but that we set that tax on those things that represent the greatest long term threat to our wild lands. Paving over land or building on it doesn't just degrade the wildlife value of the land - it obliterates it.

Now before anyone begins to think I've become a urec-hugging green freak, let me say that I live in a house and my driveway is paved and I like it that way and I don't feel guilty about it. But I would feel better about it if I knew that

the next time I paved over something that at least a little part of my concrete bill was going to protect some special land somewhere.

So back to my plan. I propose that the state recognize the negative impact paving has on our natural resources and that a one percent surcharge be added to the cost of each yard of concrete or asphalt produced in Georgia - that money to be used to buy pristine wild land to mitigate paving damage.

A cubic yard of Ready Mix concrete will cost between \$38 and \$53 - the average cost is about \$45 per yard. We're talking about raising the price 45 cents a yard. But we're also talking about raising \$3.4 million a year for land acquisition!

Step Eight: Add a 1 % Excise Tax per Ton of Kaolin, Sand & Gravel

Using the same method explained above, this is essentially a severance tax. One day there won't be any more kaolin. Quarries tend to leave very large holes in the ground. Sand is used in many forms of construction. This tax produces for Florida a cash flow of \$40-\$50 million each year, all of it used to buy land.

How To Accomplish These Steps

I hope you agree with the eight steps outlined here. But I can tell you that politics is not a spectator sport. If you think ANY of these eight points should be acted on then it is up to you to make it happen. You must contact YOUR representative and tell him or her that you have a piece of legislation that you would like them to introduce and get passed. Don't send them a copy of this paper. Write it out yourself, in your own words. And then follow up with them regularly. Track your piece of legislation. MAKE your friends do the same thing.

Be advised that you have one state Senator and one Representative. Both are up for re-election this fall. If you don't know who to contact, call (Senate) (404) 656-5040 or (House) (404) 656-5015. Tell them where you live and they can tell you who your legislators are. Sportsmen have always been conservation leaders. It seems we're up to bat again. I'm counting on each of you to answer this important call - NOW!

Steve Burch

RABUN TU'ERS
THIS LOOKS LIKE A
GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET AND ENJOY THE
FELLOWSHIP OF OUR NORTH
TU AND SOUTH CAROLINA
TU FRIENDS. IT'S NOT
FAR - AND WHO KNOWS,
YOU MIGHT PICK UP A
ROD. A FLY TYING TIP.
SEE DETAILS ELSEWHERE
IN THE NEWS PAPER.



Chattooga River Chapter

January 26, 1992
2932 N. Bayshore Dr.
Seneca, SC 29678

Mr. Doug Adams
President, Rabun Chapter TU
Box 65 Bob Mark Trail
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Dear Doug:

The Chattooga River Chapter TU would like to invite your chapter to participate in our 1992 Tri-State Conclave on Saturday March 7, 1992. A program for the days activities are included with this letter. We anticipate having several local "shops" also participate in this get together.

As a chapter participant I would like you to invite your members to participate by:

- * swapping, trading or selling fishing stuff,
- * offering to demonstrate fly tying, rod building or fly casting, and
- * just coming to enjoy the fellowship and get together.

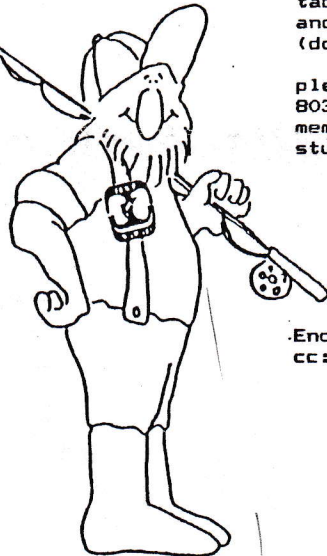
I would like to know by February 24, 1992 how many members (best estimate) from your chapter will come; how many will participate in the swap/trade/sell activity; and how many would like to demonstrate fly tying or rod building. This information will permit us to plan for the number of tables and chairs needed to accommodate everyone, and also for the amount of food preparation needed (donation accepted).

If you have any questions about this program, please give me a call at 803-656-3291 (day) or 803-882-0077 (night). I look forward to meeting members from your chapter and exchanging "fishing stuff and talk" on March 7.

Best regards,

Frank W. Paul
Vice-President
Conclave Chairman

Enclosures: Program
cc: Dave VanLear



EDUCATE
CONGRESS

POLITICIANS NEED PISCATORIAL PERSPICACITY

Trout Unlimited is now looking for individuals who would like to participate in a TU "Grassroots Activist" Network. They will write letters to their Congressmen on legislation specific to coldwater issues at a moments notice 3-4 times per year. If you join, please remember that the Activist Network will be only as effective as YOU make it. The network will be activated sometime in the coming year. To join, send your name and address to: TU Grassroots Activist Network, Suite 250, 800 Pollin Lane, SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4959. If you have a nine-digit zip code, please ensure that you include it in your address.