

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 87 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937<http://www.paara.org/>

Bonaire to Connecticut

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX

Kristen will talk about her recent contest expedition to Bonaire for CQWW phone in October, where she operated as PJ4G and PJ4/K6WX. She will also provide highlights on the January ARRL Board Meeting

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, has been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She started in Amateur Radio in 1979 getting her ticket while at MIT. Kristen has worked in many diverse areas from analog circuit design to image processing to starting and running an ISP. She is currently working at Apple in Core Networking, and spent many years at Sun Microsystems Laboratories where she was researching robustness and emergent properties of large distributed computer systems. She is a long-time denizen of Silicon Valley and has worked at or consulted for many of the usual suspects. Kristen is an active ham and loves to chase DX on HF with her Elecraft K2 which she built while visiting her mother in Florida. She is ARRL's first VP and past Pacific Division Director, past president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc., past Q&A columnist for Nuts and Volts magazine, and is active in many local clubs. Kristen was recently inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. She is also an Instrument Rated Private Pilot.

HOME BREW NIGHT is scheduled for the April 5th meeting!

Don't procrastinate, start that project now.

This meeting will be a Hybrid Meeting Zoom and In Person

Time: Feb 2, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

Feb 2*** Mar 1 Apr 5	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM *** Zoom and In Person Meeting
Feb 21 Mar 20 Apr 17	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!



President's Corner

February 2024

As start I drafting this column, I'm also madly getting ready to leave for Quartzfest and the King of the Hammers (KOH) off-road race. Spin forward a couple of weeks; now that I'm outside of Joshua Tree for the night, I hope to get this completed so it's in Bob's hands before I drive to Quartzfest tomorrow.



Did you make contact with Clipperton Island, TX5S? If so, maybe you exchanged your information with Andreas, N6NU, one of our past presidents. If you made contact or tried to make contact with them, I hope you share

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Question of the Month

These questions will be discussed at the February meeting.

What are the main differences between a dipole and a J-pole antenna? When would you use one over the other?

Parks on the Air - November 2023

Joshua Edwards (KO6ASM)

Do you enjoy events like Field Day and PAARA in the Park? Do you wish you could do them more often and in more exotic locales? Would you like to enjoy the outdoors while playing radio? Then come get involved in Parks on the Air!

On November 11th, PAARA members headed up into the hills to enjoy fresh air, sunshine, and (of course) radio! Connie (W6EFI), Doug (KG6LWE), Mickey (KO6AXZ), and I all met up at Henry Coe State Park near Morgan Hill to “activate” the park as part of the Parks On The Air (POTA) program.

What is POTA?

Parks on the Air came about following ARRL’s 2017 National Parks on the Air special event. Many people enjoyed it so much that they decided to keep it going beyond that year and thus POTA was born. The activity is quite simple and involves two teams: activators and hunters. Activators head out to “activate” a selected state or national park by setting up their rig in the park and calling CQ on phone, CW, or digital modes. The goal is to make as many contacts as possible - a minimum of 10 QSOs are required to get credit for activating a location. Hunters search for these activators to register a contact. The activators keep logs which are then submitted via the POTA app to earn credit for all involved. There are several awards for POTA for both activators and hunters alike!

Connie was the first to arrive and immediately made contact with the Park Rangers. We received a very warm response: “POTA?! Ham radio?! We love ham radio!” The Rangers kindly gave us a campsite to use that is normally reserved for firefighting crews. Once everyone was onsite, our first order of business was to hold a “show and tell” of gear while we set up our stations. As is common in POTA (where portability is important) - everyone was sporting QRP rigs: Connie and I with our Icom 705s and Doug with his Elecraft KX3. For antennas - Connie set up her Wolf River vertical and I went with my Alpha Antenna HexTenna (resonant dipole - you tune by adjusting element length)

Once we had our stations on the air, I decided

to work phone, Connie went for SSTV and FT8, and Doug gave CW a go.



Fig. 1 Everyone enjoying a day in the park. From left to right: Mickey, Connie, Doug, and Joshua



Fig. 2 Connie working SSTV and FT8 from her “office on the go.”

The weather was perfect - clear skies, warm, and temperatures in the low 60s and we enjoyed our time getting on the air and making contacts all around the country. Towards the afternoon I found that 15m conditions were de-

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(POTA — Continued from page 2)

teriorating and decided to stretch my legs to climb to the top of the nearby ridge. My entire rig is configured to quickly pack into my rucksack. Connie decided to join me and off we went up the trail; while Doug held down the fort at camp and kept working SSB.

Once at the summit, I went on the air and this time the contacts came quickly: 20m was really hopping! However, the sun was starting to get low in the sky so we decided to call it a day and head back to base camp.



Fig. 3 Shack on my back. What a view when working the airwaves!

So how did we do? Connie, Doug, and I all made good QSOs nationwide - Doug even made contact with a “celebrity” ham!

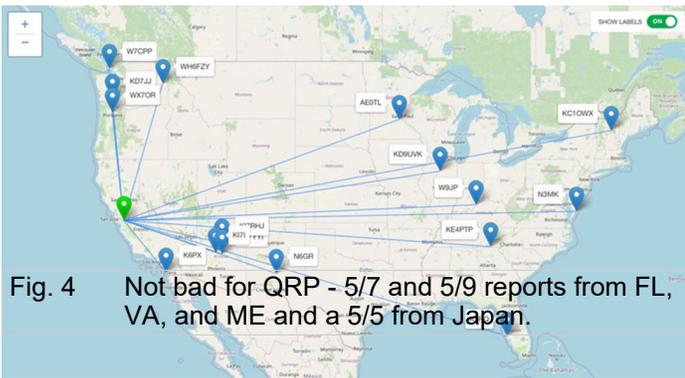


Fig. 4 Not bad for QRP - 5/7 and 5/9 reports from FL, VA, and ME and a 5/5 from Japan.

More to come

We all enjoyed the day at Henry Coe State Park and are planning to explore more of the beautiful state and national parks in the area. As announced at the December PAARA meeting, we are also planning a trip to Alcatraz - a national park that is not often activated. That event is

tentatively planned for May or June. Until then, all are welcome at our activations - tune in to the weekly PAARA net for details.

Would you like to know more?

- Parks on the Air HQ - general information, rules, and guidance: <https://parksontheair.com>
- POTA application - see what parks are active (for hunters), lookup approved parks, upload logs for credit, and more: <https://pota.app/#/>

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your experience with everyone at the February 2nd meeting.

PAARA members have been invited to attend the FARS Winter Banquet on February 23rd. The event will be at The Blue Pheasant, 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. Arrivals and mixing start at 6 PM with dinner being served at 7 PM. Dinner price ranges between \$41 ~ \$54 depending on your choice of meal. The evening's program is still in the works. There will be a raffle at the end of the program. The top raffle prize is a Yaesu FT-710, among other things. For more information and to sign up go to k6ya.org/bq.

Make sure to mark your calendars for April 5th. Once again, we'll be having our annual Home Brew Night. It's time to blow the dust off that project you've been tinkering with and show others what you've been up to. Please let Rob, KC6TYD, know ahead of time that you'll bring something to the meeting so we have an idea of how many presentations to allow for.

At the January meeting, I announced we successfully moved our support of the Electronics Flea Market (EFM) from April 14th to May 12th. This change was recently posted on the EFM website. However, a new observation has presented itself. May 12th is Mother's Day! Last year there was a rather small turnout for the event. ASVARO is looking into moving the event to one of the Sundays after

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Mother's Day. So, stand by. Once the date has been finalized, I'll be sending an email to everyone looking for volunteers.

I mentioned at the January meeting that now that the DOJ is satisfied with our nonprofit status, I filed the Raffle Paperwork. If I'd gone to their website and not used an already downloaded copy of the filing, I'd be fine. However, they sent the form back due to a change in the filing period which was July to June. Note, the "old" form was in use for more than the last 20 years! The filing period now is based on the calendar year, which makes more sense. I managed to get the "new" filing sent just before leaving for my trip. With any luck, I'll get some positive report from them when I return.

I'm sorry I'll miss Kristen's talk and the next meeting. I'm sure it will be of great interest as her talks always are. However, I look forward to Rob's report of all the smiling faces at the February 2nd meeting. The meeting will be both an IRL and Zoom meeting.

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

Jan 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, Directors Doug Tetter KG6LWE, Walt Gyger K6WGY, Bob Ridenour KN6YGN. Also in attendance was Mikko Sannalen, AB6RF. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

President's Report — We have had good membership activity and meeting attendance during 2023, and we want to increase our club's activity in '24. This might include upgrading our Field Day activity to class 4A, operating Winter Field Day, and perhaps activating Alcatraz Island. Congratulations to Rob KC6TYD for his hard work for PAARA, including locating interesting guest speakers, and handling club equipment sales.

Our meeting attendance was much higher in

2023 than in '22 during the pandemic. In-person plus zoom attendance is almost to the level pre-pandemic. We want to continue with our great meetings, and get our meeting attendance back to pre-covid numbers.

Secretary's Report — Club membership at the end of 2023 was 176, a recent high. 61% of our members hold the Amateur Extra license, 28% have a General Class license, 18% of us have the Technician ticket, and we still have 5 members with the Advanced Class license.

One hundred eighteen members have already renewed for 2024 or beyond: That leaves 58 members who haven't yet renewed.

Treasurer's Report — We sent the bank account reconciliation for Q3 and Q4 2023 to the accountant. The Secretary will send a year-end PayPal report to Margaret K6WEK.

Old Business

The editor received a couple of story submissions this month, including a history lesson from Ron Chester W6AZ, and a POTA expedition report from Josh KO6ASM. We still need more stories for PAARAgaphs. Members, please send your ham stories to Jim K6SV for PAARAgaphs!

The ham question from December, "What is the difference between a dipole and a j-pole antenna?" will be discussed at the February meeting.

Radio Loaner program — Doug KG6LWE has placed the club's FT-920 with a new club member on loan. He has been working with this ham to get the rig installed and working. A few antenna issues are yet to be resolved: Walt K6WGY is donating his triband dipole for this.

PAARAgaphs advertising — It is the time of year to send out invoices for PAARAgaphs advertisements. We appreciate the local companies who support our newsletter.

900 MHz Repeater — Mikko AB6RF and Christopher AI6KG continue to work on the 900 MHz repeater. A failed analog IC was re-

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placed, but that did not fully resolve the audio problem. In addition, 6 fans have been ordered for replacement. The backup batteries are worn out. Mikko will get quotes for replacement batteries.

The two DMR repeaters are in operation. There is a mesh node at the repeater site, working: We have mesh-connection for repeater control.

Tree situation: Eucalyptus trees will need to be trimmed. There is a major limb over one of our guy lines. We'll evaluate removal methods.

What should we do with this 900MHz repeater? It gets low usage at this time. We could link to another area repeater, perhaps, or link with an Arizona repeater group.

We still need to finish checking the references and links to other clubs on the contact page in PAARAgaphs. Ric N6AJS is on the hook for this.

Dream to Reality raffle — The DOJ form was changed, so the request has been sent back for re-submission. Form was mailed back to the state. We expect resolution soon.

Electronic Flea Market — PAARA swapped slots with the Santa Clara club. Our turn will be May 12. We need members to sign up and support this effort! Contact Jim K6SV to sign up.

PAARA membership badges — We reviewed our cost for badges, and discovered that our price does not cover the cost. The board voted to increase the cost of badges to \$30.00, shipped from the vendor. We will update the website to reflect this change.

The PAARA Home Brew Night will be at the April club meeting. Bring your homebrew projects to share!

New Business

PAARA members have been invited to attend the FARS Winter Banquet on February 23rd. The event is being held at The Blue Pheasant, 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino.

Arrivals and mixing start at 6 PM with dinner being served at 7 PM. Dinner price ranges between \$41 ~ \$54. There will be a raffle to close the event. The top raffle prize is a Yaesu FT-710. For more information and to sign up go to k6ya.org/bq.

PAARAgaphs cost — Postage rates have gone up 3 times since the start of 2023. The current cost of a PAARAgaphs printed and mailed is about \$2.21 (\$26.51 per year). Taking into account advertising revenue, the net cost is \$19.48 per year. The total PAARAgaphs cost divided by total membership is roughly \$16 per year.

PAARAgaphs PDF mailing: In recent months, the PDF newsletter has not arrived reliably. For January, we put the file on a google drive, and sent a link from paarapay@gmail.com. This seems to be working for now.

PAARA board mailing list: Ric N6AJS has reviewed some services for a mailing list for board member discussions. We chose to set up a list on groups.io for board use only. If that is successful, we may consider a club-wide mailing list, but only if we identify moderators for that.

Call for "Elmers": New hams and new club members can really benefit from having one-on-one assistance from a seasoned ham. This is an opportunity for club members to step up and provide a valuable service to PAARA, and the ham radio community. Please contact Ric at the club meeting or by e-mail N6AJS@arrl.net and become an "Elmer".

We have acquired PAARA inventory tags. We will be attaching them to PAARA-owned equipment, starting with the loaner rig and power supply. The inventory will be on a spreadsheet in our shared directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Hulett N6AJS
PAARA Secretary



Three views at Quartzfest

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Appointed Positions

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 Station Trustee K6OTA Ron Chester, W6AZ
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 Historian Position *Position Vacant*
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 Technical Tips..... Ric Hulett, N6AJS
 Photographer *Position Vacant*

VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

Electronics Flea Market (ESM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO)
 The Electronics Flea Market is seeking a new location. Until that is resolved, the EFM is on hold. Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos. Website: <http://www.fars.k6va.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact president@ncdxc.org. Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November.
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz
 Contact: SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com, Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.
 See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.
 Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or board@specsnet.org

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)
 Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.
 Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>. Contact: info@wvara.org

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
 every Monday evening at 8:30pm
 on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

1 st	Doug - KG6LWE
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.

**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month,
 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year,
 which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
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The cost for a badge is \$25.00.

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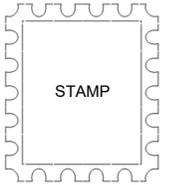
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.
 All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.

PAARAgaphs — February 2024

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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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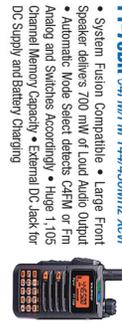
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- Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz, IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Stepa Factor • 5-Full-Color Touch Panel W/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier W/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SD-LAN10)



FT-891 | HF-50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Stable 100 Watt Output • 32-Bit DSP • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, FT1 (RTTY Control)



FT-70DR C4FM/FTM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1.105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

- Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3MHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FTM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 50W Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation • Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WIRESS X Portable Digital Mode/Fixed Mode with HR-200



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power With In a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



FDX101D | HF + GM Transceiver

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled -70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FTM-200DR | C4FM/FTM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communications • 2" High-Res Full-Color TFT Display • High-Speed Band Scope • Advanced C4FM Digital Mode • Voice Recording Function for TXRX



FTM-600DR | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

- All New User Operating Interface-E20-III (Easy to Operate-III) • Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio • Detachable Front Panel Can be Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



- RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

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