

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

July 2004

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Come early and chat!

Important Note About Next Meeting!

The meeting on July 27 will take place at My Father's Pizza at the corner of Broadway and Washington, at 7 p.m. **NOTE the earlier time!!**

Tuesday, July 27th The History of Two Meters

San Diego ARRL Section Manager (and pizza connoisseur) Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, will relate the history of the most popular amateur band.

Saturday, August 21st Annual Club Picnic

Mark your calendars now for the annual Club picnic at Rod McLeod Park. Details to follow.

ALL EARS

The official bulletin of the
Escondido Amateur Radio Society

An e-mail subscription to All Ears is FREE! You don't need to be a member. Just drop a note to:

John Musselman, WB6UHF, Editor
wb6uhf@arri.net

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The deadline to submit material for the next bulletin is Tuesday, August 10.

EVENT CALENDAR

Jul 27	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jul 31	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Aug 3	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m., at W9EN
Aug 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Aug 21	Annual Club Picnic
Aug 21	Midnight Madness Bicycle Run
Aug 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Sept 7	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Sept 18	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Sept 25	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Sept 28	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m.



John, KG6DVE, is caught "racking them up" at Field Day. More Field Day photos can be found inside this issue.
- Photo courtesy KG6SXY

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PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

Every month, before I write this column, I think long and hard, trying to come up with some profound bit of wisdom which may stimulate someone's mind and make them think of Ham Radio in some new and meaningful way. It seems I think about this column all month long. Then John sends me an e-mail saying he needs it by tomorrow. Maybe, if I spent half as much time writing it as I do thinking about it, not only would it be done on time, maybe it would be written better also.

OK, Field Day is over. I guess I am supposed to say what a great job everyone did and what a successful Field Day it was! Well, here is my take on it.

I think about five years ago there was some serious talk about dissolving EARS. For some of us who really enjoyed this club, that was a wake up call. A lot of new blood got involved with the Board, and all of a sudden the not so active EARS Club had a new life!

Field Day four years ago, no one really seemed to care. There really was no interest. Willie, N8WP, had just joined the Club and was quickly promoted to Vice President. He and our President, Bill, KD6BFR, decided there was going to be a Field Day. Gene, W6EEB, had operated Field Day on VHF/UHF every year for as long as I have been a member. Willie became Field Day chairman, I was band captain and Gene was the VHF/UHF Captain.

EARS operated 1A. That Friday, I grabbed a Tower from Harry and a 10m beam from Konrad's, and headed on up to Coronado Hills. Willie had a family emergency pop up so was not able to make it up til Saturday. That Friday, helping with setup were only me, my dad, Lee, KQ6CB, VL, KE6DFD (now SK), Gene, W6EEB, and his son John.

After spending about three hours assembling the tower and beam, we really didn't have enough people to set up the tower. The tower and beam laid on the ground for the entire Field Day only to be disassembled by me on Sunday. Willie showed up Saturday morning with a Cushcraft R5 vertical and a tripod. Art, KC6UQH was supposed to bring up a generator. For those of you who know Art, it's just hard to get Art anywhere before noon, and, I believe that is about the time he showed up with the generator. (He also showed up later and got us some bonus ATV points).

(continued on next page)

EARS Club Officers for 2004

President

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kk6tv@arrl.net

Vice President

John Belstner, W9EN, 271-8012
w9en@amsat.org

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*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819
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*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6pkk@amsat.org

The Escondido Amateur Radio Society

is a non-profit organization of educational and social benefit to Amateur Radio operators and others interested in Amateur Radio in the Escondido area.

Dues are very affordable. Come join the fun! See the application form on Page 6.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

(cont'd)

So, in the true spirit of Field Day we made due with what we had. We operated the first hour on a NiCad battery pack, operating my Yaesu (now Harry's) FT817 on about four watts or less. I believe we made over 30 Qs that first hour with QRP as well as a few DX contacts. Doing so much with so little, it was a blast!

A few operators showed up that night, as well as a few visitors. I know John, WB6UHF, and Steve, KE6PY, operated CW late into the night. This was the first time I ever participated in Field Day with a club and I am sure it is my most memorable!

I just hope that for the kids and adults that made the GOTA station such a huge success this year, will find it as memorable as my first Field Day. Otherwise, it won't be long til we will be talking about dissolving EARS again!

By the way, everyone did a great Job and it was a successful Field Day!!!

73, Nick...

Congratulations to New Members

N6XT, Ron
W6WRJ, Curt
KC6RCW, Tom (life member)
KD6RHD, John
AE6GM, Jeff (life member)

WEBSITE CHANGES

by Nick, KK6TV

Since most people seem to use www.earsclub.org and to only pay for one domain, it was decided to let www.EscondidoARS.org expire.

If you have been using www.EscondidoARS.org, please repoint your browser to www.earsclub.org to access the EARS web site.

AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

by Skip, KD6RFQ

Dates Sept 18, 25, Oct. 2 and 9

Registration September 18, 2004, at Scripps Memorial Hospital, time 1pm, in the Noble Room. Question and answer at this time. This registration is a must attend meeting will last approximately 2 hours.

Schedules will be given out, with times.

We will be using "Now You're Talking 5th edition". Read Chapters 1-4. Things to bring: pen and pencil, highlighters.

Class meeting days Sept 25, Oct. 2 and 9

Class hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., lunch 1 hour

Will take FCC test, on site.

Cost of class \$13.00 covers book, and six (6) practice tests, and taking the FCC test thru the Volunteer Examiner Cash please

Directions to Scripps Memorial Hospital campus are: (Thomas Guide, 2002, page 1228, B-1)

Address: 9888 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037

1. I-5
2. Genesee Avenue exit
3. Proceed east, on Genesee Avenue, one block to signal.
4. Turn right at signal, which is Scripps

Drive straight ahead, take a parking ticket, and proceed through the parking gate. Bring ticket with you; it will be validated. Once through the parking gate, first right turn to the underground parking entrance. Be very careful for all antennas. We will be in the Noble Room in the Schaezel Center.

E-mail with name, day phone + night phone, and which is best to call.

Class contact :

Skip Cline
760-757-5424
kd6rfq@ixpres.com
(e-mail is best)

FIELD DAY A GREAT TIME

by John, WB6UHF

This year's Field Day at Dixon Lake was a huge success, as attested by the many positive comments heard afterwards and by the excellent turnout.

First, the stats:

QSOs: 2,135 (1,648 Phone and 487 CW)

Points: 6,294 (5,244 from QSOs and 1,050 Bonus)



*Thomas, KG6INL, does mike duty while one of EARS' newest operators makes GOTA contacts.
- Photo courtesy KG6SXY.*

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Field Day such an enjoyable time!

Konrad, Sam and all the setup/teardown crew did a great job of getting the antennas set up early and with minimum pain.



*"Der Pinzgauer" moves into location. Besides climbing rocks, it also served as one of the operating positions.
- Photo courtesy WB6PKK.*



*Cheryl, KG6KTT, shows Willie, N8WP, how it's done.
- Photo courtesy KG6SXY.*

John, thanks for securing the site and for taking care of all the grub.

Band captains, way to go. Dirk, Steve A., Nick and Steve V. made sure the rigs were up and running and that there were operators covering the timeslots. Steve V., what a great VHF/UHF setup, and it was his first FD. I guess you have some ideas for next year, especially regarding air conditioning! Nick, what a successful GOTA operation. Tony and Tom



*Bill, W6EET, and Steve, KE6PY, log and pound brass, respectively, on 20 CW.
- Photo courtesy WB6PKK.*

got bit with the FD bug as well as many youngsters who may not have even heard of radio before.

Thanks to all the operators who were able to rack up more than 2250 QSOs. Nice to see Bill M helping with CW. (Did we really only have 3 CW operators?)

Nice to see some long lost club members and

friends. Willie and Cheryl, glad you got down here. Skip popped in, too. It was good as always to talk to Gary and his wife and see the jalopy. Thanks, Roger, for the donuts, even though you came and went like a stealth fighter.



*The VHF/UHF station. Note the great job on the antenna!
- Photo courtesy WB6PKK.*

Thanks, Harry, for filling up a couple of time slots and for helping with publicity and copying the official FD message from W1AW.



*Steve, W6/G0TAN did a superb job setting up the VHF/UHF station and keeping it operating despite 110 degree heat inside.
- Photo courtesy WB6PKK.*

Thanks, Jo, for the loan of the generator. It was good to see you up at the site this year.

Thanks, Chris and Roger and Danny and Thomas for filling in some of the time slots, for helping with chores and for bringing the fun of radio to others.

Thanks go to the rangers, too, for leaving us alone to our hobby.

I've left out many names, but you know it was a success because everyone pitched in and worked together to make this another enjoyable EARS Field Day.

Nick, the Club has indeed come a long way in just a



*Dirk, N6SUN, and Roger, KB6DQO, keep it going in the Pinzgauer.
- Photo courtesy KK6TV.*

few short years. We all know that the premier operating event of the year is Field Day and that hams all over the area will gladly sacrifice to be involved. It's just too much fun not to get out there and take part.

See you again next year!



*Ron, N6XT, logs as Harry, W6YOO, mines 15 meters.
- Photo courtesy KK6TV.*

GOING TO MARS (cont'd)

by Tony May, KG6SXY / NNN0AFET

Luckily for me, my Yaesu FT-897 can be modified programmatically to transmit on MARS frequencies so it took very little time once I managed to find the right information and the right software package for my particular radio.

I spent quite a few hours pouring over the training guide before the net started on Sunday, June 6, 2004, so I would know exactly what to expect in the exchange between NECOS and the other stations trying to check into the net. My first Navy MARS check-in was exhilarating and probably the most nerve wracking experience of my radio operator life to date. The conditions were fairly bad and I was trying to time my check in between 9 seconds of S9++ noise that repeated every 20 seconds or so. My hand was shaking and I'm almost positive my voice was less than stable but I had taken the time to write out each and every word I needed to say in order to check in and all I needed to hear was the call sign of the NECOS or the last person to make a net call so I could make my very first check in. While NNN0LFD did not manage to copy my transmission the second time I attempted to check in, I was unaware that the NECOS / NNN0GAF FOUR had heard me the first time and had already checked me in. My second check-in was a lot rockier for me than the first but that was my first fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants check in where I was mobile with NNN0AGN and didn't have a pre-written script to read. I stumbled with the NECOS call sign the first time around and know I didn't get NNN0EVM right, but the second round went much smoother. I can not even begin to describe the adrenaline rush you feel the first time you hear your call sign being acknowledged as checked in. Everyone always says it gets easier as time goes on, but as a newcomer, it's easy to forget that you're not the first and you won't be the last to face your fears, learn to relax, and do the best job you can. Everyone I've met so far has been very supportive and very helpful in getting me up on the air and get the initial stage fright behind me.

I've heard that a lot of people in the past have gone through this training on their own or attended classes with a group of other people. While both approaches work, I appreciate having people I can call upon to clarify things before I end up making mistakes on the air. It helps to take a bit of that nervous tension away and encourage you to get on the air more often because you have alternatives to a trial and error approach.

It's hard to believe it's only been a month since I got involved with Navy-Marine Corps Mars; it definitely

feels a lot longer than that but in a good way. I feel I've learned so much in a short amount of time. I know that the level of commitment involved may scare some people away but for me it's an exciting challenge to see if I have what it takes to rise to every occasion.

Now that I've completed my training and been given the honor of dropping the T from the end of my callsign (the trailing T identifies new operators as Trial Members or Trainees), the training does not seem as daunting as it did in the beginning. There is a lot of material to read and absorb but there are a lot of people you can call upon to ask questions about things that you don't understand. The requirement to generate six different types of messages and deliver them on one of the traffic nets is a great learning experience. It can be difficult to make something up to send to someone that doesn't exist in real life but the process of coming to a traffic net with a piece of traffic to be forwarded gives you a great opportunity to practice everything you've read about since you started your training. Sure, there are training nets where you can deliver your messages but depending on the individual, a training net can be too much of a safety net. When you come to a live traffic net to deliver your messages, you know you have to invest time and energy to format the message and list it on the net correctly. It's not the end of the world if you make mistakes, these are just drill messages that are designed to give you experience and get the feedback and corrections you need so you can learn from your mistakes. There really isn't anything to be afraid of because I'm sure everyone remembers what it is like to struggle with so much new information in the beginning. From my experiences so far, there are lots of people on the traffic nets that just want to point you in the right direction so you can improve on your next drill message.

If you spend a lot of time listening to traffic nets, you'll hear a lot of digital traffic but when conditions are bad, you still hear some messages being delivered by voice. While digital traffic can be quicker and easier to deliver, there is no substitute for delivering messages by voice when the other station is just barely readable. I find it interesting to hear how much energy is poured into getting a message from one place to the next in an accurate and timely fashion. I once read a passage that said, "We train like we fight", and I really didn't fully understand what that meant until I started spending time on the traffic nets and listening to how traffic is being handled regardless of whether it's a live message or a drill message prepared by a new trainee. Everybody takes every piece of traffic seriously.

To be continued...

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART V

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

A couple of issues back, we discussed the IOTA Program, which stands for Islands On The Air, managed by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). There are 1200 islands or island groups and awards begin with the 100-island award.

Well, coming up is a good chance for many to accumulate a considerable number of islands worked. It is the annual IOTA contest that begins at 1200Z, July 24 and ending at 1200Z, July 25. The complete rules can be found at:

www.islandchaser.com/iotw/contest/rules.htm.

Many of the DX newsletters will have a general listing of islands to be activated for the contest, one such can be found at:

www.islandchaser.com/cgi-bin/webcal/showday.pl?20040724.

This is a fun contest and a wonderful opportunity to increase your IOTA count

Another "collecting" aspect of Amateur Radio includes working stations that are located permanently or temporarily in lighthouses, castles, or other prominent geographic features. Virtually all countries that have shorelines near navigable waters have lighthouses and many of the Hams in such countries have established lighthouse awards. One such is the Lithuanian Lighthouse Award sponsored by the Klaipeda Region Radio Club for contacting any two of the eight Lithuanian lighthouses. To assist Hams in lighthouse collecting, there is a least one International Lighthouse Weekend on the Air. Look in the Contesting and Special Event sections of your favorite Ham magazine.

Now that you have "worked" the station, what must you do to get the all-important QSL card? Well, first of all, make very sure that all your log entries are correct which includes being sure that you have the other call sign correct (and that the other station has your call correct!) Above all things, keep your log in Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) formerly known as "Zulu" or GMT time. Having 8:00 a.m. PST means absolutely nothing to some operator in Poland. Listen carefully to the other station to determine if he is giving out QSL information such as "good in call book, QRZ, or QSL manager is W6YOO, or send your card via the Bureau."

If you are going direct, use "security" envelopes, even domestically. Or wrap the contents of the

envelop in a thin blank sheet of paper. Or both. Cuts down on potential theft, and the sheet of paper "smooths" the envelope out a little so that there is less chance of postal machinery snagging on and destroying an envelope. My recommendation is that you use a business size number 10 envelope for the outbound QSL with a number 9 envelope tucked inside for the return. Along with your QSL card, plus a "greenstamp", IRC, or whatever, all will weigh less than one ounce and require only a single "first class" or "airmail" stamp.

More on QSLing next time.

73, Harry

ARRL STUDIES BPL IN OHIO from the ARRL Letter

OHIO ARRL SECTION MANAGER ANNOUNCES BPL TEAM ORGANIZATION

Amateur Radio operators in the Cincinnati area are organizing a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) team to monitor a planned BPL deployment. In announcing the move, ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, says the group will study the effects of a BPL rollout in two neighborhoods by utility Cinergy Corp. The new group, consisting of a half dozen engineering professionals and some 20 others, will operate as a subcommittee of the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee (LIC). Kirk Swallow, W8QID, will head the BPL/LIC effort.

"Kirk has been operations manager for several electronics cellular and satellite firms," said Phillips, "and his experience with directing professional engineers makes him well qualified to handle this assignment." Phillips says the Greater Cincinnati LIC has a long and successful record of handling repeater interference problems. "This BPL problem, however, represents new and special challenges in interfering with the spectrum," he added.

In March, articles in The Wall Street Journal and the Cincinnati Enquirer announced the BPL rollout by Cinergy and its BPL partner Current Technologies. Cinergy and Current said they hoped to offer the service to between 60,000 and 1.5 million Cincinnati-area customers by year's end and eventually to some 24 million potential customers elsewhere who are served by smaller utilities. Cinergy has been charging \$40 a month for BPL service, but Phillips says many current subscribers are utility employees who get the service at no cost.

JULY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$1245.11 in the checking account and \$1334.02 in the savings account.

2. John, KG6DVE, reported that he came in under budget for the Field Day food. Dirk, N6SUN, spent \$30 for interconnect wire and connectors for Field Day for which he will be reimbursed.

3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported on his efforts in moving our meetings to the Salvation Army building, and having a ham station on site there.

4. John, W9EN, reported that Jim, KE6MRX, who was scheduled to speak at the July meeting, asked to be rescheduled for November. John will try to get Pat, WA6MHZ, for the July meeting which will be held at My Father's Pizza on July 27th.

5. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the repeaters are working fine and the 220 link is still in the works.

6. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that applications for ARES membership renewal are being collected at

this time. New ID cards will be issued to those who have passed the training and qualify.

7. John, KG6DVE, reported that the net is going well and thanked Harry, W6YOO, for running the last net when John was out of town.

8. John, WB6UHF, reported that the newsletter is going smooth and he needs Field Day photos.

9. Sam, N6SD, reported that SANDARC has received a proposal from the Marriott Hotel in Mission Valley for the next Division convention. For training schedules contact Skip, KD6RFQ, at kd6rfq@ixpress.com.

10. John, WB6UHF reported that after we have a meeting place and perhaps a training room, he would like to begin contacting middle and high school students to see if we can recruit them.

11. John, WB6UHF, presented a GOTA pin to Tom's daughter and he will contact Nick to see if there are others who deserve an award for their Field Day activities.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Call _____ Class _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone No _____ Date of Birth _____

E-mail Address _____

Date Licensed _____ Expires _____

Member of the following organizations?

ARES _____ ARRL _____

EVAC _____ MARS _____

Red Flag _____

Interests _____

Other _____

Membership Rates

One year \$13.00

Family membership \$3.00

Lifetime membership \$130.00

Lifetime membership (family) \$20.00

Mail this form with payment to EARS, PO Box 3243, Escondido, CA 92033, or give it to the treasurer or any other club officer at a regular club meeting.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. After July 1, membership to the end of the year is ½ the annual fee. Special rates apply for family membership for each additional licensed amateur radio operator in your immediate family and for lifetime membership.

For membership confirmation and auto-patch codes, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with this form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CLUB REPEATERS - EARS operates two repeaters in Escondido. The two meter EARS repeater is on 146.88 MHz with a PL of 107.2. The 440 EARS repeater is on 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.13. Both repeaters are local in nature and primarily serve the immediate Escondido area.

ECHO-LINK - The two meter repeater is tied to the Echo-Link system as node 2846. See the Club website, www.earsclub.org, for information on Echo-Link. There is also a listing of local Echo-Link codes in the members section of the website.

EARS WEB PAGE - EARS is on the Internet. You can read about upcoming activities, get links to other ham radio sites, read back issues of All Ears, or update your call or address. The site is updated regularly. Check it out at www.earsclub.org.

EARS REFLECTOR – is a free service that keeps members up-to-date via e-mail. To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website and click on Yahoo Groups in the site map. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, e-mail Nick, kk6tv@arrl.net.

CLUB BADGES - Let everyone know that you are a member of EARS and avoid having them guess what your name is. See Harry, W6YOO, to obtain a badge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CALLSIGN - Please let us know if you change your address, callsign, telephone, license class, e-mail, etc. We want to keep our records up to date. Contact Marvin, WB6PKK, the keeper of the club database, or any club officer.

ARRL LETTER - The ARRL Letter, a weekly e-mailing of Amateur Radio related news, is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe for e-mail delivery, ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Website, www.arrl.org/members. The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at www.arrl.org/arrlletter, where it is posted each Friday after it is distributed via e-mail.

SANDARC - EARS is a member of the San Diego Amateur Radio Council, an association of San Diego area Amateur Radio clubs. Among other things, SANDARC runs the local Volunteer Examiner program (SANDARC-VEC), and manages the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention when held in San Diego every fourth year. See www.qsl.net/n6oph.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST - EARS members meet socially the third Saturday of each month at the Westside Cafe, on West Ninth Ave. at the corner of Redwood St. at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING NET is every Sunday at 8 p.m. local time. You can get the latest information on club activities there. Tune in to the club repeater at 146.88 MHz, negative offset and PL of 107.2, check in and say hi.

MONTHLY ARES MEETING – The San Diego Section ARES meets on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Giovanni's Restaurant, southwest corner of Clairmont Mesa Blvd and Ruffin Road. Order your breakfast at the counter and it will be brought to your table in the meeting area. The monthly ARES training session follows the breakfast meeting and takes place at the Kearney Mesa Recreation Center, 3170 Armstrong Street (near Mesa College). Training begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

SECTION NEWS – The latest happenings around San Diego are available at www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html, the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS - To renew your license or supply the FCC with a change of address, use NCVEC Form 605 (obtainable from Harry, W6YOO). Attach a photocopy of your license and mail to SANDARC VEC, PO Box 2446, La Mesa, CA 91943-2446. You must include your Social Security Number. There is no charge for this service.

HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATES - All California hams may receive their call sign on their license plate. Use DMV Form REG17A. The cost is \$21.00 and is a one-time fee.

VE TESTING - is conducted in Escondido under the auspices of SANDARC at 9 a.m. on the last Saturday of every month at Fire Station One, 310 N Quince Street. Contact Harry Hodges, W6YOO, to schedule an appointment.

MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM - The US Army, the US Air Force, and the US Navy/Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) are looking for a few good men/women. If you would like to get on HF regardless of license, now's the time. See Harry Hodges, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3243
ESCONDIDO, CA 92033

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