





Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 3, Issue 3 March 2016

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager Steve Szabo, WB4OMM

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Good Day to You! I hope this message finds you enjoying the Greatest Hobby and Service in the World!

Sorry if this is a bit "long" but lots of "stuff" to provide to you!

The "National Parks on the Air" (NPOTA) activity is in full swing, with a few of our NPS locations already activated. My group will be in NFL at Canaveral National Seashore on Saturday, March 19th....so look for us!! (Another is up around the St. Augustine area too; details of this operating event are at: https://npota.arrl.org. Be a "chaser" or be an "activator" ...have fun!

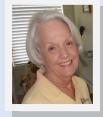
Speaking of fun...the Orlando Hamcation was BLAST! Thanks for those of you that stopped by and said hello at "ARRL Street" or attended the NFL Forum Saturday morning (two and a half sign-up sheets – over 65 attended, and several standing in the back didn't sign in). We were graced by two Section Mangers (Betsey Doane K1EIC from CT, and Jeff Beals WA4AW from SFL), Division Vice-Director Mike Lee AA6ML, honorary vice-president Frank Butler W4RH, and the new President of the ARRL, Rick Roderick K5UR. We also had the State EOC ESF2 Liaison, Phil Royce KE4PWE, too. If I missed acknowledging you, I apologize....it was busy and fast! OARC is to be commended for a top-shelf, well-run and well organized event. I had so many folks complimenting the Hamfest and related activities, I couldn't recall them all. AND NOT ONE COMPLAINT!! AMAZING!!

Not good news; I am deeply sorry to say our Hernando EC **Alan McGrew KC4MTS** passed away on February 19th. Alan has been the Hernando EC for many years and will be missed. Heartfelt condolences to his family. I will be soliciting for a replacement to fill those big shoes shortly.

Some new appointments – A hearty "Welcome" to Steve Palmer KM4SDP the newly appointed EC for Flagler County. Also newly appointed as the Jackson County EC is Ricky Whittington KD4AST. Thanks to both for "stepping up to the plate" - please support these folks in their new positions. Also

What's Inside...

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor wb2vyk@gmail.com



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Great to see everyone at HamCation. It's good to put names, calls and faces together.



Looking forward to the April issue. Keep me on your info lists.

Email your QST NFL input to WB2VYK@gmail.com

congrats to Ray Chapeau **K1HG** in his appointment to Assistant Section Manager. I am hoping in next month's message to announce a few more appointments to vacant spots.

While on the subject of vacant spots, we have several positions that have had long time folks "doing the job" for extended periods of time or are now vacant; and some are looking to "retire" or have already indicated they are willing to "vacate" one a suitable replacement is available. Here's a partial list for now:

Affiliated Club Coordinator – Steve Barber WA4B has done great stuff with this position, but is ready for some well-deserved rest! He is willing to remain in an "assistant" capacity but would like someone who can spend the time to work with our numerous clubs all over the section. It entails contacting Affiliated Clubs, maintaining coordination with the Newsletters, nets, special events, activities

SM Message (continued)

and the like. The position description is here: http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-coordinator

State Government Liaison – Currently vacant, the previous occupant did not want to continue when I took office 18 months ago. This position might require a trip to Tallahassee from time to time so someone in that region (or within 120 miles or so) would be best suited. The position description is here: http://www.arrl.org/state-government-liaison (IMPORTANT: THIS POSITION ALSO REPRESENTS THE WCF AND SFL SECTIONS!)

Public Information Coordinator- Also vacant. Coordinates PIO efforts with other PIOs in the Section, The position description is here: http://www.arrl.org/public-information-coordinator

Section Youth Coordinator – Also vacant. I would hope for someone already working with youth organizations, Boy/Girl Scouts, faith-based organizations and the like. Also supports Kids Day, Jamboree on the Air, etc. activities. The position description is here: http://www.arrl.org/section-youth-coordinator

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE POSTIONS....THEY ARE IM-PORTANT MEMBERS OF THE "TEAM". Send me an e -mail if you are interested.

I am starting to schedule the various Hamfests and "tailgates", club and ARES meetings for the remainder of the year – while I can't make Ft. Walton Beach Hamfest this year

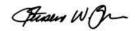
(my group's NPOTA is the same day), I am planning on being at the Milton Hamfest and NOFARS, and possibly the Pensacola and Ocala gatherings. And, as I can, I will try to make the rounds throughout the Section as much as I can. One change though, I am planning on a "local" Field Day this year, operating from Daytona only for the weekend. I enjoy my time visiting with you folks in the Section – it is the BEST part of the job! I will send out the tentative "agenda" as soon as I can get it arranged.

Spring is kinda almost here, so watch the weather as it can be quite "extreme" during this time of year. AND.....the State Hurricane Exercise and Field Day will be here before you know it!

As always, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO. Without you, nothing else happens, and nothing else matters.

EVERYONE COUNTS! 73, Steve WB40MM

This month's Newsletter is attached.....pass it around!!!!



Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

ARRL, The National Association

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™ 386-566-2085, wb4omm@arrl.org

Local Ham Club Donates Books to Library Daisy Crepeau KT4KW, AEC, Santa Rosa County

The Emerald Coast Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) has made a donation of 11 books to Navarre Public Library. The books cover a variety of topics all centered on amateur radio, e.g., antennas, FCC Regulations and License study manuals. The books, valued at \$250.00, are one way in which amateur operators give back to the community.

President, **Ray Crepeau K1HG**, said "Our hope is that this will increase awareness of the valuable service provided by hams around the world in times of emergency." "We would like to see more people licensed in this most worthwhile "hobby." ECARA meets on the 1st Friday of each month at the Navarre Fire Station #45 at 6pm.

Licensing classes are held at least once a year or more if there is interest.

Navarre CERT also has many of its members licensed. Our motto – **WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS** – we will be there.

Navarre Public Library Presentation February 18, 2016.



Shown: L to R – ECARA President **Ray Crepeau K1HG**, Library Manager Lori Riddles and ECARA Vice-President **Mark Pokroy K4MMP**. Ham radio display shown in photo has been in library during January and February.



A History of Ham Radio, Part III

by Byron Engen, WN4R, wn4r12@gmail.com

Last month I ended with the beginning of vacuum tube transmitters with CW being slowly used by amateurs in the early part of the 1920s. Now we move on with more CW activity and reduction in use of spark systems as we proceed further into the 1920s.

Quickly the amateurs were realizing that CW gave much superior operation compared to spark, and the price of vacuum tubes was dropping. By 1923 it was time to experiment to reach Europe using CW. A contact was made in November between two amateurs with one in France and the other in Connecticut using a special assigned wavelength of 110 meters. Amateurs were beginning to understand that the shorter wavelengths were useful and may be giving an advantage over the longer wavelengths.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was formed in the 1920s to coordinate amateur communications between the international community.

In 1924 amateurs received use of new bands 80, 40, 20, and 5 meters. By 1926 spark was prohibited for use by amateurs.

It was recognized that there was a definite need to identify the call letters of each country to replace most countries use of only a number and following letters, but no prefix. A conference named the Washington Conference gathered to assign letters to identify each country. The U.S. was assigned K, W, and N. The A prefix was unassigned until 1975 when the US received the set between AA to AL to amateurs.

Chaos in the broadcast community due to inadequate legislative authority for the Commerce Department to regulate radio communications which led to the congress passing the Radio Act of 1927 and the new Federal Radio Commission (FRC) was created. The FRC consisted of five commissioners. The US was divided into 5 zones with one commissioner appointed in each zone. Their pay is interesting to me when compared to what the pay is now for similar positions. The pay was set by Congress at \$10,000 for the first year and thereafter at \$30 per day for each day 's attendance at a meeting or engaged in work of the commission or travel to and from sessions plus expense of travel. Not bad for 1927!

The Radio Act of 1927 was short lived and replaced by the Communications Act of 1934 with the formation of the FCC. The 1934 Act remains today with amendments and of course many rules which have changed over the years by the FCC.

Shortly after the formation of the FCC the U.S. was broken into 9 call areas. The amateur license categories were changed from the 1920s two classes into A, B, and C licenses.

Class A required a CW test of 13 wpm, two written tests of Basic and Advanced written tests on theory and regulations and at least 1 year of experience as a Class B licensee. All exams must be completed in front of an FCC examiner. Class A licensees had use of all amateur bands.

Class B required all of the tests except the Advanced test, and privileges of a Class A licensee except for operation in the 75 and 20 phone bands.

Class C was available for any applicant that lived over 125 miles from an FCC exam point where exams were administered at least 4 times a year, or was disabled and unable to travel to the FCC office. This is the class that my "Elmer" and most of the hams in my state held. The exam was administered by a Class A ham or by a qualified commercial licensee. Class C operators had all the privileges of Class B licensees.

The applicant would write to the FCC for the form 605 and an examination package which was sealed to be opened by the examiner only after passing the CW test. He/she would search for a Class A operator to administer the exam. Usually the ham with any Class B or C license living near you could help you find a Class A licensee. (the Class A I used in 1951 lived 35 miles away and WØCPS in my town reached him on 160 one evening to help me make arrangement for the test). If you failed any test for Class A, B, or C you had to wait 30 days before retesting.

Licenses were renewable every 5 years The rules required renewal be made within one year of expiration; the applicant had to swear on the form 605 that he/she had operated at least 4 hours prior to expiration of the old license; and the form had to be signed in front of a Notary Public.

All hams were required to maintain a log of every transmission. Every CQ had to be in the log even if it did not result in a contact. ARRL and others sold logbooks for record keeping.

Amateurs wanting to operate mobile or portable for a period of more than 48 hours had to be file a written notification of where and when they would be operating away from home with the nearest FCC examiner before operating. Before 1949 mobile operation was limited to ham bands above 25 Megacycles (MHz).

A History of Ham Radio, Part III, (Continued)

In the 1930s most transmitters were crystal controlled and a separate receiver was used so many hams would send long CQs and if on phone would sign off with their call and say "standing by for any call and tuning". Most responses were some kilocycles away from your frequency so you would "tune the band for a response". In the 1930s Amplitude Modulated was the phone operating mode although many hams operated primarily on CW. Today you can still hear us old timers calling CQ for any call and say "tuning". Old habits are hard to break even though we all have transceivers and "spilt" frequency operation is rare except for rare DX stations.

In 1938 amateurs lost the exclusive use of 40 meters with the band shared with short wavelength broadcast stations around the world. The FCC granted 2 new bands for amateur use – 2-1/2 meters (around 110Mhz) and 1-1/4 meters (around 224Mhz).

During the 1930s a few hams started experimenting with single sideband, but it did not take off until several years later.

1939 war broke out in Europe. Amateur operations ceased in most European Countries.

(to be continued)

Gainesville ARS Recognized for Contribution to Operation Santa Delivery

Hal Helms, WA4QLA

GARS Public Information Officer

Operation Santa Delivery is a holiday tradition in Gainesville and The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) was recently recognized for its contribution to the success of the event.



GARS members set up a portable station at the early December event and invited children of all ages to talk to the jolly old elf as he traveled to Gainesville via helicopter.

Alachua County ARES Checks School Weather Radios

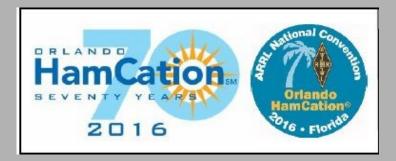
Hal Helms, WA4QLA

GARS Public Information Officer

Alachua County ARES members visited every public school in the county to check their weather radios in preparation for the spring severe weather season. The ARES volunteers made sure that every weather radio in the school system is correctly tuned and receiving a strong signal. SAME codes and alert protocols were checked and reprogrammed if necessary. Backup batteries were checked and dead or weak ones were replaced. Finally, radio operation and weekly testing were reviewed with responsible school personnel. We can all rest assured that when severe weather threatens, Alachua County schools will be forewarned!



ARES volunteer **Faye Helms, KM4HXM,** programming a radio.



NFL Forum

Saturday, February 13th

Section Manager, Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



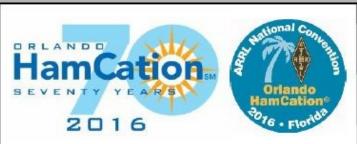
Official Observer Coordinator, **Rick Lloyd AA4W** (above)



Section Emergency Coordinator Strait Hollis, KT4YA

State EOC ESF2 Liaison, Phil Royce KE4PWE

(above)



LARA at HamCation

Jay Boehme, N4KXO
President, Lake Amateur Radio Assn.



Press Release 2/20/2016

Amateur Radio Operators Take Part In Severe Weather Awareness Day

The Lake Amateur Radio Association and its Lake County Amateur Radio Emergency Service were invited to take part in the Lake County ,Florida, Public Safety Department Emergency Management Division, Severe Weather Awareness Day Exposition held at the Lake County Fair Grounds in Eustis, Florida on Saturday February 20,2016.

The purpose of Severe Weather Awareness Day is to acquaint the citizens of Lake County with the need to prepare for severe weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods or forest fires. The Lake County Emergency Management Division invited various disaster relief groups to display their emergency equipment that could be used in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

Along with the LARA and Lake County ARES organizations, there were other groups such as the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake Emergency Medical Service, Lake County Fire Rescue, Southern Baptist –Disaster Relief, Salvation Army, and the Red Cross, to name a few. These groups brought their emergency equipment for display and had people available to explain how the gear might be used and conducted tours.

LARA had their communication trailer on display along with a booth beside it where ham volunteers explained their roll in assisting First Responders in the event of an emergency and explained amateur radio to the general public who toured the exhibit area.

LARA and Lake County ARES were glad to be included by the Lake County Emergency Management Division and be given the opportunity to tell the general public about its role in disaster relief.

Ted Luebbers K1AYZ

Lake County ARES P.I.O.

All photos taken by Ted Luebbers



DSCN1055 (L to R) Strait Hollis KT4YA- ARRL North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, AL Richter W4ALR- Lake County ARES Emergency Coordinator, and Frank Anders KK4MBX- ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Equipment, were on hand to explain amateur radio's role in disaster



(L to R) Al Richter W4ALR- Lake County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Strait Hollis KT4YA ARRL North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, and Frank Anders KK4MBX-ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Equipment, showed off the LARA communications trailer to the general public.

Severe Weather Awareness Day (continued)



(L to R) **Strait Hollis KT4YA**- ARRL North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, **Al Richter W4ALR**- Lake County ARES Emergency Coordinator and **Frank Andres KK4MBX**- ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Equipment, represented LARA at the Severe Weather Awareness Day in Lake County ,Florida.



The Lake County, Florida Emergency Management banner.



(L to R) Al Richter W4ALR- Lake County ARES Emergency Coordinator also serves as Liaison to the Lake County Sheriff's Office for LARA and Strait Hollis KT4YA-ARRL North Florida Emergency Coordinator show off the Lake County Sheriff's Mobile Command Center trailer.



(L to R) **Dave Pennel NP2MR**-LARA Treasurer, Jay **Boehme N4KXO**-LARA President and **Al Richter W4ALR**-Lake County Emergency Coordinator, were on hand for Severe Weather Awareness Day to explain amateur radio's role during natural or manmade disasters.



Several members of the Thomasville (GA) Amateur Radio Club have organized an affordable luxury motor coach trip to the 2016 Dayton Hamvention.

The trip will leave Thomasville on Thursday, the 19th of May for an overnight luxury motor coach trip to the Ham Radio Mecca, Dayton Hamvention.

We will arrive Friday morning in time for breakfast (included) and proceed to the Hamvention for a day of fun, shopping and education. At the end of the day we will check into our individual rooms (included). After check in we will be proceeding to the Dayton Amateur Radio Associations (DARA) Clubhouse for an exclusive "Open House".

Following the "Open House" we will return to our accommodation's and will be free for an on your own evening in Dayton.

Saturday morning we will check out of our rooms, and head to breakfast (included), then back to Hamvention for another day of fun.

At about 4:30 pm on Saturday, we will proceed to dinner (included) and then head back to Thomasville arriving on Sunday morning.

Our luxury motor coach trip is about 13 hours, there will be several stops as needed. The trip includes transportation to Hamvention, Entrance tickets to Hamvention, 2 breakfasts (Friday & Saturday mornings), Open House Friday evening, Dinner Saturday evening followed by our trip home.

We have accommodations reserved for only 39 travelers. .. There will be room on the coach (47 seats) to spread out.

Total cost for this adventure is only \$295.00.

A refundable 50% deposit is needed immediately to secure your seat, and secure this price.

For more detailed information, please contact us at:

850-766-1164 or w4ucj@arrl.net

Gary, ka3fzo



SATURDAY APRIL 2nd, 2016 8 am to 2 pm

NEW - USED - WORKING or NOT

Vendors free set up

Downtown Wellborn (look for signs)
RAIN OR SHINE - HOT OR COLD
North - 1 mi on CR137 off US90 or 4 mi
South of I-10 Exit #292 at CR 137.

BRING YOUR CHAIRS & TABLES OF Rent for \$5,00

GPS: 1504 4th Ave. Wellborn, Fl

PLENTY OF FREE SPACES & PARKING

Lunch Stand - HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SODAS Talk in 145.270 (PL123.0) VE License Testing Session Noon

SPONSORED BY THE

SUWANNEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.suwanneearc.org.

MORE INFO:

rustypreen@aol.com

386-249-3260

Upcoming Hamfests

- March 5, 2016 Hamfest on the River, Punta Gorda, FL http://PRRA.club
- March 12, 2016 1st Annual NPARC Hamfest on the Green, North Port, FL http://www.w4npt.org
- March 12, 2016 Link McGarity WV4I Memorial Free Flea, West Palm Beach, FL http://www.palmswestradio.org New!
- March 18, 2016 Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2016, Fort Walton Beach, FL http://www.w4zbb.org
- March 19, 2016 Stuart Hamfest, Stuart, FL http://www.stuarthamfest.com
- April 2, 2016— Suwannee ARC 4th Annual Tailgate, Wellborn, FL, Bill Preen, W4NQP, rustypreen@aol.com
- April 2, 2016 Jacksonville Radio FREE Flea, Jacksonville, FL http://nofars.net New!
- April 9, 2016 TARCFest, Tampa, FL http://hamclub.org
- April 16, 2016 Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC, Coral Gables, FL http://www.FlamingoNet8m.net NEW!
- April 23, 2016 Cy Harris Memorial Free Flea, Okland Park, FLhttp://browardarc.net/free-flea NEW!
- May 28, 2016 Wormfest 2016, Pinellas Park, FL http://w4orm.org/ NEW!



FCC Testing Information

Amateur Electronic Supply

- Monthly on the second Saturday
- 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
- 621 Commonwealth Av, Orlando, FL 32806
- Click: map
- For more information and registration, contact AES at orlando@aesham.com , 407-894-3238

LMARS FCC Testing

- Every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November)
- Fourth Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
- Off SR 17-92, on 100 Bush Blvd in Sanford (across from Flea World)
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690

North Florida ARS

- Weeknight testing for all grades of license in Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.
- Hogan Baptist Church at the corner of Hogan Rd. and Parental Home Rd. in southside.
- Advance registration is required. The next session is Thursday, November 5, 2015 7PM.

See http://nofars.net/home/fcc testing

Lake ARA

- Monthly on the 3rd Saturday, prior to monthly meeting. (Except December)
- 8:00 AM
- <u>LARA Clubhouse</u> (11146 Springdale Ave, Leesburg off of CR 473)
- For more information and registration, contact David A. Pennell, NP2MR (352) 602-5164
 np2mr@yahoo.com in advance of the meeting.



Section Nets.....

For net details go to www.arrl-nfl.org and select the Nets

Net	Frequency	Day/Time (Local)
Central Florida D-Star Training Net	REF046C. D-Rats nfl.ratflector.net	Wednesday, 0900
Clay County ARES Net	146.925, Tone 156.7	Sunday, 1930
Crestview Gulf Coast VHF Training Net (GCVTN)	147.360, (+), PL 100Hz	Daily, 20:00
Crestview SARNet	Statewide UHF Net on linked repeaters on 444.900, (+) PL 100Hz	Friday, 0900
Crown District ARES Net	145.925 (156.7)	First Wednesday, 2030
Defuniak Springs Walton County ARC Net	147.285 (+), PL 100Hz	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1930
Duval County ARES Net	146.70 (127.3)ALT:147.315(127.3)	Wednesday, 1930
Florida Hurricane Net,	D-Star REF037C	Monday, 2100
Fort Walton Beach – Playground ARC Net	146.790, (-), PL 100Hz	Sunday, 2000
Madison County ARES Madison County ARC	145.190, Lee Repeater, PL 123	Sunday, 2100
Milton 2-Meter Net	145.490 (-), PL 100Hz	Monday, 2000
Milton Santa Rosa County ARES Net	146.700 (-), PL 100Hz	Tuesday, 2000
Nassau County ARES Net	147.000 (-) (107.2)	Wednesday, 2030 (Except 1st Wed)
NFL ARES Net	7.242, Primary 3.950, Secondary	Monday-Saturday, 0900
NFL D-Star Net	REF046C, D-Rats on nfl.ratflector.net.	Wednesday, 0900
NFL Digital Net	3.590 PSK 31, USB	Sunday, 1900
NFL Phone Net (NFPN)	3950 Alt 7242 and 7247	Daily, 1930
Northwest Florida DX Net	147.555 (simplex)	Tuesday, 1930
Okaloosa County ARES Net	147.120, (+), PL 100Hz	Monday, 2030
Orange County ARES Net and Skywarn	443.050	Thursday, 1900
Pensacola Escambia County ARES Net	146.760, PL 100Hz	Monday, 1930
QCWA Citrus Chapter 45	147.195	Tuesday, 1930, Echolink W2AS-L, #node 627152
QCWA Chapter 217 The Villages	443.150, PL 103.5 Echolink K4LFK-R	Friday, 1000

Section Nets, continued......

QFN CW Traffic Net	3547 Winter (7105 Summer)	Daily, 1900
Santa Rosa County Skywarn Net	146.700, K4SRC Repeater	Monday, 2000
SAR NET	http://sarnetfl.com	Click 140614_FDOT_UWAVE_Map_with_UHF _coverage.16664435
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	147.090 MHz, offset of +600, PL of 103.5 147.450 Simplex	Daily, 19:15 First Monday, 19:15
St. Johns County ARES	147.210 (127.3) ALT:147.015 (127.3)	Wednesday, 2000
Suwannee ARES/Emergency Prep Net	145.270 PL 123 145/410 PL 123 FSQ— 3.594 MHz	Thursday, 2030
The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Ragchew Net	443.225, PL 103.5 Echolink K4VRC-R	Monday, 19:00
Traders Net	3.933	Sunday, 08:00
Valparaiso Twin Cities Amateur Radio	146.73, (-), no PL tone	Sunday, 20:30
Walton County ARES Net	147.375 (+), PL 100Hz	Wednesday, 19:00

NFL—Officially

Section Manager

WB4OMM Stephen W. Szabo

QST NFL Newsletter

WB2VYK Marty Brown, Editor

NP2B John Ellis, Contributing Editor

Webmaster

N8NN Bert Garcia

Section Emergency Coordinator

KT4YA Strait Hollis

Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

W4HKG Robert A. Mitchell

Affiliated Club Coordinator

WA4B Stephen W. Barber

Section Traffic Manager

N9MN Don A. Duckett

Official Observer Coordinator

AA4W Rick A. Lloyd







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