

# Ham Chatter



**Amateur Radio**  
**"only fail-safe system"**  
**of communication**  
K4ZDH



Volume 49 Issue 10

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October 2015

Editor, Joe Jeansonne, WB4JOE

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## Radio Amateur-Deputy Sheriff Shot and Killed in Florida

An Okaloosa County, Florida, deputy sheriff who was also a radio amateur died of gunshot wounds after serving a domestic violence restraining order at an attorney's office in Shalimar, where he lived. William J. "Bill" Myers, KK4KF, was 64.



NorthEscambia.com reported on September 23, "Deputy Myers was walking outside when he was shot multiple times in the back, including a gunshot wound to the rear of his head."

An Associated Press account said the shooter, identified as Joel Dixon Smith, 33, was supposed to be turning over any firearms in his possession, but apparently shot Myers with "a concealed weapon."

According to the news account, Myers was a law enforcement veteran who had rejoined the Sheriff's Office in Okaloosa County to save money to take his granddaughter and family to Disney World.

On its "Officer Down Memorial Page," the Sheriff's Office said, "Deputy Myers had served with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for a total of 26 years. He had retired from the agency after serving 25 years and then returned as a part-time deputy in January 2015 to assist with serving civil papers." The shooter was later shot by authorities after barricading himself in a motel room, and he later died.

Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley called Myers "a treasured part of this agency's family since 1989" who had "served this community with distinction for decades." Myers also had worked as a US Postal Service rural carrier.

A ham since 1986, Myers was a US Air Force retiree and former air traffic controller. He enjoyed operating CW and was a member of the FISTS CW Club and in recent years often ran QRP. One of his sons is also a ham. — Thanks to Jay Camac, N4OX - via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1GrpBor>)

## Next Meeting - Oct 13, 2015

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 13, at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be by Robert Young, NC4RY, founder, designer and technical support for the screwdriver Tarheel Antennas. All members and guests are invited to attend.



**Robert Young, NC4RY**

## **Next Board Meeting Oct 27, 2015**

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

## \$50 \$250SAT Goes Silent

It appears that the \$50SAT Amateur Radio "PocketQube" microsatellite — also known as Eagle 2 (MO-76) — has finally gone silent, a couple of days short of 20 months in orbit.

The satellite, which did not carry an Amateur Radio transponder, transmitted on 437.505 MHz at a power of 100 mW. In a Yahoo Groups posting, one of its developers Michael Kirkhart, KD8QBA, said the last time he was able to hear the satellite was on July 19.

"It was fun while it lasted," he told ARRL this week. Launched in late 2013 from Russia, \$50SAT was a collaborative education project of Prof Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD, of Kentucky's Morehead State University, and three other radio amateurs — Howie DeFelice, AB2S; Stuart Robinson, GW7HPW, and Kirkhart.

"Our best guess as to what happened is the solar cells have been slowly damaged due to sputtering," Kirkhart said in his Yahoo post. "All the high-energy particles from the solar wind can effectively 'sandblast' the satellite, and since our cells had no protective cover glass, this will cause the surface to slowly become diffused, and thus cause the output of the cells to drop.

We knew this would happen. What we did not know is that \$50SAT would operate long enough where this would become a problem; our bets were on the battery failing first."

Kirkhart said the mission now has transitioned into the how-long-will-it-stay-in-orbit? Phase. He cited one de-orbit prediction of May 2017.

The "\$50" was a bit of an exaggeration; the tiny satellite actually was constructed from about \$250 worth of parts. — Thanks to Michael Kirkhart, KD8QBA

- via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1KXN3he>)



## Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **September**.

28 **K4BMH** Byron Highland

31 **K4ZYD** Terry Monday

*Additions or corrections to WB4JOE*

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

**Charlie Wells, K4SKI**  
**Tom Parsons, W4TEP**  
Family of **Gary Gilliland, N5SEW**



*Please inform Gerry Clayton, K4IDD, [gclayton4@suddenlink.net](mailto:gclayton4@suddenlink.net) of any changes.*

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held Tuesday, October 20 at the VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Email [07jkrubi@gmail.com](mailto:07jkrubi@gmail.com). Walk-ins welcome.

Please bring the following required:

- ◆ Photo ID (drivers license)
- ◆ Original Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Copy of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Original CSCE's
- ◆ Copy of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$15.00 .
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.
- ◆ SS Number will be needed if you don't have an FRN number.

More Info? <http://bit.ly/1FOhE1S>

## NC ARES Internet

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

**Pitt County ARES**

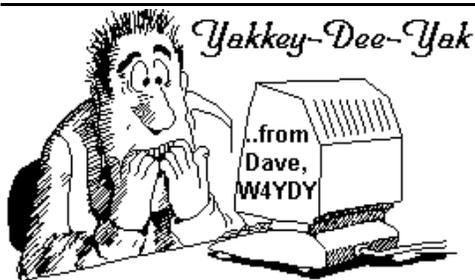
EC needed!



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**“An organization is only as strong as its weakest link.”** I saw the previous statement in the local newspaper a few days ago and thought of the Brightleaf ARC. Some have been working on the BARC Officer slate for 2016. Volunteers were asked to step up but none did. Phone calls were made and some did agree to participate but as of this writing, all positions had not been filled.

None of the positions take very much time. The only requirement to hold a position is to be a member of the club and to have an Amateur Radio license. Being an officer of the club is a great way to be more involved with club activities and to make great friendships.

You don't have to have years of experience with Amateur Radio to be effective. In the past couple of years, two recently licensed Amateur Radio operators volunteered to take over responsibilities of club activities that require more time than most officer positions because they both told me that they wanted to give something back to Amateur Radio. In the process, they both learn more of the many faces of Amateur Radio. Thanks to Steve Horne, KB5B, for volunteering to be the Volunteer Examiner Liaison for the club in 2014 and Joe Jeansonne, KB4JOE, for volunteering to be Ham Chatter Editor starting in June, 2015.

Surely more can step up to lead the club when the time comes. The club tries to get members that are younger and newer to Amateur Radio because it seems that sometimes when members will not step up, some of the same group just trade positions to keep the club running. Hopefully there will be at least a couple of new officers each year so there will be continuity in the club operation.

Even if you are not a club office, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the club and being more active. The club is starting a new Technician course in October. Maybe you can help by helping with the

## FO-29 Satellite Contact Claims Distance Record

Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Christophe Lucas, F4CQA, in Trouy, France, appear to have set a new contact distance record on the FO-29 satellite. The contact occurred on August 27 at 1732 UTC.

“This was not a scheduled contact,” Swanson explained. “I simply answered Christophe’s CQ. I knew it was a good contact at the time, but as I was portable up on Arkansas’ Shinall Mountain, I did not have the resources available to calculate distances.”

Later he realized that the estimated distance between his location in EM34 and Lucas’s in JN17 exceeded 7500 km (4650 miles). “About the same time, my e-mail chirped with a message from Christophe, who had come to the same conclusion,” Swanson said.

After some quick exchanges, and verifying 10-digit locators, the two

operators settled on an “official” distance of 7599.959 km (4712 miles). “To the best of our knowledge, referencing data found on AMSAT-UK’s website, this breaks the previous distance records of 7537.799 km between W5CBF and G4DOL, and 7538.685 km between K4FEG and DK1TB,” he said.

Swanson recorded the contact and posted it to YouTube. — Thanks to AMSAT News Service

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1OipNwV>)



Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, works Christophe, F5CQA

instruction. There are plenty of jobs during the annual June Field Day operation. It’s a great way to learn more about Amateur Radio by helping with the setup and operating during the contest. Building stronger friendship with you fellow members is the biggest and best bonus of all. The best thing I have received from being active in radio clubs is the friendships I have made.

The two best activities of the BARC years is the Field Day weekend in June and the Christmas Party in December. So if you have not been attending the meetings and participating in activities, you are missing out on the best part of the Brightleaf ARC and Amateur Radio. I understand that there are circumstances that is impossible to participate for some members.

As stated above, **“An organization is only as strong as its weakest link.”** Don’t be the weakest link! - W4YDY



## Fall

BARC is sponsoring a Technician class. The class will be held at the Shepherd Memorial Library.

The classes will be from 9:00 to 12:00 each Saturday morning between Oct. 24th and Nov. 14th.

The Technician exam will be given at 1:30 on Nov. 14th. It was decided that the fee for the class will be \$35.00 which will include a technician book from ARRL Please pass the word to anyone Interested in getting into ham radio.

Contact Terry Monday, K4ZYD,

## QCWA Recognizes 105-Year-Old Radio Amateur's 90

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) has honored 105-year-old Charlie Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, for his 90 years in Amateur Radio.



**Charlie Hellman, W2RP, in a photo taken around 1949.**

The QCWA's announcement also served to flush out another active ham who, while 1 year older than Hellman, has not been licensed quite as long.

On August 31 the QCWA presented a "90 Year Continuous Licensed Certificate Award" (No 1) to Hellman, whom the organization at the time called "the oldest living Amateur Radio operator in the United States and possibly the world."

Hellman got his ham ticket in 1925, when he was 15 years old. He joined QCWA in 1975 and is a member of QCWA Chapter 181 in New York's Hudson Valley. He gets on the air regularly.

After QCWA posted its announcement on the QRZ.com news forum, however, Marcel Stieber, AI6MS, chimed in to point out that Hellman is not the oldest known ham.

He said that Harry Wolf, W6NKT, of Morro Bay, California, is 106, although licensed but since 1936. QCWA Webmaster Bob Roske, N0UF, stepped forward to renew Wolf's lapsed QCWA membership and noted that since Wolf had been licensed for more than 75 years, QCWA would issue him a life membership. And now it might also recognize his longevity as well.

First licensed as W2AMK, Hellman was an educator. After working his way through the City College of New York, he taught physics on the secondary level. During World War II, Hellman was tapped by the Department of War to write a textbook for training radio operators, *Elements of Radio*.

Two of Hellman's siblings also held ham tickets. His brother Robert, now deceased, was W2JAN. His brother Benjamin, 96, is W2VB.

Also an educator, Wolf indicated on his QRZ.com profile that he once taught electronics at the college level and, after retiring in 1973, went to live in Hong Kong where he operated as VS6GF for 4 years before returning to California. He said he's on the air every day, mostly on 40 meter CW.

Hellman's certificate reads, "The Quarter Century Wireless Association presents this 90th Anniversary Award to its Distinguished Member Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP, to commemorate Ninety Years of Service as a licensed Radio Ama-

teur."

Hellman also received a congratulatory letter from QCWA President Ken Oelke, VE6AFO. "I would also like to say how proud I am that you have kept active for these many years, and to proudly celebrate what many will not be able to achieve in their entire lifetime," Oelke said, in part. "Congratulations to you on 90 years as a licensed radio amateur, and may you enjoy many more in Amateur Radio!"

QCWA came upon the information pertaining to Hellman when Roske was updating member files and discovered that Charlie was still living in New York and appeared to be the oldest living QCWA member. In recognition, the QCWA Board of Directors promptly voted to award Hellman the 90 year certificate, a first for the organization.

Now it may have the opportunity for a second. — Thanks to QCWA, Pete Varounis, NL7XM, and Charles Tropp, N2SO



**Harry Wolf, W6NKT, age 106**

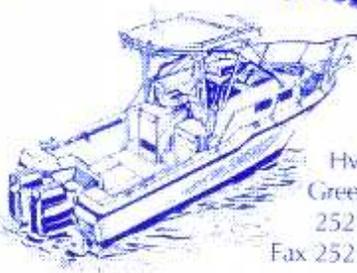
-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1jIP4VQ>)

# Ham Ads

*Ham Ads* will be run, **free of charge** in Ham Chatter for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue. Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835, ATTN: Joe Jeansonne** or email to: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com) (no spaces)

## HAM ADS WORK!

**MARK'S MARINE, INC.**



Mark Langley  
Mike Langley  
KD4MTT

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Greenville, NC  
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Fax 252 758-1396

**H&R BLOCK**

**Pat Williams, KG4NSC**  
Senior Tax Advisor 5

Buyers Market:  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Tel 252 756 1209 Fax 252 756 6378  
[patrick.williams@tax.hrblock.com](mailto:patrick.williams@tax.hrblock.com)  
[www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com)

**K4KBB**

**J & P Machine Works, Inc.**



4291 US 264 East  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-758-1719 Fax 758-9031

Manufacturer of Swiss Screw Machine Products.  
Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

## Equipment For Sale

I will be selling some equipment of K4LEN SK , Len Downing, prices pretty much firm. Equipment **pristine** condition.

**Alpha 8100** spare set of finals  
mint about 5 hours box manual 5000.000

**Palstar 5k dummy load**

**Kenwood tm 741a 2 / 220/ 440** mint with triplexers 600.00  
each or both 1000.00

Some other equipment is being burned in and checked along with organizing boxes/ manuals / accessories boxes.

Will not ship large equipment at this time.

**Call Neal 252-946-3840 between 11 am and 5 pm or leave message**

## Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size \$10 per Month - \$100 per Year

Send ads to: **Ham Chatter,**

**PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835**

**ATTN: Joe Jeansonne, or email [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)**

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**K4ZYD**

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## BARC Regular Meeting Minutes - September 2015

**Date:** 09-08-2015.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Our President, Terry Monday, K4ZYD, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

We had the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions from each member giving their name, call sign, and town.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** n/a

**TREASURER REPORT:** n/a

**EQUIPMENT REPORT:** n/a

**PUBLICITY:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM, reported that an announcement about the VE Session in August was placed in the Daily Reflector Newspaper. Also an announcement was placed in the Sunday paper's "Meeting Place" announcing our cur-

rent meeting.

**HAM CHATTER:** A printed copy of the September Ham Chatter was available to all members on the front table at the meeting.

**VISITORS WELCOMED:** Terry, K4ZYD, welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Terry, K4ZYD, discussed the new Amateur Radio Technician class to begin in October. We will need about four or five people to lead a class. Send an e-mail to Terry to let him know if You can help with one of the classes.

**CLUB OFFICERS FOR NEXT**

**YEAR:** Let Terry know if You would be an officer in the club for next year.

**PROGRAM:** The Speaker was Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK. He told how radio signals travel, and how signals bounce through the ionosphere. He told about the different layers of the ionosphere, skipping signals, and propagation. He mentioned antennas from dipole to different types of beams.

**HAMFEST :** It was announced that the Maysville Ham Fest is October 11th.

**Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

**Minutes Respectfully submitted by:**  
Taylor Millar, W4WTM, Secretary

## BARC Board Meeting Minutes - September 2015

**Date :** 09-29-2015.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

There were nine members present for this meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President, Terry Monday, K4ZYD, called the meeting to order at about 7:30 PM.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** No report.

**TREASURER REPORT:** No report.

**EQUIPMENT REPORT:** Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported checking out the club's Yaesu radio. He reported finding a problem, but wanted to check it out further.

**MAIN DISCUSSION :** Technician Class.

BARC is sponsoring a Technician class. The class will be held at the Shepherd Memorial Library. The classes will be from 9:00 to 12:00 each Saturday morning between Oct. 24th and Nov. 14th. The tech exam will be given at 1:30 on Nov. 14th. **Please pass the word to anyone Interested in getting into ham radio.**

Terry, K4ZYD, had received a power point slide presentation. It was decided that the fee for the class will be \$35.00 which will

include a technician book from ARRL. A class instruction book has also been received from ARRL.

**FOLLOW-UP MEETING ABOUT TECHNICIAN CLASS:**

Terry Monday, K4ZYD, called a special meeting of board members to be held at his office on Sunday Oct. 4th at 4:00 PM.

With no further business the meeting adjourned about 8:35 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
TAYLOR MILLAR, W4WTM

## Pope Francis Visit Amateur Radio Special Events Log More Than 26,000 Contacts

Jim Nitzberg, WX3B, has reported that the recent multi-station special event operation logged more than 26,000 contacts, with a few reports still outstanding.

Nitzberg announced the tally when thanking operators for participating "in this historic and fun event." The majority of contacts were made on HF — especially on 20 and 40 meters — but several contacts also took place on satellites, Earth-Moon-Earth, repeaters, and even

through IRLP and Echolink.

"We had participation from New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania — including Philadelphia, where the World Meeting of Families took place — Virginia and Delaware," Nitzberg said.

"Many thanks to all that were involved in the various aspects of leading, organizing and producing this event. It truly was a team effort and an example of Amateur Radio cooperation at its fin-

est."

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1OiqPsw>)



**Pope Francis**

## Boy Scout's Jamboree On The Air 2015

Worldwide station registration is open for the 2015 Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA/JOTI), which will take place over the October 16-18 weekend. Registration requires a scout.org user name, which gives full access to the registration system as well as to many of the JOTA/JOTI activities that will be under way during the weekend.

JOTA is aimed at fostering Scout-to-Scout communication across borders and is the largest Scouting event in the world, with upward of 750,000 Scouts participating from some 6000 stations in 150 countries. In the US 13,326 Scouts and visitors took part in JOTA 2014.

Registration will also provide everything needed to take part in JamPuz (short for "Jamboree Puzzle"), an identity code that JOTA/JOTI participants exchange with one another. Required JID codes will not be issued until later in September, and participation in JamPuz is optional.

The Boy Scouts encourage participating stations to submit JOTA reports and photos following this fall's event. "We need your report to demonstrate the success of JOTA to those in Scouting and Amateur Radio," said Jim Wilson, K5ND, the national JOTA organizer.

He asks stations to note down the

number of Scouts participating, Amateur Radio licensees, and radios on the air, as well as the total number of contacts and states and countries contacted.

"We would also like to see your best photos and hear some stories about your event," Wilson said. He urged local JOTA team organizers to add these tasks to their "to-do" lists.



The K2BSA call sign will be in use for JOTA in nearly every US call district as well as from KH6 and KL7. As of September 1, only K2BSA/1 remained available. Wilson suggested that JOTA groups may want to consider obtaining a 1 × 1 special event call sign for their operations.

The 2015 JOTA patch is expected to be available for ordering from BSA Supply starting on or about September 17. The order number is 622541. (The JOTI patch will be available at the same time. Its order number is 622542.)

The 2015 event will mark the 58th JOTA, which is held each year on the third weekend in October.

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1OioQo4>)

## NETS VHF/UHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Newport SkyWarn Tues. nights 2100E Grifton-146.685-88.5 tone Newport-145.450.....  
IRLP 8561 links to Columbia Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone 444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone
- ◆ Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ Wayne County ARA Net, Thursdays at 8:30 PM, 146.850 PL is 88.5. PL turned off during net. Net is also linked to the 443.000 repeater .

## HF

- ◆ Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

## NTS CW Nets

- ◆ 3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

**Greenville repeaters**  
147.09/69 - 145.35/144.75  
444.8/449.8

# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 11.....	Maysville Hamfest **	Nov 24.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Oct 13.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Nov 28/29.....	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Oct 20.....	BARC VE Session - See Page 2	Dec 5/6.....	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Oct 24/25.....	CQ WW SSB DX Contest	<b>Dec 8.....</b>	<b>BARC Christmas Party</b>
Oct 27.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Dec 12/13.....	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Nov 7/8.....	ARRL CW Sweepstakes	Dec 15.....	BARC VE Session - See Page 2
Nov 10.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Dec 29.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Nov 21/22.....	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes	Jan 2/3.....	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Nov 15.....	Benson Hamfest **		

**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM **\*\*Hamfests**  
**Board Meeting** - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

**W 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S**



**Oct 2015**  
**Next Meeting**  
**Oct 13, 2015**

To:



**Ham Chatter**  
 Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 8387  
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