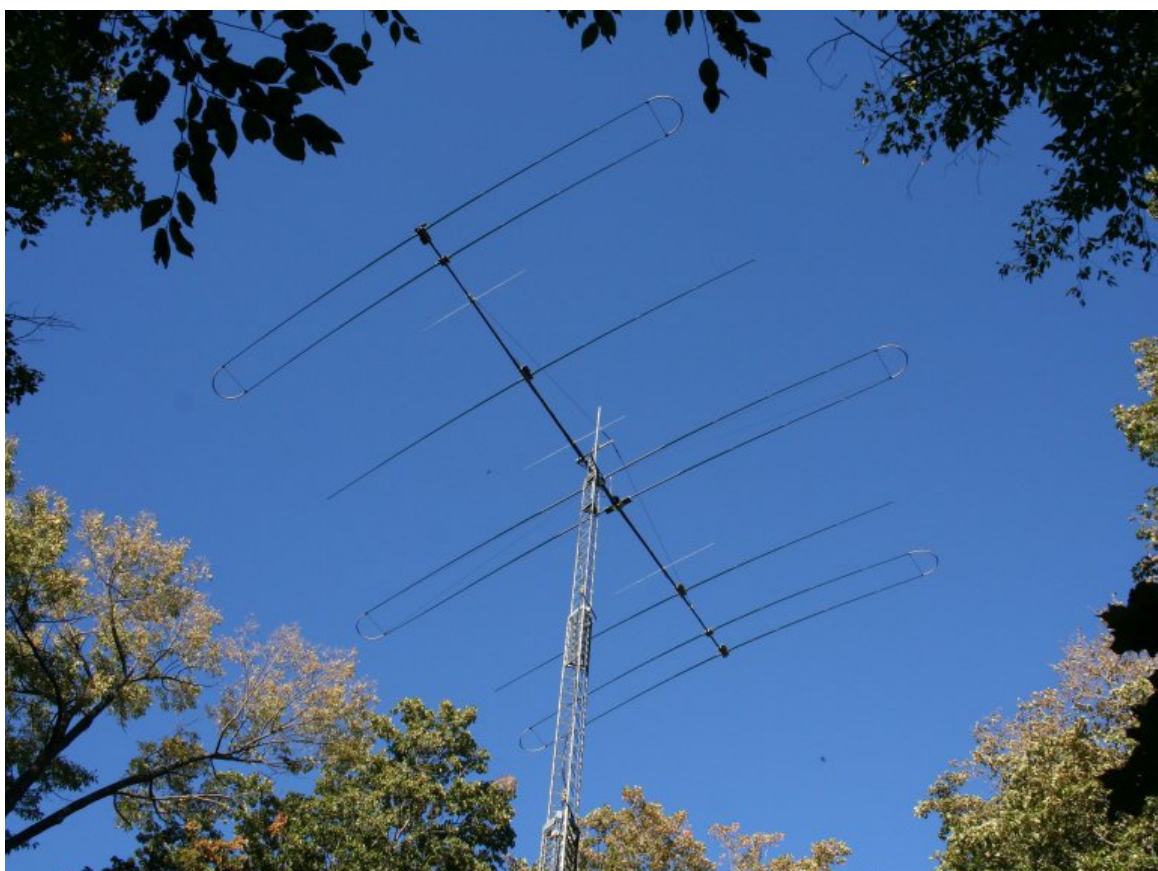


marc



gram



**Next meeting - April 24, 2013**

Ragchew and Fleamarket : 19h30, Club meeting : 20h00

St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church  
4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal

**Presentation by Gilles Renucci, VE2TZT  
on SteppIR antenna build**

**MarcOgram**

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December, by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

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*Cover photo © by Gilles Renucci, VE2TZZ*

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**The marcOgram team needs you!**

We're always on the lookout for interesting articles to include into your monthly newsletter. Do you have a ham radio news item you would like to contribute or just pass along to the marcOgram editors? Just send your document or links to Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC  
va2utc@marc.ca

**Club Activities - Monthly Meetings**

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, 4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal. The meetings will be held in the Lounge which is the rearmost door on the South side of the building unless we have reason to hold it in the Parish Hall which is the first door on the South side of the building.

An informal flea-market and ragchew session starts at 19:30 with the formal meeting starting at 20:00. STM buses 51, 162, and 105 stops at or near the door!

**Meetings of the Board of Directors**

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the same venue as the monthly meetings (see above).

Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors beforehand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

**Club Directors**

President:

Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH

Vice President:

Sheldon Werner, VA2SH

Treasurer - Secretary:

Jim Hay, VE2VE

Membership:

Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ

Directors at Large:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK

Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

Marc-Andre Gingras, VE2EVN

George Hedrei, VE2NGH

Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC

**MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, we have decided to re-introduce advertising in the marcOgram newsletter. The rates are as follows:

- Business card \$ 5.00 per issue
- Quarter page \$ 7.00 per issue
- Half page \$12.00 per issue
- Full page \$20.00 per issue

The "Marcogram" publishes from September to June, which is nine issues. We also publish a summer edition during the months of August/September, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish ten issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 9 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members with family or friends who have a business to place an ad. You could also advertise a special function.



### A Word from the President

Hello all,

Well thank goodness spring has finally sprung and not a moment too soon for me.

Lots of antenna projects to get under way and much much organizing for the summer and fall up and coming events. I believe it was a year ago this month, that I presented you with the new MarcOgram editorial staff. What an amazing job they have done this past year! I don't mind telling you all that when Ron VA2RJC resigned from the position of editor, I was a little nervous as to what would happen with our news letter. A year in retrospect, shows me that my worries were completely unfounded. The quality of our monthly news letter has never been higher. They say that when you lose one of your 5 senses, the others kind of take up the slack and make up for the lack of the one. Cliff, I don't know if your visual impairment has anything to do with your nose for news, but kudos go out to you for the excellent job you've done as our content editor. Both you and Marc-Andre, have been the main driving force for our news letter editions, with help of course from Sheldon, VA2SH and Nora, VA2NH. Thank you guys for the good work you've done and may you publish many more editions before you are through.

#### Annual Fees are:

General Members	\$25.00
Associate Members	\$25.00
White cane members	\$15.00
Family members (per family)	\$30.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Membership received on or after June 1 commences immediately and extends through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

Has any of you ever noticed how the desire for a particular model product always seems to be inversely proportional to it's ready availability? Oh man this is so true for me and especially for amateur radio gear. I mean what gives with all this? When I first got my license, I knew right away that I was going to assemble a mobile station as my first project. I was all ready to buy myself a Texas Bug Catcher (like my Elmer). I really, really, wanted that antenna. Of course the guy who built them had taken his retirement, not sold the business and just closed up shop, a few months before I got my ticket. So that was it for me... I nice farewell and "thanks for all the fish" on the web site. Oh well... I built my own copying the design. Of course though, once I'd learned how to build the darn thing, the guy who built them in the first place decided he'd had enough of retirement and went back into business...

Fast forward three years later and I have my advanced ticket. Time to implement phase 2 and go QRO. I've done my homework and read the reviews for a best of bread mobile linear. I found what appears to be the gold standard. Radio World's web site indicates that it's a special order item. Fair enough, I guess they don't sell hundreds of those a year. I don't mind making a special order. I go to the manufacturer's web site to see what else they might have to offer. The product description is wonderful. A little expensive as compared to some of the competition, but hey, I don't mind spending a bit more money for top quality gear. If it's a special order from Radio World, I'm betting I get similar pricing direct from the manufacturer's web site. So I click on the handy "buy it now" button and I'm whisked away to the company store. What's that you say? Well... yes, you guessed it right. The product is labeled in a pretty blue script, "Currently Unavailable". A little research and I discover that some of the parts used in this amplifier are made from unobtainium and the company is currently designing a replacement version. Except, they've been designing it for a few years now it would seem and no

#### Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Club Email: [ve2arc@rac.ca](mailto:ve2arc@rac.ca)

#### Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)  
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.  
Located on the Pointe Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)  
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.

announcement has been forthcoming. I tell you folks, it's enough to make an honest ham start sounding like your run of the mill 11 meter band denizen if you know what I mean... These amps seem to be very popular and finding one is cause for celebration amongst certain of the amateur radio community. Say.... none of you guys would have an old SGC-500 Smart Power Cube laying around in your basement gathering dust would you?

We have a special treat for you at this month's meeting. Gilles Renucci, VE2TZT will be presenting his monster SteppIR antenna build. Gilles tells me that it's a revolution in antennas and I find his excitement for the subject very contagious. This is one you'll not want to miss and I for one, look forward to seeing you all there.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

### From the Desk of VA2UTC

What to write about, an editors dilemma. Nothing worse than a bit of writers block. OK, now that I have the juices beginning to flow let me dive into things here.

I have been surfing 30 meters and working stations mostly in the U.S. This baby brother to the 40 meter band propagates much like it's brother. Local during the day and at night it gets long. Only 50 KC wide the band for us is strictly a CW and digital domain. It can get noisy and there are signals at the beginning middle and end of the band. These signals most likely are from satellites there is also some fixed radio. Above and below us are fixed stations of various types and some radio location beacons. All according to the spectrum guide seem to be aeronautical. Still it is a fun band to work despite being surrounded by these signals. If you are up for a challenge in listening and keying skill give 30 a spin. The other WARC bands I work on are 17 and 12. Both allow for SSB as well as other modes. 17 propagates almost like a 20 and 15 meter combo. More 20 than 15 and it does tend to close faster than 20. There is a little of everything on this band, except contesting. On this band above and below our segment are some fixed stations and interestingly maritime mobile and broadcast signals. The last of the 3 WARC bands is 12, very much like 10. In fact if this band is open it is a sure bet so is 10. Above and below our segment radio telescopic signals, broadcast and mobile service. I have no favorite WARC, but I do love to work on 15 when it is open. This band is fun because one moment you can hear the west

coast, the next east, Europe then Japan. Though the band is pretty predictable it can propagate in surprising ways. Generally though I have found that in the morning Europe, mid day Africa afternoon U.S. And into the evening, if one is lucky Asia and as always South America are what you will hear on the band. That said I hope you have lots of success no matter what band you op on and hopefully we'll see you in the pile up.

The other thing I wanted to note here is to say thanks for your support. I appreciate hearing that you are enjoying the content contained in the Marcogram. It's nice to note that people are happy with what they are reading. The year is about to come to a close and I will continue to do the newsletter. I am thinking of a segment for the next season, Q & A. The idea is to take questions and answer them. Of course it would be ham radio related. And, I would need to find a person to go to if I could not answer the question myself. Your feedback would be helpful. Let me know if you would like to see such a segment beginning this fall in the Marcogram. I can be reached by email at [va2utc@hotmail.com](mailto:va2utc@hotmail.com) or you can let me know what you think when I am at the next meeting.

For now,

Cliff T VA2UTC  
Marcogram Content Editor.



### MARC flea market a resounding success

Well our annual flea market has come and gone for another year and was a great success. That success however would never have been possible if it wasn't for our loyal members volunteering their own time and money to the cause. The summer season is a very busy time for our club and there are multiple events to organize and plan for. None of these events though would be possible without the help of our members and partners. To this end, we think that special mention is deserved for those that have contributed to our flea market endeavor.

This year on setup detail, special thanks goes out to Pierre, VE2PPF, Marc-Andre, VE2EVN, George, VE2NGH Craig, VE2YGK and Eamon, VE2EGN. All there to help out on the setup crew, security and manning the entry table at the door. Also it bears saying that without Jim, VE2VE and Vernon, VE2MBS, I'd still be wondering around trying to find which vendor was at which table. Thanks to you guys for all your hard work organizing. As George said, not having you there this year, was kind of like being left home alone for the first time our parents took off for the weekend (I hope we left the

place more or less the same way it was when you left (-;)  
 Special thanks are also in order for those participants who provided the MARC with door prizes. RAQI donated a free 1 year membership as well as a customized tee shirt complete with the RAQI logo and the lucky winner's call sign. Our own John Grow, not only provided us with a very nice Job Mate portable tool set as a door prize, but he was seen on the flea market floor, handing out promotional calculator and pen sets to all participants. John, your participation is important to us and your unflagging support for the club does not go unnoticed. Thank you very much, for your kind donation and participation. We would also be remiss if we didn't reserve a special thank you for Sheldon Harvey at HF Radio. Over the years, Sheldon Harvey has always been generous with his support for our club and many of the events we organize throughout the year. Each

year, Sheldon has graciously provided the MARC with a fine selection of door prizes and special discounts. This year was no exception. Gift certificates and a very nice selection of amateur radio related reading material was provided us this year by HF Radio. Thank you Sheldon from the bottom of our hearts. Your presence at our events will always be a welcome occurrence.

Finally, a special thanks to our vendors are in order. Guys, I hope you had as much fun setting up shop with us as we did having you over. Without you and your fine collection of gear, none of this would have been possible. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's event and frankly, are a little sorry that it's all over so soon.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

### SK J. K. PULFER VE3PU

I am sorry to report the passing of a dedicated member of the Amateur Radio Community. Ken Pulfer was very active representing Canadian Amateur Radio interests at international conferences and was widely respected for his contributions to World Radio Conferences and particularly for his role in obtaining new frequencies for amateur use.

Many will remember talks Ken gave to the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and the insights gained into how the machinery of spectrum regulation works both at the national and international level. Ken will be missed both by his family and friends as well as the wider amateur community who have benefited in many ways from his efforts on our behalf. Our thoughts and prayers are, of course, with Ken's family and friends.

Here is the obituary notice which was published in the Ottawa Citizen.

"PULFER, James Kenneth, VE3PU

Passed away Easter morning, March 31, 2013 at the age of 80, beloved spouse of Rolande and dear father of Suzanne (Michael), Charles (Christiane) and James (Barbara). He will be sadly missed by his four granddaughters, Stephanie and Chloe, and Savannah and Madison, and by his only grandson, Kennedy. He was the son of Charles and Marion of Winnipeg and is survived by his only sibling, Vernon (Wpg). After graduating from the University of Manitoba with a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering, Ken started his career at the NRC where he remained for 37 years holding the position of Vice- President for the last 10 years. In 1984 he received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from his alma mater. During his retirement Ken worked for 16 years as a volunteer for Radio Amateurs of Canada and also for The International Amateur Radio Union traveling to Geneva several times a year. According to his wishes there will be no visitation or service. Cremation has taken place and the disposal of his ashes by his family will be at a later date. Condolences or tributes may be made at [tubmanfuneralhomes.com](http://tubmanfuneralhomes.com)"

Jim, VE2VE

### A TIMELY NOTE ABOUT DX ETIQUETTE

Often we hear good DX on the bands and everyone wants they're 30 second QSO to get the contact so they can confirm the new rare or not so rare, but needed DX. In haste often what happens is things go terribly stupid. Tuners, people calling when the station he wants has been called, jumping over someone else to get the QSO and calling even when he is not looking for our part of the world. It happens and it's far more common than we would like to think or admit. I can't begin to

count the many times I have passed up a station because the pile up was so ridiculously out of control that I would not have a chance.

Has that happened to you??

It may take some time to get the DX, but by doing some simple things that are listed within the DX code of conduct more than likely you will succeed.

Here is the list.





### DX Code Of Conduct

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

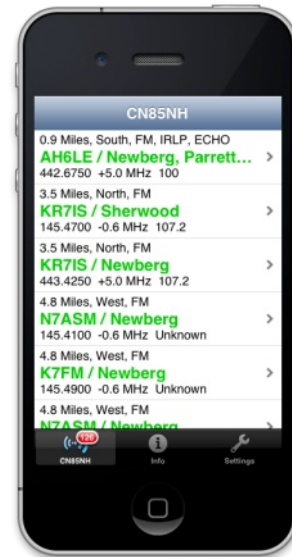
Simple and effective. Remember hams are supposed to be the nice guys of radio.

VA2UTC

### RepeaterBook.com announces a new Repeater Directory app

The World's Free Repeater Apps now available for iPhone and Android. The Free Repeater Directory App for USA, Canada, and Mexico.

RepeaterBook enables you to easily find repeaters across the USA, Canada, and Mexico for free, and without a network



connection.

RepeaterBook mobile apps are powered by the popular community database of RepeaterBook.com and software of ZBM2.com.

Just search for RepeaterBook in the Apple App Store or Google Play

- More than 16,000 repeaters listed
- No network connection required
- Use network, GPS or a grid square to find Repeaters
- Displays your grid
- Comprehensive selection and sorting options
- Displays distance, heading and full repeater details
- Fast and flexible, designed to help you use the repeater network
- Easily submit updates and additions from within the app
- Support for English, French Canadian and Spanish (Android version)
- Supports BlueCAT - FT-857 / FT-817 Bluetooth CAT interface?- Touch a repeater to instantly set your radio. (Android version)

For our friends outside North America we have our other popular directory apps:

- Repeater Locator - for iPhone, iPad, and iPod
- Repeater - for Android

Our Repeater apps will always be free.

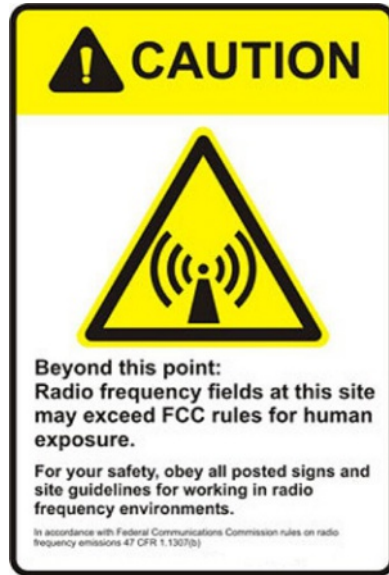
Garrett KD6KPC and Nicolas M1HOG

[www.repeaterbook.com](http://www.repeaterbook.com) and [www.zbm2.com](http://www.zbm2.com)

73,

Garrett, KD6KPC

<http://www.repeaterbook.com>



## FCC SEEKS TO REASSESS RF EXPOSURE LIMITS

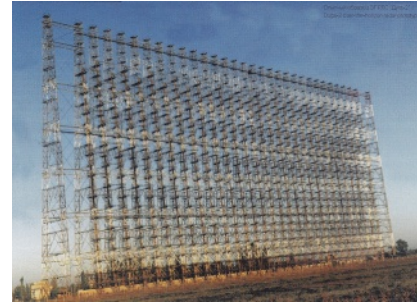
According to and as reported on the ARRL website the FCC is looking to review and reassess the policies it has regarding RF exposure limits with respect to radio transmissions. It has been noted that on March 27 of this year the FCC filed two dockets ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137 with the expressed intention of reassess exposure limits to humans re RF and policies as well as the rules surrounding exposure limits. This could have a profound affect on amateur operations in particular as they relate to part 97 of the FCC regulations re amateur radio. You can read the post from ARRL via this ink. [http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-seeks-to-reassess-rf-exposure-limits?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=twitterfeed](http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-seeks-to-reassess-rf-exposure-limits?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed)

VA2UTC



## INTRUDER WATCH: RUSSIAN AND IRANIAN OTH RADAR CAUSING INTERFERENCE ON HF

The latest Region One International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System newsletter reports a Russian Over the Horizon Radar has been transmitting between 3.555 to 3.590



and 3.750 to 3.785 MHz. The signal is always 35 kHz wide with its location believed to be in the area of Makhachkala, in the Caspian Sea.

Amateur radio as well as many other services are being interfered with in the evening hours by this annoying signal source. A letter has been sent to the Russian Radio Society -- the SRR -- asking for assistance in ending the operation of this Radar system.

Meantime an Iran based Over the Horizon Radar has been interfering with ham radio operations on the 10 meter band. This Radar is on the air daily on 28.000 to 29.700 MHz transmitting bursts that are 60 kHz wide. The splatter from the signal often covers spectrum 500 kHz or more in bandwidth. The German Department of Post and Telecommunications has sent an official complaint to its counterpart in Iran.



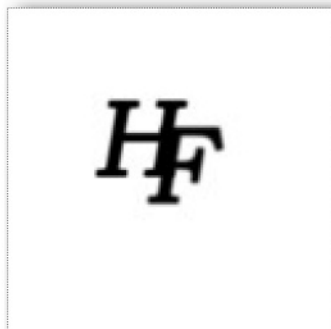
Lastly, the Dutch Datawell buoys are still operating illegally on 10 meters. The Datawell Company was informed that the transmissions are illegal by DK2OM and PA2GRU way back in March of 2012, but so far the company has not responded and the interference continues.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

If you happen across signals in the ham radio bands that you know do not belong there, please send a report to the Intruder Watch Coordinator for the nation that you live in. (IARU R-1 IARUMS Newsletter)

Amateur Radio Newsline

**RADIO H.F.**

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J4R 2T8**  
tel/fax :450-671-3773  
**sans frais - toll free in Canada**  
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**SHORTWAVE & AM/FM RADIOS / RADIOS ONDES COURTES & AM/FM**  
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**SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES**  
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**AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR**  
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AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD (WRTH), CQ, CRB, HIGHTEXT, IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, KRAUSE, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB, RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK, RADIO AMATEURS DU QUEBEC, SCHIFFER BOOKS, SONORAN, TAB, TIARE

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