



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341
W4AC Repeater – 444.100 MHz & 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- MAY 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I would like to give a thank you to all who served as monitors at the Sharks Tooth 10K Run in which some 800 runners participated. Not the least of which were the two young men, Paul Lesko-KK4HCP and Dylan Crosen-KK4HCQ from the Venice High School Radio Club-W4VHS. Great job guys and thanks to Rob Lash-W4LRL, cosponsor of that club, for getting those two fellows up early and to the site. Also, a special thank you to Stew Haag-W4MO for the use of his digital 440 MHz equipment and his talents as coordinator for the monitors.

With regard to the operation of Special Event Station K4S, a total of 335 QSO's were made on RTTY (185 Q's by Bob Avrutik-N1RA), on PSK31 (94 Q's by Roger Schmit-KY4RS and Andy Durette-KB1HIP, and 39 Q's by Vic Ouellette-K1CGI), and on SSB (117 Q's by Jack Sproat-W4JS). This compares with a total of 215 Q's in 2011, so we did pretty well spreading the word about the Sharks Tooth Festival.

Well, we definitely reached the summer club status this month with most of our snow birds having flown the coop so to speak. The breakfast group is still going strong with eight to twelve showing up for morning repast and conversation. There are several topics each morning ranging from digital radio (W4MO) to fine food stories (K8ZM and WA3RRS). An interesting start to the day, to say the least.

Just a side note, we have a total of 64 members. Now that's a goodly amount but I see several mobile units around town around town (with Florida plates) and I don't see them on our roster. What say we look to increasing that membership total. New members keep every organization growing.

Yours truly got some encouraging news this week. It seems my son Michael (N3BXH) will be relocating to Florida in the very near future.

73, Fred-KJ4TNI

Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference. – Chinese Fortune Cookie

-- MAY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **09 May 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. A program will be given by Scott Montgomery, the Recovery Section Manager with the Sarasota EOC.

-- SAN-K3SY STARTS HIS PROGRAM --



San Yoder-K3SY starts off his PP/video overview and discussion of a disaster relief exercise held recently in his community, at our April meeting.

-- NEW JOB FOR RILEY --

Retired FCC amateur radio enforcement chief Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH, has been named a CQ magazine contributing editor, it was announced today by CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Hollingsworth will succeed "Washington Readout" editor Fred Maia, W5YI, who recently became a Silent Key. Riley's first column will appear in the July 2012 issue of CQ.

For additional details, visit the CQ Newsroom at <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com>.

(From CQ Newsroom 17 April 2012)

A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!"
The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

11 April 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Bob Faulcon-N1LVO from North Port was the only visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 March meeting as published in the April issue of *The Communicator*. Tom Fraser-KD8OTO so moved, seconded by Ron Pedersen-KJ4EVJ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2,934.44. Receipts were \$19.00 from the March meeting 50/50 and \$25 from dues, totaling \$44.00. Expenses were \$15.25 for Internet service. The ending balance is \$2,963.19. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Ron Pedersen-KJ4EVJ, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – Regular VE session will be held on 14 April, however, there have been inquires to date.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew commented that there is no longer any Club property at his QTH.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 55 dues paying members and eight Life Members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred-KJ4TNI reported that some 9 to 12 stations have been participating in the Tuesday night 440 Net. The Thursday night 2-meter net typically has 3 to 6 stations checking in.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 28 members, spouses and friends present at the 04 April luncheon/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. San Yoder-K3SY showed the film, photos and video of the three floods that hit Johnstown, PA. Visitors are welcome to our group the first Wednesday of the month at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. The 02 May meeting will be the last one in Sarasota, as the June through September lunches are held at the Panda Pavilion Chinese Buffet in Venice, to which you're always welcome.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred reminded those who had volunteered to serve as monitors along the

route of the Sharks Tooth 10K Run to be at the run's assembly area around 6:30 AM as the race starts at 7:15 AM.

We currently have four stations proposed to be on the air for the K4S operation.

Bob-N1RA on RTTY

Jack-KY1Z on 15 meters the afternoon of 14 and 15 April

Roger-KY4RS on PSK31

Jack-W4JS on 20, 17 and 10 meters as much as possible.

Jack-W4JS advised that Protocol, frequencies, log sheets, etc. had been sent to all participants.

NEW BUSINESS – Jack-W4JS reviewed the subject regarding the e-mail notice he had sent to all TARC members wherein the FCC is seeking input to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations – such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the relief agencies. An e-mail notice was also sent to all members announcing that the ARRL seeks input from amateurs affected by HOA restrictions, such that the ARRL can present a united front to the FCC. All comments must be sent to the ARRL by 25 April.

Jack then asked "How many of you are affected by HOAs such that you cannot put up antennas or must use compromise antennas such as flag poles and indoor antennas?" There was a sizeable show of hands.

Jack then asked "How many of you have submitted such information to the ARRL?" A fair percentage indicated that they had done so.

Jack then asked "If not, why not as this is the only chance you will ever have to be heard?" Discussions followed with the outcome seeming to be that the members do want to make their voices heard.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM was made by Don Jansen-KI4VGE, seconded by Lois Marlatt-VE3CME/KE4NOT, and passed. There were 18 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – San Yoder-K3SY presented a PP/video overview and discussion of a recent disaster relief exercise held recently in his community.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

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CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Afghanistan – T6JP; ++ & Digital, 20 m	Now to 31 July	26	--	--	--	22-04	00-04	01-04	NO	NO
Sable Is – CY0/VE1AWW	Now to 18 July	41	--	--	--	14-00	NO	NO	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6JM; ++ & Digital, 20 m	Now to 13 June	26	--	--	--	22-04	00-04	01-04	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV2W; **, RTTY, some SSB	Now to 12 June	348	NO	NO	NO	11-14	12-14	12-14	NO	NO
Nepal – 9N1FE; end date not set	Now to 30 May	13	--	--	--	21-03	--	--	--	--
YEMEN – 7O6T ; International team op.	Now to 15 May	57	23-03	23-04	22-03	19-04	16-21	16-20	16-19	16-19
Haiti – HH8/EA3OW; ++, digital, spare time	Now to 12 May	131	--	00-24	00-24	14-01	18-21	17-00	NO	NO
Mozambique – C91JR; RTTY, PSK, holiday	Now to 10 May	101	23-05	22-06	22-06	23-06	14-17	15-17	15-17	16-17
Ogasawara – JD1BLC, BLY, BMH, etc..	Now to 05 May	317	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-16	13-15	13-15	13-15	22-23
Lichtenstein – HB0/DL2SBY; all modes	Now to 05 May	46	00-05	21-08	22-07	12-00	16-22	12-23	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0VK; team operation	Now to 05 May	262	06-12	05-13	05-13	00-13	19-04	20-00	20-00	20-22
.Micronesia – V63AZ; all modes	Now to 30 May	293	--	06-13	06-13	02-14	20-02	20-00	00-03	NO
Palau – T88RF; mostly Digital	Now to 04 May	306	09-11	08-12	08-12	04-16	21-02	22-02	22-02	NO
Uganda – 5X/F5IRO; ** & PSK, spare time	01 May - 10 Jun	77	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-06	16-01	16-01	16-01	18-20
Myanmar – XZ1K; ++ & PSK, long term op	01 to 30 May	2	NO	NO	NO	21-01	13-03	13-03	13-03	NO
Lebanon – OD5/IV3XNF; ** and Digital	01 to 30 May	47	00-03	23-04	22-05	18-05	15-23	17-00	17-22	NO
Mozambique – C91???; team operation	03 to 13 May	101	--	22-06	22-06	22-07	15-18	14-17	14-17	15-17
Guam – KH2/W2AZ; All modes	05 to 06 May	306	08-10	07-12	07-12	03-16	20-01	21-00	21-00	NO
Gibraltar – ZQ3M; SES for Queen Elizabeth	05 May – 10 Jun	61	00-06	21-09	21-09	00-24	12-01	14-01	14-01	NO
Bermuda – VP9/OH1VR; HF + 6 meters	07 to 13 May	67	22-12	00-24	00-24	12-04	16-22	16-22	NO	NO
Aruba – P40X, FM and PB	08 to 14 May	139	22-12	00-24	00-24	00-24	13-04	15-03	16-03	16-03
Maldives – 8Q7NK, IC, TE, etc. JA team op	11 to 16 May	41	0030	23-01	00-01	20-04	19-04	17-20	17-23	NO
Belize – V31XB	11 to 31 May	211	19-16	00-24	00-24	15-03	15-03	17-03	NO	NO
Guernsey – MU/PA0VHA and friends	12 to 19 May	46	00-06	22-08	22-09	00-24	12-01	14-00	14-00	NO
Seychelles – S79RR; CW and RTTY	15 to 23 May	68	--	23-03	23-03	20-05	17-00	16-23	16-23	NO
Macao – XX9???; Spanish team operation	17 to 23 May	341	NO	NO	NO	10-13	12-15	12-15	12-15	NO
Somalia – 6O3A; all modes	25 to 30 May	66	00-03	23-04	23-04	19-05	18-00	18-00	18-00	NO

Updated 27 April based on 25 April QRZ DX, 23 April *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: **Time in bold** = Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. **Long Path bearings** and **opening times** are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 93 to 149, with a mean value of 113.2 (vs. 112.2 for April 2011 and 76.0 for April 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on 16 days. Through 29 April the sunspot number ranged from 24 to 169, with a mean of 83.7. Sunspot Regions 1448 to 1471 were active, with two M-class and 73 C-class flares. Solar flare activity drove the Ap Index up to 132 during one period on 24 April. Minor solar storms and radio blackouts occurred, particularly on the polar paths.

-- MAY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels during May with a slight chance of M-class flares.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to be at normal to moderate levels through 10 May. These flux values are forecast to increase to high levels from 11-14 May due to a coronal hole high speed stream (CHSS). From 15-19 May values are expected to be at moderate or lower levels.

The Solar Flux should average 120.6 during May.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet 01-08 May, before increasing to active levels with the chance for a minor storm on 09-11 May. Quiet conditions are expected 12-13 May, increasing to mostly active conditions 14-15 May. Quiet conditions should return 16-19 May, followed by active levels with the chance of minor storms 20-23 May. Mostly quiet conditions should prevail 24-31 May.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 23 April 2012, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 April 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 25 April 2012)

-- RANDOM DX COMMENTS --

Sprately Island-9M0L was mostly a "no show" locally, although Bob-N1RA did manage a 15-meter CW contact with them. Way to go, Bob!

The DX Activity table above shows little potential for 10 meters. Don't forget about that band, for there may be openings, especially on the TE paths. Look toward Africa, especially around sunset over there, and look for TE propagation to the South Pacific as sunset comes locally.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING APRIL

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest	0001Z 05 May 2359Z 06 May	10 Meters Only CW Only	Members of Ten-Ten International	Call Sign, Name, State, 10-X No.
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z 05 May 1959Z 06 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 12 May 1200Z 13 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial, CQ Zone
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z 12 May 1200Z 13 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere 100 watts max. power	RS(T), Serial
Portuguese Navy Day	1500Z 12 May 1500Z 13 May	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Portuguese Stations	RS(T), Serial, CQ Zone
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z 12 May 0300Z 13 May	6 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	6-character Grid Square
Portuguese Navy Day	0800Z 19 May 1500Z 19 May	80 – 10 Meters Digital Only	Portuguese Stations	RST, Serial, CQ Zone
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z 19 May 1200Z 20 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK63 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 19 May 1200Z 20 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, but Anyone Anywhere OK	RST, Serial
Baltic Contest	2100Z 19 May 0200Z 20 May	75/80 Meters Only SSB and CW	ES, YL, LY, but OK for Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
CQ World Wide WPX Contest	0000Z 26 May 2400Z 27 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

-- LAZY OR JUST DON'T CARE? --

According to the license data base of Joe Speroni-AH0A, on 22 April 2012 there were 703,728 licensed radio amateurs in the USA; see <http://ah0a.org/FCC/Licenses.html>.

A month ago the ARRL asked that the amateur community forward comments directly to the ARRL with regard to the negative effects of CCR and HOA restrictions on their ability to install efficient outside antennas. In response to that request, such that the ARRL could use those reports, given in a survey format, to develop its comments, "more than 1200 radio amateurs responded". <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2012-04-26#toc03>

So, ONLY some 1200 hams give a damn about not being able to install effective antennas such that they can make full use of their license privileges. Do you think the FCC will get too excited that only 0.17% of the radio amateur population feels to be negatively affected? Don't count on it.

It used to be that when a ham showed off his equipment, or even stated to someone that he was a ham, the first question would be, "How far can you talk on your radio?" Perhaps the vast majority of US hams are now content to reply,

"Well, I carry my radio here in my pocket and I can access a repeater about 10 miles away." That sure will impress the questioner-NOT!

-- THE BEAM TETRODE 807 --



"807" also referred to a bottle of beer. Gil-1955

--HAM RADIO TODAY --

I'm just back from ESC/DESIGN West, which was last week in San Jose. The conference held a very low-key meet-and-greet with students in engineering programs. I had the chance to talk to a couple of Juniors from San Jose State. The meeting was too loosely organized, but I'm told they will tune the format for the next show in Boston in September.

One of the gateway drugs into electronics has traditionally been ham radio. In the past I've commented on its decline. But things have changed. The ARRL (www.arrl.org) reports that as of late last year there are now 700,000 licensed hams in the United States, an all-time high. That's up from 285,000 in 1971.

How much of the increase can be attributed to the relaxed licensing requirements? Morse code is no longer needed. The test questions come from pools that are on-line, making it easier to master the material than of yore.

I got my Novice license as a teenager; back then one had to pass a 5 word-per-minute (WPM) code test in addition to the written exam. Novices were limited to code on the HF bands, so that requirement made a lot of sense. And the limitation made sense as well, as a code transmitter is a very simple thing indeed which nearly anyone can build.

Some time later I upgraded to General, but was never able to get beyond the 13 WPM needed for that license. The highest grade is Amateur Extra, which required a blistering 20 WPM. One pal could copy at 40 WPM; he didn't hear the letters, instead copying entire words like listening to a second language. It was astonishing to watch him listen without taking notes, chuckling at the jokes, and keying out a high-speed reply.

There's been a lot of debate in the ham community about the relaxed standards, and plenty of hams feel they bring people into the hobby who really don't know much about electronics or the hobby. I'm sure plenty of new hams are weak in these subjects. And that's the reason to award them licenses. Bring them in, mentor them, let them experiment and learn and eventually become, as hams say, an Elmer.

Last month I had a little spare time so, since there's no longer a code requirement, I took the Amateur Extra test. I boned up a bit; the electronics is easy for an EE but one does have to know some of the rules and customs (e.g., *"Amateur stations may not transmit in which of*

the following frequency segments if they are located north of Line A?")).

On test day one other person was also taking the Extra exam. We chatted and he complained that he just didn't understand reactance and resonance in series and parallel circuits, but was hoping for a miracle. It didn't appear, and, somewhat dejected, said he was going back to the books. That sure sounds like a success to me. His current, lower, license has him interested and active, and the allure of the higher ticket means he is determined to learn some electronics.

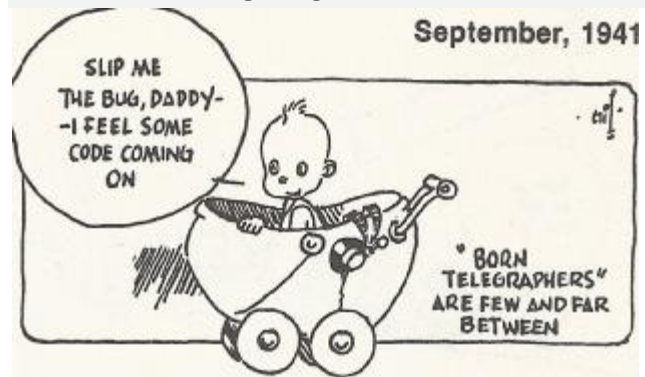
For me, ham radio's attraction was originally mostly in building radios. No longer; now I have a commercial transceiver that I only use when operating maritime mobile on our sailboat. But a lot of hams continue to make their own equipment and the magazines always have plenty of cool projects. It's possible to get on the air with very cheaply by building your own radio. And, that DIY approach is a fantastic way to learn electronics.

If you are an embedded Elmer, do consider attending that ESC event in September and chat up some of the younger crowd. Ham radio is one gateway drug into this compelling field; you can be another.

(This article was written by Jack Ganssle-N3ALO and published 06 April 2012 on the web site eelife@newsletters.eetimes.com . It was sent in by Andy Durette-KB1HIP.)

--THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER --

September, 1941



Thinking back more that a "few years" your editor can recall making his first telegraph key from a few scraps of wood, a metal strip cut from a license plate, and some wood screws for a contactor and connections. A "D" cell battery and a buzzer for sound. Some years later a genuine J-38 key, manufactured by Lionel (trains) during WW II worked better, but the op never did. CW is an art with few artists!

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	2 QCWA Lunch, 11:15 @ Denny's TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	3 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	5
6	7	8 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	9 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	10 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	12 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
13	14 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	15 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	16 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	19
20	21	22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	23 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	26
27	28	29 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	30 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeaters will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. Thanks for your cooperation.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Call Sign _____ Class ____ ARRL (Y/N)____

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ E-Mail _____ Application Date _____

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control __, RFI/TVI __, VE Testing __, Training __, Packet __, RTTY __,
Computers __, DXing __, Contests __, Field Day __, Publicity __, Emergency Communications __, Special Events __,
VHF/UHF __, SSTV __, ATV __, Repeater __, EchoLink __, Other (specify) _____

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year __, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year __ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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