



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

September 2021

<http://w6ek.org> info@w6ek.org

At The Key of SFARC:

PRESIDENT

Brian Gohl, AI6US
AI6US@titaniumsatellite.com

VICE PRESIDENT

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ko6th.greg@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Michele Bauer, WH7QC
mickybauer2012@gmail.com

TREASURER

Jeff Morgan, KM6RGO
jamontrail@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Gerry Brentnall, WA6E
Wayne Stilwell, W6DT
Chip Bautista, KM6MDF

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

To be filled

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
Sunshine: Roy, WH7DH

GROUPS io

Dennis Gregory, WU6X

PIO

Scott Vogelsang, WA6YNE

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/FUSION)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 110.9)

CLUB NET

Thursdays, 7:30PM, W6EK/R 145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
Online Zoom starts @7:30pm
Meeting ID: 962 6167 5605

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Sat of the month at Mel's Diner
1730 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn 7:30AM

NET CONTROL OPS

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Orion Endres, AI6JB
Chip Bautista, KM6MDF

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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anderson51@wavecable.com

WEBMASTER

Herb Garcia, KM6JBI

STATION TRUSTEE

Clyde Campbell, AB4CC

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Andrew Silvester, K6OP



Calendar of Events

September 10th @ 7:30pm
*General (Zoom)
Meeting*

September 11th @ 5pm
Stampede to the Park
(See Brian's column for details)

September 25th @ 7:30am
Club Breakfast

October 16th
"Jamboree on the Air"

~ ~ ~

**Join us every morning @
7:30am for the Coffee Break
Net on the W6EK repeater
145.43, PL 162.2**

Inside this issue

- ***President's Message***
- ***Hamtrack 2022***
- ***What is it?***
- ***Board & General Meeting Minutes***

We encourage members to receive Sierra Signals via email to save the Club the cost of reproduction and mailing

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President's Message

*By Brian Gohl – AI6US,
President*

What a great month it has been for club activities! August 13th was our first in-person club meeting in 1 ½ years. Thank you to Gerry – WA6E for making arrangements for using the 1st United Methodist Church of Loomis outdoor park area and parking lot. The church thanks everyone who generously donated to their food bank. As always, we came together and collected an outstanding amount of non-perishable food goods and cash to support our community. After a short business meeting we toured the Hot RF Nights displays put on by members highlighting their mobile rigs, portable kits and projects. What a great turnout and many interesting displays! Check out the photos on the W6EK.org website and the Greg's – KO6TH video on the SFARC YouTube channel.

Ice Cream and Watermelon Social

On Saturday evening, August 21st we met at the Auburn Recreation Park for ice cream floats and ice cold watermelon. The weather couldn't have been better! Upper 70's and no smoke in the air! A big SFARC Thank You to Michele – WH7QC and Roy – WH7DH for not only organizing and hosting this event, but also for donating the food and supplies! Thank you for putting on such a fun event!

Orson - KG6UCS swept the competition with his pub honed skills and took 1st place in both the watermelon seed spittin' and the corn hole bean bag toss contests. Jeff – KM6RGO took 2nd place and Doug – W2VX took 3rd with their seed spittin' expertise and Earl – W6GPB took 2nd place with stellar bean bag tossing accuracy! The root beer floats were a hit, but many came away with a new favorite after trying an orange soda float for the first time.

Club Elections

Club elections are coming up at the November meeting. If you or someone you know would like to be placed into nomination for serving the club in 2022, please contact Rich – AA6RS. Rich will be announcing the current list of nominated members for the board and directors during the September meeting.

Fall Camp out Canceled

The SFARC Fall Camp out at Stampede Reservoir has been canceled due to the wild fires and US Forest Service closures, including the Tahoe FS lands and Logger Campground. The Forest Service has now extended the forest closures through September 17th. The fun may not be happening at Stampede Reservoir, but it will go on. We will instead, stampede to Recreation Park in Auburn!

Stampede to the Park – Potluck and Games

Join us for a potluck and game night at the Auburn Recreation Park on Saturday, September 11 at 5pm. To start off the gourmet potluck feast, I will bring hot dogs and fixings. Theta - WA6EWF will be serving her famous and delicious carrot cake. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or ???, and provide your own drinks, tableware, and lawn chairs. We will be meeting in the back of the park near the pavilion. Do you have favorite lawn games like corn hole, croquet or ? Bring them along. Looking forward to seeing you at the “Stampede to the Park” potluck and game night!

123 Recreation Drive, Auburn, CA 95603 <https://goo.gl/maps/QuyynjPB6bUnahHR9>

General Class Starts September 14th

Looking to upgrade? Sign-ups are still open for the upcoming General Class. The eight class sessions will be held on Zoom, Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm, starting September 14th. Contact Orion at ai6jb@arri.net

September Club Meeting

The September 10th club meeting will be held on Zoom. We will have an exciting announcement for a new in-person meeting location starting in October. Stay tuned...

Looking forward to talking with you again, a little further down the logbook!

Until then, 73

Brian Gohl – AI6US

SFARC President

August 13th was the first in-person club meeting





Want to take the train to Reno?
Here's an easy and fun way to do it... Go with the Club

On occasion the subject of trains comes up for discussion on the repeater. There seem to be a number of train aficionados (don't call them "foamers") out there as those train discussions attract numerous and protracted stories of memorable train trips. One trip mentioned frequently is the train trip from Sacramento to Reno. It travels through some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States if not the world. The most common comments include: "That's on my bucket list" or "I want to do that someday." And it remains on the bucket list forever or until the day you decide to just DO IT! Well now is your chance to do something about it.

Your Club, as part of its undeclared and previously unknown "Let's do things together" program, has decided to sponsor just such a trip. We are calling it "Hamtrak 2022." (Thanks to Josh, KK6VHH for coming up with the name).

Here are the details:

16 March 2022 - Wednesday: Sacramento to Reno

17 March 2022 - Thursday: Reno to Sacramento

Why those dates? Many reasons. First, we wanted to do this while there was still a chance of snow and March usually qualifies for this. Second, because it is mid-week the hotel rooms in Reno are cheaper. Third, it may be easier to get seats on the train in mid-week. Fourth this gives everybody time to make plans. And fifth it is the week after our Club meeting so we will have time to make plans.

We will be riding to Reno on the California Zephyr, Amtrak train #6 and back also on the California Zephyr, Amtrak train #5.

Amtrak #6 leaves Roseville at 11:35 am (if it is on time). You can also catch the same train at Sacramento, Colfax, or even Oakland (different times, of course). It arrives to Reno at 3:56 pm.

Amtrak #5 leaves Reno at 8:36 am and arrives to Roseville at 12:55 pm. This train starts in Chicago and is often late getting to Reno.

It's up to you to buy your own tickets - it's between you and Amtrak. There are non-refundable tickets and refundable tickets. You decide which is best for you. You also decide when you want to buy the tickets but our experience has been these trains sometimes sell out to Reno so the earlier you buy your tickets the better. **If you use the Amtrak website be sure to book the train to Reno and not accidentally book the bus.**

We believe the train seats are not reserved. There is upper level and lower level seating for you to choose once you are aboard. Amtrak says the difference is "Bi-level Superliner trains offer coach seats on both levels. While most passengers ride in the upper level for a panoramic view of the passing scenery, the lower level coach seats provide the convenience of well-appointed restrooms within the car." In other words the bathrooms are downstairs.

As for the hotel, there are three hotels that are connected together the closest of which is about 2 blocks from the train station. The hotels are: El Dorado, Silver Legacy and Circus Circus. You decide which hotel you want and make your own reservations.

We can take our radios on the train. The train seats are not reserved so we should be able to find seating near each other. Gerry will bring his ClearNode. As long as we can get Wi-Fi we'll be able to check in to the W6EK repeater and regale those not on the trip of our minute-to-minute progress as they will undoubtedly enjoy hearing us talk incessantly about our trip all day long.

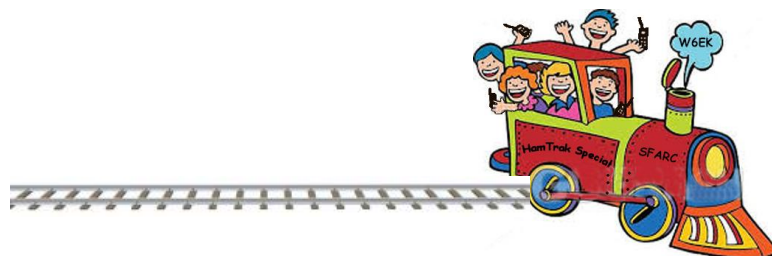
At the hotel we will have happy hour and dinner together (the Silver Legacy has a nice buffet).

The Club's role in this trip is that of organizer not benefactor. The responsibility to buy your tickets, make reservations and the like is all yours.

Gerry, WA6E, will be the point of contact and "trainmeister" for this excursion. You can direct questions to him. Email: WA6E@ARRL.NET

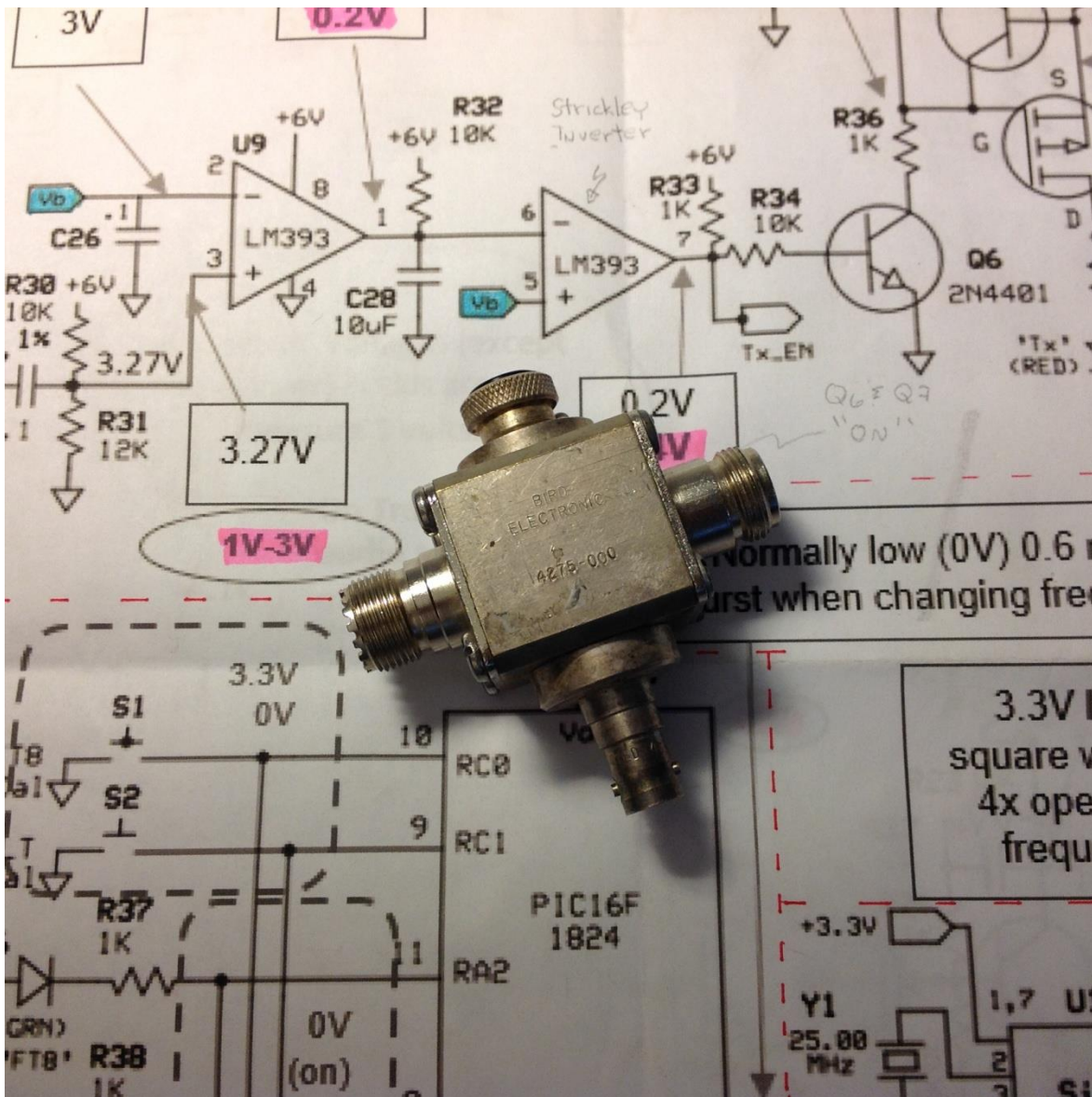
So it's a shared responsibility. The Club initiated and coordinates the idea but you implement it. If you want to come along, buy your tickets and make your reservations. Not only is this a beautiful trip it will be a lot of fun shared with the other members of the Club.

All aboard!



What is it?

Hint: This item is used by amateurs to assist in Linear Amplifier adjustments and other high power measurements using scopes and Spectrum Analysers



Answer is on page 10 of this newsletter



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

In-person/Stream to Zoom Meeting

August 13, 2021 @ 1800

President Brian/AI6US welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

SFARC Officers and Board members present:

President, Brian/AI6US, Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO, Directors, Gerry/WA6E, Wayne/W6DT, Chip/KN6MDF.

Officer reports:

Secretary, Michele/WH7QC needs a replacement beginning in September due to leaving the area soon for a full-time mission. We need someone to take the minutes for September, October, and November.

Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO reported that the club is under budget—yay!

Director, Wayne/W6DT proposed the club present a special exemplary service award in the name of (name withheld until future notice) to a club member who does a lot for the club—very often behind the scenes—jumping in wherever there is a need. This award will be in the first recipient's name and presented to a different club member each year at the annual Christmas dinner. This will be a plaque with little plates on it for the names of those who are given the award. The recipient of the award will receive a service award certificate as a keepsake.

Wayne made the motion and Gerry/WA6E seconded it for the club to consider the recognition award for exemplary service. The Board voted unanimously to adopt this exemplary award.

Directors Gerry/WA6E and Chip/KM6MDF had no reports.

Website officer, Herb/KM6JBI reported that he and Amir/N6ADL will conduct a test to get the “bugs” out of the photo storage.

Nomination committee chair, Rich/AA6RS has put together a great list of officer nominees. Having an in-person meeting is a concern.

The Vet's Hall is not doing bookings, but Brian will ask George/KG6LSB to check out those in charge of the Vets Hall for the possibility of the club meeting there for our annual Christmas party, planned for the first part of December 2021.

Calendar of Club Events

The Ice Cream/Watermelon social will be next weekend, Saturday, August 21 at 6 pm at the ARD. There will be root beer and orange crush floats and watermelon, including a seed-spitting contest. So far, we have 45 signed up. RSVP deadline is this Sunday, August 15. Michele/WH7QC is organizing the event.

The Stampede Campout on September 10-12 will be the venue for the September 10 meeting which will also be held via Zoom. There are two bars on the cell phone so it should be ok for Zoom.

Events chair, Chip/KM6MDF reported that the CERA Enduro will be held in October. This will be an

opportunity for SFARC members to serve.

Old Business

Repeater Lease-An email was written to the business manager, and we are waiting for a response.
 Membership Management Software-Jeff reported that the biggest data base is “QuickBooks.” Jeff has his own QuickBooks program, but the club needs its own program. The club doesn’t use 99% of what is available on the program. Wayne said the Bicycle Club “Wild Apricot.” The less complicated, the better.

The SFARC meeting location: Jim/WA8MPA reported that his church has a Quonset hut that is great—has a basketball court-size room. If we meet there on Fridays, we will need to clean up afterwards as there is no custodian available on the weekend. We possibly could meet on another evening other than Wednesday. Tuesday or Thursday evening might be better, especially with younger people joining the club lately.

Do we still hold our meetings via Zoom? Zoom has been very successful in this regard.

Website, Herb/KM6JBI said we have two offers— “Go Daddy” and “HostGator.” Both have unlimited storage. Whichever we choose, Jeff/KM6RGO said that our financial files should be on as well, if it is safe. Brian suggested we have a decision in the next two months.

New Business

A “Ham Trak” trip is in the planning by Gerry/WA6E for March 2022! This event will be a pay your own way, overnight trip to Reno. Gerry is suggesting this be an annual event, which is a great idea! Gerry motioned and Chip/KM6MDF seconded the motion that the SFARC make the Ham Trak trip an annual event. The moving was unanimous. Gerry will set a date for March 2022.

Brian/AI6US announced that the Stampede Campground weekend will be a group Zoom meeting.

Jeff/KM6RGO said that the Coffee and Donuts in the Park event went over budget. We need to reimburse Brian the \$173.85 he paid out of pocket on behalf of the event. It is revenue neutral as our Field Day went under budget.

The General meeting will be fast, about 15 minutes due to sunset.

The Board meeting adjourned at 18:45 pm. Submitted by Michele Bauer/WH7QC



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

In-person/Stream to Zoom Meeting

August 13, 2021

President, Brian/AI6US welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting was called to order, and we all did the Pledge of Allegiance. There were about 55 members gathered in person. The July 2021 minutes were approved as submitted.

All Board members and officers were in attendance:

President, Brian/AI6US, Vice-president, Greg/KO6TH, Secretary, Michele/WH7QC, Treasurer, Jeff/KM6RGO, Directors, Gerry/WA6E, Wayne/W6DT, and Chip/KM6MDF.

Reports

Secretary report: Michele/WH7QC is moving to SLC in October for 18 months. She needs a club member to take the minutes for September, October, and November due to family visits and leaving the area.

Treasurer report: Jeff/KM6RGO reported that the club is under budget which is a good thing. He reported that our successful "Coffee and Donuts in the Park" went over budget and \$173.85 needs to be reimbursed to Brian/AI6US for his out-of-pocket expenses for the event which was very highly attended.

Membership report: Jeff/M6RGO reported that the club now has 221 members. We also have a new member, Bob Bomberger/KN6PFH. Bob/KN6LNR motioned and Amir/N6ADL seconded the motion for the club to accept Bob/KN6PFH into SFARC. The voting was unanimous.

Repeater report: Clyde/AB4CC reported that the repeater noise and low produced power maybe due to rust. We're keeping it at a 20-watt mode until the problem is solved.

Orion/AI6JB will be conducting a new General Class beginning on September 14 for 8 weeks. He is now accepting registration. The classes will be conducted via Zoom; however, there will be two in-person labs.

Jim/WA8MPA has items for sale.

Calendar Events

August 21 - Ice cream/watermelon social is at 6pm at the ARD, located near the Auburn fairgrounds. This Sunday is the last day to RSVP.

September 10-12 - SFARC at the Stampede Campground. The Board and General meetings will be held via Zoom for those unable to come to the campout. For those interested in camping, be sure to reserve a camp site. There are 32 signed up so far.

October 16 - "Jamboree on the Air" and will possibly be held at Gibson Ranch. The event is chaired by Orion/AI6US.

Announcements

Club Nets-Every Thursday @ 7:30 pm (145.430, PL=162.2)

Elmer Net-Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm (145.430, PL=162.2)

Radio Direction Finder-Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 730 pm on Zoom

Coffee Break Net-Every morning @ 7:30 am (145.430, PL=162.2)

Club breakfast-Last Saturday @ Mel's Diner in Auburn, August 28 @ 7:30 am

Club Board Meeting-2nd Friday of the month-September 10, 2021 @ 6pm, Stampede Campground/Zoom

Club General Meeting-2nd Friday of the month-September 10, 2021 @ 7:30 pm, Stampede/Zoom

Program

“Hot RF Nights”-Organized by Greg/KO6TH

This evening’s program was unique to the SFARC in that many of our club members showed off their mobile ham shacks. There were many very impressive portable ham shacks.

The SFARC “Hot RF Nights” was a blast, a terrific idea, and everyone had a great time! 😊

Prize Drawing

Brian/AI6US and Greydon/KC6SLE

The prizes and winners are:

Nifty! Quick-Reference for HF/VHF/UHF Bands>>Michele/WH7QC

Ham Radio Tee shirt>>Dave/N6OJJ

Wattmeter>>Smitty/KNC3O

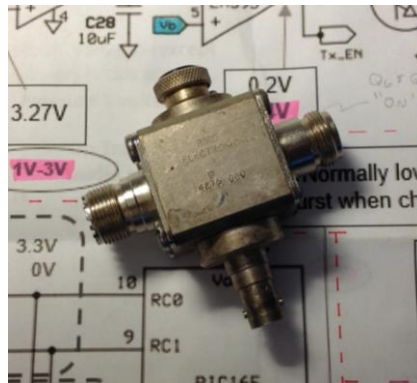
Safety Vest>>Orson/KG6UCS

Spotlight>>Clyde/AB4CC

Lighter for soldering etc.>>Gerry/WA6E

It was a great fun evening for all and there were about 65 signed in, plus babies!

The meeting portion adjourned by 18:50. Submitted by Michele/WH7QC



“WHAT IS IT?”

Answer: Bird 20-1000 MHz, THRULINE® RF Signal Samplers

4275 Series, Variable RF Signal Samplers cover the frequency band of 20-1000 MHz with an attenuation range of 35 to 80 dB down from main power. The 4275 signal samplers produce an un-rectified, non-directional sample at the BNC port that is adjustable. Once adjusted, the setting can be locked in place. The main power connectors are Bird® QC type.

Use of this device keeps you from blowing up your scope or Spectrum Analyzer "Front End" :(

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604

2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ email: _____

Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Application is: (New / Renewal) _____

Dues / Donations:

Membership: yearly*	\$22.00 or 20x__	Name Badge:	\$ 10.00/15.00	Yes (special name) _____
Associate: yearly*	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____	
Misc. Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____	ARRL member? (Yes/No/Life) _____
TOTAL:			\$ _____	Please add \$1 if paying via PayPal

*Prorated dues for NEW Members/Associates Only

July	\$ 20 /6	October	\$ 14/3 + following year	New- - - New - New - Multi-year DISCOUNT Membership *\$20 per year for 2 or more years (new or renewal)
August	\$ 18/5	November	\$ 12/2+ following year	
September	\$ 16/4	December	\$ 10/1 + following year	

OFFICE USE ONLY:	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE
Date: _____	Treasurer: _____
Secretary: _____	Roster: _____
Payment: _____	Check Number: _____
Cash: _____	PayPal: _____

Rev. 5-11-2018



Dennis H. Gregory
Instructor/Technician

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