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April 2007



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# The Feedline

## HAM-ASTRONAUT TO BE LEAGUE'S HONORED GUEST AT ARRL EXPO 2007 IN DAYTON

**From The ARRL Letter**  
**Vol. 26, No. 13**

NASA Space shuttle veteran and International Space Station Expedition 12 commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, will be the League's guest at Dayton Hamvention 2007 in May. Hamvention takes place this year Friday through Sunday, May 18-20, at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio. The first astronaut to work all states from space, McArthur has been applauded for inspiring others through his ham radio activities from NA1SS. He'll be featured speaker during a closed ARRL reception Thursday, May 17, and will be on hand all day Friday, May 18, to greet and talk with visitors to ARRL EXPO 2007 at Hamvention.

ARRL also anticipates that McArthur will be able to lead an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) forum at Dayton Hamvention for first-day visitors.

A showcase of exhibits and activities aimed at enhancing your ham radio and Dayton Hamvention experience, ARRL EXPO will take place in the Ballarena of Hara Arena. Open to members and nonmembers, ARRL EXPO will display a sampling of what the League has to offer,

including mini-forums on various topics and a Youth Lounge. The ARRL retail counter will be stocked with popular publications and products, and visitors can join or renew ARRL while there.

A graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, McArthur, 55, holds a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech. As the keynote speaker at the 2006 AMSAT Space Symposium banquet and participant in the ARISS International conference last October in the San Francisco Bay area, McArthur enjoyed the opportunity to meet many radio amateurs during his stay, including some he'd worked from NA1SS.

During his six months aboard the ISS -- from October 2005 until April 2006 -- McArthur became the most active ham-astronaut ever to serve in space, logging more than 1800 QSOs and picking up several honorary operating awards, including Worked All States (WAS) and Worked All Continents (WAC). He told his AMSAT audience last fall that the tremendous enthusiasm of the radio

See "Ham Astronaut", page 4

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 9 — Membership Meeting**
- May 13—Membership Meeting**
- May 18-20 - Dayton Hamvention**
- June 23,24 — Field Day**

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## Repeaters — K4CO

147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

## Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

## —WEB Site—

[www.k4co.org](http://www.k4co.org)

**Membership meetings on the 2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

**Board meetings: TBA**

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members  
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# Top of the Tower

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Fellow Hams: Again I come to you saying thank you! Last months meeting attendance was great. I wish I could take the credit, but it is you who deserve the accolades. You came out to support your club and your programs. I was astonished when we brought up a repeater in Japan! The excitement was palpable. Have you had time to play with the echolink system? Try it out - you will not break it.

Thanks are in order also for two long term NKARC supporters. John Meyer, NB4K is passing his Section Manager hat to Jim Brooks, KY4Z. John has been president of our club a number of times and is one of our biggest advocates. Over the past few years he put together our sister organization KD7ARET. Many of us belong to both organizations. The KD7ARET is a progressive club solely due to John's efforts. John has always been available to take a fellow hams call and will continue to do so, just not as Section Manager. Thanks John.

Lastly, Harold Blocher Sr., W4YWH is currently renewing our 147.375 repeater. Maybe you no-

ticed it was not on the air. Harold is a founding member of our club. He has had his own radio repair shop in the past and continues to keep his talents up to date. While he does not operate a business anymore, he still has the will and spunk to keep busy helping our club. Thanks Harold for taking the bull by the horns and renewing our 147.375 repeater. Like everyone else in the club, I was thrown off, but you have the bull under control.

My thanks to all of you. Especially last years Board of Directors Greg Hatton, KG4ZTG Dann Fox, KI4AVO Rick Fox, WA4QMV and Bob Burns, AB4BK and a warm welcome to our newest Director, Frank Austin, KI4QFL.

See you Monday the 9th at Turkeyfoot Middle School.

Two of the three Abrahamic religions have their High Holy days over the next few days. I wish all a peaceful and Happy Easter and Passover.

73, Tony AI4IP

## April Program

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Robert Kluck, N4IJS will present a program on setting up your first HF station, including voice (SSB), CW (Morse Code), and digital modes. Please join us!

## March Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
3/06/07	KI4QG	3	8	0
3/13/07	KG4SBG	8	23	0
3/20/07	KI4QG	11	29	0
3/27/07	KG4SBG	9	9	0
TOTALS		31	69	0

# Editor's Soapbox

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As a logical follow-up to last month's editorial, in which I encouraged members to try building their own rigs, I thought I would list some of the tools and test equipment that I feel every kit-builder should have on their bench.

## Soldering tools

I've been using the same 25-watt Weller pencil iron for the past 30 years, and it still works just fine. For those heavy-duty soldering tasks, such as soldering PL-259 connectors, I use a 140-watt soldering gun. Adjustable-temperature irons by Hakko and Weller have dropped to below \$100 in recent years.

For desoldering tasks, I recommend the Edsyn Soldapult DS017 hand pump. Here's a trick I learned many moons ago: Cut a small notch in the plastic tip, just large enough for the tip of your soldering iron to fit through. This allows you to hold the plastic tip flush to the PC board and gain maximum suction.

Make sure that you use standard 63/37 rosin core solder (e.g. Kester 44). Stay away from solder containing silver, as this requires a higher soldering temperature and just doesn't flow as well. I prefer to use .031" diameter solder for most of my soldering tasks. A one-pound roll will last a lifetime.

## Flush-cutting diagonal cutters

The Xcelite 170M does a great job at trimming component leads, and can really get into tight spots. A bargain at five bucks.

## Wire strippers

I still use the Miller 100 wire strippers that came with my first Heathkit almost 40 years ago. Amazingly, this model is still being sold today! Instead of using the wire-gauge "dial", I rely on my own muscle

memory to know just how much pressure the exert to remove the insulation without nicking the wire.

## Hemostat

I picked up a hemostat with curved tip at Radio Shack several years ago, and wondered how I ever got along without one before! It's a very handy third hand, particularly when tinning toroid leads

## Digital Multimeter

Fluke is the Cadillac of multimeters, and they are priced accordingly. Tenma (sold through MCM Electronics of Ohio) sells a wide range of full-featured meters at very reasonable prices. Get one that can handle at least 10Amps DC current. Some models now include a bar-graph display that make it much easier to locate peaks during receiver and transmitter alignment.

## Oscilloscope

This is an optional piece of test equipment, but one that can come in extremely handy at times, particularly when troubleshooting. I've always been able to borrow one from my employer when I needed one, but last year I picked up a 100 MHz Tenma scope at Hamvention for a song. MCM had a truck load of open-box items that they were selling as-is. I could tell that the scope had never been used, so I took a chance, and ended up with a \$1000 analog scope in perfect working order that cost me just \$100!

All this talk about tools has put me in the mood to go build something, so until next month,

73, Mark, AI4BJ

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## "Ham Astronaut", from cover

amateurs and students he talked with via ham radio helped him to focus on why he was aboard the ISS.

Over the course of his ISS duty tour, McArthur, a veteran of four spaceflights and spacewalks, also established an impressive new milestone of 37 ARISS school contacts. In addition, he put 130 DXCC entities into the NA1SS log and is

continuing to collect the necessary QSL cards to qualify for an honorary DXCC.

While in space, McArthur managed to contact all continents, including Antarctica, on both VHF and UHF. He and Expedition 12 Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev also released SuitSat-1 into orbit. An astronaut since 1990, McArthur now serves as safety and mission assurance manager for the shuttle program at Johnson Space Center.

# March Meeting Minutes

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Tony, AI4IP, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. at the Turkeyfoot Middle School. Self introductions followed the Pledge to the Flag. Twenty six people were present.

It was reported that our current membership count is at 32.

In this evening's VE Testing session eight candidates were tested. Three were new Techs and five upgraded to General.

Due to the door situation at Turkeyfoot, we may meet during the summer months at a Kenton County Library. An announcement will be made in the near future concerning this matter.

The nominating committee submitted the following slate of officers:

Tony White, President  
Dan Fox, Vice President  
Frank Austin, Director

Since there were no nominations from the floor, Sam WA4AII, made the motion, and Brian, W4SOU, seconded the motion to close nominations.

All present voted yea, to elect the slate of officers.

The following members volunteered to serve of the Audit Committee; Lyle Hamilton, Fred Eastabrooks, and Greg Hatton.

The following members volunteered to serve on the

Field Day Committee; Joe Stern and Dan Fox.

Field Day this year will be a joint effort with KY7ET splitting the cost 50-50.

The membership was advised that donations have not been meeting the \$20-28 cost for the pizza each month.

KD7ARET has stated that they would like to make a donation to the club to help upgrade the Walton repeater. It was decided that the board will communicate with KD7ARET on how best to accomplish the upgrade.

A change is in the works concerning the club's K4CO trustee.

Lynn Ernst reported that PaddleFest is July 7.

Dennis would like someone else to be net manager.

John Donnley announced that there is a 10 meter net at 8 p.m. on Sunday evenings at 28.335.

Gregg Hatton donated a radio for Echolink use.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Robert Kluck, N4IJS, gave a presentation on reverse Echolink.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Burns, AB4BK

## Swains Island DXpedition Set To Go

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The Swains Island DXpedition <<http://www.yt1ad.info/n8s/index.html>> will be on the air as N8S from April 3 until April 15 on all HF bands (including 60 meters -- 5403.5 kHz) as well as moonbounce on 6 and 2 meters. The international team includes YT1AD, K3LP, K1LZ, N6TQS, K6SRZ, RK3AD, RA3AUU, SV2BFN, UR0MC, YZ7AA, YZ1BX,



UA4HOX, YU7NU, RU4SU, YU1AU, JT1CO and Z3ZM. The same team plans to operate from Samoa as 5W5AA from April 17 to April 24. YT1AD will handle cards for N8S; YZ7AA will handle QSLs for 5W5AA. Swain's Island is among the most-wanted DXCC entities.

(Courtesy of The Daily DX)

# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**  
**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**

## **Locations Selected for Pilot Field Study**

Ten representatives of VE Teams interested in participating in a Pilot Field Study of a Code Proficiency Program met with me by telephone conference call on March 9. The proposed project was discussed among the group with suggestions made and details clarified. VE Teams representing Lexington, KY, Brighton, MI, Akron/Canton/Massillon, OH and Toledo, OH were provisionally identified to initiate the trial. A tentative starting date was set in July. The Field Trial will essentially follow the outline for Code Proficiency Testing that has been long-used by W1AW and will be compatible with it.

## **Iraqi Government Pulls Plug on Amateur Radio**

Word has been received from the President of the Iraq Amateur Radio Society that the Iraqi government has banned all Amateur Radio operation from country. The ban includes operation by all Iraqi nationals as well as foreigners of any sort. The ban is to remain effective until the current civil unrest in the country has come under full control.

## **Another Purpose for MybackgroundCheck.com**

If you recall the name, MybackgroundCheck.com," you may be interested to see the following excerpt from My Background Check, itself.

The casual volunteer is not full time and apparently does not need to submit to a background check. Casual volunteers are not issued RC ID cards. They can still provide support to RC, but the support is limited. Casual volunteers can be used by RC for periods of no more than one week. I have no idea how often if ever these one-week periods can be repeated.

The excerpt reads:

"Safety for Online Daters: Revolutionary Technol-

ogy in Background Checks

"Redding, CA, March 02, 2007 --(PR.COM)-- Mybackgroundcheck.com proves to be a useful tool to online social network users who want a "real" background check on the date they may meet face to face.

"Mybackgroundcheck.com (MBC) was created for the purpose of providing a reliable web-based, applicant-supplied background check system to the consumer market."

Incidentally, fewer than about 10% of all volunteers nationwide have agreed to the RC's demand that we agree to credit and manner of living background checks in addition to criminal background checks.

What is a RC volunteer? Good question. There are apparently two forms of RC volunteers. The first is a certified Volunteer. The second is a casual volunteer. Certified Volunteers formally sign up in one way or another to be considered to be "full time," official volunteers. It is these volunteers that National RC refers to when it insists

that volunteers submit to a Mybackground-Check.com. Certified Volunteers are issued RC ID cards.

## **Another Red Cross Demand**

Most companies lay legal claim on Proprietary and Intellectual Property developed by an employee while he/she is working for the company. In most instances, this is a legitimate claim and the property involved is owned by the company. After all, the employee is being paid by the company to do work for it. Even then, there are exceptions when the property does not legally belong to the company.

Imagine how surprised I was to learn that at least one or two RC Chapters in this Division are demanding Amateur Radio volunteers, including members of ARES, sign an agreement that any Proprietary and Intellectual Property developed by the volunteer belongs to the RC if it wants to make the





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claim! At least one of these Chapters claims the agreement it demands volunteers sign is Nation RC policy.

There is absolutely no way in which RC can lay a legal claim to ARES© property, proprietary or intellectual. Many of you questioned the reason ARRL began to insist that ARES(c) units begin to use the copyright symbol with ARES. I strongly encourage you all to use ARES(c) to head the first page of all original and copies of ARES rosters, duty rosters, work schedules and the like to protect them from possible mistaken attempts by RC or any other organization to claim them as their property.

### Thank You

I would like to thank retiring SM John Meyers, NB4K for his lengthy and dedicated service to Amateur Radio, ARRL and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. John's tireless leadership has resulted in substantial progress in the ability of amateurs to provide emergency communications support through improved training, successful efforts to obtain funding to purchase equipment and successful efforts to achieve a close relationship between ARES and public safety organization including the police and EMA. The legacy John is leaving to the state is certain to lead to still greater advances in the future.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Jim Brooks, KY4Z of Cox's Creek, KY for being elected Kentucky Section Manager. Jim is a former Section PIC, is trained in ARES, is a VE and registered instructor and enjoys DXing. His 2-year term begins 1 April.

### Congratulations, also

Congratulations to Fred Jones, WA4SWF who was named Kentucky Amateur of the Year. The award was presented at the Cave City Hamfest. Fred is an extremely active amateur and dedicated ARRL member. He has served in a number of Section as well as Division appointed positions, and as a true Amateur Radio leader in the Eastern Kentucky area.

### Michigan QSO Party

Saturday, April 21, 2007 will be the 2007 Michigan QSO Party (MiQP). The operating period is a convenient twelve hours long, from noon EDT until midnight EDT. Stations outside Michigan may only work Michigan stations, while Michigan stations may work any station. Activity will be on the 80 through 10 meter bands, and may use phone and CW. Clubs and individuals may participate. The exchange is: sequential QSO number (starting with 001), your location (Michigan county, or state or province). A station may be worked once per band and mode. CW QSOs count 2 points; phone QSOs count 1 point. Multipliers: states, provinces and Michigan counties, counted once on phone and once on CW. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers. See the website at <http://www.miqp.org> for complete rules and awards.



### Tentative Travel Schedule for KI4LA and K8JE

Mar 31: Elizabethtown (KY) Hamfest - Jim  
Apr 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH - Jim  
Apr 21: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim  
Apr 26: SUMCO ARES, Stow, OH - Jim  
May 10: LARK, Howell, MI - Jim  
May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH. - Gary & Jim  
Jul 12: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown, OH - Gary  
Jun 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - Jim  
Jul 19: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim  
Jul 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT - Gary & Jim  
Jul 28: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI - Jim  
Aug 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL - Jim  
Sep 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI - Jim  
Sep 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim  
Sep 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH - Gary & Jim  
Sep 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH - Jim  
Oct 2: OH-KY-IN ARRL Night, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

# MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUND REGARDING TECH HF PRIVILEGES

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**From The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 26, No. 12**

Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's it. "Know your privileges <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>," Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licensees. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have no phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, period!" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

A lot of Technician licensees appear to have done just that, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A <<http://ah0a.org/FCC/Licenses.html>>. So far in March, the number of General class licensees is up by more than 2700 over the February figure to 134,173, after hitting a 5-year low of just under 131,000 in January. The number of Technicians dropped by 4655 in the same period to 318,838. Speroni notes, however, that his mid-month figures tend to underestimate actual totals.

Most Technician license holders face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges on HF, but they no longer have to pass a Morse code examination. Technicians also may use their new HF privileges without having to apply for them first. No other license class automatically acquired additional privileges February 23. The "omnibus" rule changes effective last December 15 did not give Technician licensees without Morse code credit any additional privileges either.

Henderson further warns new Techs not to extrapolate additional phone privileges by misconstruing the FCC Part 97 rules to mean something they don't.

"Calls I've been getting lately indicate that some misinformed individuals believe Technicians may operate 'digital voice' on 80, 40 and 15, where they have only CW privileges," he says. "Not true. Digital voice is really digitized voice, and it's not permitted in non-phone band segments."

Henderson reiterates that Technicians do not have FM voice privileges on 10 meters -- or on any other HF band, for that matter.

The HF privileges all Technicians now have are equivalent to those that Novice licensees enjoy, Henderson notes. "This also means the 200 W maximum power limit still applies, regardless of where you operate in the HF bands," he says. Technicians may operate at up to the legal limit on VHF and UHF, however.

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW -- and only CW -- privileges on from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

Henderson believes at least some of the confusion may have originated with a few brand-new or inexperienced Technician licensees who heard that the FCC deleted the Morse code requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license, but paid little attention to the fine print.

"And we all know the devil's in the details," Henderson says. "Remember, the FCC requires you to know where you may and may not operate and with what modes. Stick to the privileges your license allows or risk hearing from the FCC."



# QSL Card of the Month

## Submitted by:

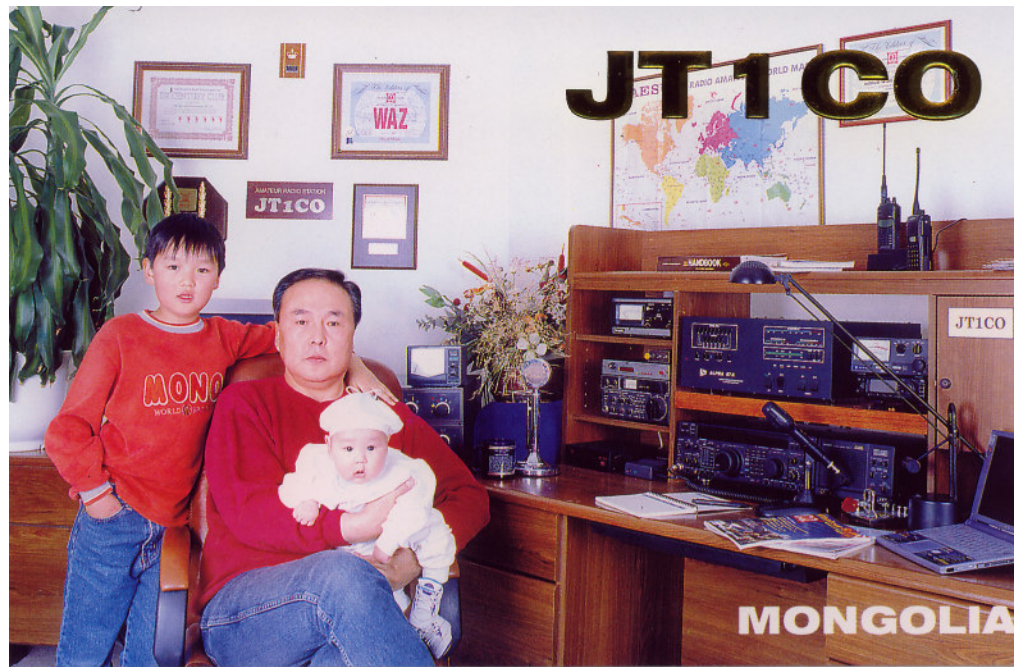
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

## Comments

Mongolia sits in an HF “black hole” for most hams in the continental U.S., since signals must pass almost directly over the North Pole, where auroral absorption can do its worst. On one late October evening in 2005, however, geomagnetic conditions were unusually quiet, and stations from all over Central and Eastern Asia began popping up on the DX spotting network. One of the several stations I worked that evening was JT1CO, “Chak”, who lives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia.

As this was a new DXCC country for me, I sent off my QSL card, together with an SASE and a couple of green stamps. Six weeks later, I received not one, but two beautiful QSL cards from Chak. My image scanner was not able to pick up this detail, but his callsign is actually displayed in raised, gold lettering on the cards.

If you have a special QSL card you would like to share, submit it to the Feedline editor, along with any comments you would like included.



Return to:  
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P.O. Box 1062  
Covington, Ky. 41012

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