



**Vol. 2008, #7**  
**July 2008**

# The Feedline

## Field Day, Northern Kentucky Style

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Well, it's over, and my only regret is that I have to wait 52 weeks until the next one! Turnout for the 2008 joint NKARC/KD7ARET Field Day operation was excellent, despite many participants having risen during the wee hours of Saturday morning to serve as communicators at Paddlefest before making it out to the Field Day site at Banklick Woods in Independence.

As planned, we operated in class 3A with a GOTA (Get-on-the-Air) station. Due to logistical and other problems, one of the stations was not operational until Saturday evening, but with only 40

and 20 meters open during daylight hours on Saturday, that was not a huge loss.

As usual, Dann Fox KI4AVO made sure that we had power and lights, and he also kept us well fed with burgers and hot dogs. His wife, Annette, prepared baked beans and cupcakes that were much enjoyed. On Sunday morning, Dann whipped up a batch of waffles that were much appreciated by the overnight crew.

**See "Field Day", page 3**

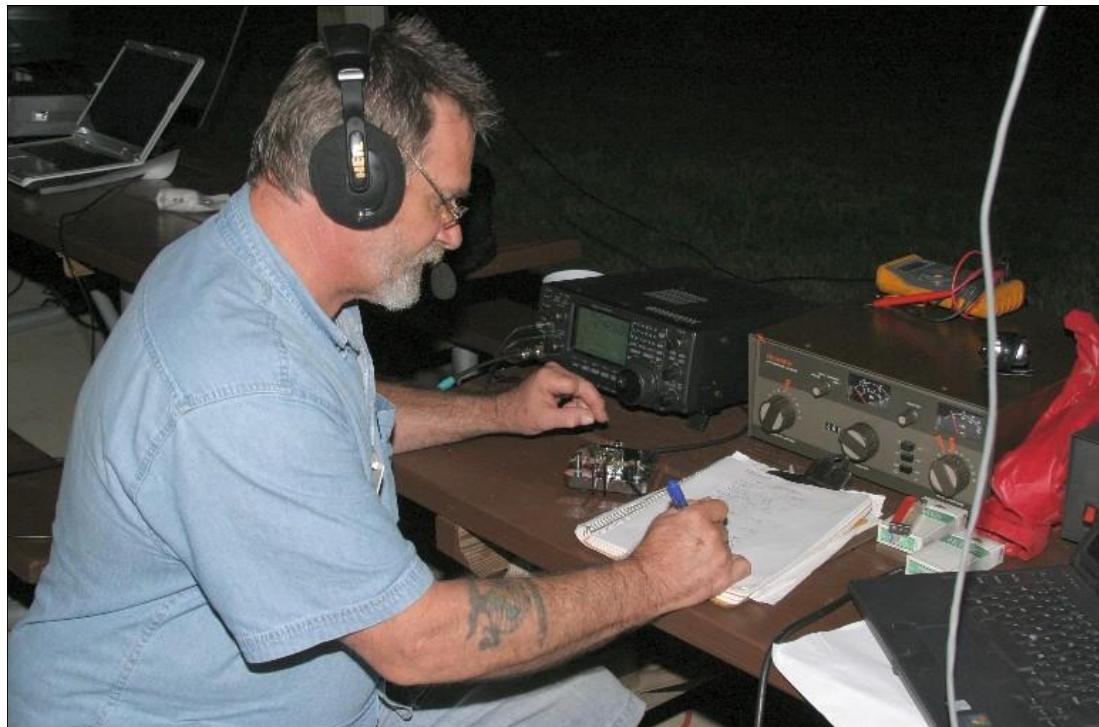


Photo by Greg May W2ORO

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### Dates to Remember:

- July 14 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- July 27 – [Flight of the Bumblebees](#)
- Aug 11 – NKARC Membership Meeting

# NKARC Directory

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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.

**NKARC Net:** Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

**VE Testing:** Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at [ab8sh@arrl.net](mailto:ab8sh@arrl.net) or tel. 513-315-4032

**NKARC Web Site:** <http://www.k4co.org>

**NKARC Membership Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Due to construction at Turkeyfoot Middle School, the location of future meetings is TBD. Please monitor the Tuesday net or the club web site for further information.

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given. Submissions to The Feedline must be re-

ceived no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Mark Volstad, AI4BJ 6098 Toshia Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 Email: [mvolstad@insightbb.com](mailto:mvolstad@insightbb.com)

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### **"Field Day", continued from front page**

The antennas used were a mixture of dipoles, doublets and loops, supported by fiberglass masts and available trees.

We managed to escape the thunderstorms that passed north and south of our location, but for much of the time we were harassed by strong winds. Anything that wasn't bolted down quickly blew out of the shelter. Temperatures were comfortable, though; in fact, a few light jackets had appeared by Sunday morning.

I had a chance to give my new Elecraft K3 transceiver its first real test since acquiring it several weeks ago, and it came through with flying colors. It's built-in CW decoder really cut down on the number of repeats I had to ask for. Earlier in the week, I had made some modifications to my trusty 40 M doublet, and was curious to see how successful these would be. I was absolutely delighted with the results.

The 15 M band opened up Saturday evening, and by Sunday morning 10 meters was also open,

with a wide-open pipeline to the northeast. The west coast remained buried in a black hole, however.

The following are our preliminary results, as reported by Brian Clark, W4SOU:

QSOs	CW	PH
80M	53	20
40M	16	109
20M	11	98
15M	28	57
10M	3	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>302</b>

QSO points: 524

Power multiplier: 2

Claimed scored: 1048

Claimed bonus points: 790

Total claimed score: 1838

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## **June Net Report**

If you are interested in helping the club out and expanding your Amateur Radio skill set, please take a turn at running one of our weekly nets! This is a great way to hone your radio, net control, and message handling skills in a friendly environment. If you are interested, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at (859) 426-5588 or [n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org)

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
6/3/08	AJ4DK (Don)	9	33	0
6/10/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	6	27	0
6/17/08	N4IJS (Robert)	6	27	0
6/24/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	10	33	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>

# June Meeting Minutes

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## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2008 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order by Don King at 7 p.m. at the Kenton County Library's Erlanger Branch.

Don led the group in the pledge to the flag.

Self introductions followed with 17 names on the sign-in sheet.

Rob Blocher informed everyone of the Milford Hamfest on June 21.

Field Day: Don felt that there was not enough interest to commit to

more than two operating stations at Field Day. However, after discussion, it was decided to have three operating stations plus one Get on the Air station. There was much discussion about the equipment needs for the event.

Lynn Ernst reported that there were 25 test takers at the recent Dixie Heights High School VE event. Eleven students passed the test. There were three VE's involved, and the event went very well.

The club needs a new meeting location due to the construction at Turkey Foot Middle School. It is doubtful that we will be able to return there even after the construction is finished.

Locations under consideration

are: Erlanger Library, Florence City Building, Hilltop Christian Church in Taylor Mill, Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Dixie Heights High School, and a church at the corner of Baker and Graves in Erlanger.

In July the club will meet at Hilltop Christian Church in Taylor Mill at 7:30 p.m.

Harold Blocher and his son are working on the repeaters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Burns

The July 14 NKARC meeting will be held at Hilltop Church of Christ, at 5300 Taylor Mill Rd, Taylor Mill, Kentucky. From I-275, take exit 79 and drive south on KY 16 for 1.5 miles. The church is on the left. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., and will be preceded by a VE session at 6:00 p.m.

# Paddlefest Wrap-up

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The Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club (NKARC) was professionally represented at PAD-DLEFEST 2008 by the following operators:

AJ4DK - Don, AG4XM - Tim, KD4PYR - Rick, WG8Z - Greg, KI4SFR - Harry, K4JRU - Jim, W4SOU - Brian, KD8BNS - Greg, KI4QH - Dave, WD8JAW - Lynn.

The Hamilton County EC, Don Ferneding, N8LMJ, served as Liaison to the USCG Auxiliary. The "thank you" comments included below tell the story.

Brewster Rhoads is the Chairman of the PAD-DLEFEST event. Jory Edlin is the Flotilla Commander & Operations Officer of the USCG Auxiliary-Eight District Eastern Region.

Submitted by Lynn G. Ernst, WD8JAW

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Dear Jory and the entire Paddlefest Pickett Boat Safety Crew,

Just a quick note to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to all the wonderful boaters and law enforcement officials who volunteered their time to help make this year's Paddlefest both a safe and memorable event.

The weather presented us all with a real challenge - and some situations that could easily have turned ugly if you and your colleagues were not well positioned, prepared and able to communicate.

Thanks to you and your USCG Auxiliary team, the steady leadership of PATCO Ted Parr, the high level of inter-agency cooperation under the direction of the Coast Guard, **the top flight radio communication facilitated by Lynn Ernst and his Northern KY Amateur Radio Club members**, and the excellent organizational skills of Paul Dussock (and his Cincinnati Sail and Power Squadron colleagues) as well as Chris Lorentz (and his Thomas More team), we provided well over 1,500 people in over 1,000 boats the opportunity to safely experience and beauty and paddling challenges of the Ohio.

It now appears that together we just held the largest on water paddling event in the entire US!

Our volunteer Paddlefest team is most grateful to all who helped to make this year's Paddlefest the best ever!

I hope you and everyone else receiving this message can

attend our Volunteer Thank You Party on Thursday, July 24 from 6-9 p.m. on the PA Denny docked at Newport on the Levy directly across the Ohio from the Serpentine Wall.

With deep appreciation,

Brewster Rhoads  
Paddlefest Chair

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Looking at the number of addresses in this email, it is obvious a lot of people volunteered for a lot of work to help the Auxiliary be part of this monumental event and make this monumental event safe. We can also take a moment to acknowledge the inter-agency cooperation as well. It was brought to my attention recently, from an outside source, that the level of collaboration and teamwork we enjoy is unique to our area. Although that is sad for others, it enables us to have the kind of events that Brewster Rhoads has created for us to delight in the treasures our environment provides us. I relish my expectation of community that allows us to do this.

I am aware of the enormity of the work that this kind of event entails. For my own small part, I want to express my appreciation of you who have contributed to the Public Affairs Mission and Operational Mission of the USCG Auxiliary for this event. Of course, the operational aspect entailed ensuring the safety of the participants. So it was because of the Auxiliary Coxswain and their crew, the Cincinnati Power Squadron, **Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club**, Thomas Moore College, Cincinnati Police and Fire, ODNR Division of Watercraft, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife, Hamilton County Sheriff, that this was a safe event and brought the Ohio River's beauty and bounty to an expanded audience in a positive, safe and secure setting. Those of you who staffed the boating safety booths expanded our audience. You brought our messages of boating safety through our Vessel Safety Check Program, Public Education Program, and widened our exposure to expand our ranks.

**Bravo Zulu!** (This is a naval signal, originally conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio, meaning "well done"; it has also passed into the spoken and written vocabulary).

Please pass my thanks to your crew and the other agency vessel operators for whom I do not have email addresses. If anyone has anything to add to make this a safer, more enjoyable event next year please let me know.

Semper Paratus,  
Jory Edlin  
Operations Officer, Division 5 8ER



## Field Day 2008 in Pictures

Photographs by Greg May W2ORO  
and Mark Volstad AI4BJ





# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**  
**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**  
**E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org); Tel.: 513-459-0142**

## **Webinar: Update on Red Cross Background Checks**

This is a reminder the webinar "Update on Red Cross Background Checks" will be July 1 at 9 PM. To register for the Webinar go to:  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/839406365>

A new feature is that voice coverage of the Webinar is available to members who do not have the capability to view it online. To do this, log in to the Webinar site to get the telephone number and call into the teleconference.

Another new feature is that voice coverage is now available through VOIP.

System Requirements for Internet coverage:

PC-based attendees -  
Required: Windows® 2000, XP Home, XP Pro, 2003 Server, and Vista.

Macintosh®-based attendees  
Required: Mac OS® X 10.4 (Tiger®) or newer.

## **More Webinars**

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, has arranged four successive Webinars on different aspects of APRS. If you know nothing or little about APRS and want to learn more, here is your opportunity. Bob Bruninga WB4APR, the developer of APRS Automated Packet Reporting System has graciously offered to do the series. The topics, dates and times are as follows:

APRS, it's not what you think -- Tuesday, July 8th from 8pm to 9pm APRS for your mobile -- Tues-

day, July 15th from 8pm to 9pm APRS for special events -- Tuesday, July 22nd from 8pm to 9pm APRS for Satellites -- Tuesday, July 29th from 8pm to 9pm

To sign up for any or all of these webinars, go to: [www.atldiv.org/training](http://www.atldiv.org/training) and click on the register button for each one you are interested in. Once you have registered, you should receive an e-mail with the information needed to connect to any Webinar for which you registered.



Registration for this APRS series may fill up quickly. If you are interested in any or all of these, I suggest you sign up as soon.

## **What is Amateur Radio?**

At the risk of boring you to tears, let's start at the very beginning (this ought to make a good song title).

Ama-ture -- from the Latin, amo. Loosely means love. An amateur does something for the love of doing it. An amateur may be paid well, poorly or not at all. The key is that the task is done for the love of doing it.

Ra-dio -- from radiate. In Amateur Radio, this refers to radiating an electronic signal from what has become known as a station. There is commercial radio, military radio, government radio, public radio and, best of all, Amateur Radio -- i.e. radio for the love of doing it.

Let's clear up a great misimpression. This is that all workers are either "professional" or "non-professional," and that Amateur Radio operators are non-professional. This misconception resulted from the corruption of the English language largely during the last half or so of the 20th century. The confusion and corruption has not cleared since the enlightened days of the early 21st century.

It has been said that the French don't care what they

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say so long as it sounds good (the French language is beautiful). It can also be said that we Americans don't care what we say so long as we know what we (the speaker) intends to say. Neither position helps ensure accuracy of communication.

In times past, calling a person a "professional" had nothing or at most, little to do with money. For example, even though we call paid baseball, football and other athletes "professional," none of them are "professional" in the true sense of the word. They are paid, skilled commercial athletes.

Although we now call highly skilled craftsmen professional, this use of the word also differs from its true meaning. Craftsmen can be referred to as Master, Journeyman or Apprentice plumbers, carpenters, etc. Each term is a legitimate and appropriately complimentary title.

Back in my rural, northwestern Indiana community, we didn't have Master or Journeymen craftsman. In our simplicity, we referred to appropriately-skilled people as being highly skilled, did good work or hire-"him"-if you needed something thrown together. The worker's skill level was well known, appreciated and rewarded. But, he was not a professional.

One could also add the term "artisan" to our list of categories. Artisans include good sculptors, real life or abstract art painters and musicians. They aren't professional. You know the people to whom I refer.

The term "Professional" was limited to people who obtained special education that permitted them to perform at a different plane from those in the trades or crafts. Professionals included teachers, physicians, dentists, scientists, attorneys, ministers. This does not at all mean that highly skilled or trained non-professionals are slouches. They deserve great respect also.

Where does this take me? Right back to Amateur Radio (hams).



In my book, a radio amateur is a person who recognizes the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service. This especially includes providing emergency communication for no charge to the public or served agencies.

As a body, Amateur Radio operators strive to continue and extend their proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and science. They encourage and improve the Amateur Radio Service through programs that facilitate advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art. Their effort to expand the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts is a continuation and extension of their unique ability to foster international goodwill.

All this is what makes Amateur Radio operators true professionals.

Fabled newscaster and commentator Walter Cronkite, who narrates the CD "Amateur Radio Today," also states that hams are professionals. This statement is accurate in the true meaning of the word. We are professionals not because we are paid, but because of the education and training we have put ourselves through. Just as physicians, teachers and others I refer to as true professionals, every ham operator who holds an FCC license has what might be called a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Amateur Radio.

Many amateurs have Ph.D.s in Amateur Radio not merely because they are licensed, but because they have become self-educated to the degree at which they can out-perform a number of college-educated engineers.

Amateur Radio -- a hobby? Yes, it is this and much more. It is a service; a service to the public, thanks to the discoveries, innovation and disaster relief activities we have performed and continue to perform.

This line of thinking leads me to believe you and I

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are Professional Amateur Radio Operators in the Amateur Radio Service. We are not merely amateur radio operators. Many Professional Amateur Radio Operators have sub-training in Morse code, Digital Communication, Emergency Communication, Systems Design and Development and other facets of the degree. All of us are Professional, regardless of which, if any, sub-specialties we pursued or continue to pursue.

Don't let anyone try to tell you otherwise. To borrow a phrase, we are the proud, the few, the Professional Amateur Radio Operators.

### You asked -- follow-up

After reading my earlier comments about D-Star, JARL and ICOM . . . And marketing strategies . . . Steve Sowder, N5SDZ of Niles, MI brought me up-to-date. He gave a brief report on details of a forum at the Hamvention(r) that I had missed.

The forum included discussion of "a product called DV Dongle <http://www.dvdongle.com/>." He said the developer engineered the product based on D-Star specifications that are freely available.

Steve continued that the product allows a user to access the D-Star network without having a D-Star radio or even a D-Star gateway repeater in the area.

He also understands that Kenwood makes a D-Star radio which is only available in Japan to this time. With the recent Kenwood merger, can we expect to see their "D-Star" rig in the US?

Thanks, Steve.

### Another member helps vs. Part 15 device interference

Another Great Lakes Division amateur has reported excessive radiation from a Part 15 battery charger. This is another step taken by a Great

Lakes Division member to clean-up interference by an unlicensed device.

In helping a neighbor resolve a case of interference, Lambertville, Michigan amateur Denny Hilbert, K8KAS traced the problem to a pulse battery charger in the home. He obtained the charger and sent it to Ed Hare, W8RFI at the ARRL testing lab. Ed and his staff tested the charger and found it was emitting signals at 27 dB above the maximum level allowed by FCC rules.

With Denny's agreement, the charger was forwarded along with the lab report to Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Chris included the charger and data in an official complaint to the FCC.

This is another great example of how the initiative and action of an individual amateur played a major role in enabling ARRL to fight interference. It is also another great example of how individual amateurs can take action to protect the Amateur Radio service we enjoy so much and that is so valuable in our assistance to our communities.

Thanks Denny.

### DXCC turnaround time way down

Several members have reported the long turnaround times for DXCC card processing is over. Times are down to about six weeks at this time. The gang at the DX Desk has been working feverously to get things back on track . . . and they have succeeded.

Some of the important changes to which I referred a couple of issues back remain to be implemented. Bill Moore, NC1L is reported to be shooting for a turnaround time of about four weeks by the end of the year.

### Status of SOU with Red Cross

This can best be stated as, there is none. In spite of the pleasing words National Red Cross wrote to

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President Harrison, W5ZN, we still need a clarification of several points Red Cross included in the letter before signing a new SOU.

Please understand that neither ARRL nor I are attempting to tell you what you can or cannot do. If you choose to agree to the RC open-ended background check agreement this is OK. We are merely telling the situation like it is so you can have the facts before reaching your decision.

Please understand, too, that I want a new SOU (formerly called MOU) as much as anyone else. An equal fact is that I believe firmly against signing a contract that continues to be ambiguous. Until I see what RC is actually saying.

### Congratulation, SMs, PIOs and PICs

The name of the game related to getting Amateur Radio better known to the public is location, location, location. Sound weird? I'm referring to the location of publicity. What I mean is that publicity that is repeatedly put in front of the eyes or in the ears of the public is the first criterion of information to be favorable to Amateur Radio.

The second criterion for effective information is that it catches the public awareness. The third criterion is that the publicity needs to draw a favorable response.

Surround the public with eye- and ear-catching information that tells it Amateur Radio is worthwhile and interesting -- Amateur Radio will continue to grow.

With this background, I am very happy to congratulate the SMs, PIOs and PICs of Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio who achieved excellent publicity related to Field Day.

### New look coming

It won't be long until the Great Lakes Division web site has a totally new look. This will be through

the work of our new Webmeister, Gary Osborne, W8XS. Gary previously maintained a major portion of the web site for the City of Cincinnati. Gary O. officially becomes Webmeister July 1.

I thank him for taking on the rebuild.

Thanks to former GLD Director George Race, WB8BGY for developing the current site many years ago and to Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA for maintaining it the past several years.

### ARRL Board meeting

The midyear ARRL Board of Directors meeting is July 18-19 in Newington, CT. If you have any special issues you would like to suggest, please let me know no later than July 16 at k8je@arrl.org.

### Tentative Schedule

- 10 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown - Jim, John
- 17 Jul: A&F Meeting, Newington - Jim
- 18-19 Jul: Board Meeting, Newington - Jim, Gary
- 22 Jul: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
- 1 Aug: Massillon (OH) RC - Jim
- Noon 8 Aug: Nominations close for Director/Vice Director election
- 10 Aug: Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg - Jim, John
- 15 Aug: Genesee County RC, 75th Anniversary, Flint, MI - Jim
- 13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim, Gary
- 21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim, Gary, John
- 23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed
- 7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim, John
- 12 Oct: Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo - Jim
- 28 Oct: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
- 21 Nov: (Noon) Deadline for return of ballots; ballots counted
- 22 Nov: (By end of day) Candidates notified of election results

Return to:  
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