



# PARKING TICKET

*"Our 26th YEAR!"*

March, 1999

## Texas Tower/Antenna Bill Introduced:

This Bill has been introduced by State Rep Patricia Gray, at the request of Karl Silverman, President of the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club. (See their web page at:

<http://www.ghg.net/mbordel/jscarc/index.html>

As noted earlier a bill has been introduced by a State Representative Gray and will come up for a hearing on March 1, 1999.

.....  
The House Land and Resource management Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 1345 on Monday, March 1, at 8:00 a.m. in Room E 2.030 of the State Capitol in Austin. I expect Karl Silverman, President of the JSC-ARC will lead off with the testimony in favor of this bill. The House Sponsor is Rep. Patricia Gray - (512) 463-0588. (Anyone planning to testify should check in with this office prior to the hearing. Talk to Douglas Fohn.)

Those who can not attend the Austin hearing can send faxes in support of the bill to Patricia Gray's office at (512) 478-1887. A letter in support should mention that you were unable to attend the hearing in person, but want to go on the record in support of it. Rep. Gray's office can file these letters with the committee clerk.

For a copy of the text of this bill, go to <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/billsrch/textsrch.htm> and enter 1345.

(Tom Blackwell - N5GAR - NTX - SGL) (The following is a note from Karl Silverman as well as the wording of the bill).

To bring everyone up to speed (for those I haven't spoken to in the last few days), last summer, after reading about the tower bill that was passed in Virginia, I thought it would be nice if Texas also had such a bill. I contacted my State

Representative, Patricia Gray, and she told me that if I gathered all of the necessary information, she would put a tower bill together. The ARRL supplied me with a copy of the Virginia bill and the 5 other state's bills that related to PRB-1. This, along with other information was sent up to Rep. Gray's office. A little over a month ago, her office sent me drafts of two bills, one like Virginia and the other similar to the other state's bills. After a few revisions and discussions on how the bill would have no chance of passing with specific heights mentioned (due to the problems of all of the cell phone towers being erected), the "generic" bill was accepted. I am proud to say that as of this afternoon, Wednesday, 2/10/99, that bill has officially been introduced into the Texas House of Representatives.

Here is HB1345:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to municipal or county regulation on the placing, screening, or height of amateur radio antennas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 250, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 250.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 250.002. REGULATION OF AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNAS.

(a) A municipality or county may not enact or enforce an ordinance or order that does not comply with the ruling of the Federal Communications Commission in "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2nd 952 (1985)" or a regulation related to amateur radio service adopted under 47 C.F.R. Part 97.

(b) If a municipality or county adopts an ordinance or order involving

the placement, screening, or height of an amateur radio antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic conditions, the ordinance or order must:

- (1) reasonably accommodate amateur communications; and
- (2) represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's or county's legitimate purpose.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

## Texas PRB-1 bill reported out of committee:

The Texas amateur antennas bill, HB 1345, has jumped through its first hoop, receiving a favorable recommendation March 1 from the Texas House Land and Resource Management Committee. The committee okayed the bill without amendment on a vote of 8 in favor and 1 absent. About a dozen hams turned out for the hearing to support the bill. The measure now goes to the House floor, probably within the month.—thanks to Karl Silverman, N0WWK, Alan Wormser, N5LF, and Tom Blackwell, N5GAR

# P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

February 16, 1999

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub was called to order by Jack Ward Park Secretary. The meeting was held at the Harrington Library.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all present to join in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Fifteen members logged in and one visitor signed the visitors sheet.

Secretary announced the minutes were published in the Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, it carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was read. A motion was made to accept the report, it carried unanimously.

The Communications report was give by Bill Fell KK5PB. He said there has not been any further activity on the voter system. Also, the new repeater codes will be on the April Newsletter.

The Newsletter Editor Dan Kautz W8EHS requested the Klub "keep those cards and letters coming" for input into the newsletter.

### New Business -

Bill Drake KJ5ZV gave an update on the first meeting of the TVI/RFI Committee.

The meeting was held at the home of Don Hice WB5TVI. They have put together a packet of information to be given to anyone requesting the information.

\*Special thanks to Don for gathering and organizing all of the information.

Jack Ward noted the newsletter should carry information stating the March issue of the "TICKET" will be the last month it is mailed to members that have not paid 1999 dues.

Bill Drake asked the status of the "repeater announcements". Ben Samford noted he has been activating them and will make sure they are on at the appropriate times.

### Old Business -

Bill Swan K5MWC announced the Plano City Council passed the revised

Antenna Ordinance without change on Nov. 23 1998. He also noted the City Council, Pat Evans, sent a letter to him thanking him and all that were involved for providing information and working with the City Council toward a new ordinance.

He also requested the TVI Committee make regular announcements at the Klub Meetings. This would all existing and new Hams to know where to get information.

Jack Ward KC5KOV noted the ARRL Web page for PARK does show that the TVI/RFI Committee exists. Jack will go to the page and make the change to note the Plano Amateur Radio Klub has an TVI/RFI Committee.

Ron Everett NV3S requested a name and phone # for a TVI/RFI Committee contact be put in the back of the newsletter.

### Announcements -

Bob Swartzendruber AD5I noted the Board should address the open positions in the Park Board.

Bill Swan noted a group will be gathering for Collin County training activities for ARES Feb. 20th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Plano Recreation Center. (Same place as the Klub Christmas Party)

John Sanders AB5ZR noted the MS Walk that will be held in Sunday in April has been split up between 2 locations. He

is looking for volunteers for communications and other activities. There will be a meeting at the end of February. Anyone wanting to volunteer, please contact John Sanders.

Jack Ward ask for visitors to stand and introduce themselves. Lauren Dunn and Bill Hansen KC5PJW were the visitors. Then the members gave an introduction by their name and call sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 2017 hours.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV  
Secretary

## Treasurer's report Feb. 24, 1999

Expenses 188.70  
Income 255.00  
Balance 2160.98

### PARK repeater

Expenses -0-  
Income 63.00  
Balance 2376.99

Bonnie Swartzendruber WB5KTC  
Treasurer

## Pure Larsony



*"Good! Good! I can hear the repeater now!"*

## Worked all Texas Counties Award to spark some interest:

A question has been raised about a worked all Texas Counties Award is available and it is currently under investigation. As part of this review their has been some suggestions that we not only establish a worked an all Texas Counties Award, but also establish a worked all counties in a section Award as well. As an example the North Texas Section has 68 counties.

Suggestions have also been made that maybe a worked all counties in the Division Award also be established. What do you think, please let us know your feeling, thought by e-mailing them to ntx-news@juno.com

## Easily Heard Signals

De W8EHS

w8ehs@arrl.net

This issue looks like it will be a "light" one.

Been working my "finals" to the bone finishing a project for my company. So, not a lot of spare time to enjoy leisure activities. Such as putting together a long newsletter.



It is a good thing I like the work I do cause I sure don't get any overtime for all the extra hours. Goes with the territory so I don't complain too loudly. There are times when work is much easier. What I do for a living is design and manage the installation of distributed computing control systems. A large number of interconnected control computers all communicating with each other on a series of LANs and operating almost any device you can imagine. Fun!

Speaking of LANs... I did find the time to install a 10/100BaseT LAN in my new house. I have three computers connected through a dual speed hub (10/100 base). My personal machine has a PCI bus so I wanted to have the high-speed 32 bit LAN card installed there. The other computers are old 486's with only the 16-bit bus so had to install 10BaseT cards in them. The old machines both run Windows 95 and my main computer is running Windows 98 and Linux in dual boot.

The built in Windows NetBEUI peer to peer networking software works great for printer and file sharing. I wanted a bit more.

I installed WinProxy on my computer and configured the other two with the built in Windows TCP/IP drivers. Now I can have any computer or all computers hooked up to the Internet at one time on one modem. Any combination of web surfing and email can be happening at the same time. The modem is a 56K and I usually get 45,333 BPS connections. It all works great!

Haven't had the time to play with Linux in the system but that will be coming on line next. I am thinking of improving (upgrading) the hard drive in my old 486 DX2 66 MHz machine and loading it only with Linux. Hard drives

are so inexpensive these days, it would be nice to dump the old, slow 550 Meg drive. This is the computer I positioned for use with my ham equipment.

If there is any interest, I can put together a more specific article on what hardware I used and how I got it all working. As I said, all I need is some more time. Ha!

It sure is nice to let the XYL read/write her email or surf the net while I am writing the Parking Ticket or surfing the web myself. No more waiting in line for the computer. Of course you realize I did not buy all this "stuff" at one time. Like boat anchors (old ham equipment) it all just seems to accumulate. Nice to have a purpose for the old machines again and a system to put them all together. (It was also a good learning experience.)

By-the-way... If you have only two computers to interconnect, you don't even need the hub. Just the LAN cards. If you want to get even "more cheap", all you need is the proper serial or parallel cable. The software is already in Windows 95/98 to make these ports work for you. No LAN cards required!

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## LOW-FREQUENCY EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE ISSUED

Some US experimental activity is coming to LF! The FCC has granted a one-year experimental license to the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation to conduct tests on the frequency 136.75 kHz. Experiments would be carried out from 12 Northern Virginia sites using the call sign WA2XTF. These experiments are to gain low-frequency experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate a band at 136-kHz to Amateur Radio.

Last October, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The League asked for a 200 W PEP power limit (no more than 2W EIRP) and requested the new bands be made available to those holding a General class or higher license for CW, SSB,

RTTY/data, and image emissions.

Several countries throughout the world already enjoy LF allocations around 136 kHz. These include New Zealand, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, and several European nations.

Emissions authorized for these tests include 173-Hz and 450-Hz bandwidth frequency-shift data and 100-Hz bandwidth CW. The authorized transmitted power is 1 W ERP. The 12 stations will operate experimental transmitters, antennas and receiving systems using digital signal processing techniques.

Participating in the experimental operation are Glenn Baumgartner, KA0ESA; David Borden, K8MMO; Robert Bruhns, WA3WDR; Hal Feinstein, WB3KDU; Terry Fox, WB4JFI; Andre Kesteloot, N4ICK; George Lemaster, WB5OYP; Shannon Mishey, N8TBM; Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; David Rogers, K9RKH; Elton Sanders, WB5MMB; and John Seely, AA4GM. Rinaldo is the ARRL's technical relations manager.

While the list of stations is closed and new transmitting stations cannot be added, others are invited to join the project by listening and reporting results. Reception reports should be sent via e-mail to Andre Kesteloot, N4ICK, [n4ick@amrad.org](mailto:n4ick@amrad.org).

Further information concerning these LF experiments will be available in the AMRAD Newsletter mailed bimonthly to AMRAD members and available at <http://www.amrad.org>.

## Warning!

**This may be your last  
issue of the  
Parking Ticket**

### DUES ARE DUE

*Send your dues to Bonnie Swartzendruber  
WB5KTC, Treasurer c/o*

Plano Amateur Radio Klub  
P.O. Box 860435  
Plano, TX. 75086-0435

## AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 1999 INTRODUCED

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23.

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. Rep Frank Pallone Jr, a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

Mansfield also hopes the bill can take advantage of a desire on the part of the

House leadership to move a lot of legislation through this year. "I'm hoping our bill will get caught up in their enthusiasm," he said.

A copy of the measure is available via the Thomas Web site, <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

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## HAARP TO CONDUCT LISTENING, AMATEUR TESTS

The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility in Alaska, will conduct a second HAARP Listening Test in late March. HAARP also will conduct an Amateur Radio experiment earlier in the month.

HAARP will transmit March 26 0800-0830 UTC and March 27 0700-0730 UTC, seeking reports from hams and SWLs in Alaska and in the "Lower 48." The HAARP facility rarely transmits, but its previous listening test in March 1997 was so successful that it has decided to conduct another one. The listening test transmissions will be on or about 3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz. HAARP will send a CW message and request signal strength reports. HAARP's Ed Kennedy, K3NS, points out that the test times are early ones for those on the East Coast, but he says they represent the best chance for listeners in that part of the world to hear HAARP. "They lost out last time due to poor propagation conditions," he said.

The 1999 listening test will begin on the hour on 6.99 MHz with an ID, followed by three four-minute periods of carrier only for signal-strength measurements, then a CW message. A somewhat shorter test will begin at 20 minutes past the hour on 3.39 MHz, with an ID, followed by one four-minute carrier and a

CW message. QSLs will be available only for reports mailed to HAARP, PO Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586

HAARP also will conduct what Kennedy calls "a true Amateur Radio experiment" in conjunction with the March research effort. The ham experiment, March 20, 2200-2400 UTC, is being organized by Ed Cole, AL7EB, with cooperation from several participants in Alaska and Canada. As Kennedy explains it, "HAARP will attempt to generate field-aligned irregularities in the F-region over the HAARP facility, and the participants will attempt to establish communication links by scattering VHF signals off the FAI."

Each HAARP transmitter can produce 10 kW of RF output between 2.8 and 10 MHz. For the listening test, HAARP will use all 48 available antenna elements but run transmitters at half power, around 480 kW. During the Amateur Radio test on March 20, HAARP will run full power—960 kW.

HAARP's stated scientific purpose is to study "the properties and behavior of the ionosphere, with particular emphasis on being able to understand and use it to enhance communications and surveillance systems for both civilian and defense purposes." For more information, see "The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program" (QST, Sep 1996, p 33) or visit the HAARP Web site, <http://w3.nrl.navy.mil/haarp.html>

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## HAM RADIO-CARRYING RAFT EXPEDITION HITS A SNAG

Sea worms and storms have gotten the best of La Mantena, a 50-foot balsa log raft skippered by John Haslett, KC5KHA, of Dallas, Texas, as part of an educational and research venture. The vessel, first launched last October, has been attempting to retrace the trading routes of ancient Ecuadorian mariners by sailing from Ecuador up the Central American coast to Mexico. Ultimately, the expedition plans to attempt to cross the Pacific to Hawaii. But the voyage has

run into problems and has had to be scuttled in the Pacific some 160 miles southwest of Costa Rica.

The Mantena's balsa hull has twice been infested by a type of destructive sea worm. The earlier infestation necessitated a repair and rebuilding stop last fall and winter, and Haslett, 34, thought he had the problem licked. But the steps taken then to prevent a recurrence—including liberal applications of tar—apparently were not successful. Decay also has affected some of the manila rope that binds the logs together. To add insult to injury, the raft had been trapped in the gyre—a large ocean whirlpool—and literally was going in circles under its influence.

After bad weather further impaired the vessel's ability to navigate, Haslett's wife, Annie, reported that the crew had accepted an offer from the Costa Rica Coast Guard to rescue the crew and vital supplies and equipment as well as vital raft components. The raft's sails, hardwood masts and cross members and some of its center beams have been towed to Costa Rica. The rest of the vessel was abandoned. Annie Haslett says the team's plans call for rebuilding the raft and continuing the long voyage. The raft had a crew of four, including Haslett.

Aboard the Mantena, Haslett had been maintaining Amateur Radio schedules with schools and other groups in the US and around the world on 20 meter SSB. The expedition also has been using Amateur Radio for routine communication with the mainland. In 1993, Haslett built a 20-ton balsa raft Illa Tiki in Ecuador, then traveled some 750 nautical miles aboard the vessel. It, too, was plagued by shipworms.

Annie Haslett said the expedition team expects to take a month to rebuild "and they will embark on the adventure again."

For more information, visit the Manteno Expedition Web site, <http://www.balsaraft.com/>

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*"The following reprinted with permission from Ham Radio Online magazine, available for free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>".*

*Note for the humor impaired: this is satire. Please do not read this if you are not properly trained and certified in satire.*

## The PARK President's Memo

Elections are in April and the following officers are needed to keep the Klub going. We need everyone's support to nominate and elect the following offices.

President  
Treasurer  
Activities Director  
Newsletter Editor

Please have nominations ready for the next club meeting march 16. The Program is on contesting.

73 martin

## FCC Enacts Internet Morse Code Requirement

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet, especially after the Communications Decency Act provisions regarding Internet content regulation were stricken as violating the U.S. Constitution, has decided instead to require a Morse code requirement for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service and the general belief that its requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam and other technical requirements, has kept the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal.

Persons wishing to develop a web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language.

Persons wish to develop web sites that have actual content, as compared to just links to other web sites, must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test, demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English.

The FCC, which lacks budgetary

authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants.

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## Top signs that you may need an elmer.

By Jeffrey S. King, N1DJS,  
[jeff.king@cbs.com](mailto:jeff.king@cbs.com)

An elmer is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vein, you know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...

Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for swr and the other for power out.

You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're referring to the cold war.

You hear someone sign this is N8XXX mobile 4 and you think it's because he has three other radios

You hear that someone won a 40 meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.

You build a morse code key out of plexiglass and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.

You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.

You're thinking about joining your other ham frineds in the local ATV group because you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.

You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.

You think a colinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.

You think fm is the modulation type that came after em, dm, cm, bm and am.

You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.

You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.

You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.

You think a CW ID is the number the army gave you on your dog tags during the cold war.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

| Office              | Name                          | Home         | Work         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| President           | Martin Reynolds, N6LIF        | 972-727-6746 |              |
| Vice President      |                               |              |              |
| Secretary           | Jack Ward, KC5KOV             | 972-527-8344 | 972-497-6098 |
| Treasurer           | Bonnie Swartzendruber, WB5KTC | 972-423-6768 |              |
| Activities Director |                               |              |              |
| Communications      | Bill Fell, KK5PB              | 972-424-0496 | 972-705-3611 |
| Editor              | Daniel Kautz, W8EHS           | 972-712-7741 | 972-323-4814 |
| Public Relations    |                               |              |              |
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| Tech. Comm. Chr.    | Charlie Stone, KG5XX          | 972-517-1575 | 972-684-5364 |
| TV/RFI Committee    | Don R. Hice, WB5TVI           | 972-599-2038 |              |

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

| Chairman | Name                 | Home         | Work         |
|----------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|          | Jim Holman, KC5JGT   | 972-424-4282 |              |
|          | John Creel, N5OON    | 972-517-7551 | 972-484-3620 |
|          | Bruce Dingman, N5BYL | 972-442-4542 | 972-995-5774 |
|          | Tom Gentry, K5VOU    | 972-442-3502 | 972-423-3421 |
|          | Patsy Jones, WA5MYD  | 972-423-0202 |              |
|          | Jim Popelarski, W5WN | 972-618-5096 | 972-308-1419 |
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|          | Craig Young, KA5BOU  | 972-396-9184 | 972-952-4616 |

The **PARKING TICKET** is the monthly publication of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to the PARK and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contribution of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs around the country. Permission is granted to reprint material as long as proper credit is given. Ideas for and contributions to the **PARKING TICKET** should be sent to:

**Editor - Dan Kautz, W8EHS**  
**PARKING TICKET**  
 P.O. Box 860435  
**Plano, TX. 75086-0435**

Submissions must be received no later than the first day of the month to be included in that month's issue. Material received after the deadline will be included in the following month's issue if it is still current.

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Harrington Library, 18th and Avenue P. Dues are \$15 per year, \$21 for family membership, and \$7 for the Repeater Association, prorated biannually. The PARK operates three repeaters: WD5ERD on 147.18+, WB5SGN on 224.22- and K5VOU on 444.25+. Look for PARK on the Internet at: <http://www.holman.net/park/>.



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