



AARC COVER

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs
 Austin Amateur Radio Club
 Austin Amateur Television Club
 Austin Repeater Organization

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March 2007

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Issue 3-2007

Helicopter Landing Zone Class Put on by MSET & Starflight

Saturday February 17th, 6 helicopters made their way, as did numerous Law Enforcement, Medical and Amateur Radio Operators, to the Shoreline Christian Center. The event started with various medical and law enforcement helicopters landing in front of a crowd of onlookers just prior to the first class of the day.



About 100 or so people filled the room as a presentation on how to prepare for a medical helicopters arrival at the scene of an accident. Door prizes were handed out at an intermission and people were invited to go out and get a closer look at the different helicopters. The class concluded with a short quiz for those needing Continuing Education credits. People went their separate ways for a lunch period and returned later for a Communications class and a hands-on workshop on basic safety and first aid. Events wrapped up around 4 pm.

Periodic Events

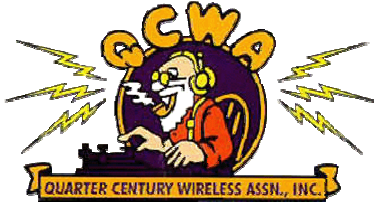
Sun	7:30 p.m.	Travis ARES net	147.36 MHz + (131.8)
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Travis ARES Packet	145.73 MHz -
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Williamson ARES net	146.64 MHz - (162.2)
Sun	9:00 p.m.	ARO Swapnet	146.94 MHz -
Sun	(After Swapnet)	Newsline	146.94 MHz -
Tues.	7:30 p.m.	Hays ARES net **NEW FREQ!**	444.150 + (114.8)***
Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Bastrop ARES Net	443.750 + (114.8)
Wed	8:00 p.m.	Code Practice	146.94 MHz -
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's	146.94 MHz -
Thu	9:00 p.m.	2m SSB Net	144.250 (USB)
Thu	11:30 a.m.	Lunch, Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz+
Fri	8:00 p.m.	6m SSB Net	50.230(texasvhf.org/)
Sat	7:00 - 8:30a.m.	Breakfast @ Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz +
Sat	9:00 a.m.	Chapter 67 QCWA QSO Net.	3.920 MHz LSB
Daily	6:30 p.m.	Central Texas Traffic Net	147.14MHz+

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QCWA QSO

By Bil Henson,
WB5SYS



Back in the days of fishing and picnics, I had mounted a fish-finder onto an Igloo ice chest to keep it handy and to remind myself to bring it in at night. The first time it got rained on I moved it inside the chest. Then I found room to mount a GPS and an HT. It seemed like a good idea, so I left out the sandwiches entirely and mounted a mobile VHF rig in it.

I found the Igloo picnic ice chest to be a handy platform for portable radios. While being very cost-effective and light in weight, the ice chest box is built for much heavier duty. The plastic and foam walls serve as good armor, shock absorber, and thermal insulator, and will keep the elements off of your rigs while passing HT and GPS signals. You can close the lid when you shut down to keep out dust and little fingers. Several models have loops for locks. While transporting, a little duct tape will make it quite weather-tight, and the handles make it easy to move. And (just in case) it floats.

The inner plastic walls hold wood screws for mounting brackets very well. A picnic-size chest has room for four mobile rigs, or more with creative mounting. No hardware has to show from the outside, making it "stealthy", or less likely to get swiped from a truck bed or campsite. (Avoid visible bulkhead connectors.) You can mount a laptop on the lid for digital work or logging. Depending on how you orient the lid, the station can be operated sideways on a table, or upright on the floor of a car. Many have removable lids. There's also a barn-door style (my favorite) that keeps the wind off of the log book and blocks room QRM. The plastic box acts as an acoustic insulator and directs the sound right at the operator. The bright white walls inside reflect plenty of light and keep things visible.

My present model holds two VHF rigs with TNCs, a GPS and Peet weather station, an all band/mode 100 Watt HF rig, voltmeter, fans, and has a slot for a laptop. This Igloo station is good for phone, reporting APRS location and weather, and has two packet BBSs, but is still portable for field day, event coverage, and is ready for 1-minute grab-n-go for emergency use.

A smaller lunch-chest can be used for a single radio

(Continued on page 3)

Ham Radio Volunteer Exam Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE test session held in the LCRA Colorado room on February 3rd, 2007:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Roberta DeAngelis, KE5MJU Jonathan E. Felger, KE5MJX
Michael L. Fruit, KE5MJV Joel E. Howard, KE5MKA
Charles C. Schilling, KE5MKB Rodger B. Schorr, KE5MJW
Frank G. Smith, KE5MJZ Dean S. Wilcox, KE5MJY

General Class License Processed

Rayford W. Walker, KE5MKC

Extra Class License Processed

William M. Howell, N5ALO

Element 3 (General Class written) CSCE Issued

Delia A. Guyote, W5DEE Curtis P. Guyote, KD5UAR

Element 4 (Extra Class written) CSCE Issued

Stewart W. Morrill, KE5BWA

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

Howard Glueck, K5ZUA Larry Gunter, WB5BEK
Joe Makeever, W5HS Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Tom Nevue, W2MN Herb Nolen, W5HMN
Joe Thiel, N5SMN Roy Walker, WA5YZD

Next Two ARRL VE Test Sessions

March 3rd - LCRA Colorado Room

April 7th - LCRA Colorado Room

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS

Joe

W5YI-VEC - 2-17-2007

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates all of the following people who earned new or upgraded Amateur radio licenses at our February 17th session:

Extra Class -

Jack A. Pritchard, WA5FYF
Rayford W. Walker, KE5MKC

General Class -

James G. Casto, KE5ALB

Technician Class (all new) -

Antonio Forenza Brent A. Musat
Roy H. Kipp

Three others earned element credit without upgrading.

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Tad Danley, K3TD Jim Greenwood, AB5EK
John Fisher, K5JHF Sam Mihalik, KM5MY
Lloyd Goehring, Jr., N5TO Jimmy Mercer, N5WDH
Dennis Murphy, W5KQF

Exam fee is \$14.00

Please bring two forms of identification plus your social security number.

Sessions are accessible to handicapped applicants.

No pre-registration is required. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., PO BOX 4739, AUSTIN TX 78765-4739, Web site: <http://www.austinhams.org>

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ARRL Public Information Officer	Lee Cooper	W5LHC	424 5491	w5lhc@arrl.net

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, or mail us to join the organization.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has a membership dues of \$20.00/calendar year (\$30.00 family to the same address)
The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. AARC maintains the following repeaters. An open autopatch and emergency power on 146.78 MHz and an emergency HF/VHF station at the American Red Cross building. Persons residing or working within the coverage area are expected to join the club, if they use the autopatch. Non-residents on short visits are welcome to use this autopatch. 146.88MHz (-600) with autopatch; 146.94 MHz (-600) used for Weather Net when called, and Travis County ARES. It is also used for Swapnet and Newline @ 9p.m. Sunday; 224.80 MHz (-1.600); 444.10 MHz (+5); & 145.01 <MHz packet NetROM node (KB5PM-1 or alias AUS). Persons residing or working within the coverage area are expected to join the club, if they use the autopatch. Non-residents on short visits are welcome to use this autopatch. **The 146.78 and 146.88 repeaters have open autopatches.** Please transmit your call **before** sing the phone patch. Press * and dial the phone number to place a call. Do not unkey after the *. When finished, press # to hang up the phone. Dial 911 (no * needed) for emergency services.

AARCOVER Information

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Viewpoints expressed in the AARCOVER do not necessarily reflect those of any club, or of its members, directors, or officers.

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Members and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Call Mitch London, if mailed submissions are required. Electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication. **Deadline is the 15th of the month.**

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For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:

See Jerry Jackson, N5UJ (512) 832-5663 jerry@gaj.com

Jerry handles all changes for AARCOVER mailing labels & membership information & roster questions.

(Continued from page 2)QCWA QSO

portable station. The box protects it and keeps the cables tucked away and strain-relieved. In one cubic foot, you can fit a mobile rig, TNC, and GPS, and have a dandy portable phone station with BBS and APRS tracker. Sealed batteries will fit inside, but should be in a separate module.

Putting this portable station together is easy. Consider what you want to install and pick out a model (from the million available) that is the size you will need. Take some time to plan and lay out a power cable along the back edge with plenty of sticky-anchors and tie-wraps. Put in twice the (fused!) power-poll connectors that you think you will use considering extra meters, lamps, fans, laptop power, and visitors (double-fused!!). Route 2-foot RF coaxes from the back of the radios to points by the lid for strain-relief and to prevent fumbling for connections down around the sharp heat-sinks. Mount radios on under-dash brackets and plan so all radio faces will be level with each other and a few inches below the lid. Patches of velcro here and there come in handy for hanging microphones, pencils, lamps, or cooling fans. Radio brackets and heavier items must be held in place with wood screws, as adhesives will not hold onto the unbreakable plastic. Auto lamp LEDs may be hung in the harness for light at night.

Bil WB5SYS

No Code? No Problem! Code Requirements Dropped by FCC.

It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23.

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination.

Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules.

It is on the web in PDF format at,

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data sub band be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz sub band.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

Shortwave Listening: Is it Getting Old?

By Rick Herndon, K5FNI

One of the things I like best about SWL (shortwave listening) is the different points of view and cultural differences found other than those we hear from the U.S.-centric point of view our networks all send to us. I found this Web page from ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) and downloaded all of the files mentioned to listen to in .mp3 format on my Palm when I am surfing the Web, exercising at the gym or doing housework. That beats having to have an SWL RX hooked up and figure the time of day to get their broadcasts.

Not that I've given up on SWLing, by any means, but this certainly puts what I want at my fingertips when I want it. No fades, either.

From:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/>

Using my 1.5 Mbps DSL, I quickly downloaded all the series on WWII,

Prisoners of War: Australians under Nippon

this whole series, so far...

Summer Science

In Summer Science ABC Radio National gets scientists talking and arguing in pubs and cafes around Australia.

podcast: Entire program, weekly. **Please note:** This is part of the Big Ideas series.

and this one...

All In The Mind

Delving into all things mental: the latest research and expert commentary on our brains and behavior.

podcast: Entire program, weekly, updating Saturdays at 2pm.

And it easily fit on one about-\$10, 1 Gb SD card to plug into my Palm Tungsten E2 PDA and play with RealPlayer software for it. Or I can listen to it on a cheap CD-R that costs about 25 cents on most modern CD players.

On the page I have linked here, I saw 43 DIFFERENT series or shows, some weekly and some limited in scope to a few weeks or months from this ONE source. This ought to keep your mind occupied for a while.

I recently bought a tiny, synthesized FM transmitter (scarcely larger than a cigar lighter plug) that will go two channels

(Continued on page 7)

Capitol 10K Packet Stuffing: Help the Club Make Up to \$4000!!

By Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW

I have contacted Jann Girard of the Austin American Statesman and stated the club's willingness to perform the Capitol 10K Runner Packet Stuffing Fund Raiser as we did in 2006. As seen in the event calendar below, the Packet Stuffing Party will be Mar 3 and possibly 4 at the AAS main building. The Capitol 10K run will be Mar 25.

Jann is thrilled we are interested in continuing! This is the 30th anniversary of the event, which is expected to draw close to 30,000 runners. Jann said the packet stuffing would likely be a two-day event and we are welcome to do both days for extra pay. As the event draws nearer, we will know more about registration numbers and payola.

We had 62 volunteers last year and stuffed somewhat over 15,000 packets in ~10 hours. If we are to do a good job and not burn anyone out, we'll need to about double our volunteer count. It is fairly simple, repetitive work- stuffing about 15 pieces of runner info into each envelope. We used a few different approaches- a few tables where all were seated, stuffing one piece and passing it on. Stuffers orbited other tables, stuffing all and dropping filled envelopes into a bin.

As before, we will schedule AM only, PM only and all-day shifts and provide snacks and lunch for everyone. Lori and I plan on being there both days.

Last year's event was a lot of fun and I think the club has grown together as a result. Please email me- Jeff N5MNW@arrl.net and let me know when you can work.

AARC Club Meeting Minutes:

February 6, 2007

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10pm

Show of humorous slides; mention of pizza & drinks; president asked for a regular attending volunteer to head up the food; discussion of ARL rules for the building, discussion of any meeting changes (club or small groups)

Visitors: K1GPL & Frank Smith (no call yet, just passed Tech Exam)

New Members: none

New Call Signs: none

Motion made to approve the Minutes, motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President: no report

Vice President: ARRL & AARC starting to focus on promoting emergency radio and the associated groups and activities available.

Secretary: no report

Treasurer: we have people that still need to pay dues

Editor: Ask people to send in articles for the AARCOVER.

Technical Committee: complimented Alan Russell, KE5DTR on new format of minutes in the AARCOVER; discussed the KLRU towers and their planned move; recommends not to purchase a plasma TV due to the tremendous interference it causes in the HF bands

ARES: Roger Wines, N5WIA requested volunteers to come out on the 21st & 22nd for a 10 county wide test of interoperability of emergency services

Other: KA5OST discussed some issues, updates, and needs with the WinLink System

Old Business:

Jay Hoffman, KA5OST brought up the issue of sending out the AARCOVER by email instead of by regular mail. (The issue will be studied when the budget is reviewed.)

New Business:

Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV asked for volunteers for the packet stuffing event for the Cap 10K that should paid the club \$4000. He also asked for volunteers for the race itself.

Ham of the Month: Jay Hoffman, KA5OST

Announcements:

SkyWarn & Landing Zone Training mentioned (also listed in the SwapNet)

KD5HCV presented two 12V 35 Amp hour and numerous 9V batteries for sale with the proceeds going to the club.

The president presented N5MNV with a plaque for Ham of the Year, which he was name during the annual Christmas party.

N5MNV presented the president with the grand prize he won at the annual Christmas party.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm

Presentation: Glen Reid discussed BPL and the cities attempts to test BPL in the 78702 zip code. Also helping with the presentation: Pete Collins with the city, Jerry Hernandez with AE, Mike Bates with PowerGrid Co.

below the FM band and I can hear programs I have recorded like these through my car radio with no interference as I drive my Prius down the road without having to tune while I drive. The constant input of new material like this serves to keep me wide awake on long drives when I come back to Austin or out to San Angelo on one of my several-times-a-year trips. The transmitter accepts inputs from:

1. USB thumb drive with either .mp3 or .wav files up to 4 folders deep on the drive
2. up to 2 Gb SD card with the same depth of folders and file types
3. or a line/speaker input cord that will connect to any earphone or line output audio device.

The unit plugs into the cigar lighter and costs less than \$50 from several vendors on eBay with no shipping charges. I happened to buy mine from Wal-mart before they quit selling them. The model I recommend is

VR3 USB MP3 PLAYER WMA TRANSMITTER FM MODULATOR VRFM9

The only drawbacks I've found are:

1. you really have to turn up the treble control on your car radio: frequency response is not flat
2. if your cigar lighter power goes off with the ignition switch, you go back to the beginning of the list each time (no problem if you're listening using the audio cable solution above)

My solution to #2 may be to use a small 12-volt, gel-cell battery hooked to the cigar lighter to make a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) for the device.

As far as SWL, there's still the excitement of the hunt, like fishing for trout. There's the smell and feel of old radios and new. There's the skill involved in turning in a station and the brain power it frequently takes to put in organic filters to remove the interference heard. There're the THINGS you hear out there across the world that come in, one after the other, that get your senses excited and linguistic taste buds going. That can't be replaced. There's music from strange instruments to strange beats and you wonder what those people are thinking when they play that music.

73,
Rick Herndon
K5FNI
Ganado, TX

Austin Amateur Radio Club

Membership Form for year ending December 31, _____
Application for: (check applicable box or boxes and include payment)

- AARC \$20 single \$30 family (all at same mailing address)
 \$5 student (thru 12th grade, no AARCOVER by mail)
 ARRL \$24 (first time member) \$21 (senior first time)
 \$37 (renewal thru AARC) \$34 (senior renewal)
 QCWA \$6 (Local chapter 67 annual dues)

Check One: Information changes Renew membership
 New member (never before registered)

Call sign: _____ License class? E A G T+ T N (circle one)
 Year First Licensed: _____ Date of Birth*: _____
 First name: _____ Last name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
 Mobile Phone: _____ Pager: _____
 Email Address: _____

If the family box is checked please list family members below.

2nd Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?
 3rd Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?
 4th Call: _____ Name: _____ ARRL?

I/We have interest in the following:

- Monthly meetings Field Day Working events Transmitter hunts
 2 meters FM DXing Newsletter Holding Office
 Presenting programs CW Net control Emer communications
 Holding ARRL office Education Public Awareness Working with Youth
 Other _____

Mail this form with payment to:
 AARC - P.O. Box 4739 - Austin, TX 78765 or:
 Bring it to the next meeting (See <http://www.austinhams.org>)
 * Required by ARRL for student and senior discounts.

AARC Meeting Info.

*****NOTE Meeting Changes*****

ARL Labs

10000 Burnet Rd. North of 183

Officers Meeting

6:00PM

Regular Business Meeting

7:00 pm

March 6th- Jeff Draper, N5SSI will be giving a presentation on Gibson Ridge Weather Radar software.

2007 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC- March 3rd & April 7th 9a.m. at LCRA Complex 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$14 fee.

W5YI VEC- March 17th & April 21st 2p.m. in room 204, Moody Hall, St. Edwards University. Contact Jim Greenwood, AB5EK@arrl.net, (327-6184) <http://texasparadise.com/w5yi-austin> for more info.

*******DUES ARE DUE!!!*******

Dues must be paid by April 15, to be included in the annual Roster. Membership form on page 7. Contact Jerry Jackson (512) 832-5663 jerry@gaj.com or you can pay dues online at <http://www.austinhams.org/join>

2007 Calendar of Events

Mar 3-4 Capitol 10k Packet Stuffing Party Contact Jeff N5MNV@arrl.net or 255-6753

Mar 3 Greater Houston Hamfest "Mix & Match" Swapmeet Ft. Bend County Campgrounds Mike 713-826-6917 N5VCX@arrl.net www.bvarc.org

Mar 10 TESSA National Storm Conference Colleyville, TX 9AM-5PM Colleyville Ctr 5301 Riverwalk

Mar 10 Irving ARC Hamfest, Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 West Irving Blvd #125

Mar 10 West Texas Section Convention Lions Club, 200 Plaza Avenue, Midland, TX

Mar 24 Weatherford Hamfest-National Guard Amory, 716 Charles Street, Weatherford, TX 817 594 1614

Mar 25 Statesman Capitol 10k 30th Anniv. Contact Jeff 255-6753 for volunteer information.

Mar.	Apr.	Austin Meetings/Happenings
6	3	AARC Meeting ARL Auditorium** 7:00 p.m.
10	7	Austin QRP, Alvin's Sandwich Shop 11:00 a.m.
13	10	ARES Training -LCRA Hancock Bldg 7:30 p.m.
13	10	High Speed Multimedia SIG Red Cross 7:00 p.m.
20	17	ATV Club Mtg. Mangia Pizza 7:00 p.m.
17	21	QCWA Denny's on Burnet Rd. 2:00 p.m.
26	23	Travis Co. REACT Denny's on Burnet 7:00 p.m.
27	24	Travis County A.R.E.S., ARL Aud. 7:00 p.m.
28	25	Packet Set-up Lab @ Red Cross* 7:00 p.m.

*Red Cross Located at 2218 Pershing Dr. Austin

**AARC Business Meeting is at ARL Labs 10000 Burnet Rd.

Visitors are welcome whether they are licensed hams or not. Other meetings or activities are listed under the headings for Calendar.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Austin, TX
Permit No. 2942
Time Value Newsletter

AARCOVER
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March 2007
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