



Coast Dispatcher March, 2008

Coast Division Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast>

Pacific Coast Region Web Site: <http://www.pcrnmra.org>

Welcome to the Coast Division of PCR Here are our next two events.

Division Meet

March 2, 2008

Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA

- 9:00 AM Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.
- 9:30 AM Get Auction Cards.
- 10:00 AM 'Streets and Roads' Clinic by Dave Connery and Brad Lloyd
- 11:00 AM 'Weehawkins, A City, A River, and 4 Railroads—Part 2' Clinic by Les Dahlstedt
- 11:00 AM Model Railroad Roundtable moderated by Jerry Littlefield
- 12 Noon Business Meeting
- 1:00 PM Auction starts, Roundtable continues
- 1:30 PM Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues
- 3:30 PM Timesaver Results, Raffle – afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Photo Contest: Prototype Diesel Locomotives

Model Contest: Caboose, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

April 5, 2008

Coast Division Banquet

El Patio Mexican Restaurant, 37311 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA

The restaurant is across the street from the historic Centerville Depot, which is an active train station on the Capital Corridor line, with the logic of having train travel to the station, a tour of the station, dinner and a presentation on the station and other stations with time to catch the last train home.

For those travelling by train, the incoming trains are 2:39 PM westbound and 2:49 PM eastbound so we can start at 3:30 PM and end in time for the 8:09 PM (westbound) and 8:19 PM (eastbound) trains to go home.

For those travelling by car, be at the Depot at 3:30 PM. Social Hour will start at 4:00PM and Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM. The presentation will start at approximately 5:45 PM and we should be done by 7:30PM.

Tickets are \$20 per person, and will be available at the March Coast Division Meet. If you wish to go but cannot make it to the March Meet, send a check for \$20 per person, to

Tom Crawford
4337 La Cosa Ave
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If you have questions, call 520-790-0371

IMPORTANT Dispatcher subscription information on PAGE 2

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From The Editor:

There is a very important notice to Coast Dispatcher Subscribers who are not Coast Division Members on page 5

I had to do some serious cramming to make this issue work. Next thing you know, I will be writing in the margins and using 10 point as seen on page 4.

The E-Dispatcher has more information than we could fit in this 10 page format. In addition to more open space to make reading easier, things included are bigger pictures, and more complete Registrar's and Photo Contest reports, all in color.

If you would like to get the E-Dispatcher, go to <http://www.yahoo.com> and then select Groups in the left column, and type in "Coast Dispatcher" in the search box.



Information for signing up for the Sierra Memories PCR Convention is on page 6.

Super Notes

Superintendent's Notes

To: Coast Division Membership
From: John Marshall
Subject: Division comments for the first quarter of 2008

As always, our December meet was well attended, we had very interesting clinics and the auction held many unique and usable items. All in all, it was a great meet and a great opportunity to wish each person there a happy holiday season.

We had a special raffle, actually item #1 of the Auction that was donated by Broadway Limited. The lucky winner got a great piece of motive power at a very sweet price. I sincerely hope that they are enjoying it. From the reports that I have gotten from all of the department chairmen, every aspect of our December meet was a success. I want to pay special thanks to one individual who is rarely seen at the meets held at the Computer History Museum, Steve Wesolowski. The reason we don't get to see him much is because he spends most of his day acting as door attendant down stairs. As a result of that, he doesn't really get a chance to participate in the clinics or auction like the rest of us. We need to give him a chance to have fun and socialize too. At the March 2nd meet, I will be passing around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to relieve Steve at the door at the upcoming June and December meets.

We still have not gotten our feet wet in working with the Boy Scouts of America on their Railroading Merit Badge program. I have contacted those members of the BSA leadership that had previously made themselves known to me and asked them to present a program at the March meet. I would like to see as many of our members take an active part in this project. If we don't interest these young minds now with the fun of model railroading, we will lose a valuable opportunity. Trying to win them over to our hobby when they are 35+ and have money to spend becomes 1000 times harder.

I want to encourage all of you to attend our March meet. I know that there is a Great Train Expo at the Cow Palace in So. San Francisco that same day but we have a better program to offer you.

OS

Editor's note: Only because someone asked me, John informs me that "OS" is RR Telegraph for "by our station" to notify a dispatcher that a specific train has cleared the senders station.

Northwest Narrow Gauge Regional Convention Report: Try Something New -- You never know what you'll learn....by Steve Wesolowski

Most of you know I'm a (rubber) Narrow Gauge modeler; standard & broad gauge trains are OK, because All Trains are fun, but Narrow Gauge, especially California, Nevada & Hawaiian narrow gauge railroads are what excite me, and I enjoy modeling them in Nn3, HOn3/30, On30, 1:20.3 and 2.5"n3. I also Really Love 'Critters', but that's a whole 'nother story.

Anyway, since I'm a Narrow Gauger I read the Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette (Published in the PCR, Dave C!). The Gazette's where I read of a "Northwest Narrow Gauge Regional Convention in Everett, WA October 27-28 at the Snohomish County P.U.D. at 2320 California Street." That's what the notice said, so I emailed the contact person, Bob Madden, for more info. You see, Robin & I had already booked flights to visit her Dad and his wife, who live 20 miles West of Everett, the weekend before the 27th, so if it sounded interesting maybe I could just stay another week, do some chores for them and, maybe, even work on some models?

Bob replied with some background info: "As a modeling group we have been together around 30 years here in the Northwest Part of the country with some of our members residing in to the North in Canada and also South in Oregon from (his) home in Everett."

"Our regional convention started off as a one day activity which in recent years grew into a two to three day convention. Up to last year a fellow modeler in (Bob's) group, Jim Noonan, was our convention organizer and he did an exceptional job of putting our weekend conventions together. Jim passed away after the last Sn3 Symposium he hosted over in Bellevue. With (Jim's) passing (Bob) stepped in this year to try and put a Regional Convention together for our group and keep our convention a annual event."

"When I have the time, I model in On3 but also have some On30 and 1:20.3 equipment also. Most of our members here in Washington State model in Sn3; that is the hot scale locally around here right now; although that was not always the case."

Bob attached maps and info: there were to be four Clinics, a Model & Photo Contest, a Swap Meet and a Banquet in Everett Station(?) Saturday, and 3 Layouts Open Sunday. Registration: \$15 & the Banquet was \$15!

OMG! -- What a Bargain!, even after paying Alaska Air \$75 more to change my return flight day. What the hey: I registered and I stayed on after Robin left. I did some deferred chores, around their house and yard, built a couple Nn3 & HOn3 flat cars and ate Linda's homemade pies---someone had to, so why not I?

Saturday AM I caught the 8AM Ferry to Mukilteo, rode a bus to Everett and got off 100 yards from the P.U.D. A fellow drove up as I arrived and we spent an hour outside while 30+ others came, until a guard arrived to let us inside: I enjoyed meeting some strangers, it wasn't raining, although it was in the 30's. After he opened the door, most everyone helped set up, some coffee was brewed, and the first clinic began nearly

on time.

I enjoyed clinics about "Lighting the Layout" from Max Maginness, MMR, some local history from David Dilgard, LOTS on the "Art of Making Trees" from Tom Beaton, Paul Scoles and Ken Larson, more from Paul Vaughn after Dinner about natural tree armatures.

Although I displayed a couple Nn3 boxcars in the Model Contest, I was inspired by & learned more from a mostly scratchbuilt 1:20.3 NCNG train by Donald Rose (which earned 1st Place) and a 1:20.3 Caboose by Geoff Stippes, DDS (which I think earned 2nd) in addition to several other excellent models and photos entered. I found lumber in the Swap Meet and had a fun lunch at Jack in the Box with a fellow NCNG enthusiast Gary Haack, a former Sunnyvale, CA resident. It was a fun day in Everett. After the clinics, I helped Bob Madden, et al, clean up. Bob offered me a ride; after we dropped stuff at his house & I met his 80+lb FRIENDLY lap dog, Bob and I joined several others for a drink and some local train talk at a Holiday Inn before going to the Station for the Banquet.

The Banquet was some of the best BBQ I've ever eaten. It was on the top (4th) floor of a modern Everett Station: a beautiful structure with many glass windows and big murals in the public meeting area on the top floor. The room overlooks the BNSF main, so we also saw some trains!

When I left, in the dark I took some pictures of the two Seattle Sounder commuter trains they park there on weekends! After dinner, Paul Vaughn gave a short clinic on natural tree armatures, and Monte Pearson spoke about plans for the 2008 National Narrow Gauge Convention in Portland, Oregon. After dinner, Bob gave me a ride to Mukilteo so I could catch the ferry to Clinton.

Sunday was Open House/Layout Tours day. Instead of visiting Paul Scoles' layout again (I'd seen it in 2004), and both Didrik Voss' and John Hartlines' layouts for my first time, I worked on my hosts' clothes dryer until I caught a shuttle to SEATAC to fly home, but I hope to see those layouts on a future visit. But, I learned more new and useful information Saturday than I ever have before at any other train gathering I've attended, PLUS I also enjoyed meeting more new and interesting friendly modelers in one day than I usually have.

I wrote this to encourage others to attend small regional conferences or train shows that sound interesting if you have a chance.

I had no idea what to expect, and I was very pleasantly surprised: as one example, I was 'skeptical' about how interesting a clinic on Layout Lighting would be... instead I was blown away with what I learned in the first few minutes, and once my mind was open, I learned gobs of good useful stuff! The other 3 clinics were just as enlightening.

I learned several lessons in Everett: if I find another small convention/modeler's gathering that sounds interesting, I'll look into it; sometimes a clinic you wonder what you'll learn from can teach you way more than you ever would have imagined.

That is why I enjoy this hobby so much: I never stop learning interesting stuff, even when I least expect to.

Happy Rails to You!

NOTICE TO COAST DISPATCHER SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NOT COAST DIVISION MEMBERS

For the past several years, we have not been charging for subscriptions for the Coast Dispatcher for those people who live outside Coast Division but subscribe to our newsletter.

Starting with the June Issue, we will charge \$3.00 per year for these subscriptions to help defray our printing and mailing costs (which are actually \$3.27 per year per person)

If the word "subscriber" is on the upper left side of your Dispatcher mail label, you may do either of three things.

First, you may do nothing and your subscription will cease.

Second, you may send a check for \$3.00 made out to Coast Division and mail it to the return address on the last page of this newsletter.

Third, you may subscribe to the E-Dispatcher, which is free, is more complete and is in color. To subscribe to the E-Dispatcher go to <http://www.yahoo.com> and then select Groups in the left column, and type in "Coast_Dispatcher" in the search box. Then click on the group and then "Join this Group."

Auction Report By Bill Burket

The last meet saw great participation in the auction. The brass items were low but overall the Coast Division did very well.

We had a lot of items donated. If you would like to donate to the Coast Division through the auction it is very easy to do. Just pick up some bidders cards and use owner number "1". This is an automatic donation to Coast Division 100%. At the last meet this was the case with several items and the income was much appreciated. If you would like to make a large donation you could enter owner "1" one a brass item and that would give Coast Division a super boost! Remember that it is only through your participation in the auction that makes activities like the auction and banquet possible.

Did I say banquet? I did. The date is Saturday April 5th. We need to have at least 40 people signed up by the end of this next meet to make this big success. Your presence and the fellowship would be great. This is one event where your auction chairman can stand around and tell railroad stories and not do any work. So, bring the wife, a date or a friend for a fun filled afternoon and early evening with the great tour and history of the SP Centerville Depot.

Oh, I almost forgot to remind you that we need to fill up those brass cards at the auction. Remember 51 to 100 is reserved for brass. See you all at the March meet and again at the banquet. What a bargain for twenty bucks!

June Division Meet

June 1, 2008

Computer History Museum 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA

9:00 AM..... Doors open. Free Door Prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets.

10:00 AM..... Clinics TBD

12 Noon Business Meeting

1:00 PM..... Auction starts, Roundtable continues

1:30 PM..... Model/Photo Contest Results – afterward Auction continues

3:30 PM..... Timesaver Results, Raffle – afterward Auction continues if required

9:30 AM – 1:15 PM:

Photo Contest: Prototype Railroad Structures

Model Contest: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction

Allen Fenton Timesaver Switching Contest (until 3:15)

Registrar's Report

By John Ameling

It was a pleasure reporting on raffle participation in September. It's even more enjoyable reporting on December. 110 people signed in at the December meet, which is the same number that attended last year, and it much higher than we seen through the rest of the year. Raffle sales came to \$205.00, which is the greatest participation in the records I've got going back to March 2000.

The make up of prizes changed a bit for December. Non-scale items seem to work well for door prizes, so we'll continue with this. For the raffle we purchased \$50.00 gift certificates from Hobbies Unlimited and Tom's Tracksidetrains; and John M. continues to support the raffle with \$50.00 gift certificates from Just Trains. With this all prizes are created equal, although we probably undervalued Ronnie's fudge. This lets the first winners select which hobby shop they want to go to.

Unless I hear otherwise, we continue this approach until we come up with something different.

Prizes

We had 3 raffle prizes of \$50 each, and 5 door prizes

Attendees

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Coast Division | 99 |
| Sierra | 2 |
| Redwood | 5 |
| Daylight | 4 |
| Other | - |
| First time | 6 |
| included in division count | |
| Guests | - |

Total attendees 110

More details in the E-Dispatcher.



Sign up for the Sierra Memories PCR Convention 2008, April 30 Through May 4, in Fresno. The Sierra Memories 2008 PCR Convention will take place at the [Ramada University](http://www.ramadauniversity.com), 324 East Shaw Avenue (northwest corner of East Shaw Avenue and North Fresno Street) in northern Fresno, conveniently located adjacent to Highway 41. This facility offers modern comfortable accommodations and complete convention services under one roof. For details go to <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2008/>

Timesaver Corner

By Mark Schutzer

The winners of switching contest for the December meet were:

1st Place Brake Person: Steve Williams
2nd Place Brake Person: Ronnie LaTorres
3rd Place Brake Person: Robert Bowdidge

1st Place Senior Brake Person: Bill Burket
 (alright, we need to beat this ace too. Let's get it together)
2nd Place Senior Brake Person: Tom Crawford
3rd Place Senior Brake Person: Pat LaTorres
 Congratulations to all our winners!

Come see us at the next meet and try your luck against the Timesaver. To quote Tom Van Horn "It's a lot of fun and you have to try it because it's FREE!"

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tomstracksidetrains.com

Hours:

Wed & Fri: 12-8 Thu: 12-5
Sat: 12-6; Sun: 12-3

Phone (650) 692-9724
Fax (650) 692-9725

Show and Tell / Model Contest – December 2007 Recap

The December 007 Model Contest and Show and Tell were another great success. See photos of the meet online at the updated Model Contest / Show and Tell / Photo Contest web pages on the Coast Division PCR website at:

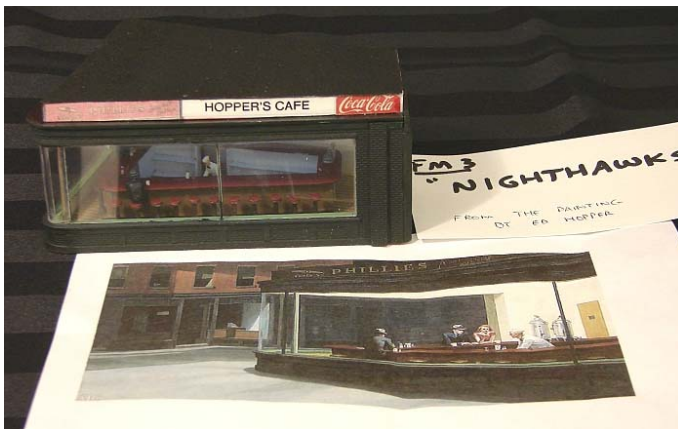
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/coast/contest.shtml>

There is a new feature on the web page: *Close-ups* of the models! Click on the above and check it out. Thanks to *all* who participated, you put on a great show and inspired us all.

Model Contest - December 2007 – “Favorite Model” (open category)

By Popular Vote, the awards were:

1st place: Bob Wirthlin's "Hopper's Cafe" in HO:



2nd place: Tom Vanden Bosch's Western Pacific Steel Coil Gondola #4416 in HO



3d place: Tom Vanden Bosch's Pennsylvania RR 125-ton well car in #470090 in HO



Honorable Mention: Alf Modine's beautiful C&NW #2 Depot in O scale:



Thank You to *all* that entered a model, you put on a great show and inspired the rest of us. You're a winner just by participating in Model Contest.

We all love to see your pride and joys. Participating to share your pride and joy in modeling, and having fun self-inspiring

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

yourself, is what Coast Division Model Contest is all about. Come out and participate in the March Model Contest!

Show and Tell December 2007

Thank You to all who participated in another great Show and Tell for December 2007. We really appreciate bringing your works of art to share with us all.

We had a wonderful model of the NP North Coast Limited by Mike Blumensaadt, Santa Fe boxcars by John Sing, a photo slide show of a US-themed Model RR convention in Germany by John Sing, and Jim Eckman's Holiday Cheer structures:

Here's a few photos:

North Coast Limited by Mike Blumensaadt



Santa Fe boxcars by John Sing



Jim Eckman's Holiday Cheer structures



Thanks again to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing to upcoming Meets to see what you may want to share with us. Any category is always welcome for Show and Tell, works in progress are welcome.

Model Contest Categories for Upcoming Meets

Coast Division Model Contest categories are rotated throughout the year as shown below. Therefore for March 2008, the categories are **Freight car, Caboose, & Maintenance of Way**. Bring your favorites to share! Remember, it's really about participating and meeting your fellow modelers; we all love to see your pride and joys.

March: Freight car, Caboose, Maintenance of Way

June: Structure, Display/Diorama, Self-propelled Cars & Traction

Sept: Steam locomotives, Diesel / other locomotives, Passenger Car

December: "Favorite Model" (open category)
Coast Division Model Contest results for March 2008 will be determined by **Popular Vote**. Arrive and enter early to get more votes.

John Sing

Coast Division Model Contest Chair-flunky

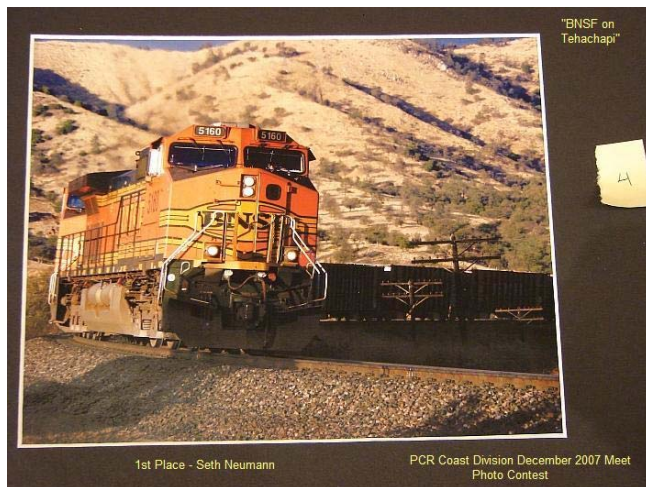
Photo Contest By Pat LaTorres

The theme was: "Trains in Action":

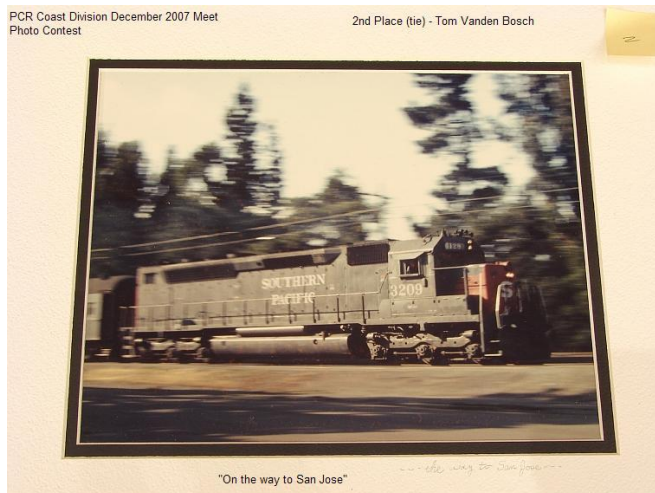
There were many artistic, noteworthy, and creative entries, and every one is worthy of award and mention. Thank you to all who brought your photo to share, we all love seeing your work.

The winners were:

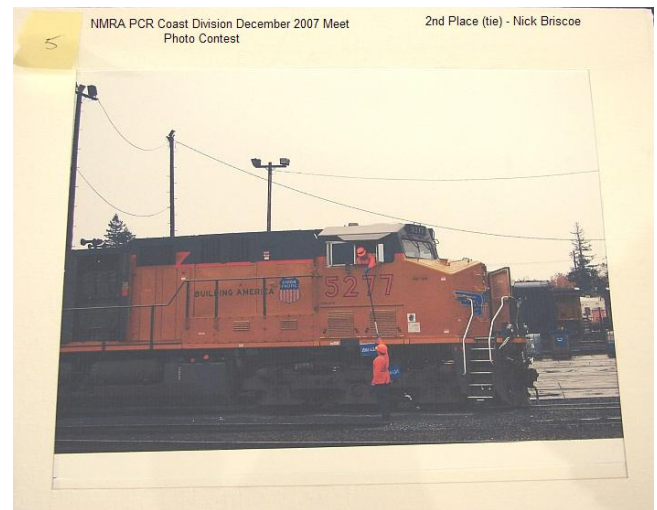
1st Seth Neuman



2nd Place (tie) Tom Vanden Bosch



and Nick Briscoe



The category for the March meet will be "Prototype Diesel Locomotives"

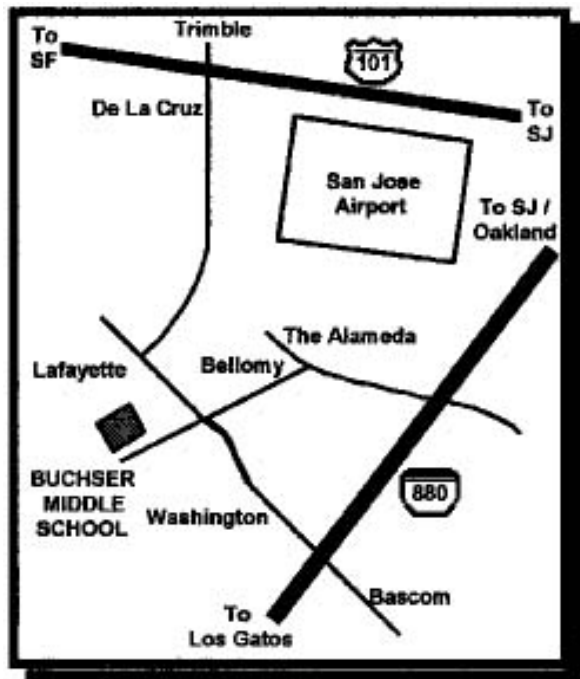
The category for June will be "Prototype Railroad Structures."

All photos should be matted (inexpensive, reusable mattes can be had at most art supply stores) and should be between 5x7 and 11x14 in size. Hope to see your work there!

Results are determined by Popular Vote. Bring your photos early to get the early votes.

More details in the E-Dispatcher.

The next meet will be on March 2, 2008 at the
Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA
Details are on Page 1. Here is the map.



From San Francisco: Take Highway 101 South. Exit on De La Cruz, and follow for about 1.7 miles until De La Cruz bears right and becomes Lewis. Turn Left on Lafayette and continue 0.6 miles to the school on your right at Bellomy.

From The East Bay: Take Highway 880 South. Exit at Bascom. Turn Right and continue north on Washington. The Street will dog leg and change to Lafayette. Right after the dogleg, the school is on your left at Bellomy.

Coast Dispatcher
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