

# CPSARC Club Newsletter

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## Special points of interest:

- *GB3FF report*
- *VHF FD report*
- *20m Contest results*
- *Junk night*

## Editorial

I am writing this editorial just after I think will have been our summer, a few glorious days of sunshine; we live in hope that it will be like that when we are on Tiree or at any of our other out door events.

Ok then what have we been doing this month? We had our normal club night but regard numbers attending it didn't make much of a difference. Where have you all gone and why are you not coming along on club nights I may ask?

We have taken part in the RSGB VHF Field Day from the same site we used in 2005 down near Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway. As we found last year it is a fantastic site and worth the travel. Yes I know it is a 120 miles from Port Seton but after all the deliberation I took last year about moving from our normal site at Mainslaughter which made it easier for people to come and visit us I think it was the right one. It has been proved now that it is the only people who are interested in the event that will turn up anyway. Talking about the Mainslaughter site it appears that there has been a change of landowner. The new landowner visited the team whilst they were taking part in the 6M trophy and made comments about the use of the site. He was assured that we did have permission from the landowner which as you will gather was now the previous landowner. I have since written, including copies of the previous correspondence that I had, to the new landowner asking for "blanket" permission once again to use the site, as yet I have had no reply. Lastly this month is the IOTA contest from TIREE but by the time the newsletter is read it will once again be history. No doubt there will be many tales to tell.

To the future, well the major event is our Junk Night on the 11<sup>th</sup> August. I am again looking for raffle and food donations so if you can help I really would appreciate it.

Let's hope is once again a resounding success as it has been in previous years. Also we have Lighthouses Weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August once again down at Barns Ness so I hope you will all come along and take part and have what is a real fun weekend. I am starting my winter training sessions of Foundation, Intermediate and now the Advanced Training by kicking off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September with a Foundation Course. Before then I have one person sitting the Intermediate Exam on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. I am sure you will go along with me and wish them all the best.



The Club June 20M contest has been a complete waste of time as only two people really took part. Honestly what do I have to do for you all to take part? I really wish I knew. The same old reply seems to be "I can't be bothered" basically apathy rules and I am not just talking about the Contest as it applies all around. How would you feel if I sat back and took the same approach, I honestly really don't think you would care? From this side of the fence it really gets me down and I wonder why I do make an effort at all so come on, you want a radio club so why not support it or I might just give up!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Enjoy club night, and come along to Junk Night and Lighthouses Weekend.

See you all then.

Bob GM4UYZ

## RSGB VHF Field Day

This year again we decided to go back to the new site near Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway which we used in 2005. For a VHF/UHF site it is absolutely fantastic sitting 150 metres above sea level with a tremendous take off directly onto a water path, Solway Firth and then the Irish Sea before hitting any land.



Before the event lots of background work has to be done. My responsibility is ensuring that the site is registered with the RSGB VHF Contest Committee but the main responsibility for this and all the VHF contests fall's to John Maclean MM0CCC. This year John and Colin Brown GM0RLZ, the antenna guru, decided that there would be a change in the antenna layouts for the various bands and between them they spent many months constructing and putting them all together. From the rest of us who took part you both did a phenomenal job in putting a fantastic station together.

RSGB VHF Field Day allows a choice of bands to operate on but as we have done in previous years we now stay with the same format and that is 144 MHz (2M) and 432 MHz (70cms) for the Full 24 hours of the contest and on Saturday we use 50MHz (6M) and then on the Sunday we use 70MHz (4M). The section that we now enter is the OPEN section which allows as many aerials as you wish plus full legal power.

So what was our station set-up?

50 MHz (6M)

Transmitter: IC756PROIII + ACOM1000 Amplifier  
Power: 400W  
Receiver: IC756PROIII  
Antenna: 2 x 5 Element DK7ZB Yagi's

Antenna Height: 12 metres  
70 MHz (4M)  
Transmitter: FT1000MP + Mutek TVF57A Transverter + GI7B Amplifier  
Power: 160W  
Receiver: FT1000MP + Mutek TVF57A Transverter  
Antenna: 7 Element DK7ZB Yagi  
Antenna Height: 12 metres

144 MHz (2M)  
Transmitter: Yaesu FT847 + DISCOVERY 3CX800 Amplifier  
Power: 400W  
Receiver: Yaesu FT847 + Landweher Gasfet Preamplifier  
Antenna: 8 x 7 Element DK7ZB Yagi's  
Antenna Height: 14 metres

432 MHz (70cms)  
Transmitter: Yaesu FT847  
Power: 50W  
Receiver: Yaesu FT847 + Landweher Gasfet Preamplifier  
Antenna: 4 x 23 Element DK7ZB Yagi's  
Antenna Height: 12 metres



The team this year consisted of: John Maclean MM0CCC, Cambell Stevenson MM0DXC, Brian Pickup M0RNR, Christopher Brown MM3GVE, Geoff Crowley MM5AHO, Colin Smith GM0CLN, Colin Brown GM0RLZ, Bob Glasgow GM4UYZ and Colin Rodger 2M0CRR.

The trip started early on the Friday where everyone apart from Brian M0RNR, Colin GM0CLN and myself who couldn't leave until after our work. Myself as soon as my work day was over I set off in what was a very miserable and damp afternoon

and eventually arriving at the site which was surrounded in very, very thick fog. Brian had just arrived before me although he had to request a search party to help him find the site!!!! No comment. Last to arrive much later in the evening was Colin. By the time that Brian and I arrived on the site the caravan, generators, kitchen van were positioned plus the 6M beams were up in the air and good progress was being made in putting the 2M array together.

By the end of the Friday evening 98% of the aerial work was complete and about 50% of the shack was built. A decision was made to stop there and sit back and relax and have a few beers before heading of to bed in our respective tents or chosen sleeping place.

Saturday morning and the day of the contest arrived and once everyone was up and duly fed, thanks Geoff on behalf of us all for taking on the role of cook for the weekend and ensuring that we were well fed and watered, work continued on finishing the outstanding aerial and shack set-up's. All was going well 6M tested and fully operational, 70cms the same but alas we had a major fault on the 2M station with excessive SWR although it had been ok earlier. After a bit of organised and logical fault finding it was resolved to a burnt out "barrel Connector" and a faulty length of coax. What had happened is that the centre pin of the coax connector had got pushed back and arcing had taken place between that and the barrel connector. Once fixed the 2M station was fully tested and ready to go.

This year there was also a change in the logging software where we moved to Win-Test for the 6M, 2M and 70cms stations and G0GJV for the 4M station. The reason for changing is that we could have all the stations networked together, this really helps when passing stations from one band to another, it also created one master log allowing further checking that could be done away from any "live" station. Sadly Win-Test does not handle the extra descriptive entry that is required on 4M so we had to use old and trusted G0GJV.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## RSGB VHF Field Day



(Continued from page 2)

The contest started at 14:00 UTC with all stations 6M, 2M and 70cms all running. 6M was not producing anything to exotic although it was spotted on the cluster that USA had been worked by some stations in the South and it continued this way until the end of the session at 22:00 UTC. 2M with the new array system was working extremely well with stations well down in the south working us with low power and verticals and about 20:00 BST with managed a 15 minute opening into Spain. 70cms was nothing exceptional and very hard work for the 24 hours. 4M was set-up on the same mast as what had been used for 6M so work started around 06:00 in the morning to get the 6M beams down and the 4M beam up plus in the shack remove the 6M equipment and set-up the 4M station ready for the 08:00 UTC start. Contacts wise on 4M nothing was worked outside the UK which was quite sad as we had been looking forward to maybe catching a few new countries



that are now operational on 4M.

Regarding the weather for the whole event all I can say is "what a scorcher" Saturday and Sunday turned out to be although overnight we certainly had some very heavy rain plus a thunderstorm between 05:00 and 06:30 in the morning. Quite frightening to say the least when you are very exposed....

So how did we fare?

50 MHz (6M)

Number of QSO's: 170  
 Claimed points: 127763  
 Best DX: 5B4AHY (Cyprus)  
 Distance (Kms): 3571  
 Locator: KM64GS

70 MHz (4M)

Number of QSO's: 88  
 Claimed points: 28312  
 Best DX: G6HIE  
 Distance (Kms): 501  
 Locator: IO90ST

144 MHz (2M)

Number of QSO's: 414  
 Claimed points: 134698  
 Best DX: ED4URA  
 Distance (Kms): 1683  
 Locator: IM79DR

432 MHz (70cms)

Number of QSO's: 92  
 Claimed points: 23778  
 Best DX: PA6NL  
 Distance (Kms): 616  
 Locator: JO21BX

In summary, what a fantastic weekend with lots of work and some play as well with a great team of guys what more you can you ask for. An extra thanks to Geoff as I mentioned earlier who kept us all fed and watered a very important job indeed. To John and Colin GM0RLZ for all the background work that you both put in during the year to produce a fantastic VHF Field Day station it was appreciated by us all so a massive thanks.

The logs are now entered so all we can do now is waiting and see how we have done, what ever way it goes it was fun taking part.

If you have never done this sort of thing before why not give it a go you are more than welcome and I am sure that John is now looking for anyone who may be interested to help and take part in the 2 Metre Trophy which takes place in September. Why not give him a call.

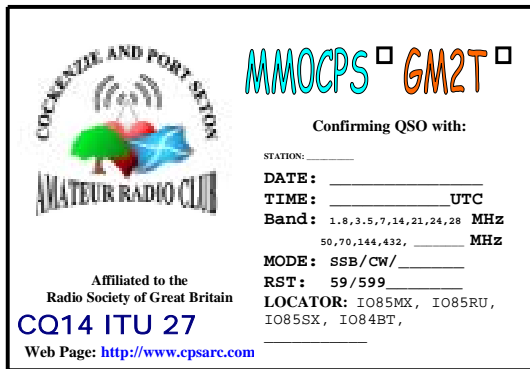
Bob GM4UYZ



## The Club's QSL Cards

A question that I was asked by a club member was "What do our QSL Cards look like?" A good question I thought so see below what look like, note they are the current cards. Basically they do not change much apart from the GB2LBN and the IOTA contest which do each year. Regarding the GB2LBN QSL card I am thinking about just creating one for all years rather than separate ones, the IOTA QSL card we use the team photograph for each year as the cards main feature and the plan is to continue with that theme.

Standard MM0CPS/GM2T QSL Card



IOTA 2005 QSL Card



GB2LBN 2005 QSL Card



GB2MOF 2006 QSL Card



Hope you like them.

Bob GM4UYZ

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Answers from August 2006 newsletter: "Test Your Knowledge":

1c, 2c, 3d, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8a, 9a, 10c

## Training Courses to Spring 2007

### FOUNDATION COURSES 2006 & 2007

#### Course 1: Resources Room 2

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 (Exam at 15:00)

**Closing Date for Course Fees: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

#### Course 2: Resources Room 2

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007 (Exam at 15:00)

**Closing Date for Course Fees: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

### INTERMEDIATE COURSES 2006 & 2007

#### Course 1: Resources Room 2

10<sup>th</sup> February 2007

17<sup>th</sup> February 2007

24<sup>th</sup> February 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007

10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 (Exam at 14:30)

**Closing Date for Course Fees: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

### ADVANCED COURSES 2006 & 2007

#### Course 1: Resources Room 2

7<sup>th</sup> October 2006

14<sup>th</sup> October 2006

21<sup>st</sup> October 2006

4<sup>th</sup> November 2006

11<sup>th</sup> November 2006

18<sup>th</sup> November 2006

25<sup>th</sup> November 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006

Exam: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 18:30 to 20:30

**Closing Date for Course Fees: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

#### Course 2: Resources Room 2

17<sup>th</sup> March 2007

24<sup>th</sup> March 2007

31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

14 April 2007

21<sup>st</sup> April 2007

28<sup>th</sup> April 2007

5<sup>th</sup> May 2007

12 May 2007

Exam: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 18:30 to 20:30

**Closing Date for Course Fees: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

## REMINDER, REMINDER, REMINDER

### JUNK NIGHT FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006

Bring along your own "junk" and sell it yourself.

Tables on a First Come, First Served Basis

Time: 1830 till 2200

Location: Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Centre (Main Hall) Disabled access available

Entry: £1 ALL PERSONS

(Money donated to the British Heart Foundation)



Raffle @ 21:00, Food & Drink Available

If any one would like to donate any prizes for the raffle or food towards the catering it will be more than appreciated.

## Club Calendar

04 August 2006	19:00	Club Night, Thorntree Inn, Cockenzie
05 August 2006	08:00	144MHz Low Power Contest
06 August	08:00	432MHz Low Power Contest
11 August 2006	18:30	<b>JUNK NIGHT</b> Main Hall, Community Centre, Port Seton Bring along your own "junk" and sell it yourself. Tables on First Come First Served basis. Entrance fee £1 for everyone. Money Raised DONATED to BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION. Time 18:30 to 21:30
19 August 2006		International Lighthouses Weekend at BARNES NESS GB2LBN
20 August 2006	09:00	70MHz Trophy
01 September 2006	19:00	Club Night, Thorntree Inn, Cockenzie, 19:00
02 September 2006	13:00	RSGB SSB Field Day
02 September 2006	14:00	144MHz Trophy
03 September 2006	11:00	144MHz Backpackers Contest #5
29 September 2006	19:00	2nd 144Mhz DF Hunt Meet in "The Old Ship Inn" Car Park (East) 18:30 for 19:00
01 October 2006		RSGB 21/28MHz Contest (SSB)
06 October 2006	19:00	Club Night, Thorntree Inn, Cockenzie
20 October 2006	19:30	<b>Video Night, Port Seton Community Centre Resources Room 2</b>
22 October 2006		<b>Galashiels and District ARS Annual Radio &amp; Computer Rally</b> in The Volunteer Hall, St John's Street, Galashiels, Borders. Doors open 11:00 and admission is GBP2.00. There will be traders, Bring and Buy, Refreshments. Details: Jim, GM7LUN, 01896-850245 or EMail: gm7lun@qsl.net
28 October 2006		CQWW SSB Contest
03 November 2006	19:00	Club Night, Thorntree Inn, Cockenzie
11 November 2006	20:00	RSGB Club Calls Contest
17 November 2006	19:30	<b>Talk by Colin GM0RLZ " Antenna's and their Designs"</b> <b>Resources Room 2, Port Seton Community Centre</b>
01 December 2006	19:00	Club Night, Thorntree Inn, Cockenzie
09 December 2006		Club Christmas Night

## Lighthouse Weekend

This is just a reminder that once again we will be taking part in Lighthouses Weekend on Saturday and Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August.

I am hoping that once again we will be able to use the “out buildings” at the Lighthouse.

Thanks to Landles and Lafarge we were able to do so for the event plus CQWW last year although according to Landles there are people now living in the old lighthouse keeper’s house so it might not be possible. Failing that we will be setting up either in the “old caravan”, which

really needs to be scrapped or back under canvas with the club tents.

Whatever happens we will be running two stations, one on 20M and the other on 40M.

This event is a real social event where yes we will do our fair stint of operating over the two days but it also gives us an opportunity to get the barbeque out and do a bit of socialising as well.

From the operating side it gives everyone a chance to “play” with a couple of big

stations and plus gain more experience on being on the side of “being a wanted station”. I can assure you it is a fantastic experience. When operating you control how quickly or slow it takes place by either working it like a contest “pile-up” or simply just having a “rag-chew”.

Hope you will come along to this event and play a bit of radio and have some fun as well.

## CPSARC 20m Contest Results

This year the contest was run on Wednesday evening the 21st June between 19:00 and 22:00BST with this year the weather being really nice. There were no changes to the contest rules and unless there are any major changes in the Licensing Conditions I intend to leave them. I feel that they now accommodate everyone allowing them to use CW or SSB or even both plus they also give the Foundation and Intermediate Licences the possibility of the chance for more QSO’s. This year the band was not too bad but the “skip” was changing from the UK to Europe every few minutes but saying that I still managed a small pile-up and 34 QSO’s in the log, the best I have ever done.

This year I decided to operate from home with the contest actually forcing me to do my first serious home operating of the year which I really, really enjoyed.

A total of 2 club callsigns were really active, Tom, GM0NTL and I with Bob GM4IKT popping in during the middle to give both Tom and I a contact. I have

since found out that Ricky GM1PLY did have go whilst he was on holiday in Germany but alas he lost his log so therefore no submission. I know a few others said that they were going on so the question is “Where were you?” and “Where was your log?”

I must admit I am really disappointed at the lack of taking part, we are all supposed to be radio amateurs, we or most of us have HF equipment and the capability of working 20M so where were you. As much as we call it a contest it is really all about getting on the air for a few hours, submitting your log and well just see how good you have done. I’ll even score it all for you, but no you all don’t seem interested, I give up as I don’t know what needs to be done to encourage you all. I assume you just couldn’t be bothered!

Well done to myself for winning this years contest plus thanks Tom and Ricky for taking a serious entry and Bob for popping in.

To next year then hopefully more of you will come on the air

Bob GM4UYZ

The results are printed below.

Pos	Callsign	QSO’s	DX QSO’s	Club QSO’s	Points
1	GM4UYZ	34	14	2	212
2	GM4LRU	10	6	2	80
3	GM4IKT	2	1	2	14
4	GM1PLY	?	?	0	?

## GB3FF Report

Report on the signal tests carried out on the evening of June 28<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming GB3FF repeater.

Time: 17.00 – 20.00Hrs UTC

Date: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Location: Gorebridge, Midlothian.

A report by Peter Easton GM1RCP.

After some hunting around over some months, a final site has been found to locate the GB3FF repeater. High on the hill above the village of Gorebridge at what appears to be the local saw mill, a sturdy twenty foot pole was attached twenty feet up on the side of a building. A good number of Amateurs had gathered there in preparation for the tests and



a number had already set out from home to take part. Looking around from ground level, it was quite obvious why such a lofty site was chosen. A clear view all the way down the Pentlands was apparent as well as Northwards to Fife and beyond. Radio coverage was found to be far more extensive than the visual coverage. A total of 45 stations called in from as far as, Larkhall, Stirling, Bridge of Earn, Invergowrie, Perth, Dundee, Dunbar and down the Borders to Kelso and Peebles. A good number of stations called from places nearer such as West Calder, Falkirk, South Queensferry, Glenrothes, Prestonpans and Gifford. Quite comprehensive.

There did not however seem to be any contacts from stations from the direction of Tweedmouth / Southern east coast. It could be just no one that way knew of the tests. I suspect however it was more likely the antenna did not favour that direction.

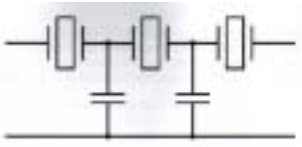
Talks after the tests took place raised the possibility of moving the antenna some 200 yards over to a more favourable site clear of a mound of earth. This would raise the antenna up a further forty-five feet enabling coverage in that direction. The down side is there is no power facility or structure to support a mast at that location. It was proposed the existing location should go ahead and alteration to the second location take place later. Volunteers with Concrete and spare huts, please step forward. Two hundred yards of wire armoured cable would be handy too, hi.

All in all it was a very satisfactory, fun filled evening. I hope when GB3FF is up and running all the stations who took part in the tests will use the repeater on a regular basis. It would be a great shame, if after all the work that has gone into this project, no one used the repeater. Speaking of all the work I'd like to thank the guys at CSFM Group for the organising, and Ali 2MOPMR and Jim GM7LUN for doing the construction and installation. Special mention must go to Ian 2M0EMA and GM6CMQ for clocking up so many miles in the tests. Gordon Brown the Chancer (sic) of the Exchequer must be well pleased with their financial contribution to the country's funds.



## Test Your Knowledge

1. **FEEDER** should be pronounced phonetically as
  - a. Fox, Echo, Echo, Delta, Echo, Romeo
  - b. Fox, Echo, Echo, Dog, Echo, Roger
  - c. Foxtrot, Echo, Echo, Delta, Echo, Romeo
  - d. Foxtrot, Eddy, Eddy, Dog, Eddy, Romeo
2. If a packet TNC is connected to a transceiver, what needs to be checked?
  - a. The plug is the correct type
  - b. The PTT operates correctly
  - c. The transmitted audio level is correct and the PTT operates correctly
  - d. The correct sideband has been selected on the TNC and the transceiver
3. Why should one of the people taking part in antenna erection be an adult?
  - a. Heavy items cannot be lifted easily by a child
  - b. An adult is taller and can reach higher up
  - c. It is better to blame an adult if something goes wrong
  - d. An adult is needed to supervise risky activities
4. The main power switch of an amateur station must
  - a. Only be available for use by the Licensee
  - b. Be easily accessible to everyone at the location
  - c. Use a single pole switch
  - d. Connect the mains to earth in an emergency
5. It is proving difficult to determine how an amateur transmission is interfering with a neighbour's television. The amateur could try seeking help from the
  - a. British Broadcasting Corporation
  - b. Radio Society of Great Britain
  - c. Planning department of the local council
  - d. Radio Licensing Centre
6. The Q-code for "I am busy" is
  - a. QRL
  - b. QRP.
  - c. QSB
  - d. QSL
7. An advantage of telephony over CW Morse is that it
  - a. Has a greater range than CW Morse
  - b. Permits a more personal contact
  - c. Is less affected by fading
  - d. Occupies a narrower channel in the spectrum
8. To receive QSL cards from the QSL bureau, it is necessary to
  - a. Send stamped self addressed envelopes to the sub-manager for your call sign series
  - b. Advise the distant amateur of your home address
  - c. Be a member of the RSGB
  - d. Add "/Q" to your call sign when operating on HF
9. A transformer CANNOT be used to
  - a. Produce a greater power output in the secondary winding than the power fed into the primary winding
  - b. Produce a different voltage across any of its secondary windings from that fed across the primary windings
  - c. Provide electrical isolation between the primary winding and the secondary winding or windings
  - d. Match the impedance of a load to the output impedance of a device that is used to power the load
10. The circuit shown is a crystal
 



  - a. Oscillator
  - b. Calibrator
  - c. Filter
  - d. Receiver

## Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club

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We're on the web!  
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### Information

The Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club was formed by Bob Glasgow GM4UYZ in 1984, to help the local amateurs get to know each other.

Numbers have increased steadily over the years and now average about 20.

Far from being just a local club we have members coming from the Borders, Dumfries, Strathclyde and Fife.

The Club meets on the first Friday of every month (Second Friday of January) in the lounge of the Thorntree Inn on the old Cockenzie High Street from 7pm till late.

The Club is run in a very informal way, there are no fees, no real committee structure, just a group of like minded people doing something they enjoy!

This does not mean that we don't do anything, we enter (and win!) contests, train newcomers, hold talks and video nights and run a popular annual Junk Sale. Our newsletter has won the Practical Wireless 'Spotlight' competition on several occasions.

The Club supports the British Heart Foundation in memory of a member who died from heart disease by donating the profits from events we hold, we have raised over £11,237 since 1994.

The Club is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain and holds the callsigns MM0CPS and GM2T which are used for our special event and contest entries.

We have our own internet domain [www.cpsarc.com](http://www.cpsarc.com) where you will find a popular web site which now features interactive discussion forums and photo galleries with a slide show. Club members can get their own 'callsign@cpsarc.com' email addresses.

The club also has a Yahoo! Group which is used to manage our mailing list. (see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpsarc>)

### Contacts

**General Correspondence,  
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