



May 2005 Volume XXXVIII Issue 5



This award was achieved through the efforts of the Staff and contributors.

Official Publication of the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron - A Unit of the United States Power Squadron ® District 23 Sail and Power

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General Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 3, 2005; 1900 Cocoa Civic Center 430 Delanoy Avenue Cocoa Village

Cocoa Beach Power Squadron welcomes Dennis Decker as the guest speaker for the May membership meeting. Mr. Decker is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Melbourne, Florida. He is a 1974 graduate of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and completed the US Air Force Meteorology Program at Texas A&M University.

Currently, Mr. Decker oversees the severe weather and hurricane warning and preparedness programs at the National Weather Service Melbourne office. He is the primary liaison between the National Weather Service and the news media and county government agencies in this area.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWALS ARE BEING MAILED OUT TO YOUR HOME THIS MONTH.

YOU ARE A VALUED MEMBER. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR POWER SQUADRON.

WE NEED YOU!

THE BRIDGE OFFICERS

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The Soundings

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boating stories and any articles of interest you'd like to submit...

At The Helm

Commander John Mulkey, P

Historically, squadrons have a large membership drop at their yearly dues time and then have membership gains over the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, the membership gains never quite make up for the membership losses. It is the same for all squadrons and that is why USPS membership is down from a high of 60,000 members to the current membership of 47,000.

At this time the dues renewal notices are being prepared by the USPS National Headquarters. You will receive your dues notice this month.

Please give serious consideration to the many benefits of membership. Education is the primary reason for the majority of the people who join in the first place. National has taken steps to update the courses and make them more relevant to our members.

There are other benefits that members receive. Among them are discounts on boat insurance, discounts on Dell computers, Maptec and Nobletec Software, and Boat US Memberships. The USPS web site has a list of membership benefits.

We also have the many social activities that are enjoyed by all members and their friends and families.

We value you as a member. Your knowledge, skill and help with events and activities are appreciated. If we have not scheduled the courses you want to take or haven't had the activities you would enjoy, **<u>PLEASE</u>** let me or another Bridge member know.

Serving on a committee, taking a class, proctoring a Boat Smart Class, becoming a Vessel Safety Examiner, helping with Co-op Charting, or just attending a social activity will increase your appreciation of membership.

Don't forget to mail in your dues ASAP!!

Commander John Mulkey, P

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT Lt/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN

Under clear skies and gentle breezes, CBPS had a successful two days at the CFW Flea Market at Harbortown Marina on April 9-10. P/C Larry Hatfield, SN, organized the volunteers. Eight members assisted with the set-up and take-down and fourteen members manned the booth. Over thirty individuals signed up to be called for the Boating Course. In addition, three individuals who have previously taken courses or been members of USPS indicated an interest in becoming active members of CBPS!

This was also the first event for the new display board that the Coco-Nauts purchased for the squadron. Three large panels feature professionally printed explanations about the educational opportunities of USPS and greatly enhanced the ability of the members to answer questions about our organization. Thank you Coco-Nauts!!!

Also on-hand throughout the two-day event were seven Vessel Safety Examiners under the direction of Lt. Charlie Dodds, SN. Over 30 inspections were completed on-site and numerous individuals arranged to be called for inspections at their homes. Considering the number of inspections for which a certificate could not be awarded, there are many boaters who can benefit from the expertise of the squadron examiners.

A special thank-you to the Citizens For Florida Waterways that organized this event and provided the booth space for the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron. This annual event has proven to be a great means by which the squadron reaches out to the boating community.

Upcoming for Vessel Safety Examiners is a two-day event at Kelly Park. On April 23-24 from 0900-1300 each day, examiners will be on hand at the park to inspect the smaller boats that utilize the ramp. Charlie Dodds will be organizing the schedule for this. When called, please agree to participate.

GEOCACHING: Lt. Bob Schaefer, P, chairman of Co-Op Charting would like to introduce more members to this exciting method of finding geodesic markers to report for the Co-Op Charting Program. Bob also promises to assist members in the process to report their findings via computer. With our squadron leading the District in Co-Op Charting points, this must be a fun and easy activity and more members are being encouraged to participate. Give Bob a call if you are interested in attending a training session, date and time to be determined.

SEO REPORT P/D/C Fred Adame, SN

Well, we now have another Boat Smart class in our wake and I must say this was one of the best Lt Peter Schmidt, P, chairman of our Local Board for Boating had things well organized long before we started with a very useful planning meeting a week prior to the first class. He had a regular proctor assigned to each table so that we had the same Cocoa Beach Power Squadron members checking homework, teaching marlinspike and making personal contact with the students each week.

On exam night, Lt/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN, briefed the students on the benefits of USPS membership after which they took the exam. With P/C Sue Kneeland, SN, and Lt Howard Bernnbaum, SN, handling the grading, the certificates were quickly ready to distribute to the students who were munching away on the goodies furnished by the Coco-Nauts under President Barbara Millner, S. All the while Lt Doris Valentine and others were busy recruiting new members. It was a smoothly running last night.

The final results: 38 students registered, 34 passed, 1 failed and 3 did not write the exam. This is a great retention rate. Of the students taking the exam, 14 achieved 100% and 9 achieved 98%. Those were some smart students, or was it the instruction? And by the way, we had some enjoyable, after class sessions at Steak and Shake. Join in the fun, next class.

In addition to those mentioned above, these members also helped with the class:

Joe Auchter, AP	Don Bryant, AP	Lt Bob Flanigan, SN
P/C Sam Greenwood, SN	Bill Quinn	1/Lt Bob Schaefer, P
Marilyn Schmidt	Lt/C Rick Schoonmaker, SN	P/R/C Dick Schnoor, SN
P/Lt/C Mike Stone, P	Lt Marian Sweigart, AP	Lt Doris Valentine
Lt Paul Whitney, AP	Steve Winter, P	

Please let me know if your name belongs on this list.

On the horizon...we hope to offer Cruise Planning this summer, taught by Bermuda cruise veteran, Lt John Lynn, P. Should be interesting. John will explain how to walk the plank. For the fall, we will offer two of the new GPS based courses: Piloting, taught by Lt Howard Bernbaum, SN, and Advanced Piloting under Lt Jim O'Malley, AP. Remember, you need to have taken both Seamanship and Piloting to enroll in Advanced Piloting.

And also coming this year: Instructor Development, led by Lt/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN. Learn how to make presentations to a group. Useful outside USPS.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS! Secretary's Report

Margit & Arthur Hansen **Dick & Penny Fille *** John & Merri Mulkey Marilyn & Bob Flanigan * Joan Montfort * George Link * **Rick & Sandy Schoonmaker Marion Sweigart** Pam & Randy Johnson Les & Evelyn Tribout **Dick & Jane Schnoor** Kay & Jack Wurst **Paul & Mary Ellen Whitney** Edward Hradesky **The Silver Tridents** Linda & Marty Feldes Ed & Helen Kydd Helen H. Yagerhofer Llovd McGavin J P & Donna Longway III

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As a Soundings sponsor you help defray the cost of publishing and mailing the Soundings.

CARE TO JOIN THEIR RANKS?

Please send a check earmarked "The Soundings" To Lt./C J P Longway III, S 2049 N. Sykes Creek Drive Merritt Island, FL 32953

Thanks for your continued support of *The Soundings!*

Secretary's Report Lt/C J P Longway III, S

After two months of functioning as the Squadron's Secretary, I have an overwhelming appreciation for the numerous responsibilies and various functions that comprise this position.

Thanks to my predecessors Lt/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN and Lt. Pamela Johnson, P, for providing much transitional assistance and their organizational files for my reference and guidance. I'd especially like to thank the many persons within the Secretary's organization who have volunteered and assumed responsibility for ensuring the timely creation, publication and distribution of The Soundings and the Membership Roster; those who maintain our supplies, the Squadron's website, annual historical records/photographs of events, and finally, the various advertisers who support The Soundings and auctions.

It is very evident to me that this is a team effort which includes the principals and their supporters and backups. They are the members who ensure that we continue to successfully achieve the objectives on behalf of the Squadron membership.

As a reminder, if you have any address, phone or email changes please let me know by emailing me at jpl3x@yahoo.com, or calling me at 449-9037, so we may update the USPS Data Base and local mailing lists and roster.

Stay tuned next month for a list of auction contributors and advertisers. We want to recognize and support these generous folks.





DISTRICT 23 SPRING PICNIC

Come and Enjoy a Day of Camaraderie Location – Grand Pavilion Sand Point Park, Titusville, Florida

WHEN? Saturday, May 14, 2005 1100 to 1600 Hours

COST: \$5.00 per adult \$2.50 per child, 6-10 years old

Send checks by May 8th, payable to 'District 23', to:

P/C Greig Lindner 6056 Barna Ave Titusville, FL 32780-7413 or payable at the door

District 23 provides:

Beer, Soft Drinks, Corn-on-the-Cobb, Condiments, Grill with charcoal fire or gas & cooking utensils, paper plates, napkins, etc.

'Jammin Joe and Son' will provide music!

Please bring your own entrée to grill & side-dish to share

Questions? Call Chairman Greg Lindner @ 321- 269-5718

Directions: Boat Captains: Titusville Municipal Marina, Mile Mkr 27 (1000 yards North of ax Brewer Memorial Pky Swing bridge).

By Auto: From I-95: Take Titusville Exit 220 (old Exit 80), go East on Garden Street 2.5 miles US 1. Go across US 1, about 1/2 mile, turn left into park the Pavilion.

From US 1 Go East on Garden St. (Max. Brewer Memorial Pky); go about ½ mile, turn left tween ball field and Yacht Club Building onto Gravel Road, ive through gate to the Grand Pavilion Area.







From the District 23 Bridge D/Lt/C Donald C. Clark, JN Administrative Officer

"A Closer Look"

Membership is a large concern of our organization at this time. With normal dues renewal notices being mailed on April 30 from the Headquarters and our district participating in the Anniversary Billing Test for the first time, we should take this time to examine our whole membership situation. At the squadron level we should look at the strategies that seem to work and pursue those things that might show the best success for renewals. We should set achievable numerical goals that show results of our best efforts. If we don't set goals, how do we know when we reach success? Our goal should be to renew every member and recruit at least 3% to 5% new members.

At the national level, there are many outstanding high energy programs and ideas to maintain interest of the membership at squadron level. National Meetings and the Governing Board Meetings are places where these programs are showcased. The dilemma is that most of the members don't attend these events and don't get the energy. Similarly, at District the enthusiasm and efforts of the instructors and presenters are not realized by most of the members because so many are not there. The activities of the district are an opportunity to be restored and to gain new enthusiasm for why we joined. Every time I go to a conference, I "get my battery charged" and renew my enthusiasm for USPS. The same is certainly true at the squadron level at the membership meetings. This brings us to "involvement" which, as I see it, is what each member must do. "Come out and get your battery charged".

Members are not without responsibility. Each member must also set goals and possibly make a calendar of what things they can attend and participate in during the year. The recognition that we have a diverse membership with a wide variety of interest is the reason USPS has such a wide variety of programs. Everyone should find an area of interest and make a contribution in that area. Just being there is important.

Members with computer access to the web should call up <u>www.usps.org</u> and keep in touch with the large amount of information that is available. The national membership committee home page, for instance, is a great place to start. **In addition to your squadron newsletters,** which are all very good, there are also newsletters and mailing lists at national, such as **PSML, PRO, One, VSC-1, Inside USPS,** and dozens of others. For those without computers, the telephone is still there to communicate what is going on locally. Remember many of our members don't have computers and we can't leave this segment out. Check your roster and give a friend a phone call. I encourage our members to involve your selves in sending and getting information by what ever means available .

Our **district** activities this year which I encourage you to attend are: The Annual Picnic at Sand Point Park in Titusville on **14 May 2005**. The D 23 Fall Conference at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn on **30 September through 2 October** and the D 23 Fall Cruise and Rendezvous at Hickory Point State Park on Lake Harris in Lake County on **23 October 2005**. These events are a good opportunity to meet good people outside of your own squadron and be a real member of the D 23 team. **Take a closer look**.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT Lt./C Ann McCandless, S

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our membership for their patience and cooperation in helping adjust to our new meeting place. Larry Burleson is commended for his willingness to get our meeting room set up for our particular needs. And the Quinns continue to do an outstanding job in providing our refreshments. THANKS!!

DON"T FORGET!!!!!! The District 23 Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 14, in Titusville. This picnic has become an annual event enjoyed by all and has always been well attended by our squadron. The picnic is open to ALL members and is a great time for new members to become acquainted with the other squadrons of our district. The food is delicious and the fellowship enjoyable. Lets continue our tradition of making this a great time!! For more details see enclosed flyer in the Soundings and/or contact Ann McCandless.

And join us for a great Boating Weekend, Saturday, April 30 and Sunday May 1. See Soundings for details and/or call Jack Wurst or Duane Balkema.



Welcome New Members

Due to space constraints in previous Soundings, some new members have not been recognized. We welcome you to the Squadron!

The names of new members have been added to the new Membership Roster which was recently distributed by mail.

One new member who did not make the Membership Roster is:

Mark S. Gregory 271 Prince William Court Satellite Beach, FL 32937 email: markgregory2003@yahoo.com Phone: 321-960-1228

Welcome aboard, Mark!

COCOA BEACH POWER SQUADRON SCHEDULE OF BOATING EVENTS—2005

(a repeat from last month's Soundings - IMPORTANT STUFF!!!!)

Squadron members, following is the Schedule of Boating Events. It is not cast in Stone. You are welcome to contact the Boating Chairman, Duane Balkema, 452-5892, or members, Jack and Kay Wurst, Stan & Greenwood, Rick & Sandy Schoonmaker, or the Bridge if you have suggestions or comments.

By getting the schedule out early, we want to enlist the membership to participate in the activity as well as to volunteer to be a Contact/Coordinator. As you will note, we list two events needing volunteers. Trailer boaters, and there are many in the Squadron, can make a very nice day of "the St. Johns River Cruise" by trailing to Astor, launching, and cruising north to the first Springs for a day of snorkeling. We also show a volunteer slot open for the Cruise to Marker 21. Many in the past have attended this affair on a day run only and other for an overnight. Were you to Volunteer, we would assist you in every way.

If any of these events fit your interests, please call the Contact/Coordinator and advise early on of your interest, and maybe we can gain large attendance. Banana River Power Squadron and Titusville Squadron members, you are invited to join in.

2005 Boating Activity Schedule for Cocoa Beach Power Squadron

ACTIVITY	DATE	CONTACT/COORDINATOR	PHONE #
Cruise to Titusville & Raft-up (Spoil Isl. South of Titusville	April 30/May 1	Jack & Kay Wurst	259-6431
Swing Bridge			
Blessing of the Fleet off Lee Wenner Park in Cocoa 11am (picnic follows)	May 21	John Mulkey/Duane Balkema	452-5892
Poker Run on Banana River 12:30 at 520 Bridge - 4:30 PM	June 11	Duane Balkema	452-5892
Fourth of July Raft-up off Lee Wenner Park In Cocoa 6 - 9PM	July 4/5	Rick & Sandy Schoonmaker	453-8130
St. Johns River Cruise to Springs, starting from Astor	August 27	Need a volunteer w/Trailer Boat	452-5892
Palm Coast/Labor Day 3 day trip (Cruise on N following weekend	September 3/4/5	Dick Fille	868-1883
Cruise to Melbourne Harbor for Weekend at Docks	September 17/18	John Lynn	537-8438
Halloween on Water Ski Island & Overnight if desired	October 29/30	Stan & Jan Greenwood	254-2449
Cruise to Marker 21 & Overnight (near Grant)	November 5/6	Need a volunteer	452-5892

COCOA BEACH POWER SQUADRON CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

MAY:

●

- 03-Tuesday; 1900; General Meeting, Cocoa Civic Center
- 11- Wednesday; 1130; Coco-Nauts Lunch Meeting, Red Lobster on 520 in MI
- 19-Thursday; 0900-1100; Blood Bank, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island
- 21- Saturday; 1100-1500; Blessing of the Fleet, Lee Wenner Park
- 24– Tuesday; 1830-2030; Exec. Board Mtg; Merritt Island Library, N. Courtenay

JUNE:

- 07-Tuesday; 1900; General Meeting, Cocoa Civic Center
- 08-Wednesday; 11:30; Coco-Nauts Lunch Meeting, Salad Luncheon, MI Moose
- 11-Saturday; 1230-1630; Poker Run on Banana River, 520 Bridge
- 16-Thursday, 0900-1100: Blood Bank, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island
- 28-Tuesday; 1830-2030, Exec. Board Mtg; Merritt Island Library, N. Courtenay

CBPS members are invited to meet and eat each Wednesday at 1130 at the Cozy
Corner Café at 2425 N. Courtenay Pkwy. Breakfast and light lunches are available.

Members are also invited to meet for a casual get together at Murdock's in Cocoa
Village on Friday afternoons.



Boating Activities P/C Duane Balkema

Our "Blessing of the Fleet" event is scheduled for 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 21st just out in Indian River from Lee Wenner Park at the base of the Hwy 520 Bridge, Cocoa side. We want you all to participate. It is a fun event. And you will feel rewarded.

For those who have not attended in the past, it is easy as I will explain. Have your boat in the water, just South of the Indian River HWY 520 Bridge by 10:30 AM. You can launch if trailering, at Lee Wenner Park, right there. Be near center channel and watch the other boats. Listen to VHF 69, if you have a radio, but it is not required. Idle in the area and follow the boats as they circle up. Being up front is no advantage at all.

At 11:00 sharp, the circle of boats will be lead past the **"Blessing Boat"** which is anchored. As you pass, state on the VHF or shout, the boat's name, the Boat Captain, and mates. The "Blessing" is given over the **VHF Channel 69**, and the intention is that this insures safe return every time throughout the year. This is a very old custom insuring safety. Balkema at 452-5892 has all the info. This event lasts 2 hours and a Picnic on land at the park is planned beyond that. If no boat, hitch up a ride or view from the park and bring your hand held VHF and hear the Blessing message from shore.

Saturday, June 11th, is the Poker Run, in Banana River, near the HWY 520 Bridge. This is another fun event for all the family. It requires collecting a 5 card hand from boats and docks via instructions given and whomever gets the best hand wins a prize. Speed is not important at all. Balkema at 452-5892 has all the info. The event lasts 3 to 4 hours.

July 4th is the Raftup on the Indian River at Lee Wenner Park to watch the Cocoa Fireworks display. Some will overnight, others not. Schoonmakers at 453-8130 have all the info.

I am getting requests for a "Cross Florida Trip" and also for "St Johns River Cruise". Call me if interested. Requests are from smaller boat owners, but all can participate. Balkema at 452-5892. Members McConkeys & Stones are cruising the St Johns, having a great time, as I write this entry.



Coco-Nauts' Corner Lt. Barbara Millner, S, President

Our April meeting was a brown bag lunch with Ruth Wilburn from the Florida Blood Bank speaking to us about Blood Donation in Brevard. Ruth is an enthusiastic speaker who is dedicated to her job. She reminded us that all blood donated with them is used in Brevard County. Edie Wonnell is our Squadron blood bank chairman this year. If you are able to donate, please give Edie a call at 453-7719.

At the April meeting we collected items to put together a "Care" package to send to Rick and Sandy Schoonmakers' son and to Marian Sweigart's grandson who are serving in Iraq. We'd like to thank all the Coco-Nauts who helped with this project. We collected QUITE a large pile of goodies to send. We know two guys who are going to be **popular** with their buddies! If you wanted to include something and were unable to be at this month's meeting, please bring your contribution to the next Power Squadron meeting, as that's the cut-off date.

Our Membership Chairman, Marilyn Flanigan, had one member to install at our April meeting. Congratulations to Betty Auchter! We're so pleased to have you with us.

On March 23rd the Coco-Nauts served refreshments to the Boat Smart Class while the students waited for their test results. Thank you to Janet Bryant, Jan Greenwood, Pam Johnson, Genevieve Link, Barbara Millner, Denise Stone, and Marian Sweigart for signing up to take brownies and cookies and to Doris Valentine for bringing in the sodas.

The May 11th meeting will be at the Merritt Island Red Lobster, and we will order from the menu. Julie Torpy from the Sheriff's Department will speak to us concerning the timely topic of Identity Theft.

Reminder—as you travel over the summer, please collect the sample size personal items from motels. The Women's Abuse Center is still in need of items such as shampoo, lotions, toothbrushes, combs, deodorant, etc. If you will bring them to our meetings, I'll make sure they get to the center.

Coco-Nauts with May birthdays:

7th—Maggie Woeber 7th—Jan Greenwood 11th—Susan Lynn 12th—Michelle Anderson 14th—Edie Wonnell 16th—Mary Klock 17th—Claudia Gunner 24th—Terry LeBlanc 31st—Judy Hutcherson

Happy Birthday, Ladies!



RADIO READINESS Jack Wurst, P

VHF marine radio manufacturers are adding useful features that take new models beyond just voice communications. Scanning of several channels of your choice is available in just about every radio nowadays. Many also include, or offer as an accessory, microphones, both wired and wireless, that incorporate controls which duplicate the controls on the base unit. Some are able to receive severe weather alerts from the national weather service. And what boater has not been able to make a call and instead been forced to listen to all the conversation on another boat because its transmit button is stuck? The solution to this problem is a timeout in the transmit circuitry, available on some new models.

But most important from a safety standpoint is a feature designed to automatically send out a distress call which includes an identifier of your boat and its location. All new VHF radios are required by the FCC to include Digital Selective Calling (DSC). This feature is required to implement the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). A red button with a guard to prevent accidental activation identifies these radios.

To make this feature work, you must take two important steps. First, obtain an MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity) number. If you will not be traveling in international waters, the easiest way to get a number is from the BoatUS website (<u>www.boatus.com/mmsi</u>). This will put you in the Coast Guard database. **Important:** without this number in your radio, no automatic mayday call will be sent out! The second step is to connect your GPS to the radio. Now, when activated, your radio will transmit your lat/lon and the identifier uniquely assigned to your boat. While the Coast Guard is not yet fully functional with the new equipment, it is gradually activating receiving sites to pinpoint the location of the distress signal, planning for full implementation along the East coast by next year. Other DSC-equipped radios in the reception area will also pick up your transmission and may aid in the search and rescue.

Advantages of this new system are significant: an inexperienced user can send a goof-proof continuous distress message, even if the captain is incapacitated; and the press of one button sends a signal which identifies both the vessel and its location.

Much more information is available at the website above, at <u>www.uscg.mil/</u> <u>rescue21</u>, through a Google search using keyword "mmsi numbers" and in the March 2005 issue of <u>Soundings Magazine.</u>

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SAFETY ARTICLE P/R/C Jane Schnoor, SN (previous Safety Chairman)

Note from editor: This article was inadvertently omitted from the two previous Soundings. It is especially timely today with the coming of summer boating and young boaters. My apologies, Jane!

An article in the January 2005 issue of Boat US once again addresses the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning. It seems that some young people have taken to "teak surfing" in which the kids hang on to the swim platforms on boats and surf in the wake. This is very dangerous on two counts.

First, they are dangerously close to the propeller and second, the carbon monoxide coming from the exhaust can be readily inhaled. There have been several deaths attributed to this "teak surfing". So don't let your kids or adult friends try this stunt. Vessel Safety members have Carbon Monoxide warning labels which you can affix to your boat. Ask him/her for one when you have your 2005 inspection.

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