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◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

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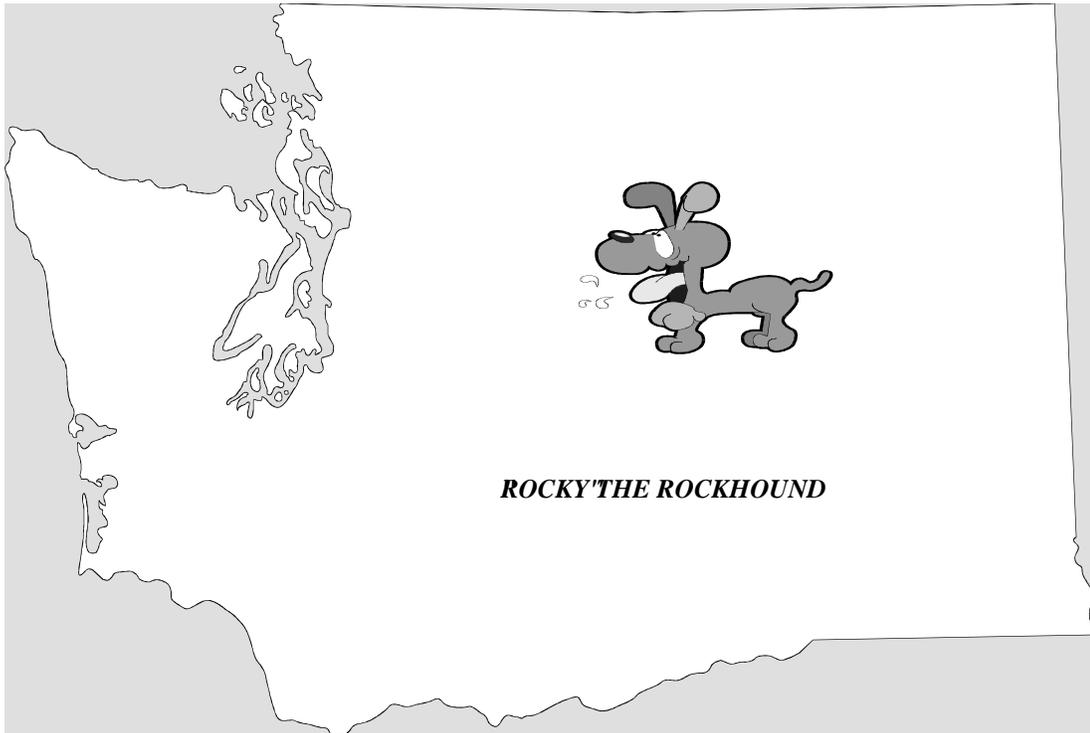
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**Official Publication of the  
Washington State Mineral Council**

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
2011 OFFICERS**

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Wagonmaster	open		

**The West Side Board meets the third Tuesday of each month between Quarterly meetings, unless a meeting is specially called. Usually no meeting in July and December dependent on Board action.**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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# Westside Board Meeting Minutes 08/16/11

Meeting was called to order by Brian Waters, Vice President

**Committee Reports:** The Treasurer reported that all was in order.

**Wagon Master:**

The July 23rd field trip to **Lolo Pass, MT** hosted by the Spokane Rock Rollers was attended by over 30 people, at least half of whom were from the Marysville Rock and Gem Club, and the other half from the Rock Rollers. Many people stayed at camping areas in the Lolo Springs, MT area for several days. The Saturday dig was extended for many onto Sunday as we all discovered that hunting for the smoky quartz crystal in this area was more an issue of luck and the number of holes you could dig over the 22 mile area, rather than finding the right type of dirt or layer of clay! Nonetheless, all participants came home with specimens, learned a great deal about the area, met new friends, and had a great time. Kudos to the Spokane Rock Rollers for putting together a great trip!

**August 6, 2011**, the Yakima Rock & Mineral Club hosted a trip for quartz crystal up at **Timberwolf Mtn**, west of Naches, WA. This was a new location for many of the almost 30 attendees that showed up, a large number of whom were from the west side, several not affiliated with any rock clubs. The location is easily reached by a well-graded road, and then hiking only a tenth of a mile from a level meadow area. The elevation is approximately 6000 feet, and the views are incredible. The site is not at the observation point on the mountain and is relatively new. Crystals are easily found within 6-18" from the surface as float or within compacted dirt banks/levels easily collect with three-prong hand tools. Because of the unique geological features of the area, Timberwolf quartz crystals should be closely examined for possible enhydros.

We didn't make it up to the observation point as it was mentioned that there was snow on the road, and I was too busy digging. I was told that if you do get up there though, that there is a good chance of spotting mountain goats. It was an excellent trip, both for the ease in locating specimens, but also in the weather, and the surrounding area; all in all, a great day. Our thanks to the Yakima club for sharing this wonderful location with us!

**Red Top - Accessibility** - As many of you may know, the road to the collecting area at Red Top, near Cle Elum was damaged a month ago or so after some severe rains. About 1/3 of the road collapsed over the side. It is currently passable in dry weather by regular sized vehicles. The washout occurred just before the large slide (see report for specific mileage). Be-

## September, 2011 Combined Board Meeting AGENDA

Pres. Opening of Meeting  
Treasurer's Report  
◊ Kathy Earnst  
Committee Reports  
◊ Wagonmaster  
Old Business  
New Business  
Open Comments  
Adjourn

### Tentative Meeting Calendar for 2011

West side board meetings:  
1/18, 2/15, 4/19, 6/21, 10/18

At 7:30PM at the  
Maplewood Clubhouse  
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds

General meetings :  
3/26, 5/7, 9/24, 11/5

All general meetings will be held at:

Palace Café  
4th & Main  
Ellensburg  
Meeting @ 9:30 AM

cause of this, the single pit toilet at the parking area above is not being maintained as the maintenance truck is not able to get by. It is open, but is not being serviced. The entire road has suffered considerably this last winter and there has been no improvements made, so go slow and easy and expect the unexpected if you are traveling in a regular car or van. Two-wheel drive vehicles can still make it but very low clearance vehicles are NOT recommended.

**Wasco, OR - Picture Jasper** (Sept 24-25): Reservations are now being taken for this trip and are still available. Please contact Brian Waters at (206) 290-2312 or [bwaters-s2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bwaters-s2000@yahoo.com).

**Buchanan, OR Thunderegg Beds Dig** - We have been informed by Tim Fisher that for the first time in decades, public access to the Buchanan thunderegg beds will be made available Sept 16-19th, 2011. Price is \$0.50 per lb. Maps to other digging sites will also be made available by Fisher for the area. If you are interested, please contact Tim Fisher at [rockhound1@orerockon.com](mailto:rockhound1@orerockon.com) or (503) 631-8961.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

**Land Use Special Committee** - Brian Waters reported that he was contacted by the Deputy Chief, Field Operations, Law Enforcement, Fish & Wildlife Division, Mr. Mike Cenci. Mr. Cenci indicated that he was aware that there were issues of concern between rockhounds and the Fish & Wildlife Department. He expressed his sincere desire to work with the Council to alleviate these concerns. He also asked for our input in identifying the specific areas of Fish & Wildlife territory that are of interest to rockhounds where collecting could perhaps be legally covered by a yearly, easily obtainable permit. After further discussion, the council proposed the areas of Happy Hill (Okanogan), Whiskey Dick (Kittitas), and the east end of Saddle Mtn with possibly others to be identified and discussed at the next regional meeting in September.

**Historian:** Bob Pattie has successfully undergone surgery to remove the cancerous tumors and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment. I am sure he does and will appreciate all cards and warm wishes for his speedy recovery!

**Old Business:**

The Darrington Rock Show had a successful turnout considering it was the first year. Attendance was over 150. All amateur vendors indicated that they wanted to do it again next year and considered it a valuable learning experience. The rough rocks sales went particularly well.

**New Business:**

**BLM Public Workshops:** Members of the Council attended a variety of public workshops over on the eastside sponsored by the BLM regarding their new Resource Management Plan. At some expense and inconvenience to each of our member volunteers, they attended meeting in Okanogan, Wenatchee, Yakima, Pasco, and Davenport. In each case, the intent was to make the BLM aware of rockhounds and their concern in recreation matters relating to BLM lands and regulations. Council members related that rockhounds want existing roads to remain open and passable, dispersed camping be allowed, and in the case of Saddle Mtn, that the toilet that the Council originally built on-site (and that some unknown person bulldozed down) many years ago - be rebuilt by the BLM.

The members attending the meeting concerning the area of Saddle Mtn were also told that if wind towers were to be built on BLM land in the area, that all gates to the area will be accessible, and while there may be a buffer zone around each tower, the construction area will remain open to the public except perhaps during active construction.

**Walker Valley & the Discover Pass:** The Department of Natural Resources has been in communication with the Mineral Council regarding our lease at Walker Valley and the advent of the new Discover Pass. There has been some discussion regarding how and what to do about member and non-member rockhounds utilizing the site and identifying same as regards

the requirements of the pass and so on. This matter will be further discussed and then voted upon at the regional meeting in September.

A final matter of note was that nominations will be entertained for the 2012 Council elections at the September regional meeting; voting will be done at the November regional meeting. All member clubs and rockhounds are invited to attend. Meeting was adjourned.

Christina Morrissey  
Secretary

### Racehorse Landslide fossil fields access update

Since completion of logging adjacent to the Racehorse Creek fossil fields (Chuckanut Formation), the road has been blocked off about 100 yards below the trail- a tad less driving, a tad more walking. There are big berms built across the access road, but you can walk around them on the right, through the bushes. See the updated webpage here:

<http://nwgeology.wordpress.com/the-fieldtrips/the-chuckanut-formation/the-racehorse-landslide-fossil-fields/>

I've highlighted changes in red.

The big Doug fir at the end of the trail has died a slow death, smothered in the 2009 landslide debris, but it still makes for a good landmark to find the trail back out. The landslide is rapidly getting overgrown with fireweed and the like, but there are still plenty of fossils to be found. Today, I met a group of students from Harvard College geology department there, on their summer field course. All the way from Harvard to see our fossils. Imagine that. They found the place by stumbling across this website on the internet. Ain't that somethin'?

If you go, consider taking some garden pruners to help keep the trail open. I brushed the trail today, but it can always use a little help.

from NW Geology Field Trips

(<http://nwgeology.wordpress.com>)

### No Garnet Hunting in August up in Darrington area Another road washout

Garnet hunters were disappointed in July when a road wash-out foiled plans to collect at Lake Wenatchee. Now it has been determined that there will also be no garnets collected this Au-

(Continued on page 7)

**FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011***Locations and times subject to change*

The WSMC sponsors field trips through the Wagonmasters. These trips offer the rockhound the opportunity to collect a wide variety of materials from agate and jasper to crystals and fossils. Experienced guides familiar with the sites are on hand to help the novice collector find good quality material. Check with the local clubs in your area for further information.

**AREAS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO COLLECTING: LUCAS CREEK, ADA, DIATOM PITS (FRENCHMAN HILLS)****Walk-in only: Green Mountain (Kalama) and First Creek.**

Check out the trip info, and tool listing at [mineralcouncil.org](http://mineralcouncil.org).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Meet</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Tools</b>
2/19	Msvl	Cedar Ponds	9:00 @ Monroe, WA Jack 'n Box	Red & Yellow Jasper	Dig & light hard rock
3/26	Ellb	Saddle Mtn	9:00 @ Mattawa, WA-Harvest Foods	Petr. wood & common opal	Light & dig tools
4/09	WSMC	Racehorse Crk	9:00 @ Nugent's Corner, E of Bellingham	Fossils; Morel mushrooms	Dig, light, & split tools
4/16-17	Pow	Saddle Mtn	8:00 @ Boat launch: S. Mattawa	Petr. Wood	Light hard rock & dig tools
5/21-22	CMS	Wasco, OR	8:00 @ Goldendale, WA China Hollow	Picture Jasper	<b>Trip is Full, adults only</b>
5/27-30	Tri-Fed	Central Oregon	TBD Prineville, Hampton Butte	Petr. wood, agate, limbcasts	Contact Federation Representative
6/11	Spkn	Emerald Crk, ID	8:00 @ Emerald Creek Parking Area	Star Garnets	Old clothes, Ziploc bag/\$fee dig
6/29-7/3	Pow	Madras, OR	8:00 @ Jefferson Fair Grounds	Agate, jasper, wood, T-Eggs	Dig & light tool
7/16	MtBk	Lk Wenatchee	9:00 @ Coles Corner Gas Sta.	Garnet, actinolite, talc	Screen, wood saw, dig tools
7/23-24	Spkn	Lolo Pass, ID	8:00 @ Lolo Pass Visitor Ctr, Hwy 12	Smoky Quartz Crystals	Shovel & pick (lots of digging)
8/6	Yak	Timberwolf Mtn	9:00 @ Ace Hardware, Naches, WA	Quartz Crystals w/inclusions	Shovel, pick, rock hammer
8/20-21	Pvgn	Greenwater	9:00 @ Enumclaw Rngr Station	Agate, jasper	Dig & light hard rock
8/27	Ed L.	Jade Claim	<b>Canceled</b>		
9/10-11	Pow	Red Top	8:00 @ W Frk Teanaway Camp	Geodes, Agate, jade	Dig & light hard rock
9/17	Pvgn	Little Naches	9:00 @ Enumclaw Rngr Station	Thunder eggs	Dig & light hard rock
9/24-25	Msvl	Wasco, OR	8:00 @ Goldendale, WA China Hollow	Pic Jasper	<b>Registr. Opens 7/15/11 \$25 deposit*</b>
10/1	Spkn	Red Marble Quarry	9:00 @ Chewelah Safeway	Magnesite, Barite Minerals	Container, and rock hammer
10/29	Msvl	Miller Rvr	9:00 @ Hwy 2 Skykomish, WA	Picture Jasper	Rock Hammer & Container
11/5	MtBk	Blanchard Hill	9:00 @ I-5 exit 240 gas mart	Stilpnomelane in Quartz	Hard rock tools

(\* Deposit must be received no later than 30 days before trip date to reserve spot; deposit partially refundable: \$15; \$10 to go to cost of portapotty. Adults only. No Pets Please)

**ALWAYS CALL TO CONFIRM TRIPS—SEE BELOW**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
CMS, WSMC	Cascade Mineralogical Society	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312	bwaterss2011@gmail.com
Ed L		Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282	wsmced@hotmail.com
Ellb	Ellensburg Rock Club	Dave Master (509) 925-3827	
Msvl	Marysville Rock Club	Christina Morrissey (425) 398-1300	cmvw@frontier.com
Msvl-Wasco trip		Stu & Kathy Earnst (360) 856-0588	earnstkk@comcast.net
MtBk	Mt Baker Rock Club	Kris Menger (360) 366-0576	<a href="mailto:kmenger@comcast.net">kmenger@comcast.net</a>
POW Wow Club	All Rockhounds Club	Cliff Matteson (253)475-8433	<a href="mailto:cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com">cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com</a>
Pvgn	Puyallup Rock Club	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238	
Spkn	Rock Rollers of Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 244-8542	<a href="mailto:mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com">mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com</a>
WSea	West Seattle Rock Club	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312	bwaterss2011@gmail.com
Yak	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	Jerry Wichstrom (509) 653-2787	

Trips are open to all. Most 2 day trips include Sat. potluck, horse shoes, tail-gating & swap. Sun. free breakfast. A small fee is required for Pow Wow and Madras trips. For more information contact Ed Lehman at [wsmced@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmced@hotmail.com) (425)334-6282 or [mineralcouncil.org](http://mineralcouncil.org)

## Local Area Shows for 2011

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
September 2011 10th 10am - 5pm 11th 10am - 5pm	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society	41st Annual Gem and Mineral Show	Walla Walla Co. Fairgrounds Community Center 9th St. Orchard Walla Walla, WA
September 2011 17th 10am - 5pm 18th 10am - 4pm	Richmond Gem and Mineral Society	51st Annual Show	7700 Minoru Gate Richmond, BC
September 2011 17th 10am - 6pm 18th 10am - 4pm	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	46th Annual Show	Castle Rock fairgrounds Castle Rock, WA
September 2011 23rd 10am - 6pm 24th 10am - 6pm 25th 10am - 5pm	Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show	30th Annual Show "A Rock Revival" NFMS Annual Con- vention	Hillsboro Fair Complex (across from Hillsboro Airport) Hillsboro, OR
September 2011 24th 10am - 6pm 25th 10am - 5pm	Hellgate Mineral Society	17th Annual "Amber"	Ruby's Inn and Convention Center 4825 N Reserve St Missoula, MT
October 2011 8th 10am - 5pm 9th 10am - 5pm	Marysville Rock & Gem club	36th Annual Rocktoberfest	Totem Junior High School 7th and State St, Marysville
October 2011 15th 5pm - 11pm 16th 8am - 11pm 17th 8am - noon	PNW Friends of Mineralogy	Annual Mineralogy Symposium and Mineral show Minerals of Mexico	Kelso Red Lion Hotel 510 Kelso Dr Kelso, WA
October 2011 15th 10am - 6pm 16th 10am - 5pm	Hells Canyon Gem Club	45th Annual Show "Rock R Us"	Nez Perce Co., Fair Grounds 1229 Burrell Ave. Lewiston, ID 83501
October 2011 22nd 9am - 6pm 23rd 10am - 5pm	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club	"Rock and Gem Heav- en in 2011" 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show	Clackamas County Fairgrounds Pavilion 694 NE. 4th Ave Canby, OR 97013
October 2011 22nd 10am - 5pm 23rd 10am - 5pm	Bellevue Rock Club	Octoberfest of Gems	Vasa Park 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE Bellevue, Washington 98009 (I-90 Exit 13)
November 2011 12th 9am - 5pm 13th 10am - 4pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Annual Fall Show	Maplewood Clubhouse 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, WA
November 2011 11th 10am - 5pm 12th 10am - 5pm 13th 10am - 4pm	NW Opal Association & Cascade Mineralogical Society	7th Annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral show	Expo Hall Puyallup Fairgrounds Meridian St S & 9th Ave SW Puyallup
November 2011 19th 10am - 5pm 20th 10am - 5pm	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society	Fall Festival of Gems	Kitsap County Fairgrounds President's Hal 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd. Bremerton, WA

*(Continued from page 4)*

gust in the Sauk River tributaries near Darrington. The main forest road (49) off Mountain Loop Hwy has been washed-out since winter and won't be repaired until the end of August or September, according to the Ranger's office in Darrington.

Garnet season is August 1-August 15th. It's been a very difficult year for rock collecting on both sides of the Cascades with road closures effecting many of our favorite sites and in some cases, no known repair dates. Let's hope that next year is a better one.

from Stone Age News, 08/11

**SAFETY NOTE – RABIES FROM ROCKS?**

Well, not technically from *rocks* – but a recent conversation with local veterinarian Dr. Robert Thompson revealed a risk of which many rockhounds may not be aware. If you enjoy exploring caves, old buildings and other dark locations for potential finds, you may need to protect yourself with more than a hard hat. You may be exposed to rabies, a deadly virus that is virtually untreatable once symptoms appear. Incubation after exposure can be anywhere from 10 days to 7 years, with the average being 3-7 weeks. The survival rate for rabies cases in humans is extremely low – less than 5%. However, most people respond to an immediate vaccination series if exposure is suspected. Avoiding treatment requires confirmation that the animal is not infected. This is why it's important to capture and test the suspect animal immediately following a bite. If that is not possible, victims are often given preventative treatment as a precaution.

Most people are aware that dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies. The reason for this is that they, too, are extremely susceptible to the virus. In our region, the main source of rabies is bats, and it can also be found in raccoons, skunks and other warm-blooded animals. Roughly ten percent of the bat population is infected. Contrary to popular belief, infection is not always the result of a bite. According to Dr. Thompson, the most common way it is transmitted to humans is through pets: a dog or cat finds a sick bat and plays with it or carries it home. Rabies is found in the body fluids of infected animals. Merely coming into contact with an infected animal that is alive or has recently died can transmit the virus because of saliva and body fluids on the fur of the bat. It may come as a surprise that it can also be an airborne contaminant. Therefore, explorers should be extremely cautious when entering caves or buildings, especially if

it seems wet or humid inside. The source of the moisture may be bat urine or feces, and carry with it a risk of rabies infection. Droplets are carried through the air when dust is stirred up or the animals are disturbed. Masks can be helpful, but even gloves offer little protection, especially if the wearer unknowingly touches infected material and then rubs their eye or wipes their brow. The risk is higher if there is any broken skin – something rockhounds frequently sport in the form of scrapes and scratches.

Dr. Thompson recommended that people who are at higher risk, such as those who explore caves, see their doctor and ask about rabies vaccination. He noted that the vaccine is readily available and is considered safe for most patients, as there is a low risk of reaction to the serum. Citizens can also order the vaccine through a local pharmacy or clinic and request the shots from a staff nurse. They are given in a series several days apart. One series of vaccinations may be sufficient during your lifetime. People at higher risk, such as veterinarians, have their blood tested periodically to check the titer, an indicator of antibodies to the virus. If you were vaccinated a long time ago, it might be best to check your level or have the shots again. If you have never been vaccinated, it is something to consider if you handle wild animals, go spelunking, or take your dog on countryside outings. It is important to note the Washington State Health Department does not advocate everyone getting vaccinated. Only people at risk should consider the value of vaccine.

from Petrified Digest 08/11

**SHOP HINTS . . . .** Do they work and are they safe? Who knows? I have not tried them.

**TEST FOR TOPAZ:** Quartz and Topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and are sometimes impossible when the Quartz is true topaz color. There is a big difference in price in the two and anyone describing quartz and topaz, however innocently, may well be in trouble. Topaz is quite a different mineral, which is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz, but will on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively with a cloth to remove all traces of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a small drop on it with a thin glass or metal rod. On stones with hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain as a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule of water.

from Carny Hound, 08/11, Petroglyphs 08/11, via Boulder Busters 5/11, via The Fort Lewis Rock Club News 1/01

**Attention: All Newsletter Subscribers**

**If you, or someone you know should be receiving this newsletter electronically and are not, please contact Bob Pattie or myself (Glenn Morita).**

**We are trying to keep our mailing list current and want to make sure that everyone who wants an electronic version of the newsletter gets one.**

**GPS Co-ordinates Needed**

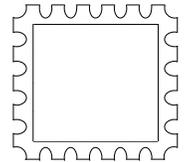
**The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips**

**The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.**

Combined Board Meeting  
September 24, 2011  
9:30 AM

Palace Café  
4th & Main  
Ellensburg

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The  
Washington State Mineral Council



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