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President's Waves

Our guests have left and the LePage household has finally closed the reservation book for the 2003-2004 season freeing us up for some serious diving. If only the weather would cooperate. Imagine how disappointed we were when the wind and waves caused the May local dive to be cancelled and the Bimini trip to be postponed.

A reminder that the Ocean Watch Foundation Reef Sweep is looking for volunteers. They need administrative help, divers and people to help clean the beach. Check out their web site at

www.oceanwatch.org for more information.

Larry Baum has a **local dive scheduled for June 5th**. Spaces are filling up fast so call and make sure you reserve a spot. USA divers are off to San Salvador in the Bahamas from June 19th to June 26th. Some of the same divers are heading to Tobago in July. We are going to make up for not being able to dive for most of May.

Some of you may be hearing from Roger Styles, our Membership Coordinator about dues being past due. You may have forgotten to send them. If that isn't the case, and you are giving up your membership, give me a call and let me know what we can do to entice you to come back. I welcome your input. For prospective members, Ray McAllister, our V-P of Programs, has amazing resources to get us the best programs, both informational and entertaining. Kim Whaley, our Social V-P is bursting with plans for fun activities. Give us a try.

See you at the meeting, Thursday, June 3rd. Social starts at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mary LePage
USA President for 2004

June Meeting Program: Manatees

The June program will be Dr. Ed Gerstein speaking on Manatees and perhaps other marine mammals. Ed has been researching manatees for 10 or 15 years and particularly the hearing of manatees. He hoped to find some sort of warning device to be put on boats which tell the manatee that danger is approaching. I am not sure what he finally found but I suggested a Helmholtz resonator, like blowing across the neck of a Pepsi bottle, incorporated into a boat hull as a short open tube in the bottom. This would tell the manatees a boat was approaching.

Ray McAllister
VP of Programs



Dinner before the club meeting

Please join your fellow USA friends for dinner on June 3rd at 6pm at:

Gianni's Italian Restaurant

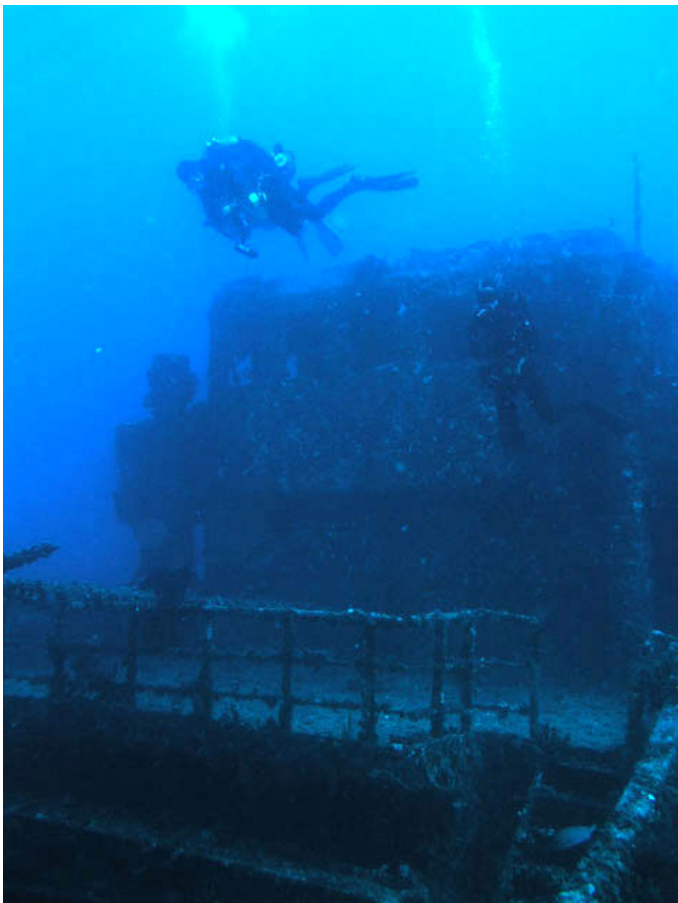
1601 E Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, FL

It is just a few short blocks east of Federal on the north side of the street. This wonderful restaurant is suggested by Jay Obeid one of our new club members. Please contact Jay at 954-658-0685 or 561-488-3556 if you have any questions. Please stay tuned for more exciting restaurants from our club members. Diane Johnston has suggested a wonderful place for July & Kurt Koehler is planning for our August dinner. If you have a suggestion for dinner before the meeting, please let me know.

Kim Whaley
VP Social

Local Diving

with Larry B



2004 LOCAL DIVE SUMMER SCHEDULE JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Saturday, **June 5**, Diversity
Saturday, **July 24**, Starfish
Enterprise
Saturday, **August 21**, American
Dream II

Well, there's a lot to talk about...

Given the unsettled conditions in mid-May we decided to cancel our May 15 dive with the Starfish

Enterprise. The Starfish is a great boat and true to their reputation was very understanding about our decision. As such, we have SCHEDULED OUR SATURDAY, JULY 24 dive back on the STARFISH.

Our NEXT Club dive is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th on the Sunstar Aquatic Services Island Hopper boat, DIVERSITY.

<http://www.thediversity.com> The Diversity is all about ease, comfort, and safety; a spacious 30 feet long craft carrying no more than 15 divers with a large dive platform, freshwater shower, and on board DAN oxygen system. Diversity touts easy access to 30 different reefs and 15 wrecks, all ranging from 20 feet to 130 feet, no more than 40 minutes (usually closer to 30 minutes) from their dock. The Diversity is easy to get to, <http://www.thediversity.com/divmap.GIF>, and offers parking right next to the boat (saving you the "blocks away" walk so prevalent with some dive operations these days). Karen Orsak and Captain Tony Coulter started Sunstar 15 years ago to provide a "no hassle and no over crowding" dive experience built around safety and enjoyment and they have always delivered. The Diversity -- boat, crew, comfort, safety, location -- is all top notch, and the June conditions should be perfect for those who waited for the warmer weather for their first local dive. The boat leaves at 8am on Saturday, so please plan on being there by **7:30** to load up. Cost is \$50 for a two tank dive, the standard \$20 for 2 bottles of air, if needed, and we can plan the profile -- to accommodate the maximum number of divers -- once on board. The \$50 includes crew tips and some treats, fresh pineapple, brownies, etc. As always, feel free to contact me -- email or phone -- with any questions and please let me know by May 28, one week before the dive, if you'll be joining us.

As indicated, the Saturday, July 24 dive is back with our friends at The Starfish Enterprise. Of course, with the exception of the date change, everything remains the same from my earlier post. We last dove with the Starfish almost a year ago and the crew, Linda,

Divemaster, and Larry (yes, another Larry) the Captain were one of the best crews we had last year. We cannot say enough good things about the entire operation. Their vessel is the Starfish Enterprise and it's a 34 foot Crusader decked out for comfort. The "Fish" (as all her dive fans call her) is certified to carry 22 divers, but they take no more than 16 which really limits that cattle boat feeling. The Fish really is a great boat with a wide beam, large dive platform, and center rail to stabilize movements up and down the boat. We'll plan on a wreck/reef dive profile. The Starfish has 3 great wrecks to chose from. The Bud which sits at 95', the Captain Tony at 85', and their newest wreck site, the Castor which sits at 110'. Of course, we can all decide once on board.

As many of you know, about a half mile offshore from the Starfish's Lantana dock lies the Third Reef System, some of the healthiest, most beautiful reefs in the world. Within a 30-40 minute boat ride from the dock we're at those great reefs known for their tropical fish, turtles, and even the occasional dolphin. The top of

the reefs are at about 45' dropping to 65' on the inside edge and 85' on the outside edge. Our morning 2 tank dive is \$50 (as always, that includes the tip and I'll bring some goodies for all of us to share) with air at \$10 a bottle, \$20 for the 2 dives. Boat leaves promptly at 8am so we'll all be there at **7:30** to load up.

Take a look at their site. If you've dove with them before you know how good they are. If not, I promise you a great time.

<http://www.idivestarfish.com> Please sign up as soon as you can--no later than July 16-- and, as always, let me know if I can answer any questions or provide directions. The Starfish is easy to get to. Lantana Road exit of I-95. East to Dixie Highway (US 1). Right on Dixie and a short ride to Ocean Avenue. East on Ocean Avenue towards the water. The Starfish is docked at the Tiki Bar behind the Old Key Lime House (talk about location, location, location) on the South side of the road. Phone is 561-212-2954. Look forward to seeing you there and for our traditional "after dive" lunch. I'll remind you about the dive as we get closer, but if you're interested, please sign up as early as possible. Late July should be PERFECT dive weather.

I have scheduled our Saturday, August 21 dive with a new (at least to me) dive operation that comes highly recommended, American Dream II. Take a look at their site (it all looks awfully impressive to me) and I'll follow up with more details as we get closer. <http://www.scubafortlauderdale.com/index.htm>

Larry Baum
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USA Overseas Dive Program 2004

We had our initial trip signup in January. Everybody who signed up by the deadline got a spot. Dry Tortugas is sold out. The other trips do have a few spots open. This year we are running a compressed signup schedule. Don't delay - please hurry up and ensure yourself an exiting vacation. Feel free to call me or the other trip leaders for additional information ... [Trip signup forms](#) can be downloaded from the web or you can get hardcopy forms at the meeting, or call us and we will be happy to send you one.

Bimini, Easy Goin': May 19-23
Riding Rock, San Salvador, June 19-26

Tobago, Wind Dancer, Peter Hughes, July 10-17
Bimini, Easy Goin': August 3-8
Dry Tortugas: September 9-13

Membership benefits: If you plan on doing your own trip with one of our major providers, please call me first so we can ensure that you get the best dive club-deal !!



BIMINI-LIVE-A-BOARD - Paradise Charters – Easy Goin’

August 3-8, 2004 (5 days)

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!!

We plan to go to Bimini **two times this summer**. This trip only holds 6-7 divers. It is on a 62' feet boat called Easy Goin'. This boat, and in particular its owners – Chuck and Peg – and crew –“JB” continues to receive excellent ratings, by fellow divers, see Rodale’s Scuba magazine and Undercurrent’s annual report. The boat leaves on Wednesday/ Tuesday night and travels to Bimini/Cat Cay area. We dive all day (Wednesday), Thursday to Saturday and Sunday morning, arriving home Sunday evening. The price includes meals, snacks, taxes (now \$75), tip, and is based on double occupancy and 6 divers (cheaper if we fill the boat ...). Boat is docked in the Bahia Mar area.

Nils Jacobsen
VP Overseas Diving.

Departs: Tuesday, August 3, 7:00pm

Returns: Sunday, August 8 - 2 Open Spots Left!

Package Includes: 5 nights on M/V Easy Goin' 5 days diving (~22 dives) Tanks & weights included

All meals, snacks, soft drinks And beer or wine with dinner

Price \$1255 Trip Leader: Nils Jacobsen 954-783-1667 or 954-723-4598

<http://www.paradisecharters.com>

<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/bimini>

SAN SALVADOR, BAHAMAS RIDING ROCK INN

June 19-26, 2004

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY... LAST CHANCE TO SIGN- UP FOR SAN SALVADOR.

Once again, our club will be experiencing a week of awesome diving very close to home. We will travel to Riding Rock Inn, the only dedication diving resort on the island.

We look forward to 100' visibility on steep walls. The 3 boats are modern V-hulled with twin cat diesels and large swim platforms. They have sun decks, camera work areas with fresh water rinse and seated tank holders. We leave the gear onboard for the week and the crew does all the work. We will be using the new neutrally buoyant 80 tanks. A modern dive center is on the complex. All meals and tips are included in the price. We fly over on a 15 passenger chartered plane leaving from Ft. Lauderdale.

For non-divers there is an interesting lighthouse, island tour, historical town, caves, plantation ruins, deserted beaches and bicycles, scooters or cars for rent. Fishing is also available.

The island of San Salvador is the exposed peak of a submerged mountain plunging 15,000 feet to the sea floor. It is just 12 miles long by 5 miles wide and is located 385 miles southeast of here in the Bahamas. The island has less than 1,000 inhabitants and is rimmed with a rocky shoreline and deserted white powdery sand beaches. 12 USAers will be taking a charter plane from Ft. Lauderdale to San Salvador Island for a week of diving, dining, and exploring the island where Columbus made his first landing in the new world. If you enjoy great wall diving and great visibility San Sal is for you. Most dives are wall dives with a shallow reef at the top for your safety stop. Visibility is 100 to 150 foot range and sea conditions are usually calm with no current. We will be staying at the Riding Rock Inn which is located on the ocean about 1 mile from Cockburn Town. Three meals a day and three dives a day with one night dive are included in the price. We have a choice of either ocean front deluxe rooms or poolside standard rooms. All are air conditioned with private bath, phone, and cable or satellite TV. The standard has one double bed and one single bed and the deluxe has a mini-refrigerator and either two double beds or one queen bed and a queen sofa bed.

We will be enjoying great food cooked American and Bahamian style with an accent on fresh fish. Special dietary requests are accommodated, but might not be needed as they offer a meat or fish dish or a buffet style meal.

Trip price includes; room, charter air fare from Ft. Lauderdale, airport transfers, meals (21) and 3 dives a day (18), island tour, night dive and maybe lunch on an out island. Coffee, tea and juice included with most meals along with a glass of wine with dinner. Not included is: US departure/ arrival taxes, Bahamian departure tax and beer, wine or sodas.

Deluxe room = \$1420 diver, \$1104 non diver
Standard room= \$1330 diver, \$ 1015 non diver

If you would like to get away and do some high quality diving at the lowest of prices in the Caribbean, see Steve at the May 6 club meeting or call him at home (954)-432-1960. E-mail kathiandsteve@aol.com

8 Persons Signed-Up: *Rita Balogh, Rick Brohammer, Linda Caldwell, Kay Chung, Chary Lynn, Kathi McCutcheon, Theresa Shaner and trip leader, Steve McCutcheon.*

www.ridingrock.com
<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/sansalvador>

Tobago On the Wave Dancer

July 10-17, 2004

Tobago offers the Caribbean 's most prolific and healthy reefs as well as mountainous volcanic underwater formations offering a kaleidoscope of color. From comfortable drop-offs teeming with life to ripping two-knot drift dives with huge marine life encounters, Tobago satisfies all levels of divers.

Tobago's nutrient-rich waters generally offer visibility of between 60 and 80 feet, excellent being sometimes 100 feet plus, but sometimes dropping to as little as 40 to 50 feet. What divers will find is some of the Caribbean 's healthiest reefs, huge sponges, the largest brain coral ever recorded in the Caribbean and an incredible variety of marine life – both big and small. In other words, divers should expect plenty of excitement! Manta rays, great hammerheads, schooling jacks and a myriad of reef fishes including barracudas, queen, grey and french angel fish, porcupine fish, wrasses, chromis, grouper, snapper, turtles, sting rays and what is arguably the Caribbean's most prolific and healthy coral.

Includes: Seven nights on board the Wind Dancer , all meals and beverages (including alcohol), airport transfers, (Tobago,), five ½ days of diving up to five dives per day, \$65 Tobago port charge and other standard Dancer Fleet services and amenities. Air Transportation on BIWI (estimated at \$515) and the boat crew's tip. NOTE: To get these Air rates we need to book as soon as possible.

Master Cabin (1 only) Queen bed on top deck : \$1,985
Deluxe cabin (full/twin) on lower deck : \$1,810

Persons Signed-Up: Mary LePage, Larry LePage, Roger Styles, Nancy Styles, Rick Brohammer, Rita Balogh

For more information call the trip leader Larry LePage at 954-917-3082 or e-mail at lplepage@comcast.net
<http://www.peterhughes.com/phwind/winddest.htm>
<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/tobago>

Dry Tortugas on the Playmate

September 9-13, Waiting List Only!

This trip is a hunting trip for lobsters and spear-fishing. The boat is 60 feet long with a twenty foot beam. Holds 10 passengers in four separate air conditioned staterooms, plus two bathrooms with showers. The fine cuisine is prepared to your approval using only the best cuts of meat, poultry, and fresh-caught seafood. Other amenities include: Sun deck, satellite TV/VCR/Stereo, water maker, DNAXNitrox, shaded back deck, cut out transom with platform, 2 electric onboard air compressors. Prices Include: 4 breakfasts 4 lunches 3 dinners snacks, water and lemonade. Bedding Tanks, weights All tips.

Prices are: \$1,100.00 Air, \$1,200.00 Nitrox, \$1,240.00 for tanks over 80 or own tanks.

We board the boat after 7:00pm on the night of September 9th. The boat leaves the docks while we sleep at 5:00am. We wake up to the smell of fresh coffee and are served a full hot breakfast. We start diving around 8:00am. We average 6 dives a days, diving on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday 3 dives, and returning to the docks on Monday the 13th around 3:00pm.

Trip Leader: *Ronnie Farr*

<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2004/tortugas>

Overseas Trip Payment Schedule

Trip	Trip Dates	Paid-In	Jun	Total
San Salvador (Deluxe, Diver)	June 19-26	1,156	264	\$1,420
San Salvador (Deluxe, Non-Diver)	June 19-26	904	200	\$1,104
San Salvador (Standard, Diver)	June 19-26	1,084	246	\$1,330
San Salvador (Standard, Non-Diver)	June 19-26	832	183	\$1,015
Tobago (Master)	July 10-17	1,608	377	\$1,985

Tobago (Standard)	July 10-17	1,468	342	\$1,810
Bimini, Paradise Charters	August 3-8	1,023	231	\$1,255
Dry Tortugas, Playmate (Nitrox)	Sept 9-13	980	220	\$1,200
Dry Tortugas, Playmate (Air)	Sept 9-13	900	200	\$1,100

Please make your June payment at the meeting or mail it to Chary Lynn no later than June 3rd.

The "Paid-In" column is the sum of the all current payments to date.

PLEASE mail your [trip signup forms](#) to:

Nils Jacobsen
4011 NE 24 Ave
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-8025
TGM349@email.mot.com

Mail All Payments To:

Chary Lynn
2160 NW 10th St
Delray Beach, FL 33445
cseaflower@aol.com

16th Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup

**Ocean Watch's 16th Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup
Saturday, June 12, 2004 from 9am - 1pm**

On Saturday, June 12, Ocean Watch Foundation will be having its 16th Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup. Great family activity for all ages. Already a South Florida tradition, local charter boats, private boaters and beach walkers will sweep our beaches and coral reefs clean from harmful garbage and debris. We are expecting over 800 beach lovers and coastal residents (but want many more) to pitch-in to preserve the natural beauty of the shores and reefs along Broward County.

Ocean Watch Foundation is a local 501(c)(3) volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of our local coral reef ecosystems through education, conservation, and beach and reef cleanups. Coral reefs are among the most fragile ecosystems on this planet and have existed for millions of years. In the tri-county area, coral reefs contribute over \$1 billion dollars annually to the economy and provide over 30,000 jobs in the area. What gets dropped on the beach as litter gets washed into the ocean harming the coral reefs and marine life? This is just one reason why it is important to help with beach cleanups, besides the aesthetic beauty and human health for beach goers. Over the years, Ocean Watch volunteers have collected some 20 tons of debris from our beaches and reefs. Imagine hauling that down to the curb or dumpster.

There are six sites throughout Broward County that volunteers can easily take part in by just showing up at the beach and lending a hand. Then there are also beach shore diving sites for SCUBA divers and private charter boats going out to the reefs. See location and dive boat operator information for more information. Note, for the dive boat charters there is a reduced fee for the dive excursion to divers. All other activities for the cleanup are free.

BEACH WALKERS :

- * North Beach Park (at Sheridan Street in Hollywood Beach)
- * Dania Pier (just North of Dania Beach Blvd in Dania Beach)
- * Birch State Park (across from Birch State Park A1A and Sunrise), Parking provided inside the park if street parking not available.
- * Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (at Commercial Blvd and El Mar Drive)
- * Pompano Beach Pier (just North of Atlantic Blvd in Pompano Beach)
- * Deerfield Beach (at Hillsboro Blvd in Deerfield Beach)

BEACH DIVERS:

- * Pompano Beach Pier (just North of Atlantic Blvd in Pompano Beach)
- * Deerfield Beach Pier (at Hillsboro Blvd in Deerfield Beach)

PRIVATE BOATERS:

Lighthouse Point (Fletcher Park 3035 NE 31st Avenue) Site for drop-off of collected trash only that you may have found in the waterways or on private dives.

CHARTER BOAT DIVES:

For divers interested in going to a reef cleanup, please call one of the following operators and let them know you are with Reef Sweep to obtain the discount. Also, be sure to get all details on where to meet the boat and what time.

American Dream II 954-577-0338

Diversion 954-430-3483

Diversity 561-368-9952

Dry Martini 954-963-0757

Fathoms O'Fun 954-942-7333

Fish Food 954-942-7333

Ibis 954-922-8134

Lady Go Diver 954-420-0009

Miss Conduct 954-698-6139

Pro Diver II 954-776-3483

Reef Roamer 954-524-2112

Tonto 954-788-9483

For more information visit: <http://www.oceanwatch.org/reefsweep.htm> or call 954-467-1366 and leave a voice mail.



All participants are invited to the **Reef Sweep Party** immediately after the cleanup 1:00 pm where awards will be given to the people who collected the most garbage, rope and monofilament. This lively party includes food, live entertainment, raffle and door prizes. Bring your children too. \$10 Non-volunteers, \$5 Event Volunteers, \$3 under 12.

Check out the party location, Baja Fort Lauderdale at the Fort Lauderdale Las Olas Riverfront Complex (300 SW 1st Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 Phone: 954-462-5604) and the live entertainment. Come out to the party and also visit the downtown area. There will be Soap Box Derby Races in the streets that day that you can watch. Also, we will be having discounted coupons for the Museum of Discovery and Science at the party. The museum is a very quick walk from the party and a home of the world's largest captive Atlantic coral reef. Perfect opportunity to see what lurks under the water offshore, if you are not a diver.

USA Calendar

- **June 3rd, Thursday**
6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Social
7:30pm - [General Meeting](#) - [Pompano Beach Civic Center](#)
- **June 5th, Saturday, Local Dive, Diversity**
- **June 10th, Thursday**
- 7:00pm - Board Meeting -
- **June 12th, [Ocean Watch Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup](#)**
- **June 19-26, [Riding Rock, San Salvador](#)**
- **July 1st, Thursday**
6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Social
7:30pm - [General Meeting](#) - [Pompano Beach Civic Center](#)
- **July 8th, Thursday**
- 7:00pm - Board Meeting -
- **July 10-17, [Tobago, Wind Dancer, Peter Hughes](#)**
- **July 24, Saturday, LOCAL DIVE, Starfish Enterprise**
- **August 3-8, Bimini, Easy Goin'**
- **August 14, Bon Festival, Morikami Gardens, Delray Beach**
- **August 21, Saturday, LOCAL DIVE, American Dream II**
- **Sept 9-13, Dry Tortugas, Playmate**

Contact Info

Under Sea Adventurers website: www.underseas.org
DAN website: www.diversalernetnetwork.org

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at
Pompano Beach Civic Center
1801 NE 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL
Social: 7:00 PM, Meeting: 7:30 PM

Board of Directors

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VP of Local Diving	Larry Baum	561-487-8112	murphybaum@aol.com
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Mini-Trip Coordinator	Ronnie Farr	954-783-1667	farr@planetautomotive.com
OS Dive Accountant	Chary Lynn	561-330-7490	cseaflower@aol.com
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Promotions Coordinator	(open)		
Safety Coordinator	Steve McCutcheon	954-432-1960	kathianandsteve@aol.com

Scrapbook (open)

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