



Member - National Association of Rocketry ("NAR").

### Special points of interest:

- DARS launch calendar is set.
- Check out THE PAYLOAD BAY to find new members.
- Learn about DARS history. Allen Wilcox is in THE CENTER OF PRESSURE.
- TARC activities increase as the deadline for qualifying launches draws closer.
- Find out about our February club meeting in Here's the "Meet" of it.

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## HEADS UP! Launch Dates

### DARS-hosted launch events scheduled after May 1:

- May 24-25—McGregor Field—The Jim Turner Memorial Launch and Tex-Regional 2003 Contest Launch

I encourage all members to come out for this launch to pay their respects to Jim and his family. Knowing how much he meant to all of the regular high power rocketeers, I'm betting they'll be flying their biggest and their best. And, to top it all off, the Texas State Champion will be decided based only upon flights at this contest event.

- June 14-15—McGregor Field—High Power Sport Launch
- July 12—Rockwall Field—LMR Sport Launch
- July 17-22—Windom Field—LDRS (not actually hosted by DARS, but it's the biggest launch anywhere!)
- August 30-31—Windom Field—NTHP Sport Launch
- September 27—Rockwall Field—LMR Sport Launch
- October 18-19—Windom—Shoot for the Stars Sport Launch
- November 8—Rockwall Field—Contest Launch
- November 22-23—Windom Field—High Power Sport Launch
- December 13—Rockwall Field—LMR Sport Launch

### DARS-hosted outreach events after May 1:

- May 10—Dallas Market Hall—DARS will have a booth at this humongous Scout show.
- May 17—Dallas Flag Pole Hill—Scout launch

Visit the DARS web site, [www.dars.org](http://www.dars.org), for more details about the scheduled launches and outreach events. FYI, model rocket pads are always available at scheduled launch events, even when specifically designated for high power. However, during competition events, contest flights will take precedence over sport model flights.

A rare K-motor drag race. Photo by Dan Stroud.



### THE PAYLOAD BAY

Several new members were added in January and February!



Estes Astron Constellation—1969

- Temple Lindsey & family: Betty Lindsey, Eric James Wat- tier, Steven Marshall Owens & Jeremy Michael Hernan- dez
- Sheng-Chang (Ryan) Lee
- Sam Grinnan
- John Smylie & family: Bill, Katelyn, Betty & Jake



Sarah Caitlin Reilly

Look them up at the next meeting and say hello.

My youngest daughter, Missy, brought a new rocketeer (I hope) into our family in February: Sarah Caitlin Reilly (see hospital photo, above right). Big grin!

### Richardson Outreach, January 26

George Sprague called me to ask if I could help out with a launch for 13 Girl Scouts from Richardson, Troop 1479. I always try to be there for George, since I know it is sometimes hard to get help. So, I said I would be there. They had already completed most of the construction of their rockets on the 22nd, so all we had to do was help them install their nose cones and streamers and launch rockets.



The Scouts were well prepared for the cold weather, as George instructs on proper installation of the nose cone. Photo by James Gartrell.

I went by George's on the 26th and we drove to Richardson from his place. When we pulled up at the school, it was overcast, cold, and winds about 10 to 15 mph; not the best day for a launch. No one had showed up yet, so we pitched in and got the launch equipment set up and ready for the flyers. The field was smaller than a football field, with the school on one side, trees and houses on two other sides, and the street on the other side. Not the best location, but we discussed the best position and angle for launching and determined we could get the A-motors up and bring them back on streamers without any problem. Everyone showed up as promised, bundled up from head to toe. It was cold!



Nicely built Wizards, ready to launch as the Scouts wait in anticipation. Photo by James Gartrell.

We gathered everyone together and started prepping rockets. The girls were very well behaved, so prepping went pretty fast. Soon, the pads were loaded and ready for launch. This was the first time any of them had launched rockets, so there were some really excited young Scouts when that first group took off. And it didn't stop there. Every rocket that took off was accompanied by lots of oohs and aahs and shouts of excitement. What a blast! Although we kept all the rockets in the field, several landed on the asphalt court behind where we were launching. So, we kept launching until there was only one flyable rocket left. The other girls tried to get her to send it up one more time, but she was having none of that. She left the field with one big grin on her face. All the girls left happy though, carrying home the motors from their first rocket launch. If you've never helped with one of George's outreach events, you are missing out on one of the most rewarding events our club sponsors.

## THE CENTER OF PRESSURE

Many of you may not have met or really know a lot about Allen Wilcox. So, Nettie Hunsicker thought it would be a good idea to put him in the CP. I had seen him around at a couple of meetings, but we never really met. He was at the March meeting, so I introduced myself afterwards to find out more about him.

Allen was one of the pioneers of rocketry, getting started in the early 60's when building and flying model rockets was a real challenge. He was really glad when they came out with the manufactured motors and says, "they were a whole lot more reliable and safer, too." It was after 1964 when he started building and flying the Estes, FSI, and Centuri stuff. He's very appreciative of the other things rocketry got him into as well, such as photography and electronics. Allen's pioneering nature also had a profound impact on our club.

Yes, Allen was one of the founding members of DARS, and one of its predecessor clubs, the Lancaster Association of Rocketry ("LAR"). He, Ed Bowringer and a few buddies from junior high school started LAR sometime in 1966 after Allen gave a talk about rocketry at the school. The club grew as folks would come by to watch them fly rockets or from reading flyers they put up in the hobby shops. Ed Bowringer was a "real politician" and was elected as the first President, and kept the club going after Allen went into the military in 1969. That was fine with Allen though, since he enjoyed the technical aspects of rocketry more than the politics. Allen didn't get out of the military until 1973, but while on leave (military lingo for vacation) from the military in 1972 they and another club, the Grand Prairie Association of Rocketry, met and decided to merge the clubs to form DARS. All of the clubs had grown and included members from all over the Dallas area, hence the name Dallas Area Rocket Society. The emblem chosen for DARS was the original LAR emblem. Pretty cool stuff, huh? But there's so much more!

DARS held its first meeting at Bernie's Hobby House in Oak Cliff. DARS first newsletter, ASTROCOM, was published by Randal Victory who later moved to California. I asked if LAR had a newsletter, but Allen said they only published a few bulletins. DARS members also used to wear matching outfits at events, orange jumpsuits ("sort of Dayglo Dickies," says Nettie) following the LAR tradition of blue jumpsuits. Imagine seeing a group of guys in Dayglo orange jumpsuits coming at you with a bunch of rockets. ;-) DARS' first lifetime member was Mr. Feldhaus, an obviously outstanding individual from what I hear, and Allen was the second. I could fill the entire newsletter with the wonderful history that developed over the more than 30 years of DARS history, but more about Allen.

Allen says he hasn't built any new rockets lately, especially now since he and his wife just moved into a new home they are trying to restore, but he still enjoys helping out by building launch equipment and other technical stuff. He doesn't fly much anymore either, since Fort Worth, where they live now, is a bit far from current DARS launch sites.

Well, that's a little bit of the then and now about Allen. It certainly was a pleasure meeting him, and I would like to express my thanks to him for helping to get it all started for us. If you see him around at one of the meetings, say hello.



Allen Wilcox at the March 1, 2003 DARS meeting. Photo by James Gartrell.

*"Allen was one of the founding members of DARS..."*

*"DARS members also used to wear matching outfits at events..."*



*“North Garland High used a very scientific and methodical approach to the TARC challenge...”*

## TARC Events

Wow! A whole lot of rocket flying going on. Just ask Buzz McDermott. A number of DARS members were working with Team America Rocketry Challenge teams to schedule and monitor launches for their qualifying flights before the deadline of March 18. Flights from the Rockwall field, of which I’m aware—there could have been more, were held on 3/8, 9, 14 & 16, and in Justin at a private ranch on the 15th. Buzz, George Sprague, Scott Shaw, Dave Schaefer, and myself were at various of these launches. Plus, Scott Shaw also provided solo assistance for the Frisco team launch at a private area in Frisco.

North Garland High used a very scientific and methodical approach to the TARC challenge; building and flying smaller test models to become familiar with the principles of rocketry, then studying all available info to come up with a design for their specific rocket, using RockSim to test their design with different motors in varying launch conditions, test flying single stage only, then final qualifying flight. I met with them early on to show them some of my rockets and discuss basic principles of rocketry with them. They took it from there.

Team members Sang Tsan and Khai Ho showed up with one of their teachers,

Jay Ingram, on 3/8 to test fly their model. It was a very exciting flight on a G-80, with the parachute deployed right at the top. The boys watched for a moment to see where the winds were carrying their rocket and then took off. They almost got to the rocket before it touched down about a 100 yards away. Buzz asked them if they wanted to try a qualifying flight, but they declined. “No,” Jay said, “I want them to follow through with their plan. Today’s goal was to have a successful launch with the first stage.”



Top photo: North Garland TARC team rocket takes off from the pad.

Lower photo: Khai Ho, Sang Tsan and Jay Ingram, ready to launch. Note the booster in Jay Ingrams’ hand. The booster wasn’t needed today. Photos by James Gartrell

Jay showed up again on the 16th with one of the other team members, Gebo. This time they were ready for that qualifying flight. The first flight was a G-80 to E-9. The winds were blowing about 10-15 mph, so they angled their rocket slightly with the wind on the launch pad. 5.4.3.2.1. Launch! The rocket lunged quickly from the pad and was immediately straightened up by the wind for a perfectly vertical flight. As the 2nd stage lit, the rocket arced into the wind to 1100 feet. Everyone let out a big cheer as the rocket successfully staged. It was super to hear all the cheers from competing schools who were also there, and throughout our involvement with the TARC teams, everyone exhibited the highest standards of sportsmanship.

*“It was super to hear all the cheers from competing schools...”*

*(Continued on page 5)*



*(Continued from page 4)*

Gebo and Jay were especially thrilled! It was a beautiful flight. Gebo ran to get the rocket, recovered it, and began to run back to the launch site. Everyone started yelling, "Don't run!" We were afraid he was going to trip in the rough terrain and damage the eggs. Upon return to the launch table, everyone had gathered around to see how the eggs had fared. Slowly, Gebo extracted the egg capsule from the payload bay and unwrapped the eggs. Buzz inspects the first one, then the second one. "Hey, guess what." Buzz says. "You have a very nice qualified flight." But, Gebo wasn't done. He could still make another qualified flight to try for more altitude.

After discussions with Buzz and Dave Schaefer about what might be the best approach to gaining additional altitude, Gebo decided to use an F-20 in the 2nd stage. Luckily, I had a package of them in my range box. It wasn't long before Gebo had the rocket prepped and ready to fly again. The 2nd flight was even more perfect than the 1st flight. With the higher power of the F-20, the rocket didn't arc into the wind as much as it did before and reached greater altitude. As Gebo brought the rocket back to the launch table, Buzz listened for the altimeter beeps. Beep—Beep,Beep,Beep— Beep,Beep,Beep— Beep,Beep,Beep,Beep,Beep. 1335 feet! Woohoo!! Only 165 feet short of the mark, and again, no broken eggs. Gebo immediately called his teammates on his cell phone. I could hear him relaying events to them from 25 feet away. Needless to say, he was excited. Jay was too! "Yes!" he yelled, as the altitude was called out. Later, Jay came by to pay me for the motors. He presented me with \$20 and thanked me for the motors. I took the money, then as Jay started to walk away I called him back. "Here," I said, "use this for your trip to Virginia." Surprised, Jay thanked me and said, "I sure hope we get that opportunity." Turns out, they are! North Garland High School's qualified flight was enough to get them into the top 100. Way to go North Garland High!! But wait! There's more!



Above—Gebo with teacher, Jay Ingram, ready to try both stages now.

Below—NGHS launches its winning rocket to record height! Photos by James Gartrell.



RHS team rocket blasts off the pad under triple-D power. Photo by James Gartrell.

Richardson High School was also at the 3/16 Rockwall launch. Buzz was really charged up for this team, since his daughter, Melissa, was on the team. But anyone who might think Buzz plays favorites doesn't know him very well. The day before he had given away all of the D12-0 motors he had to other teams who were trying to qualify. I told him I would look to see if I had any motors, but thought I had given all of mine away, too. I suggested they stop by A-1 Hobby before coming out. As it turned out, I found another package in my motor bin. With motors in hand, they were ready to fly.

After a beautiful, straight up but disappointing 1st qualifying flight to only about 900 feet when the booster stage decided to stay connected to the rocket, Melissa McDermott and team members, Renee Bell, James Villela, and Steve Petterborg (team member Raged Anwar wasn't able to attend) huddled with team mentor, Dave Schaefer, to determine what went wrong. It wasn't long be-

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

fore they determined what the problem was and began to make repairs. By the time they got the rocket patched up and ready to fly again, it was late in the day. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the flight due to a prior commitment. The word I got was that the rocket zoomed up beautifully, reaching an altitude close to 1400 feet. Retrieval of the rocket turned out to be somewhat of an adventure though. Driving out to where the rocket landed, one vehicle got stuck in the mud. Buzz went out to try and pull them out and got stuck too. Turns out, a local guy finally came by in a big 4X4 and volunteered to pull both vehicles out, luckily without problems. Despite those problems, the Richardson High School team was happy.

Steve, Renee, and James with their teacher pose for the photo while Melissa, with Dave Schaefer's assistance, prepares their rocket for their first qualified flight. Photo by James Gartrell



Como-Picton High School team members prep their rocket for flight. The team worked long and hard on their rocket and tested many times. Unfortunately, 2nd stage ignition was a continual problem, even to the end. Their teacher, Jan Elmore, went out of her way to provide every opportunity to her students, even arranging to have their altimeter repaired by another faculty member, Dr. Rogers. Photo by James Gartrell.



I asked Buzz if Melissa acted very excited when she found out they were one of the top 100 teams. Those who know Melissa knows she isn't a very excitable person. Buzz said, "In her own way, she was excited. Her reaction reminded me of the commercial about the guy who goes around telling everyone he's lowered his cholesterol. To almost everyone she encountered, 'We made the top 100,' Melissa would say."

Although it was a hectic last few weeks, I must say that it was well worth the effort. I am very proud that I was able to be associated with the students who participated in the Team America Rocketry Challenge. Although only two made the final 100, all are deserving of our most sincere respect. Anyone who has attempted multi-stage rockets knows that it is no easy task. Add clustering to that, and the skills of even our most experienced rocketeers would be challenged. These students met those chal-

lenges with high spirits and the utmost determination. It was like watching Rocket Boys in real life. If these students are representative of their generation, we can look forward to the future with great confidence. My hat's off to each and every one of them. Fly 'em high!

*"It was like watching Rocket Boys in real life."*

By the way, contact North Garland High and Richardson High if you're interested in helping fund the student's trip to Virginia. I'm sure they would welcome any assistance.

Thanks to all the DARS members who assisted teams, and especially Buzz McDermott who deserves a very BIG THANK YOU for the tremendous amount of effort he devoted to help the teams. Way to go Buzz, you're awesome!

The picture to the left and those following on the next page provide some of the highlights of other team flights.





Left—Gene Pike Middle School has completed going through their check lists and are ready to fly again. Teacher, Tommye Rafes at far right, helped students prepare by assuring they built a backup model. They needed it after the failure of their first rocket. Still, despite their dedication, hard work, and persistence, they weren't able to achieve a qualified flight.

Right—Denton High School team members prep their rocket for flight. While thankful to Scott Shaw for his assistance helping them repair their rocket after its first failure, the second flight again proved that the rocket was just underpowered. With stiff winds at times, the rocket twice reached about 100 feet before severely weather-cocking into the wind. Photos by James Gartrell.



Left—Richland Hills High School poses with their 3-stage rocket. An outstanding flight as the rocket screamed straight up through the first two stages. Unfortunately, the third stage didn't ignite.

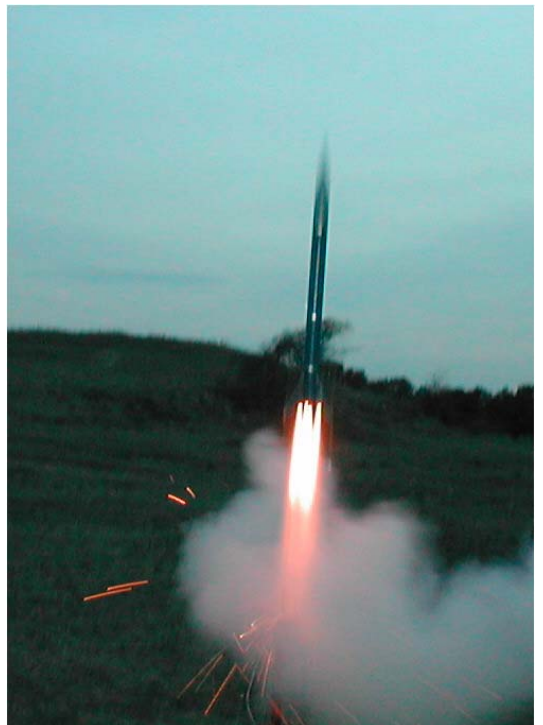
Right—Jesuit Preparatory School team members pose with their rocket, just before achieving their qualified flight. No team worked any harder than this fine group of young men. Unfortunately, they didn't make the finals. Photos by James Gartrell.



Below—Danielle, Justin, and Allison of Frisco High School. Their smiles tell it all after their qualifying flight to 1140 feet, and no broken eggs. As the girls returned from retrieving their rocket, their screams of joy began to worry the crowd that had gathered to watch. People weren't sure if theirs were screams of elation or screams of despair! Scott says, "They were thrilled, as was I." Photo by Scott Shaw.



Below—McKinney High School—Team 2 sends their rocket up right at dusk. A spectacular flight, but the rocket separated and the parachute didn't deploy. Photo by James Gartrell.





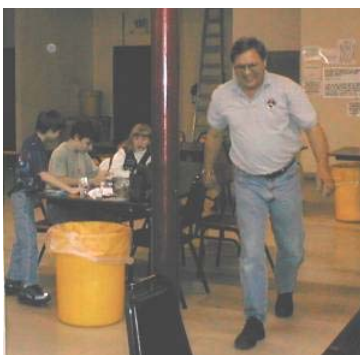
Tim Sapp joins up with some of our younger members to share some insights on building the high power stuff. Photo by James Gartrell.



Dan Stroud does another brain dump with show and tell. Keep it up Dan! Photo by James Gartrell.



Jack Sprague and Dave Schultz discuss the latest theories on super-conductivity, or probably something like that. ;-) Photo by James Gartrell.



I hope you can see the grin on Buzz' face. I'm wondering just what he told the kids. ;-) Photo by James Gartrell.



Bob Melton shows off his Shrox SHX Star Shuttle. Ooh! Aah! Nice job Bob! Photo by James Gartrell.

## Here's the "Meet" of it!

Welcome to the February DARS meeting. I thought some folks might appreciate hearing what went on there.

New members were welcomed and the minutes from January's meeting were read and approved.

Suzy Sprague gave the Treasurer's report, indicating \_\_\_\_\_ in club funds and 118 households with 247 in membership.

Doug Sams updated us on the current issues involved with the NAR/TRA lawsuit against the BATF. Members were encouraged to stay abreast of this important issue which threatens the existence of our hobby as we know it today.

George Sprague and others updated members about recent and upcoming outreach events. DARS hosted a booth at the January 25th Dino Dash Discovery Fest where Jack and Suzy Sprague, John Dyer, and Mark and Victoria Blessing talked all day to folks very interested in rocketry. The upcoming Circle 10 Council Scout Show at Dallas Market Hall on May 10 will also be a big event for DARS—6 to 10 members are needed to help with the booth.

Tim Sapp filled everyone in on upcoming high power events. Dave Schaefer brought up a very good point about needing more people to work range duty so shifts would be shorter for everyone.

Jack Sprague gave us the low down on the status of DARS equipment. Basically, most of our equipment is in good shape, but is spread pretty thin with all of the outreach events. A healthy discussion followed about building more launch equipment.

Nettie Hunsicker provided handouts for upcoming contests and alerted everyone to a possible AARG contest in June. Also, she noted that Mark Blessing was holding a contest practice launch at his ranch on the 9th.

Suzy Sprague had lots of cool shirts still left over and filled us in on all the options for shirt orders: polo shirts, light or dark denim shirts can both be ordered with the embroidered emblem; and no new shirt design will be available for NTHP.

Bill Gee must have those notifications working to everyone's satisfaction, because he had nothing to report. What's up with that, Bill?

Bill Gee and Tim Sapp brought members up-to-date on changes to the DARS web site and indicated all e-mails were updated to reflect the people in new positions. A spirited discussion followed about the need for the site to "become more alive." Dan Stroud offered to keep the "News" section up-to-date.

James Gartrell whined about having computer problems, but did note that he still expected to have the newsletter ready to print on time. (Woowee, this third person thing is weird.) He also asked to receive everyone's comments when the newsletter came out. :-( now that you've seen my first issue, please see my comments on the next page)

Various old/new business items were discussed: Tim Sapp will make a presentation on hybrid motor technology at an upcoming DARS meeting; Scott Hunsicker noted that DARS proceeds from NARAM would be about \$1,300 (Woowee!); Buzz McDermott noted TARC efforts were really ramping up; and Doug Sams asked to get a list of the people going to LDRS.

Meeting adjourned! Check out the pics to find out what happened afterwards.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Essence’s Model Rocketry Reviews has a ton of RockSim files available for download. Check it out! If you’ve never visited their web site, you’re missing out. Web site address is: [www.rocketreviews.com/](http://www.rocketreviews.com/)

Art Applewhite has just recently introduced a new line of flying saucers that are less expensive, easier to make and higher flying than his previous versions. DARS members, for the foreseeable future, can request a 20% discount on all of Art’s kits. If you’ve never seen Art’s saucers hovering around one of the DARS launches, you’re missing out. Check out his website at [www.artapplewhite.com](http://www.artapplewhite.com)

Jack Sprague is willing to help folks build a multi-pad launch rail. Give him a shout if you’re interested.

When you remove that spent igniter off the clip, throw it in the trash, not on the ground. Range crews will have a lot less to pick up at the end of the day.

Here’s a puzzle for the kids to do. Unscramble the following three words and put them in the corresponding boxes, below. HINT: The first letter of each word reveals one of the clubs that merged to form DARS. Read the Center of Pressure article for a clue.

- 1) NALCHU            2) OLAPLO            3) CEKORT

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Answers will be included in the next issue. The idea to include a puzzle for kids was Nettie Hunsicker’s idea. Sounded great to me, so I thought I would give it a shot. I’ll try to make a bigger puzzle next month.

The NASA Space Place program has two web sites developed primarily for children but equally as fun and educational for adults. Explore these web sites at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov> or the Spanish version at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/espanol>.

*“Art Applewhite has just recently introduced a new line of flying saucers...”*

*“The NASA Space Place program has two web sites developed primarily for children...”*

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please accept my apologies for the poor print of my first issue. Scott Hunsicker gave me some pointers on fonts, half-tones, etc to use so pictures, headlines and text all print properly. What looks good on my computer doesn’t necessarily copy well on their copier.

Also, John Bittner noted that I didn’t provide my name when I introduced myself in last issue’s “A New Editor” story. Sorry. I’m James Gartrell.

Stay in touch!



# DARS

The Dallas Area Rocket Society is a non-profit chartered section of the National Association of Rocketry ("NAR"). Its purpose is to promote the hobby of consumer rocketry in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area.

Membership in DARS is open to all interested persons. Membership in NAR is encouraged, but not required. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. The entire family, including children, are welcomed to the meetings.

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in Plano, TX at

Plano Late Night Bingo  
1805 Ave K (18th and K St.)  
Plano, TX 75074



Stay connected! All of us will reach greater heights with your attendance at the club meetings.

Exit off Hwy 75 to East Plano Parkway (just north of George Bush Turnpike—Hwy 190) and go east, turn left on K St., and turn right into the shopping center just north of 18th St.

## *Dallas Area Rocket Society* (“DARS”)

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[WWW.DARS.ORG](http://WWW.DARS.ORG)

## SHROUDLINES

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