

Southern Weights & Measures Association

78th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 1999

See Editor's note on Page 8.

Fueling in the Future

By Debbie Joines

Everybody loved full service but not the price. We loved it because we didn't have to get out of our car, figure out how to use the pump or get our hands smelly and dirty and now with vapor recovery, the nozzles are heavier and some hard to use. There is hope however, in the future someone or something may very well be refueling your car while you relax inside; a gas pump robot. All you will need to do is drive into position, like at a car wash, and the robot will do the rest.

Robots are not new to refueling; they have been in use in Sweden since 1989. Currently several oil companies are testing this new technology. You drive into the fuel lane position where you access the robots customer interface terminal. Payment can be made by bankcard or payment transponder and in the future, by cash acceptors, prepaid cards etc.

The car will need a special gas cap and position identifier for the robot to get in position and fuel and this should be all that's needed to convert a vehicle. The robot will open the fuel door, remove the tank cap, fuel, close the door and process the sale.

This won't happen tomorrow but it will happen. It should also be safer than doing it yourself by eliminating nozzle spillage and topping off. Robotic fueling should help eliminate lines at convenience store pumps where it's not unusual for customers to fuel and then walk into the store, leaving the vehicle at the pump. With robotic fueling the customer, not needing to get out of the car, will fuel and then drive over to the store, freeing up the fuel lane for the next customer. Mothers will not have to get out of the car leaving small children inside. Also robotics should prove helpful to people with disabilities.

In addition to fueling, the interactive terminal offers the potential to process fast food orders, grocery orders etc. A terminal touchscreen or other interactive method would be available at the driver's side window. The order would be ready after fueling, either at a drive-up window or inside the convenience store.

Joe Hardy, Jr. Retires

Joe Hardy, Jr., Director, Bureau of Regulatory Services, State of Mississippi, Department of Agriculture and Commerce retired on June 30, 1999. We wish him the best in all his new endeavors and certainly a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. Julie McLemore has been named as the Director. Julie has served for several years as Special Assistant Attorney General representing the Department of Agriculture and will now be administering the regulatory program. Please forward all future correspondence to:

Mrs. Julie McLemore, Director
Bureau of Regulatory Services
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1609 ☎

SWMA Website

www.swma.org

Have you noticed any difference in the SWMA website lately? Our service provide has upgraded the server to prevent computer hackers from sending unwanted mail through the system. As a result of the upgrade and copying programs, a previous copy of the SWMA site was loaded on the server and existing passwords would not allow access for modifications. All problems have now been resolved and we now have a great benefit, faster access and loading time. ☎

Jurisdictional News

Alabama

Fred Brown, employed in our Weights and Measures Laboratory last October, has just completed 3 weeks of Basic Metrology training at NIST in Washington, D.C.

As part of the upgrade to our Weights and Measures Laboratory, Mr. Fred Bryant of John P. Muller Associates, Seffner, Florida, recently overhauled our Russell Balance. It looks and works like new since the extensive overhaul. (Pictures of Fred Bryant and John Campbell working on the balance should be available for the next newsletter.)

The Southern Weights and Measures Cookbook, "Taste for All Seasons", is on its way to the printers. We appreciate all the cooperation we had in collecting recipes for this cookbook. We had 248 recipes from 83 different contributors. The cookbook should be back in our hands by mid-September in plenty of time for the Southern Conference. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making it a success. ☩

Arkansas

During the week of May 10-14, Roger Frazier, Field Supervisor, conducted a training course on retail computing scales for the field staff at the State Police Headquarters meeting room. There were over 20 weights and measures officials present to review existing test procedures and learn new changes in technology in the weighing industry.

Due to the increasing number of Near Infra-Red (NIR) grain analyzers placed into service in the United States, the NIR Measuring Sector has determined that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44 tentative code regulating NIR analyzers should be field tested and modified accordingly.

Samples of soybean, wheat, and corn were forwarded to states with NIR for comparison tests. The values were pre-determined by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). States participating in this program include Arkansas, North Carolina, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska.

During the weeks of April 12-23, Ray Curtis and Tim Chesser attended the Basic Metrology Seminar at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Ray will be working full time in the Metrology Labs in order to help reduce the work load. Tim will be overseeing work in both the Metrology and Weights and Measures programs.

We have been receiving reports that national home shopping networks have been advertising bulk quantity meats such as hamburger patties and steaks by count. None of the advertisements mention weight. These products are probably being sold in other jurisdictions throughout the country. We are in the process of tracking this problem down.

A new Dell Inspiron 7000 Pentium Laptop computer and 4 five-gallon Seraphin test measures have been ordered for the laboratory and field testing program. ☩

Florida

The Bureau of Weights and Measures held a training workshop the week of April 12. This was the first time in over two years that the entire field staff had the opportunity to all meet together. Most of the time was spent covering changes to the WAM database system for device testing and the need for more accurate and detailed reporting. Other topics included procedures for documenting violations that will result in administrative sanctions, test procedures for fork lift and truck mounted scales, testing of weight classifiers and multi-range scales, and a review of Handbook 133 package testing procedures.

Weights and Measures conducted a statewide sweep focusing on bark mulch products the week of April 26. A total of 60 lots were tested; 52 were approved and 8 were ordered off-sale for short measure. There were 284,035 packages in the lots tested; 270,775 (95.4%) were in lots approved and 13,260 (4.6%) were in lots ordered off-sale for short measure. The inspections resulted in several administrative sanctions, including two fines, issued to violators.

Results of device testing activities for the third quarter of the fiscal year (Jan-Mar 99) are as follows: There were 15,604 total devices tested; 1931 were issued correction notices, another 255 were placed out of service. The overall compliance rate was 84.4%, the accuracy compliance rate was 93.9%. The compliance rates are based on first tests only (re-test data is excluded).

In package testing activities for the same quarter, there were 160 lots tested and 16 of those rejected for short measure violations. There were 7518 packages in the lots rejected.

The Bureau of Petroleum Inspection has just completed their retail motor fuel device Technicians Training and Registration clinics for 1999-2000. There were 564 technicians registered at this year's clinics.

Eric Hamilton, Petroleum Inspection Chief and Steve Hadder, Program Trainer, attended the Petroleum Industry Association Seminar in Orlando where they gave a presentation on field inspection of measuring devices, collection and analysis of petroleum samples, illegal product stop sales and assessments.

Steve Hadder attended and completed the Instructor training course on motor fuel dispensers sponsored by NIST/NCWM in May. †

Georgia

Fuel & Measures & Warehouse Division had their Annual Meeting June 10th & 11th in Macon, all reports was a very good meeting. Jerry Flanders and Curtis Williams will be attending the National Conference in Burlington, VT.

NEW EMPLOYEES since the first of year are Marc Hand-Agriculture Inspector on Heavy Test Units Todd Sweat-Agriculture Inspector on Heavy Test Units.

Mike Stafford-Fuel Inspector Tony Davis, Sr. Fuel Inspector, attended Instructor Training on NTP Course 302, Retail Motor-Fuel Dispenser and Console in May in Gaithersburg, MD.

The Weights & Measures Lab-

The Weights & Measures Lab's face lift is almost complete. The Lab now has awnings on all entrances, and a new coat of paint on the interior walls. We have replaced the ceiling tiles, and some light fixtures and furniture with some still on order. The Mettler AT1005 comparator is being installed as we write.

The new computers should be installed in July.

The Fuel Lab-

Curt Williams attended the ASTM D2 Committee on Petroleum Products Meeting being held June 20-25 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Fuel Laboratory is replacing its glassware washer/dryer and the software for the NIR analyzer. Both items should be completed by September. Several test measures and provers have been ordered for field use. These include 3, 4, 5, 50 and 100 gallon capacity units. 2 'high speed' units are being obtained. One will have three 5 gallon series J test measures with 100 gallon holding tanks and the other a "slip on unit" with 60 gallon holding tanks. This unit is the same as those used by Louisiana. A cover will be designed to protect the test measures and provide storage for the accessory equipment normally carried by the fuel inspectors.

The Department has a contract with the State Environmental Protection Division to sample and conduct vapor pressure and sulfur tests on products sold in 25 counties around Metro Atlanta. Facilities in these counties must sell gasoline with a maximum 7.0 psi vapor pressure and a refinery average sulfur content of 150 PPM. These requirements are in effect from June 1 through September 15 and is part of the states plan to reduce ozone in the area during the summertime.

At the Division Meeting in Macon, Curt Williams gave a power point presentation using pictures obtained with a recently acquired digital camera. The response from the inspectors was very positive and reinforces the saying "a picture is worth a thousand words". This method will be used in future training sessions.

The fuel lab greatly appreciates the cooperative spirit between jurisdictions. The lab is currently evaluating a brand of lube oil that was found to be deficient by North Carolina Petroleum Lab. Thanks are in order for Winston Sutton and his excellent staff. †

Louisiana

Weights and Measures Inspectors have been concentrating on Price Verification Inspections since the first of the year under the direction of our new P.V. I. Program Manager, Milton Hunter. Milton previously worked in the New Orleans area as a District Supervisor. The approval rate is approximately 75 percent at this time. Due to these less than desirable numbers, our Weights and Measures Commission heard eight cases related to Price Verification at the last Meeting in May of this year. The Commission imposed fines totaling \$12,000 with probation. We feel the approval rate will be improving in the very near future!

All forty four Inspectors are currently using lap top computers for daily activity reports, vehicle logs, expense reports and some field inspections. Our Management Information Systems Group is in the process of writing programs for the balance of our field inspection services at this time. Also, the Department has redesigned our approval seals for '99 to incorporate bar codes. After the initial installation of new seals this year, Inspectors will use a bar code reader attached to their lap top to retrieve all data previously entered, eliminating the need to re-key all data at each inspection. †

Maryland

- Mrs. Rose Katabi, a NIST guest worker from Tanzania, spent the week of April 5-9, 1999 working with Inspector Mike Frailer. She was given hands-on training in the inspecting/testing of small capacity scales, retail motor-fuel dispensers and prepackaged commodities. Mrs. Katabi commented on Mile’s professionalism, knowledge, and dedication in the area of weights and measures. Mike always performed his duties in this manner, and he is a valuable member of our staff.
- On June 7, 1999, Stuart Carstens and Patrick Mothapo of the South African Bureau of Standards, accompanied by Gloria Diane Lee of NIST toured our facility. They were particularly interested in our Type Evaluation Program and Package & Labeling/Package Inspection Program and met with Program Managers Andrea Buie-Branam and Bob Eaves respectively to discuss these programs.
- On June 10, 1999, we had a staff meeting at our facility in Annapolis complete with a cook-out lunch which was enjoyed by all. Chief Lou Straub and Program Managers Dick Shockley, Will Wothlie and Bob Eaves gave presentations to the staff. Awards were presented to several staff members. We honor the employees who inspect the highest number of devices, and also the employees who have the highest overall production rating during each month, six month, and twelve month period. The recipient of the monthly award in each category receives a certificate of appreciation. The recipient of the six month and twelve month awards in each category receives an award “day off” in addition to a certificate of appreciation. The awards were presented by Maryland Department of Agriculture, Assistant Secretary Brad Powers. The employees who received awards are as follows:
- Metrologist I Antonio Maceo successfully completed the intermediate laboratory metrology seminar held at NIST during June 14-18 1999.
- We recently purchased 19 cellular phones in an effort to improve communications with the field staff.
- On October 14, 1999, we are going to conduct an LMD Inspection Seminar at our facility in Annapolis. Topics to be presented will include: Handbook 44 Requirements, Applicable Requirements of Maryland Weights & Measures Law & Regulations, and the inspection & testing of LMD’s. The seminar will be open to service station owners, individuals & firms who install and repair LMD’s and other interested parties.
- Several stores in Maryland are now offering for sale glazed shrimp in bulk (self-service). The stores are deducting tare for the plastic bag, but not for the glaze (ice) on the shrimp. We have made several test purchases of glazed shrimp and inspected the shrimp utilizing procedures in Handbook 133 to determine the percentage of weight that is considered glaze. We are working with representatives of stores selling glazed shrimp in an effort to ensure that proper tare will be taken for sales of glazed shrimp. Stores in nearby states are also selling shrimp in this manner and there are indications that this method of sale may be utilized nationwide.
- Chief Lou Straub and Program Manager Will Wothlie will be attending the 84th Annual NCWM Meeting in Burlington, Vt July 25-29, 1999.
- Thanks to “Y2K” the Weights and Measures Section received fifteen (15) new E-3200 Gateway computers for use in our administrative offices and laboratory operations. These machines were delivered with an

Period	Highest # of Devices	Highest Overall Production Rating
Dec 98	Mark Lambert	Mark Lambert
Jan 99	Rick bristow	Chuck Coleman
Feb 99	Barbara Miller	Barbara Miller
Mar 99	Barbara Miller	Rick Bristow
Apr 99	Tom Fagan	Tom Fagan
May 99	Leila Smith	Bill Troup
Dec 98-May 99	*Barbara miller	*Rick bristow
Jun 98-May 99	*Barbara Miller	*Chuck Coleman

* — Received Award “Day Off”

Intel Pentium II processor, 350MHZ, 96MB RAM and 4 GB hard disk. Hopefully, they won't be outdated before you read this article!

- There were two recent additions to the Maryland Weights & Measures extended family. On April 10, 1999, Amanda Elizabeth Wiseman (7 lb. 13 oz.), the 6th grandchild of head office secretary Susan Runge was born on May 19, 1999, Jackson Robert Eaves (10 lb. 5 oz.), the first grandchild of Program Manager Bob Eaves was born.

Recent Civil Penalties

On March 29, 1999, we received payment of \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Sam's Club #6383, Salisbury MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.

On March 29, 1999, we received payment of \$200.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Super Fresh #833, Baltimore MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.

On March 31, 1999, we received payment of \$600.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Kee's Natural Foods, Baltimore, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment. (This establishment had previously been assessed \$250.00 in civil penalties for short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted in 1998)

On May 28, 1999 we received payment of \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Super Fresh #891, 1238 Baydale Drive, Arnold, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment. †

North Carolina

Jerry Butler, Standards Inspector II, has been promoted to Eastern Area Supervisor in the Measurement Section. Jerry's promotion follows the retirement of Randy Peaks, a long-time employee of the Standards Division. In August Jerry will be attending the NTEP Instructor Training session at NIST. Over the next couple of months Jerry will also spend a great deal of time in personnel classes as he works his way through classes designed for supervisors.

In May Ron Murdock and Jerry Butler attended the NTEP Laboratory meetings in Ottawa, Canada. North Carolina is a participating laboratory in the NTEP program specializing in liquid measuring devices. Ron and Jerry report that all seems to be going fine in this area of the NTEP program.

Glen Davenport has done a great deal of work on the laboratory's new Mettler KA-30 mass comparator. He is reporting a long-term standard deviation of around 2 mg at 20 kg. If anyone is considering this device, Glen recommends purchasing the optional draft shield because it makes a significant difference. Glen has also been working with the department's information technology staff to complete work on connecting all balances to the laboratory's computer system. Although much progress has been made, a great deal of work remains to be done.

Over the last few days LF has been holed-up at home completing work on the laboratory's Standard Administrative Procedures. This will complete one of the last pieces of work for submittal of our NVLAP Accreditation application.

Val Miller attended the Intermediate Metrology class during the week of June 14. According to LF, Val completed his Basic LAP problems in record time. Val's work continues to be very impressive. He came to the laboratory with much experience in the military and aerospace metrology industries.

Several changes have taken place at the laboratory or will be taking place over the next few months:

Ergonomic computer tables have been installed.

The department's computer lease program should get underway before the end of June. (A fuller report will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter. We are already behind schedule.)

Funds were approved to renovate the office area in the Large Mass Laboratory to convert them to more traditional offices.

New spannable chart recorders have been installed in the Small Mass, Large Mass, and Grain Moisture Labs that are spannable so that full scale can represent only a few degrees and percent relative humidity.

The Motor Fuels Laboratory has just received two very sophisticated instruments. A gas chromatograph/mass spectrophotometer and a UV/Visible scanning spectrophotometer are now in operation. The primary purpose of these instruments is to assist the Department of Revenue in the collection of highway taxes. We will even be able to tell if marketers are picking up their gasoline in Georgia and selling it in North Carolina.

It seems that nothing remains the same. We have new email addresses. The following is a partial list:

David.Smith@ncmail.net

LF.Eason@ncmail.net

Ron.Murdock@ncmail.net

Winston.Sutton@ncmail.net

Susan.Myrick@ncmail.net

Cheryl.Tew@ncmail.net

In the last edition of the newsletter it was reported that Gerald Brown and Jim Skipper were attending two train[†]

Tennessee

This time of year finds our staff busy attempting to complete all inspections due prior to the end of the fiscal year. We have spent a great deal of time training new employees this year as several individuals have either transferred or have retired.

Mr. Lester Venable, Middle TN Regional Supervisor, will be retiring in the few months. Lester has held this position for many years and has been a tremendous asset to this department. Lester tells us he is planning on spending more time with his church activities along with working around his home and shop. Lester, you will be missed.

Mr. Terry Mills recently joined our staff as a Weights and Measures Inspector in West TN. Terry came to us from the TN Department of Corrections where he managed one of their farms. Mr. David Gibson began work with us recently as a Weights Inspector in East TN following a number of years with our Livestock Section. We look forward to these new employees being with us for a number of years and know they will become very valuable employees.

The first full week of July will involve our entire staff being in Nashville for training. Randy Jennings, Ed Coleman, and Bob Williams have a variety of topics to discuss with our staff along with seeking input and ideas from the inspectors.

Hopefully, Randy and Bob will be attending the NCWM in Burlington, Vermont in late July. Travel authorization has been prepared and is awaiting signatures and final approval.

Randy is scheduled to give a technical presentation on The Effects of Container Selection and Use in Petroleum Sample Collection. He has spent a great deal of time in both the study of this topic along with preparation of his technical paper.

We have recently submitted our equipment budget for next fiscal year. High on the list is environmental monitoring equipment for the metrology laboratory along with the replacement of several large scale testing units. The legislative session recently adjourned for this year. We currently do not anticipate major changes in either funding or legislation.

Tom Smith has been very busy over the past few months conducting calibrations and tolerance tests. He has also submitted required data to NIST to maintain traceability. We are taking a look at the NAVLAP program to determine if we will be able to participate along with the financial impact.

Finally, several weeks ago we received this photograph from an anonymous source. It seems as though we may recognize the face but not quite sure. Maybe he will be seen at the NCWM in July for absolute identification. †



Texas

The Texas Department of Agriculture welcomes Lance Guerrero as our new metrologist in our Austin metrology lab. In April Lance attended NIST training Basic Metrology. Also, Damon Slaydon attended NIST training on Retail Computing Scales and Harvey Fischer attended NIST training for Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers.

In June, Damon conducted inspector training for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures inspectors. He covered NIST Handbook 133 – Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods.

We are completing our first year on our octane testing program. We were mandated by the legislature to obtain 1,000 samples for this first year. To this point the compliance has been suprisingly high. A compliance rate above 95 percent has been consistent over the past three quarters. Next year, we plan to obtain three times as many samples.

During our last budget request period, we requested new weighing and measuring equipment in order to ensure the most efficient inspection procedures. We were successful in our request and we will receive a new 250-gallon prover, 6 truck mounted 5-gallon provers, and 25 Setra package checking scales.

Our other programs remain strong and functional. During the third quarter of this fiscal year, our inspectors conducted 24,974 device inspections, and 666 package and scanner inspections. The overall compliance for devices was 94 percent and overall compliance for scanners and packages was 87 percent. There were 68 notices of violation/non-compliance issued for package and scanner violations and 82 notices of violation/non-compliance issued for device related violations. There were 16 notices of violation/non-compliance issued for octane posting violations. Also, during the last three months Pat Forester, head of our metrology lab, reported 9,829 standards had been submitted for calibration/tolerance testing.

Plans are progressing for the Southern Weights and Measures Conference that we will be hosting in September 2000. We have made arrangements with a hotel in Austin and are working on the schedule and activities for the conference. The conference dates have been set for September 23 through 27. If you have any ideas about what you would be interested in seeing or doing let us know and we can make the arrangements. ☪

West Virginia

Eugene “Gene” Woodford, a resident of , and the area weights and measures inspector for Morgantown and surrounding counties for thirty--three years and, Everett Post, who resides in Buckhannon, and has been the area inspector for Clarksburg, Sutton, and the surrounding counties for fifteen years retired on March 31. These two inspector's, who's combined length of service totals almost fifty years, knowledge and experience will be missed. But we wish them a long and happy retirement.

All inspectors are now equipped with a cell phone, pager, and facsimile machine. This has greatly increased our ability to deal with citations and notifications of non-compliance. When we utilized the mail for transmitting paperwork it could take up to two weeks for an inspector to receive a request for assistance. Now when the office receives an RFA it is faxed to the responsible inspectors headquarters that evening for his action.

Previously, using the mail, the time from an Inspector issuing a Notification of Noncompliance to the official warning letter leaving the weights and measures office could be over ten days. The new equipment and procedures have reduced that time to two days. This has enabled the office personnel and area Inspectors to plan and utilize their time much more effectively.

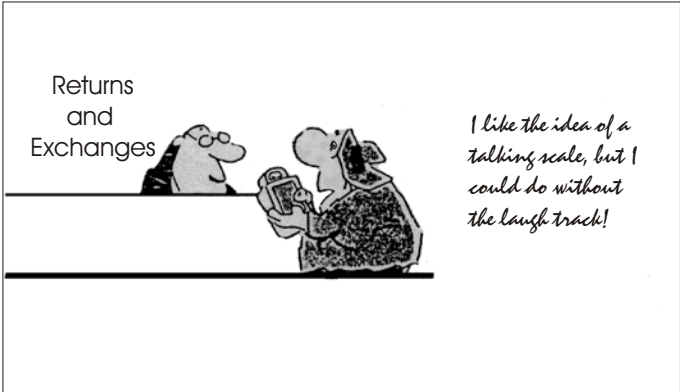
The Fuels Program has placed three new, state of the art, gasoline test units into service, these will be manned by specially trained Fuel Test Specialists. Each test unit is equipped to test both fuel quantity and quality. By using these test units in conjunction with the area Inspectors this will give us better coverage of the states service stations.

The Small Mass Laboratory has been completely remodeled and is now in operation. The remodeled facility gives Dan Mace, the State Metrologist, the ability to more closely monitor environmental conditions within the testing area. The combination of this control with newly purchased balances allows for faster, more accurate calibrations that were previously possible.

The Commodities Program has commenced a new program in association with the State Purchasing Division in which products purchased by the state will be tested monthly for quantity accuracy. Weights and Measures inspectors will be testing products at state operated facilities statewide to determine if the maxim “*close enough for government work*” is true.

Inspectors working in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Commission completed an investigation of milk sold to schools within the state, which was produced in a neighboring state. The investigation utilized results obtained

during previous federal milk survey inspections and the results of testing milk delivered to schools during January of this year. This showed an obvious and continuing trend by a major milk producer, and supplier of school milk, to deliver short weight product. Results of the investigation were restitution of product to the schools and a \$20,000.00 fine being paid by the producer. Further actions may be taken by USDA and the FTC. †



Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$25. Membership inquiries should be directed to:
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Editor's Note

In an attempt to reach a wider audience and to include articles on new technology, industry members are being invited to submit articles for the newsletter. The articles are not intended to highlight any particular company and should target new technology and things on the horizon. You may also like to share your favorite cartoon.

Please submit to the Editor by the first of December, March, June or September for consideration in the quarterly newsletter.

SWMA Newsletter
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