W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 73, NUMBER 10, October 2022

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around
Celebrating 85 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937
http://www.paara.org/



Go-Kit Building Design Vince d'Eon, AI7LK

Vince builds Go-Kits and will talk to us about design consideration so you can assemble your own. He'll also take us on a tour of his go-kit.

Vince has been licensed since 2002 in Canada as VE6LK and in the USA as AI7LK. An Accredited Examiner in Canada and the USA, he gave the first remote Canadian examination when the COVID-19 pandemic started. He participates in up to a dozen public service events per year around Western Canada and is active on the air while glamping. You can hear Vince on the Ham Radio Workbench podcast, follow him on Twitter @ve6lk, and view the projects and articles at his website https://ve6lk.com.

IT'S Go-Kit Night

Have you made a go-kit? Bring it to the meeting and show it off.

This meeting will be a Hybrid Meeting Zoom and In Person

Time: October 7, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time Please check https://www.paara.org for Zoom Details

o P co 8 = · c c	
Oct 7*** Nov 4 Dec 2	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM In-Person and Zoom Meeting *** Zoom & IRL Meeting
Oct 19 Nov 16	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting,

eMail President for details!

Electronic Flea Market

Uncoming Events

President's Corner

October 2022

Dec 21

Cancelled

I hope you didn't have any surprise issues with the first bit of rain we received in late September. One can only hope that we'll be getting some more along the way this winter. Outside of not having my gutters cleaned, I got everything that had been left outside during the summer



undercover before things got wet. I even got a free rather sloppy wash job on my rather dusty! Bronco.

The day before it rained, I was at Hollister Hills SVRA to learn more about off-roading and collect some new dust. I'll bet it's a mud pit right! now though with the dry earth, I'll bet most of the water-soaked in. One of the big topics of the day was off-roading with a ham radio to increase your chances of getting ahold of help should it be needed. Though not a guarantee you can make contact with someone, you improve your odds by a large margin as most off-roading is

(President — Continued on page 4)

Mini Product Review Penntek TR-35 Four-Band 5W CW Tranceiver Dave Conroy, K6NIA

I have had KX2, a truly wonderful portable transceiver, for many years. But I have also been on the lookout for a low-cost CW transceiver that I would be willing to put in checked baggage should I go on a trip.

Recently I learned about the Penntek TR-35 Four-Band 5W CW transceiver, the handiwork on John Dillon (WA3RNC), who sells both a kit version (\$279.00) and a fully assembled and

for CW; I only use CW-NARROW). The difference between SSB and CW-WIDE is the bandwidth of the crystal filter, and the different between CW-WIDE and CW-NARROW is a 700Hz active bandpass filter in the audio path.

One consequence of supporting listening to SSB is that the receiver needs to be on the lower sideband on 40M and on the upper sideband on 20M and 17M (it's actually lower sideband on 30M as well), which is not how most CW operators configure their radios (I always listen to CW on the lower sideband, but it didn't take long to learn to turn the tuning dial the other way on 20M and 17M).



tested version (\$379.00) on his website (http://www.wa3rnc.com). The TR-35 has received very favorable feedback in a number of portable operator's blogs (such as AE5X, W0RW, and K4SWL), and the TR-25 (it's two-band predecessor) got a good review in the December 2021 issue of QST, so I bought one (in kit form; I like building things).

What sets the TR-35 apart from other tranceivers is that although it uses a microprocessor and an OLED display, it resists the urge to have a menu-driven user interface. Every aspect of the TR-35 is controlled by a dedicated switch or a dedicated knob, which makes it very easy to learn and very pleasant to use.

The TR-35 supports 40M, 30M, 20M, and 17M. The receiver has three bandwidths; a bandwidth suitable for listening to SSB, and two bandwidths suitable for listening to CW (although the CW-WIDE bandwidth is, in my opinion, so wide that it's not really very useful

The TR-35's design is straightforward. The receiver is yet another variation on the "two SA612 mixers with a crystal filter between them"

design used by many low-cost transceivers (such as the KX1). The transmitter is a class C design using an IRF510. All of the clocks (VFO, BFO, TX) are generated by a Silicon Labs SI5351 synthesizer.

The kit was very easy to assemble. It's actually a semi-kit; almost all of the components on both the CPU board and the RF board are surface mount and have been pre-placed and factory soldered. Building each of the boards involves installing only the through-hole components (mainly switches, connectors, electrolytic capacitors, and pre-wound toroids). All of the components come cleverly packaged so that everything needed by each assembly step is

(PennTek — Continued on page 3)

(PennTek — Continued from page 2)

separated, and there really isn't any need to audit the contents of the kit before assembly begins. It took me about an hour and a half to build each board, and another hour to assemble the complete radio and do the final adjustments.

There is a tiny bit of surface mount rework on the RF board, which I assume will be eliminated in some future release. When I first saw the rework I thought that a surface mount component had been poorly installed, but a careful examination showed that it was deliberate rework that matched the schematic (and I found myself glad, once again, that I invested in a stereo microscope).

The final adjustments were easy, but did require some test equipment; at a bare minimum a dummy load and a multimeter that can measure both resistance (checking for shorts) and a 5mA change in a current around 100mA (setting the bias point of the power amplifier). An adjustable voltage power supply made it easier to set the trip point for the low-battery LED, and a wattmeter made it easier to know if the expected output power was being generated (with a 12.0V power supply I measured 8W out on 40M and 30M, and 7W out on 20M and 17M; there is a power output knob on the front panel, so it's easy to turn the power back to 5W if necessary).

I have taken the TR-35 out into the field many times, and I agree with the favorable opinions of the other reviewers. My best DX so far has been with K1PUG, using an EFHW, who gave me a 559 in CT (2600 miles away).

Sept 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Present were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Bob Korte KD6KYT, board members Walt Gyger K6WGY, Doug Teter KG6LWE, Darryl Presley KI6LDM, and Joel Wilhite KD6W. Also present was Christopher Hoover Al6KG.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

President's Report — We have had a request from a club member to send out a club-wide e-mail, inviting folks to a 'build and operate' party.

We decided that we can publicize the event at the monthly meeting and on the Monday night net. However, we want to limit the number of lemails to all members.

This led to a discussion about a Q&A session at the regular meetings. We agreed to give this a try.

Secretary's Report — PAARA members: It is time to renew! Memberships expire at the end of December. Please visit the website https://paara.org and click to renew by paypal. Or, send a check to PAARA Membership, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026. Club membership is a bargain: Still only \$25 per year -Stock up now!

When renewing, please let us know your cur- rent information: address, e-mail address, and phone numbers.

| Treasurer's Report — Payments were made | Ito the bookkeeping service, and to the printer | Ifor PAARAgraphs printing.

VP / Program Chair Report — Our guest speaker for October will be Vince d'Eon, VE6LK and AI7LK. His topic is: Go-Kit Design and Building. Also, members are encouraged to bring their own Go-kits for show-and-tell.

Old Business

| PAARA members: We continue to need your | | content for PAARAgraphs. If you have a ham | | radio story, or an interesting experience, put it | on paper (or bits) and send to the editor. Our | cupboard of stories is nearly bare – you can | help make PAARAgraphs special.

| Education Committee: Darryl will work on en-

Storage for Gerry – On September 16, Doug KG6LWE, and his son lan, Gary Kl6HlG, Christopher Al6KG and Jim K6SV visited the 'PAARA remote site' and loaded up 3 pickup trucks with obsolete equipment and junk, for transport to the recycler. Gerry has been very generous to store this stuff for so long, and we appreciate that greatly.

Our bookkeeper has the books up to date. She's working on the raffle filling for last year which is due October 1.

(Minutes — Continued on page 4)

(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

PAARA 85th year event: October 29

| We will have a barbecue and 3 ham transceiv- | ers (listen for W6P on the air!) to celebrate 85 | years as an active radio club.

The board discussed tasks to make this happen:

The stations will be captained by KG6LWE and KI6LDM, with a GOTA (Get On The Air) station led by Al6KG. We need to have logging software and laptops for each station (Al6KG) K6SV got the press release out to the ARRL & Jim Armstrong.

Joel KD6W and Christopher discussed the pooling some addi-pooling tional tasks.

General meeting Zoom interface, Ben. Wellwere late bringing up Zoom last month. But in legenerally, the Zoom meetings are working pret-lefty well.

Doug will follow up on a request for tower/ antenna takedown in Los Altos.

Pacificon: Mikko is again leading the W1AW/6 activity in San Ramon. We need volunteers to help out with setup, station operation, and teardown. Contact Mikko mikkops@yahoo.com to sign up.

Dream to Reality Raffle: We will have an Ele-I craft radio again as the big prize. Members should definitely plan to attend the December meeting and sign up for a chance at this great rig.

New Business

The IDXC (International DX Convention) will be held in Visalia April 21 to 23, 2023. This is a unique ham activity, with a different focus and good vendor participation. PAARA members should consider attending. We will announce this at the club meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Hulett N6AJS PAARA Secretary

. (President — Continued from page 1)

done in areas where there is no cell coverage. It's good to see that one group of enthusiasts embraces amateur radio, though not everyone using them seems to be licensed, thus there's another topic for discussion.

October is fast approaching. I hope everyone has registered for Pacificon on October 14 ~ 16th. It's our one and only local Hamvention. If you have not registered, here's the link: https://www.pacificon.org/registration/attendees. As we have for the past several years, we will once again be hosting the Special Event Station, W1AW/6. This is your one opportunity to use the W1AW call sign without traveling to the ARRL HQ. Thanks go out to Mikko, AB6RF, for being the station captain and putting the whole thing together.

Mikko needs the support of members to assist in setting up, taking down, and most importantly staffing the station during the operating hours of loon on the 14th to midnight on the 15th. He created an online signup sheet for those interested in manning the station during the event. The sheet is at tinyurl.com/y8pr9yey. The link is also on our website. Assisting in any part of the event is a great way to learn about setting up and operating a large event station and helping the club in the process.

Speaking of October events, I hope everyone added the PAARA 85th-anniversary event to their calendar. It is being held at Memorial Park in the City of Cupertino on October 29th. Additional info and a map can be found at www.PAARA.org. Yes, there will be 2 HF radio stations, a GOTA radio station, and food at the event. Thus, member or not, ham or not, you'll have a chance to operate one of the stations. It will be very similar to our FD event but using the special event call sign W6P. I hope to see everyone there with family and friends, especially around 1 PM for an ARRL presentation.

September is the start of the election cycle. Clark, KK6ISP, once again accepted chairing the election committee. Nominations for all of the officers and three of the director's positions are now open and will remain open until the end of the November meeting. At the end of the November meeting, the election slate will and nominations closed. The election slate will:

(President — Continued on page 5)

(President — Continued from page 4)

be published in the December issue of PAAR-Agraphs. Elections will be held during the December meeting. You must be a current member in good standing and present at the December meeting to vote. The results of the vote will be announced just before the close of the meeting. Please contact Clark if you wish to run or have questions about a board position.

Don't forget December is also the annual Dream to Reality raffle where the grand prize will once again be an Elecraft KX3 HF radio with a few accessories. You still have a little time to salt away a few extra dollars for the raffle to improve your odds of going away with a new radio for Christmas! Remember the December meeting is an **in-person** meeting only. We're hoping to have a large turnout for this meeting with many members and guests making eyeball QSO's for the first time in quite some time.

It's already time to start thinking about next! year. There are some fun events in store at the start of the year. The largest ones I can think of: are Quartzfest (January 22th ~ 28th), Yuma Hamvention (February 17th & 18th), and much i more locally, the IDXC (International DX Convention) on April 21-23 in Visalia, CA. Though a bit further away than Pacificon, the event is I much different from Pacificon as the focus is on; DX or making contacts outside of the US. As one would imagine, there are numerous vendors I we don't see at Pacificon. I encourage everyone; to attend the show to learn about current advances in DX or if you're interested in learning! about DX. After all, there is a whole world out there waiting for you to make contact with them. Registration is open. For more information go to I https://www.dxconvention.com/

A BIG THANK YOU goes to Doug, KG6LWE, Ian (Doug's son), Gary, KI6HIG, Christopher, AI6KG, for their assistance in helping Gerry, N6NV, in cleaning out some of the years of acuminated "stuff" that he'd been storing at the farm. In ½ a day we were able to fill 3 pickup trucks full of stuff and transport the load to a recycling center. Mind you, not all of it went to the recycler.

I look forward to seeing a room full of smiling laces at the October 7th meeting.

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

QST QST QST PAARA 85th Anniversary Event

The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA) is pleased to announce an event to celebrate the 85th anniversary of our founding.

PAARA is devoted to further HAM Radio skills amongst members and friends for recreational purposes as well as for emergency communications. HAM Radio communications have proven critical in emergencies to be the only way of communicating between citizens and disaster response teams.

PAARA's approximately 150 members always welcome new HAM Operators and those interested in learning about Amateur Radio and support them in their operations.

Please join us on October 29th, 2022 at Memorial Park in Cupertino, CA. The event starts at 10 AM and runs until sunset. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided around noon. The event is open to members and non-members. There will be a special American Radio Relay League (ARRL) presentation around 1 PM which you'll not want to miss.

We'll be located in the Group Picnic Area. The best place to park is to take Stevens Creek Blvd., turn left on N Stelling Rd., then left on Alves Dr. Halfway down the block you'll find a lot on the right. You'll find the Group Picnic Area at the large grass field's left end.

Two HF (high frequency) stations will be operating along with a GOTA (Get on the Air) station so anyone can try their hand at operating HF. We'll be using the Special Event Call-Sign, W6P for the event. We plan on operating on whatever band is open on the 29th so check the spotting sites to see where we're operating.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. It's
 an opportunity to socialize with old friends and
 meet some new ones.

Please check our website, <u>www.paara.org</u>, for QSL card information and further information about the event.



1st Prize Bioenno Power Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery, 12v, 12 Ah



2nd Prize ARRL Handbook Six-Volume Set.



3rd Prize Olight swivel light.



4th Prize PAARA cap



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026 Officers PresidentJim Thielemann, K6SV 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net Vice PresidentRob Fenn, kc6tyd 650-888-9060 kc6tvd@gmail.com Secretary Ric Hulett, N6AJS 408-332-4593 energyconserved@sbcglobal.net Treasurer.....Bob Korte, KD6KYT 408 396 4745 bob@rgktechsales.com **Directors** Director ('21-'22) Joel Wilhite. KD6W 408-839-5948 kd6w@arrl.net Director ('20-'21) Walt Gyger, K6WGY 408-921-5901 walt@tradewindsaviation.com Director ('21)...... Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-743-7892 dteter@wcwi.com Director ('21)......Darryl Presley, KI6LDM 650 255-2454 ki6ldm@arrl.net **Appointed Positions** Membership......Vic Black, AB6so 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com DatabaseRic Hulett, N6AJS 408-332-4593 energyconserved@sbcglobal.net Chaplain Rick Melrose к6RDM 408-341-9070 K6RDM@yahoo.com Public AffairsPosition Vacant Station Trustee w6otx, w6ara....Gerry Tucker, n6nv Station Trustee K6YQT. Doug Teter, kg6lwe 650-743-7892 Station Trustee K60TA... Ron Chester, W6AZ Property Manager Gerry Tucker, N6NV Badge Coordinator Doug Teter, kg6lwe 650-743-7892 dteter@wcwi.com Historian Position Position Vacant Raffle Coordinators Rob Fenn, KC6TYD, rtyd@aol.com Shrikumar, KA6Q shri.paara@enablery.org Field Day Coordinator ... Doug Teter, kg6lwe 650-743-7892 ASVARO Rep...... Clark Martin, KK6ISP kk6isp@comcast.net Webmaster......John Miller к6мм webaron@gmail.com Technical Coordinator ... Joel Wilhite. Kp6w 408-839-5948 kd6w@arrl.net QSL Manager......Marty Wayne, w6NEV Speaker Coordinator.....Rob Fenn, kc6tyd 408-234-8023 650-888-9060 PAARAgraphs Staff **Editorial Board** Bob Van Tuyl κ6κwy Kristen McIntvre ĸ6wx Ron Chester w6AZ Vic Black AB6so Jim Thielemann κ6sv Joel Wilhite, KD6W Editor.....Bob Van Tuyl, κ6κwy 408 799-6463 rrvt@swde.com Back Up EditorJim Thielemann, κ6sν 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net Advertising......Walt Gyger, к6wgy 408-921-5901 walt@tradewindsaviation.com Member ProfilesPosition Vacant Technical Tips Vic Black, AB6so 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com Photographer......Position Vacant

VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: http://amateur-radio.org or Contact Al, WB6IMX@att.net

Electronics Flea Market

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O. - Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organ-

Second Saturday of month, March-September, 6am-12 noon Contact: htt

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at http://www.paara.org for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm Contact: http://www.fars.k6ya.or

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM Contact: http://ncdxc.org or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale Contact: http://50MhzandUp.ord

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November Tuesdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz -600KHz PL107.2Hz Contact: http://W6UQ.org/

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz Contact: http://specsnet.org or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650-595-5590 (N)

Web: http://k6mpn.org E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur. Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM. ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+) contact: http://www.svecs.net or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing. KV6R repeater under construction.

Most members are Extra Class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58mHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

UHF:

52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December. Contact: http://wvara.org, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924 fshensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor)

This Ad space is available

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session every Monday evening at 8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

 1st
 Doug - KG6LWE

 2nd
 Doug - KG6LWE

 3rd
 Ric - N6AJS

 4th
 Rob - KC6TYD

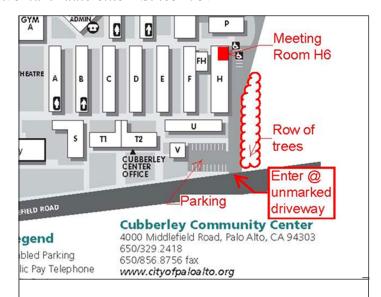
 5th
 Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



Monday-Friday: 8 AM - 7 PM; Saturday-Sunday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Opening hours



Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the

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ARV'S, WA6UUT (SK) WEDNESDAY **HAM RADIO** LUNCHEON Our 15th year! - Since May 2, 2007 – **BLACK BEAR DINER**

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by the 3rd Wed to: rrvt@swde.com Text: .doc, .rtf, or .txt Photos: ipg, png or tiff

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440 - 444.475 up 5 MHz

900 - 927.225 down 25 Mhz

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PAARA Badges

In the absence of in person meetings, you can still order a badge from Club's the website. PAARA.org Go to the bottom of the membership page to order. Badges will be mailed to purchasers, at an additional cost of \$4.95 until we can meet face to face again.

PAARAgraphs Ad Rates

PAARA graphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card—size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing trrangements with the association. The PAARAgraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.

PAARAgraphs — October 2022

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