

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL RIVER RUNNERS

the waterlog

VOL 13 NO 4 APR 2013

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Erik Miller, lining up for the portage, EF Clear Creek, AZ

JOIN THE FUN! BECOME A MEMBER OF THE "GREATEST WHITEWATER CLUB IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD".** Washington Recreational River Runners is a private, non profit corporation organized to promote river running as a safe and fun sport and to provide for an exchange of ideas among its members and public issues concerning rivers. Membership is open to anyone having an interest in the recreational use of rivers upon payment of annual dues as shown below. To join or renew your membership, cut out this form, fill out and mail to the address listed below. The Release and Indemnity Agreement **must** be signed before your application is processed.

- Select Membership level. Prices effective 6/6/08. All membership levels include the newsletter and access to club events
- \$25 SINGLE -membership for one
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 - \$100 SPONSOR -for those wishing to advertise a product or service (must be river/outdoor-related) & UP

New Member Renewal Returning Member
(prior membership ran out)

Name(s) _____
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I hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by Washington Recreational River Runners Association (WRRR) a non-profit corporation. I recognize that any outdoor or aquatic activity may involve certain dangers including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling by boat on rivers or other bodies of water, accidents, or illnesses in remote places or occurring during portages, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, officers, and members, WRRR would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part of my payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by WRRR, I hereby release WRRR and its leaders, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims and courses of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in any activities offered by WRRR. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities, and further agree to indemnify WRRR and its leaders, officers, and members from all liability, claims, and courses of action which I may have arising from my participation in activities including, but not limited to those involving death, drowning, personal injury, and property damage. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and for all members of my family including any minors. [Parent or legal guardian must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.] This agreement is effective as of the date signed, and has no termination date. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this release and indemnity agreement by reading it before I have signed it.

Mail your check and signed Agreement to:
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Signed _____ Date _____
 Signed _____ Date _____

*Journal of Self-Serving Statistics, June 2009

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM (except December).
 Please visit <http://www.wrrr.org/> for meeting locations.

THE WATERLOG

EARN BIG-TIME RIVER KARMA! Flip less often! Get shuttles from bikini models! Stop losing your hair! Your boat will look better; your beer will be colder; the sun will shine every day you're on the river and it will rain every day you're off the river! All you have to do is...**SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE WATERLOG!** (Photos & cartoons too! It's just that easy) The Waterlog is published 11 times a year. (Monthly except December) Material for publication should reach the editor by the 25th of the month. An attempt will be made to place submissions received after the 25th. However, no guarantees are given. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length. Articles and editorial comment do not necessarily reflect the view or opinions of WRRR, its Board of Directors, or its membership...They seem to think it's important that I print that last bit for some reason, go figure. Authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.

Submit material for publication in The Waterlog to the editor:

Brian Vogt
 bvogt@wwik.org

Atlas Fabrication

**Raft Frames • Boat Repair
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**Jim Sheflo
 425-343-4105**

The Bob Johnson Memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous

FRIDAY to SUNDAY, May 31 to June 2, 2012

Come join your fellow WRRR members for our annual Bob Johnson Memorial Wenatchee Rendezvous. Be a part of the greatest flotilla of inflatable boats on the Wenatchee followed by camping, raffle prizes, & a potluck dinner. Don't Miss It!

Boating: The main float is Saturday morning. We will make final trip plans at the campground between 8:00-9:00 AM. If you want to meet at the river without going to the campground first and would like to join others, we usually put in at East Leavenworth in mid-morning. Call any board member and we will relay the info to others and try to hook you up. You may also coordinate with other boaters on the Yahoo Group.

There may be Fri and Sun trips also depending on interest. Check the Yahoo Group for Fri trip planning. Sun plans will be made in the campground Sat night or Sun morning.

Most folks run the Wenatchee but there are some other good rivers nearby, like the Chiwawa, Entiat, Methow, Icicle Creek, and Peshastin Creek. Make plans on the Yahoo Group or in the campground.

Camping: Free camping for members at the Tumwater Campground Group Camp, located on the north side of U.S. 2 about 11 miles west of Leavenworth. We have the group camp from 3 PM on Friday to 2 PM on Sunday. If you are looking for more privacy there are usually some open spaces at Tumwater Campground for a fee. There is usually some unimproved camping on the south side of U.S. 2 across from Tumwater campground on both sides of Chiwaukum Creek.

A donation of \$20.00 per family is suggested for a Non-members to camp in the group site.

Saturday Night Potluck Dinner: We usually have a great meal. You bring food and your own beverages. WRRR will bring paper plates, plastic utensils, cups and napkins. We will try to have dinner at 6:30 PM on Saturday to allow time for the raffle.

The following is a suggestion for the type of dish to make or bring, if you have a specialty or preference please bring what you like. Last name begins with:

A-H Main dish I-P Side or salad Q-Z Dessert

Raffle: Following dinner on Saturday at the Tumwater group camp the club will raffle off some great river gear. You can buy your tickets at the campground before the raffle starts (or you can buy tickets from the newsletter editor after the raffle is over for half price!)

Trip Leaders: WRRR Board Members=

Simplifying Club Membership Levels

At the Wenatchee Rendezvous, we will be holding a vote on a new proposal. This proposal will affect the by-laws and the membership dues.

Currently, the by-laws only mention two different membership types, and they are undefined other than to say "6.5 VOTING RIGHTS: Single memberships shall have one vote and family memberships shall have two votes in association affairs". Every year, the board has to struggle with the definition of "family" and how it affects members at events where WRRR pays for camping. Also, we have not seen a pressing need for split votes within memberships, and it has been a problem to track these at times.

The main proposal is to merge the Single and Family memberships into a "Household" membership. All persons residing at the address given for the membership will be considered members of WRRR. Each membership will have one vote in association affairs. The Household membership will be charged \$30 dues, so the price increase only affects current Single memberships. We will continue to offer the Sustaining and Benefactor memberships with no changes.

Another aspect of this change will be the way we handle guests at events where WRRR pays for camping. Nobody on the Board of Directors wants to be responsible for going around and asking people to pay camping fees for their guests. It isn't our job to enforce fairness - we want to enjoy the events as much as everyone else. From now on, at these events the President or senior club officer at the event will ask for donations for guests, noting that participation is voluntary. The suggested donation will be \$20 per household.

There are two other items that will be in the changes to the by-laws:

* The Waterlog Editor will receive a Benefactor membership at no cost while acting in this role.

* The club will provide free Household memberships for long-time WRRR members based on the "Rule of 85". This rule, used by some service organizations, states that if the age of a member plus the number of years active in the club adds up to 85 or more, that member will be provided with a free membership at their request. The minimum age for this benefit will be 50 and the person must have been a member in good standing for at least 25 years.

The specifics of the proposals to be voted on, including the amended by-laws, will be made available on the club web site (<http://wrrr.org>) on May 1. Announcements will be made on the Yahoo group and Facebook page when they are up.

David Elliott
2013 President



70 miles in 3 days on Arizona's East Clear Creek

The east fork of Clear Creek flows from high in the mountains of Arizona through sandstone and limestone gorges for 100 miles before joining the Little Colorado near Winslow. This stream runs rarely, and last in 2008. But it came in this April, so Nick Borelli, Erik Miller, and Bill Tuthill and I put together a blitz mission to nab this springtime desert gem.

After arriving in Vegas with our gear, IK in one checked bag, camp gear in another, we met Erik in the Getaway Van and rallied out to Clear Creek reservoir. We were up early in the am, heading to the decommissioned road that provided access 12 miles below Craggin Dam.

It took an ATV with a trailer, some boulder trundling, and 2 hours to reach the river, where we found 100 cfs ripping through the willows. We were soon rigged and on the water, snow on the banks. In Arizona. In April.

The first section of water was mostly willow dodging, and sometimes, willow boating. We'd plow right over the trees, knocking them down with our boats. Luckily, no foliage yet meant we could see fairly well. Eventually, we gathered water from a few tribbs, and settled into a nice camp at mile 11.

The second day, we knew we needed to make 20 miles. Things were going fairly well, but we expected the logjam at mile 24 for an hour before we finally reached.

This logjam was amazing. I'm talking a 100 yard gauntlet of desert cottonwood, willow, and sycamore. Completely blocking the river, wall to wall. High water tersomionials were stacked 30 vertical feet above the water. We managed to portage in an hour, but it was dangerous, difficult work.

We had a couple portages down to our second camp at a spectacular bend in the river. Cocktail hour has rarely been so hard-earned.

Day three brought the deeping, steeping canyon to us with its full force. We began finding huge limestone boulder choked rapids, often laced with sieves and occasionally unrunnable.

While the dam was still spilling, we'd missed the good flows from side strewams, meaning our level was a tad low for many of the bigger rapids. Still, most portages were very quick and easy.

Until one corner, which started out as a class II willow dodge, steepend into a class blind corner, then consolidated into a IV-hole studded chute that disappeared completely underground beneath 50 yards of house sized boulders. We made use of the eddy just above the deadly sieve, glad, for once, we didn't have higher water.

The portaging and scouting took its toll and we fell short on miles

day three. We knew our final day would be at least 30 miles. We knew most of the IV, 2 more log jams, and the steepest, deepest, tightest bit of canyon remained in front of us.

That last day was gruelling, but tremendously rewarding. It took 11 hours. We portaged six times, sometimes in through and over sieves. We scouted many more times than that. But we stayed calm and worked well as a team, and we reached the slackwater of the reservoir with just enough daylight to reach the takeout by dusk.

We had a five hour drive back to Vegas, faced only a few hours of sleep, and Erik even had to work the following day. But we made it out on time, on our own terms.

We had to work for it, but the canyon was certainly worth it. Rock art and ruins were everywhere and were pristine. We saw active and rare wildlife, including a coatimundi.

The limestone and sandstone narrows were stunning, and rarely opened in 70 miles of river. Beaches were plentiful. It was a real treat to see so much new river, so rarely available to boats. I'm sure we'll look to go back -- but certainly with more flow, and more days. Maybe we'll add the 40 IV miles of Willow Creek to the trip next time. All I know is, any trip into Clear Creek will be an adventure!



Brenan's Beta: Green River Gorge



The Nozzle may be right-to-left, but just upstream the water itself flows left-to-right -- into a dangerous sieve on river right

This month, we've got a collection of great perspectives on the Green, just in time for the cleanup. While the gorge is an action packed run, the most dangerous ,crux section begins with Mercury and features a hidden sieve at the Nozzle. Check out the tips and collected wisdom from veterans of the Green, and get ready for the toughest section of water to be found at any club event!

Boaters running the Green for the first time often have difficulty at the Nozzle. The most common error is ending up too far right on the approach to the Nozzle slot in the picket line of boulders that forms the rapid.

The reason for this is not considering the strong left to right current where it approaches the picket line of boulders and the Nozzle. The lower the flow the more effect the left to right current seems to have. If the current is not considered it appears the line would be to line up straight for the Nozzle or even approach from the right as that presents a wider profile for the boat to fit through. The problem occurs as the boat gets within about 25-15 feet of the Nozzle the current catches it and moves it too far right. Usually the boat ends up highsidng on the right rock.

A safer approach to the Nozzle is from left of the slot. As you drop out of Mercury into the pool above the Nozzle there is a small rock island left of center in the middle of the pool, run just right of that and then set a left to right angle towards the Nozzle. If you are getting pulled right hold your line by back ferrying left a bit. There is good marker to use, a very small wave/disturbance or hole or rock

depending on the flow, about 15+ feet in front of the Nozzle. Pass your boat over the left side of the "wave", you are heading for the left rock the forms the Nozzle slot. One or two strokes should be all it takes to move the boat left to right and into the Nozzle. Do be sure to clear the left rock, it is undercut a bit. Remember, it is very easy to move right with help from the current. The Nozzle is hardest at low flows, below 1500, and very high flows. 2000 cfs is easiest.

If you do end up right of the Nozzle do not panic. Be sure to high-side quickly if necessary to avoid flipping against the rock, don't let passengers lowside your upstream tube. If you are close to the Nozzle you might have a chance to paddle or row your upstream oar fast and hard (panic strokes) and push off the rock back to the left into the Nozzle. If that does not work then you will end up in the eddy on river right above the picket line of rocks. The Room of Doom and Gloom. It is not easy to escape. There is current feeding through a slot/sieve too small for boats to fit through. Don't try to go there! You may be able to paddle or drag your boat up the right bank eddy high enough to ferry back over to the center and into the Nozzle. I have often seen this method fail because the boat does not get far enough to river left and ends up in the same current pushing the boat back to the right.

Another method if you have support on the river left shore is for someone to throw a rope bag across the river from the large rocks and and pull the boat across the pickets into the Nozzle. Be sure there is no one coming down river before you put a line across. Keep a close eye out for any boats coming into Mercury and be

ready to temporarily suspend the rescue by having the boat toss the rope end back to the shore person pull the line in fast. Try not to have biners and knots and stuff on the rope that can catch in rocks when it is pulled back in. If you do end up with a rope stuck in the river please try to retrieve it or cut enough of it out to prevent it being a hazard to other boaters or swimmers. Always make sure to post to the message boards if you lose a rope in the river so boaters will be aware of the hazard. It may be able to be removed later at lower water.

SPECIAL HAZARD: the small slot between the right Nozzle rock and the rock on the right shore is a sieve. Try to prevent anyone from swimming there. I have seen a swimmer trapped underwater there and have heard of others. I think boaters have drowned in that slot also. That is why it is so important to stay calm, and high-sided, if you end up right of the nozzle. You do not want swimmers in the Room of Doom and Gloom. Good luck!

-Paul Sestak

While it's not my backyard run, I do love boating in the Green River Gorge. At the crux of the river, there are two class 4 rapids back to back delivering a one-two punch. They are aptly named Mercury and The Nozzle. Power lines over head in the heart of the gorge signal that Mercury is coming up. There is a large eddy on river left just before the rapids for boats to regroup.

My first trip down the gorge was at a Green River Cleanup several years ago. I remember making it through Mercury and seeing the Nozzle for the first time. Just after I ran the last drop at Mercury, I got my first glance at the nozzle it appeared to be a wall of rocks. I didn't see no stinking nozzle that's for sure!!! Luckily I had Shelly Becker's coaching the night before at camp. Depending on flows I usually aim for the Left rock and just barely graze it, letting the current send me down the "nozzle" with my boat facing just barely center left. I always take a couple quick back pulls into the eddy on river right to set safety. Most folks eddy out on river left, which

makes the river right tactic even more effective.

I will note one thing which usually applies to most river rescue scenarios, if you do get hung up; don't panic. The rocks are steep and very slick here. The current moves quickly, however eddies are present in some convenient areas if you are stuck. We usually discuss the plan in the eddy above Mercury or at the Put in. This gives the group an idea of what to expect, the preferred order, and when/how we will regroup if there is an issue. Eventually, you will end up in a situation where a boat in your group is hung up on the right rock. PLEASE use extreme caution throwing ropes across the river and setting up rescue operations. Be mindful of other river users. I find it is most beneficial to have the sweep boat setup safety in the Eddy just after Mercury on river left. This person can signal to other river groups if rescues are in progress at the Nozzle. A few years back there were 3 boats hung up there. The 3rd boat was touching the right bank and passengers could have easily unloaded to safety on the shore. This can be a viable option to keep in mind.

Once through the Nozzle, you need to get ready and setup for more rapids. Next make a Deal is right around the corner. While I've never run the river over 3200cfs, I've heard of the legendary "Hand of God" and sounds like a place I'd rather not be!

-Brenan Filippini

Setting up for the Nozzle as you go through Mercury is very important as you need to be positioned properly well before you hit the Nozzle. You do not want to be anywhere near the Right bank or the Right Nozzle. You want to hit the Main Nozzle with an approach from center left.

I want to start avoiding River Right as I exit Mercury and avoid the Right Boulder at the Nozzle as I have rescued several other boaters that have gotten wrapped on this rock or trapped in the eddy above it so I prefer approaching the Nozzle from river left. The

force of the current is strong enough that it shoves me right more than I want anyway, I have been stuck on the Right Boulder and in the eddy and know from firsthand experience that it takes a lot of strength and skill to recover once you are in grasp of the water on river right.

I like to think that the Yellow Brick Road is the key to the Nozzle on the Green. There is a guard rock about 50 feet above the Nozzle that I use as a guide. If I can get my bow (nose) just barely into the slack water on the downstream side of this rock, it sets me up to go perfectly through the Nozzle without hitting the dangerous Right (starboard) rock. There



The Nozzle's sieve, where most water flows. Safety, if set, should focus here

is a current that I call the Yellow Brick Road that flows perfectly from the guard rock to Nozzle happiness.

As for setting up when you are going through Mercury, the traditional river left line down Mercury takes you right to the Guard Rock and in the last couple of years, the end of the wave train has gotten more powerful at higher water. If you are not careful, it will send you into the upstream side of the guard rock which is bad and then you may overreact and get too far right. I have made this mistake and seen it happen to many others. It is good to get near this guard rock and just slip into the downstream eddy which lands you on the Yellow Brick Road to Nozzle happiness.

There is a more difficult route through Mercury that starts Center Right, moves Center and the offramp ends at the onramp to the Yellow Brick Road to Nozzle happiness.

At flows above 2500, I sometimes avoid the Yellow Brick Road and use the controversial Far Left entrance to the Nozzle as it sets me up better for Hand of God and avoids the hole that gets bigger once the Nozzle gets to 4000 or 5000. Above 4500, I tend to always use the controversial Far Left entrance to the Nozzle because I know I can slam down the Left Bank of Mercury at high speed, keep it straight, ship my oars and get spit out at an angle that sends me river right of Hand of God.

If you want to set up a river rescue station at the Nozzle, it has proven more effective to set up rescue from River Left and throw ropes to people trapped against the right boulder. To facilitate getting into this position, the support boat needs to have bow pointed

to left when going through Nozzle and work very aggressively to land on moss covered rocks on River Left.

Due to the danger involved with landing on moss covered rocks in deep water, I have found that either a strong kayaker that can exit their boat easily or a strong oarsman in a raft with a bow paddler seems to be a good lead boat so that they can land and catch other boats. Jumping from the cockpit of a catboat with a rope in hand onto a moss covered boulder has led to incidents where the support crew needs rescuing. There is just not a lot of slack water immediately below the Nozzle boulders.

-Mark Burns

The Green "whew"!!!! I started running the gorge 2 years ago on the Clean-up. I remember Lyles and I talking about me running it and he wanted me to be very comfortable running the MM at 1800 – 1900, which I had not done yet. Came time for the Clean-up, was talking to a couple of the guys beforehand and just went for it. I was doing ok at the put in, until I zipped up my dry suit, my heart started racing and I was panicking to the point I felt like I could not read the water anymore and lost the ability to rely on my skill. Our group consisted of Joe running lead, Brian and I in the middle and Lyles running sweep. Got warmed up through Headworks, started to relax a little bit. First Ledge drop was good, I had run that several times before and then I saw the sign "Expert boaters only" – that couldn't be ME – yikes!!!! Next was Second Ledge drop, quite exhilarating.

Then came Pipeline and from that moment on until getting through Paradise, I lost my ability to read the water and completely focused



Approaching the Nozzle. This is as far right as you want to be. Note the guard rock, and its eddy.

on Joe. I remember my heart beating so loud, I thought for sure everyone could hear it – we shot left at the top of Pipeline through fast moving water and down the drop on the left side – WOW!!! My adrenaline was really pumping with a huge release at the bottom. Even though I had clean lines through those rapids, my confidence was not there. At Grasshopper, again following Joe's line which took me over the top of the biggest hole at the bottom and I flipped.

After getting back in my boat, Joe said "you weren't supposed to follow me through there" – LOL – how was I supposed to know?? Made it through everything fine, and then came Mercury. We pulled over at the island above to discuss positioning – at that moment I was terrified!!!!!! Brian went first to set up safety. After a few minutes, we took off. Joe was lead, I followed close behind with Lyles running sweep. All I know is when we turned that corner into the top of Mercury it sounded like a lion that was going to chew me up and spit me out, it was foaming at the mouth. I don't remember much, because I was so focused on Joe – had to maneuver between the big holes at the top and run left at the huge hole at the bottom, then line up for the Nozzle. Upon exiting the Nozzle, I eddied right. I yelled so loud at the bottom, I was shaking – I had to take a moment to compose myself before we headed out. At Dejavu I went right over the top of the rock, spun around sideways and had the biggest brace of my life – my abs were still sore a couple of days later. At Paradise I was able to rest a bit and watch the guys surf. Then down to Shangri-La, I was so worn out, I couldn't even carry my own boat out. Later that evening at the campfire Pixie asked me how it was and I was just too tired to go into detail – I hit the pillow hard that night.

As for my adventures on the Green since then, I'm taking the lead more so I'm comfortable with my lines. Mercury still keeps me very much on my toes.

SYOTR - Homer



A right-to-left line helps ensure that getting too far right still gives the chance to pivot off the rock.



Paul demonstrates the left-to-right line. While close to the rock, his boat is always well left of the rock. A right-to-left line puts a boat right of this rock and challenges the boater to regain the left side.

Web Hits

Web Hits highlights excellent content from across the online boating communities in the western states. What exciting news and events have happened lately? Check these links out:

USFS Marsh Creek Wood Beta
<http://bit.ly/ZgeWpA>

AW: Sullivan Dam Removal Approved
<http://bit.ly/ZgeWpA>

NWRC: Types of Rafts
<http://bit.ly/ZYUY5n>

DIY Handwash Station
<http://bit.ly/11GdDoq>

NWRC: Baldface Creek TR
<http://bit.ly/Y7BcrW>

Sequester Impacts Affect River Conservation
<http://bit.ly/15KBveV>

Owhyee Dust Storm Affects Snowpack
<http://bit.ly/Y0iHnd>

The Legacy of Reg Lake
<http://bit.ly/10F4oBG>

C&K NW Creek Comp Wrapup
<http://bit.ly/17XcMDi>

C&K: Whitewater Pioneers
<http://bit.ly/174pWLq>

AR: Protect Rough & Ready and Baldface Creeks
<http://bit.ly/11o9v18>

Skyfest 2013!
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on their drysuits and accessories. If you are in the Portland area and are a WRRR member, Andy & Bax will honor this discount as well. You will need a WRRR membership number to order. Contact the Membership Chair to get your membership number.

DAY/DATE	RIVER/DESCRIPTION	CLASS	CONTACT
April 21st	FLIP PRACTICE Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish	III-IV	Jim Johnson 425-471-1035
April 27th	SHANG RI LA PRE-CLEAN Shang Ri La		
May 4th	GREEN RIVER CLEANUP	III-IV	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
May 16th	LOCHSA PILGRIMAGE Wilderness Gateway east of Lowell, ID	IV	Jim Johnson 425-471-1035
June 1st	WENATCHEE RENDEZVOUS	III	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
July 20th	WHITE SALMON RETREAT	III+	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
August 17th	CAREY BERGER MEMORIAL POKER RUN Skagit River	II+	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net
September 14th	WRRR TIETON RALLY	III+	Lyles Larkin ik4fun@comcast.net

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