

If you haven't noticed Field Day 2009 is just a month away again and it's time for us to get things rolling. One of the very first tasks we try to take care of is our "ANNUAL SODA DRIVE". Each year we have this fundraiser of sorts to keep the expenses down for our Field Day weekend and what is left over goes to monthly picnics & meetings. As you all know the price of beverages is not a cheap thing today and it's just too much of a load on our treasury, especially when we need other things. So, how do we get around this problem? For several years now we've been asking everyone that plans on attending our Field Day weekend on June 26, 27& 28 to bring in a few six packs of your favorite soda. Please remember that we <u>cannot have any alcoholic beverages</u> in Frear Park and everything must be either cans or plastic. Please,...NO GLASS!

If you could help us by bringing in some soda or even bottled water has become very popular, it would be greatly appreciated. This can save the club some mighty big bucks, especially if we have a very hot weekend. There is another way we can handle this for you and for a lot of you it works out better.

We're well aware that for some of you it's a hassle to stop and get the soda, then remember to bring it to the next couple of meetings. So, if you would like to donate a few bucks, we then can purchase the soda that we need. This really works out best for there have been a few year's that we get overloaded with let's say 10 cases of Root Beer but no 7UP, Coke, or of course the best one...**Diet Pepsi!** (I just had to add that!!). You can give your donation to Karen Smith, KS20, and after we collect all of the soda donations we can then go out and purchase the flavors we need most.

Can you help us out? I sure hope so. I know it can get very hot over in the park and without a lot of cold beverages it just makes it unbearable!

"Please do your Best to Help Us Out"



More than a Club



Overhauled & Now PL 127.3 The TARA repeaters were placed back in service on Saturday afternoon April 18th, 2009 after months of repairs. We owe a great deal of thanks to a number of folks but none more so there him McKnicht K21 M: Packert Jaky, N21 JD and Dave

than Jim McKnight, K2LM; Robert Isby, N2LUD and Dave Edwards, W2GBO. These guys when over the system from head to foot and they've put in an enormous amount of time & labor to help our club out. And, there still is more to complete the job! However, the biggest part is done.

The new change that you'll notice is that we now have CTCSS TONE ACCESS on both the VHF/UHF sides of the system. The tones that are now required are 127.3 Hz on the INPUT and Just remember the INPUT side is a MUST in order to use this system. If you have any troubles programming your radios feel free to contact one of us and we'll get you the help you need. Keep in mind that these tones were not implemented in order to keep anyone out of our system! These tones are being used to reduce the chances of interference to the system.

We owe Len, N2LEN, a BIG thanks for his help in obtaining a repeater for our 447.075 side of the system. Both him and Fred, WA2MMX, were very kind to donate everything we needed to rescue the 447.075 repeater and for that we are most grateful! Also, just this week we had a generous offer from Tom, KC2FCP that we appreciate too. Now, I know I no doubt forgot to thank someone but I'll try to think hard and include that in the next update. Please, know we appreciate ALL those that assisted us in any WAY, SHAPE or FORM! We still have a few problems that we are working on. As of right now it appears that although the repeaters are complete, the next problem source appears to be to looking at rebuilding or replacing the Sinclair Duplexer Cans which appear to be our next problem source to correct.

73 de MUZU







Upcoming Public Service Events

As I said to you last month, May is going is going to be extremely busy. So I will be looking for all of the help I can get. **Remember, this isn't just restricted to TARA members, any amateur operator is welcome to join our public service team.** Here is an updated list of the Public Service Events coming up for TARA and our team of volunteers! **Get ready Gang, It's Mid - May and it is going to be a very busy month** !!

On Sunday, May 17th will be the 29th Annual Bob Smith....East Greenbush Rotary Run at the Green Meadow Elementary School at Routes. 9 & 20. This race starts at 8:30 AM.

Then on Thursday, May, 21st will be the GHI Work Force Team Challenge in Washington Park and this race starts at 6:15 pm.

On Monday, May 25th will be the Watervliet Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 AM.

This year the City of Watervliet is working with the Arsenal and we will have a Military Band from Washington D.C. marching with the Parade. Also the Watervliet Wind Warriors will be in the Parade and one of the fly guys will fly his plane the entire length of the parade.

Our last event until fall will be the 31^{st} Annual Freihofer's Run for Women on Saturday May 30^{th} , at 10:15 AM. We have to be in the park by or before 7 AM.

The Freihofer's Run for Women 5km combines some of the top International and American women distance runners and over 3,500 women from the Capital Region and across the nation. From Olympians to recreational runner, it's a wonderful blend of competition, participation and camaraderie.

The start and finish lines are located on Madison Avenue, between the Empire State Plaza and the New York State Museum in Albany, NY.

I still need help at all these events. If you have any questions or if you want to sign up to help me, you can call me anytime at 273-6594. You can always email me at <u>KS2O@N2TY.ORG</u>, also.

There will be two more Public Service Events in the Fall.

Thank you & 73, Karen KS20

Public Service Event Coordinator



May-21-2009 GHI Work Force Team Challenge Washington Park, Albany Thursday 6:15 PM

May-17-2009 29th Annual Bob Smith E. Greenbush Rotary Run Saturday 8:30 AM

May-25-2009 Watervliet Memorial Day Parade Watervliet, N.Y. Monday 10:00 AM

May-30-2009 Freihofer's Run for Women Washington Park, Albany Saturday, 7:00 AM

> September 2009 Arsenal City Run Watervliet, N.Y. TBA

10-30-09 and 10-31-09 Pumpkin Patrol Rensselaer, Schenectady and Albany Co's. 6:00 until 10:00 PM

Election of Officers Here Nominations for Office and the "Bubba Award" Field Day Preparations

Well Everyone, plan on a busy evening on May 19,2009 at 7PM. This meeting will be a very important meeting as we will be voting on who will be the next recipient of the Annual cherished 2009 Thomas M. Remmert, N2TR Award more affectionately known as the "Bubba Award"!

Of course we still have plenty of topics to discuss for the Field Day coming up in June and we'll have the latest news on who's running for office this year in the upcoming TARA 2009 elections. As usual the Four Officers positions are up for election, plus Three Board positions are up for Nominations. I guess you can see we have a lot to take care of. Please, do your very best to join us.

Tuesday - May 19, 2009



I saw this on E-ham and thought it may be of interest for the newsletter. I know that Craig and a few others are also interested in Trains too.

Even though these are models, it is a neat video...

73, Steve - W2GB

I never knew how many ham radio operators were train buffs too until we released <u>HamBrief.TV</u> episode 26! For this episode we stopped by Steve's, <u>AC7E</u>, <u>Arizona</u> <u>Train Depot</u> to film model trains controlled by RF as well as a real train monitoring system also updated via RF packets! We listened to locomotive engineers and of course checked out Steve's hamshack at the office and antennas out back!

A great time was had by all. Check out the latest HamBrief video at <u>73s.org</u>!

73, Chris N7ICE

Hendricks QRP Kits to Offer Regenerative Receiver Kit at Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, Ohio, Hamvention 2009

With the advent of Solar Cycle 25, many radio clubs, or group of clubs are gearing up their community involvement, and youth based radio orientation programs. Hendricks QRP Kits

<u>http://www.qrpkits.com/</u>> gained permission from Charles Kitchin (N1TEV) to offer his popular regenerative receiver in kit form, and is being released at Dayton this year. Kitchin's design provides a basic regenerative shortwave receiver capable of receiving AM, SSB, and CW signals from 3mHz to 11mHz. The coverage enables the listener to hear amateur radio operators in the 80m, 40m bands, and foreign AM broadcast stations in the 49m and 31m bands.

Dan Tayloe (N7VE) adapted his design to a small self contained, unit that is easily assembled with normal low cost tools. It is a basic, easy to assemble kit, with all the components supplied. The metal chassis, front panel decals, professionally fabricated, silk screened circuit board, electronic, and mechanical components are all included.

Builders are required to supply commonly available earbuds, an onboard 9v battery, and some random wire for an antenna. Antenna requirements are just a simple wire antenna, thrown up into a tree or tied to a structure. The only tools required are an inexpensive 20 watt soldering iron, rosin core solder, small side cutters, needle nose pliers, small phillips, and straight screwdriver. Complete detailed assembly instructions and schematic can be viewed or downloaded from the files section of <<u>http://www.qrpkits.com/</u>>.

This kit would be an excellent Elmer project for any ham radio programs targeted at increasing technical interaction with youth programs, schools, or attracting newcomers to the hobby.

Ken - WA4MNT



BY: Robert Isby, Jr - N2LUD

Greeting to y'all from my mobile office. I was lurking in the background listening to the N2TY repeater over the weekend and a discussion between Craig (W2XAD) and Dave (KC2UVO) transpired where Dave mentioned that he liked how helpful and friendly the amateur community is. Craig responded with, "*Isn't that what we are supposed to do?*"

"That comment struck me - Isn't that what we are supposed to do?"

Such innocuous sounding words – but boy-oh-boy, what an impact that statement, that attitude, that mantra of the Troy Amateur Radio Association; has made on my life. Way back when, I was hunting for a place to "fit in" and the hobby, or at least those that I knew, didn't seem to want me or my enthusiasm for learning VHF and higher frequency operations and equipment. So, as I trolled the bands and read the books, I happened upon this cool bunch of guys and gals who welcomed me in. As time went on, the gang decided to "meet" in Bill's Garage. This was the second meeting of the newly formed Troy Amateur Radio Association and I was member no. 13 (of all the numbers to be!!!).

Anyway, somewhere along the way, I asked if the club would be willing to let me spearhead a repeater construction effort on their behalf. The club agreed and I learned so much, so fast, and I had a lot of fun along the way. So much so, that I just wanted to do more and more. I found myself running all around helping hang antennas and fixing and erecting towers and really just feeling great that I could help so many hams communicate.

I have had a great time working on the different ham club projects and love to give my time to help and only wish there were more time in the day to do it. So, as I reflect upon Craig's comment and think, yes, I've helped the amateur community, I wanted to drop a heartfelt note back out to the club to say, **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives. Thank you for letting me become the amateur I am. If it wasn't for the club and the positive attitude that it fosters, I am sure that I would not have stuck around. TARA – from the bottom of my heart – THANK YOU. You have helped me do "... *what we are supposed to do!*"

73 DE N2LUD



TARA T.N.T. TRADER NET Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM On the 145.170/447.075 Repeater



THE GREAT BRAZILIAN SATELLITE - HACK CRACKDOWN

CAMPINAS, Brazil On the night of March 8, cruising 22,000 miles above the Earth, U.S. Navy communications satellite FLTSAT-8 suddenly erupted with illicit activity. Jubilant voices and anthems crowded the channel on a junkyard's worth of homemade gear from across vast and silent stretches of the Amazon: Ronaldo, a Brazilian soccer idol, had just scored his first goal with the Corinthians. It was a party that won't soon be forgotten. Ten days later, Brazilian Federal Police swooped in on 39 suspects in six states in the largest crackdown to date on a growing problem here: illegal hijacking of U.S. military satellite transponders.

"This had been happening for more than five years," says Celso Campos, of the Brazilian Federal Police. "Since the communication channel was open, not encrypted, lots of people used it to talk to each other."

The practice is so entrenched, and the knowledge and tools so widely available, few believe the campaign to stamp it out will be quick or easy.

Much of this country's geography is remote, and beyond the reach of cellphone coverage, making American satellites an ideal, if illegal, communications option. The problem goes back more than a decade, to the mid-1990s, when Brazilian radio technicians discovered they could jump on the UHF frequencies dedicated to satellites in the Navy's Fleet Satellite Communication system, or FLTSATCOM. They've been at it ever since.

Truck drivers love the birds because they provide better range and sound than ham radios. Rogue loggers in the Amazon use the satellites to transmit coded warnings when authorities threaten to close in. Drug dealers and organized criminal factions use them to coordinate operations.

Today, the satellites, which pirates called "Bolinha" or "little ball," are a national phenomenon. "It's impossible not to find equipment like this when we catch an organized crime gang," says a police officer involved in last month's action. The crackdown, called "Operation Satellite," was Brazil's first large-scale enforcement against the problem. Police followed coordinates provided by the



Brazilian satellite hackers use high-performance antennas and homebrew gear to turn U.S. Navy satellites into their personal CB radios. *Photo: Divulgação/Polícia Federal*

U.S. Department of Defense and confirmed by Anatel, Brazil's FCC. Among those charged were university professors, electricians, truckers and farmers, the police say. The suspects face up to four years and jail, but are more likely to be fined if convicted.

By Marcelo Soares /services/feedback/letterstoeditor/services/feedback/letterstoeditor04.20.09

First lofted into orbit in the 1970s, the FLTSATCOM bird was at the time a major advance in military communications. Their 23 channels were used by every branch of the U.S. armed forces and the White House for encrypted data and voice, typically from portable ground units that could be quickly unpacked and put to use on the battlefield. As the original FLTSAT constellation of four satellites fell out of service, the Navy launched a more advanced UFO satellite (for Ultra High Frequency Follow-On) to replace them. Today, there are two FLTSAT and eight UFO birds in geosynchronous orbit. Navy contractors are working on a next-generation system called Mobile User Objective System beginning in September 2009.

Until then, the military is still using aging FLTSAT and UFO satellites — and so are a lot of Brazilians. While the technology on the transponders still dates from the 1970s, radio sets back on Earth have only improved and plummeted in cost — opening a cheap, efficient and illegal backdoor.

To use the satellite, pirates typically take an ordinary ham radio transmitter, which operates in the 144- to 148-MHZ range, and add a frequency doubler cobbled from coils and a varactor diode. That lets the radio stretch into the lower end of FLTSATCOM's 292- to 317-MHz uplink range. All the gear can be bought near any truck stop for less than \$500. Ads on specialized websites offer to perform the conversion for less than \$100. Taught the ropes, even rough electricians can make Bolinha-ware.

"I saw it more than once in truck repair shops," says amateur radio operator Adinei Brochi (PY2ADN) "Nearly illiterate men rigged a radio in less than one minute, rolling wire on a coil."

Brochi, who assembled his first radio set from spare parts at 12, has been <u>tracking the Brazilian satellite hacking problem</u> (.pdf) for years. Brochi says the Pentagon's concerns are obvious.

"If a soldier is shot in an ambush, the first thing he will think of doing will be to send a help request over the radio," observes Brochi. "What if he's trying to call for help and two truckers are discussing soccer? In an emergency, that soldier won't be able to remember quickly how to change the radio programming to look for a frequency that's not saturated."

When real criminals use these frequencies, it's easy to tell they're hiding something, but it's nearly impossible to know what it is. In one intercepted conversation posted to YouTube, a man alerts a friend that he should watch out, because things are getting "crispy" and "strong

The Great Brazilian Satellite - Hack Crackdown (cont'd)

Sometimes loggers refer to the approach of authorities by saying, "Santa Claus is coming," says Brochi. When the user's location is stable, the signal can be triangulated. That's how the Defense Department got the coordinates to feed Brazilian authorities in March's raids.

While Brazil may be the world capital of FLTSATCOM hijacking, there have been cases in other countries — even in the United States. In February of last year, FCC investigators used a mobile direction-finding vehicle to trace rogue transmissions to a Brazilian immigrant in New Jersey. When the investigators inspected his radio gear, they found a transceiver programmed to a FLTSAT frequency, connected to an antenna in the back of his house. Joaquim Barbosa was hit with a \$20,000 fine.

A technician with Anatel, speaking on condition of anonymity, says the chief problem with ending the satellite abuse in this country is that U.S. and Brazilian authorities simply waited too long to start. Thousands of users are believed to have the know-how to use the system. After a bust, the airwaves always go quiet for a while, but the hijackers always return.

One week after the "Operation Satellite," Brochi met with Wired.com at a gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts in a bucolic square in Campinas, about 60 miles north of Sao Paulo. Brochi switches on his UHF receiver and scans through the satellite frequencies. It's relatively quiet now on the satellite underground, except for the static-like sound of encrypted military traffic. But eventually, a lone creaky voice cuts through. It's a man in Porto Velho, the capital of Rondônia, a day's drive north into the upper Amazon basin. He's making small talk with a friend in Portuguese. The satellite pirates are creeping back on the air.

You asked how they made the converter. It was a relatively simple transverter:

As they stated:

Pirates typically take an ordinary ham radio transmitter, which operates in the 144- to 148-MHZ range, and add a frequency doubler cobbled from coils and a varactor diode. That lets the radio stretch into the lower end of FLTSATCOM's 292- to 317-MHz uplink range. All the gear can be bought near any truck stop for less than \$500. Ads on specialized websites offer to perform the conversion for less than \$100. Taught the ropes, even rough electricians can make Bolinha-ware.



I'd like to congratulate Karen, KS2O and "ALL" of her volunteers that assisted with the East Greenbush Rotary Run, on Sunday May 17, 2009.

It was a wee bit damp & chilly but the group made out quite well from everything I've heard.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEER'S WERE: KS20 KB2SPM N2WJR (WALT FILLED IN AT THE LAST MINUTE FOR AN OPENING WE HAD...GREAT JOB!) K2HAT (LEFT SICK) N2HIC KC2BSC (NO "KILLER" WITH BETH TODAY!) N2PEK WA2TQK N2ZQF KC2IBI KC2NXC

Morse Tips & Quips



"IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START LEARNING MORSE CODE!"

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Editor's Note

Recently we have had numerous calls on the TARA repeaters and a few of the members have had problems contacting local police agencies because of the Local 911 phone situation.

For this reason, I will publish on a monthly basis, a Listing of Local police agency numbers for you to call in the event of NON-emergency or non-life threatening events. This way, you can clip out the numbers and place them under the glass or on the wall near the phone in your shack.

If you come up with additional numbers for your local jurisdictions pass them on to me and I will post them here.

Emergency Police Call List	
Albany PD&FD	438-4000
Albany Co. Sheriff	765-2351
Cohoes PD	237-5333
Green Island PD	273-2401
East Greenbush PD	479-2525
Menands PD	463-1681
North Greenbush PD	283-5323
Troy PD	270-4411
Watervliet PD	270-3833
NYSP Troop G	783-3211
NYSP E.Greenbush	477-9333
NYSP Clifton Park	371-2287
NYSP Brunswick	279-3403
Rensselaer PD	462-7451
Rensselaer Co. Sher.	270-5252
Waterford PD	237-3341

Are You Going to Dayton?

The ARRL National Convention is preesently at the Dayton Hamvention® on May 15-17 at Hara Arena. Several T.A.R.A. members make the trip to Dayton, Ohio,for the biggest Ham Fest in the country if not the world!

Making the trip from T.A.R.A.. are Steve Bozak, Steve VanSickle & Tony Pazzola,W2BEJ and his entourage which have been reserving a block of rooms at the Dayton Hamvention for many years and have formed lasting friendships with hams from all over the USA and Canada.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400- numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience. Open to both ARRL members and nonmembers, ARRL EXPO is packed with official ARRL program representatives, activities (including activities for youth) and forums. Visit the ARRL bookstore for popular publications and products, join the ARRL or renew your membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise. All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Dayton Hamvention will receive a free gift. What are you waiting for? Gas



DAYTON * 2009 Photo's By: Steve Bozak - WB2IQU



Our photographer, Steve Bozak - WB2IQU attends a Teleconference and gets the camera turned on him



Tony W2BEJ and Steve WB2IQU attends a Satellite Radio Broadcast Show for the Visually Impaired



Notice there's only one female in the picture



Parts Galore, as far as the Eyes can See !!



Tailgating until your Tail falls off



RF Amplifiers 50 w to 5000 watt

FRANKS FUNNIES

The opportunity to spread a few groans. Here we go:--The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much Pi. -I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it

turned out to be an optical Aleutian. -She was only a whisky maker- but he loved her still.

-A rubber band pistol was confiscated in an algebra class- it was a weapon of math destruction.

-A butcher backed into his meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

-No matter how much you push the envelope it'll still be stationery.

-A dog gave birth to puppies near the side of the road and was charged with littering.

-A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

-Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

-Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

-A hole has been found in the wall at a nudist camp. Police are looking into it.

-Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

P.S. Don't blame the Editor for the Above. I only print them





The following are exam dates for 2009. Please, mark your calendar and let Gerald, WA2IWW, know if you'll be able to attend one or all of these sessions.

JULY 22 - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 - SATURDAY ATVET NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!!

We will be looking for as many Volunteer Examiner's for the July 22nd Session, as possible. If you are available please contact the Editor and also notify GERALD MURRAY, WA2IWW.

73 de NY2U "Mr.Bill"





Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meets

on the 1st Thursday of the Month on the 145.17 Repeater

Dave Trombley, WA2IGM would like to remind everyone that we will be conducting a SIMPLEX NET on Thursday evening May 21st at 7:30pm. The net will be announced on the 5.17 and will immediately move over to our Simplex frequency of 146.550 for the NET. This will just be a routine Base station and mobile net.

Next Month, in Liue of our regular meeting we will probably move outside to an outside location. We are trying to find a park (Hopefully Hudson Shores)to play Radio, test antenna's and have a short outside meeting. Further information on this will be discussed on the Net on the First Thursday in June. As time gets closer we can discuss our options on the Yahoo discussion group.

TARA CLUB OFFICERS – 1 YEAR TERM

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248 Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594 Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI......272-0112 Treasurer: Howard Cummings, N2HIC... 786-3622

TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS

Ken Davis, KB2KFV	(08-10)272-0112
Mac Smith, KB2SPM	(08-10)273-6594
Roy Warner N2OWC	(07-09)283-8485
Steve VanSickle WB2HPR	(07-09). 461-2354
Ken Smith WA2TQK	(07-09)233-7055

REPEATER MANAGER:

 RDF COMMITTEE:RDF Manager -Richard Neimeyer - N2MOA.....489-0799

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

Roy Warner, N2OWC......283-8485

TARA WEBMASTERS:

Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

TARA HF CONTESTING:

Bill Eddy, NY2U......273-9248 HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U (If someone will take this job I will buy you a Snuggie & a Sham-wow.) <u>TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:</u> Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

Karen Smith, KS2O...... 273-6594 Mac Smith, KB2SPM......273-6594

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Ken Davis. KB2KFV...... 272-0112 <u>TARA HISTORIAN:</u> Karen Smith, KS2O...... 273-6594

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Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1292 Troy, New York, 12181-1292



Visit us on the Internet <u>At http://www.n2ty.org/</u>

Regular monthly Meeting Tuesday, May 19,2009 7:00 p.m. Green Island Municipal Center Intersection of George St. & Hudson Ave. Green Island, New York Ample Parking

Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.

Troy's Full Service Repeaters 145.170/R 449.225/R PL 127.3 hz

<u>N2TY-" N2TY-"TROY" NODE</u> <u>DEPARTMENT:</u>

Russ Greenman – WB2LXC <u>N2TY-BBS SYSOP:</u> Mike Styne KC2JCJ... 518-330-7592 <u>ATVET (ALB/TROY) VE TEAM:</u> Gerry Murray WA2IWW...482-8700

FIELD DAY 2009 CHAIRMEN:

Bill Eddy, NY2U...... 273-9248 Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150 Karen Smith, KS2O...... 273-6594 Ken Smith, WA2TQK.....233-7055 VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN Hollins Meaux, N2YQW...465-7678

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