



# Diablo Diggins

## Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor

Concord, CA

May 2015

Vol 63, No. 5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



After the last General Meeting, I was thinking how it may always seem as if we are always asking for help with various activities like working on our annual Show, or serving on the Board of Directors. Then I remembered this little story that I repeat here, modified slightly:

Once upon a time, there were four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

Now it so happened that the rockhound club that they all belonged to and enjoyed, needed some help.

**Everybody** was asked to help. **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it but **Nobody** did it.

**Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

**Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but

**Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when ....

**Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done!

Try to remember this little story if asked to help your club. We all need to help to make this work.

### Board Meeting

Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 PM

### MAY PROGRAM

#### Micromounting

A Small Mineral World with Big Advantages

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Monday, May 11, 7:30 PM

Centre Concord

New Articles for June *Diablo Diggins*

Due Date, May 18, 2015

CCM&GS Program for May 11, 2015

## Micromounting

### A Small Mineral World with Big Advantages

Mineral specimens, best appreciated using magnification, have many advantages. Small crystals are usually more perfect than larger ones and some minerals are rare in larger forms. Micro specimens can be readily collected in areas already extensively picked over by macro-collectors seeking larger prizes. Even if you have to hike to a collecting site, you only need to carry back an egg carton full of “crumbs” to have a successful trip. And what other size of minerals can you pick up for free at give-away tables at conferences?

Barbara Matz is a master of several mineral related hobbies and is a past and present officer of several “rock and mineral” organizations. She is a prolific presenter to many regional organizations, including our society. Just back from the 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Micromount Conference, Barbara will share with us the world of Micromounting.



Pseudobrookite (Magnified)

Dennis Freiburger, Program Chairman

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## **General Meeting Minutes April 13, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Dave Kleesattel at 7:33 pm. He pointed out the emergency exits and the location of the defibrillator.

Dave greeted and announced the names of the 4 guests who attended the meeting.

He read the Hospitality Report which was information about the May 3 picnic. If you get there early you might get free parking.

He also read Debbie Blevins' request for rocks and minerals. She is making 13 kits for the show and will appreciate any golf ball sized specimens.

Betty Pankey went around and collected quarters for those who did not wear their badges.

Paul Black asked the members to be sure to come back and vote for the cabochons entered in the monthly contests. He also mentioned that there were nice samples of rock on display if anyone is interested in seeing them.

Harry Nichandros reported on the show. It is being held August 29 and August 30 (the last week in August). He is having his Show Kick-Off meeting at 6:30 on April 23. He hopes that every member will work or have a part in the show. The show is the big money maker for the club and tends to keep our membership dues low. There are \$1 off coupons available. A large banner was placed on San Pablo Road and there are smaller ones available. He looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Dave mentioned that the room rental for the monthly meeting alone is \$175. Our dues does not go far, so the show is where the club receives most of their revenue. Please be sure to donate your time to the show.

Kelly Plumb reported on the Antioch Swap Meet, Jade Sale (April 25 and April 26) and the county fairs. We would like to advertise our club for new

members. She mentioned a few upcoming shows and field trips including: Sweet Home, Oregon

Hollywood Ranch

Mother Lode

Travertine

Wilson Canyon

She has flyers in the back of the room.

Bonnie Eichler reported that she has a sign-up sheet for "Patina Ink" which is being held on May 16 from 12:00 – 2:00. She has a room reserved in her HOA recreation room.

Dick Pankey reported on the Federation. The NBFT Meeting is being held in the San Francisco Clubhouse Shop. There will be a silent auction. The CFMS Show is June 12, 13 and 14 (3 days) in Lodi, CA. It is only 55 miles from Concord, CA. They need people to help set up, then tear down Sunday night. They have volunteers working on donations, rocks & minerals, child activities, silent auctions and endowment funds. He asked for someone representing the CCM& GS to be there to promote our club. He mentioned round table discussions including topics like increasing memberships, retaining members, disciplining members, finding younger workers and recruiting board members. Right now there are 3 or 4 open board positions. If anyone is interested in working at their show, please contact Dick.

Donna Albrecht announced information about the upcoming county fairs. Participation includes information on the earth, animals and rocks. They also provide for exhibits in which she will be participating. There are prizes for the winning cases. She thought it would be a good place to advertise our club so people know we exist.

Mary Jernigan reported that we have 3 new members. Nikki Camp, Johanna Fenton and Christine Henningson. She will be updating the roster and emailing it to the members. She will also include picnic information by blind copy.

Mary Hanjes was not there and Dave said that he is there to issue reimbursement checks if need be.

Dennis Freiburger introduced Naomi Morgan at 8:11 pm. Naomi was there to speak on Intarsia while her daughter, Cheryl, was there to operate the computer. Naomi introduced herself and mentioned the names of famous people and places, using intarsia as an artform.

Among many different methods, Naomi, after many many years of creating art, uses the following methods for intarsia. She finds a picture that she would like to reproduce in her own version, then draws a map, goes to the rock pile, finds appropriate colors and sizes then she polishes the rocks. If they don't fit, she modifies the size with trim saws. She also uses the following tools: Flat laps, small diamond flat laps, trim saws, rotary hand tools, glass cutters, band saws and screw drivers.

To add to those tools, she also uses angle grinders, core drills, other rotary tools, cutting discs and a two-part epoxy glue.

After a wonderful and informative discussion, she answered questions and was available for individual questions after the close of the program. The program ended at 8:37pm.

Naomi presented photographs of many pieces of her work. She also had many on display in the front of the room. She was presented with a club certificate and coffee cup.

Debbie Blevins

## Membership

Please welcome three new members to our CCM&GS Family-

Nikki Camp from Pittsburg,  
Johanna Fenton and  
Christine Henningson from Concord.

Please invite our new members to join you in more Rockhound fun and activities!

Mary Jernigan- Membership

## Intarsia- Naomi's Artwork of intricate inlay stones

Long-time CCM&GS Member, Naomi Morgan was our Program Speaker on April 13, 2015. Naomi introduced the Club members to Intarsia. Intarsia, also called Pietra Dura or Comnesso, is two dimensional lapidary artwork created by the intricate inlay of cut and polished stones. Naomi described the process of Intarsia and displayed several of her beautiful artwork pieces.

Naomi is noted as one of the American Masters of Stone. [www.americanmastersofstone.com](http://www.americanmastersofstone.com)

In Italy, Intarsia dates back to the early 1500's, yet it has only been revered in the United States since 1930's.

Naomi encouraged us all to enjoy Intarsia, create and have fun. "After all, it doesn't take a Rocket Scientist to make Intarsia," laughed our retired nuclear physicist.

Mary Jernigan- Membership

## Vintaj Patina Ink Class

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 12pm – 2pm (or 3pm)

2734 Oak Rd, Walnut Creek (Station West Condos in the community room. 2 Blocks from the Pleasant Hill Bart Station.)



Have you heard about the Vintaj Patina Inks? I came across them when I was looking for metal treatments and found them at a bead show in Concord a few months ago. I originally was curious about Gilder's Paste, but when I asked the vendor which product they liked better (she carried both), she told me the Vintaj Inks. I am so glad I listened! I had cast a horse head in bronze & was planning on making a necklace to donate to All About Equine Animal Rescue for one of their upcoming auctions but I wanted the definition in the focal piece to stand out more. I found some turquoise beads to complete

the necklace and the patina inks made it all come together perfectly! I even added some color to the toggle clasp. The product is UV safe & acid free, it is perfect for use on jewelry. Come to the class on May 16<sup>th</sup> and give the Vintaj Patina Inks a try. I have several different colors and they can also be mixed to create even more colors.

Bring a metal focal piece to try out the product. If you don't already have a piece you want to accentuate with color, I will have some metal pieces available for use. Bring your Foredom or Dremel tool if you have one & wire brush wheel and buffing wheel attachments.

Bonnie Eichler

Education Chair



## News of the CFMS

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*By Dick Pankey, Federation Director*

**The CALIFORNIA FEDERATION  
of  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**  
proudly presents its  
**76<sup>th</sup> Annual  
SHOW & CONVENTION**  
**Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
**JUNE 12 - 14, 2015**  
**Grape Festival & Harvest Grounds**  
**413 East Lockeford Street**  
**Lodi, California**

June is just around the corner. Make plans now to attend the BIG rock show in California and it is just a hour's drive away. You won't have an easier chance to attend except if CCM&GS ever puts on a Federation Show.

Admission is Adult 6.00 per day; Senior (60+) \$5.00 per day; Active Military \$5.00 per day; Juniors (12-17) \$3.00 per day. Kids under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. Demonstrators and Exhibitors will receive complimentary admission for themselves and 1 guest. (I have \$1.00 off coupons. See me at our meeting in May )

This year's CFMS Show and Convention is just over 1 month away. Plans and details are being finalized; but not every detail has been addressed. I urge you all to attend, participate, help, and most of all -- enjoy!!! Would you like to exhibit? The deadline to enter is May 11<sup>th</sup>. Show cases will be provided. Exhibiting is open to all members; Betty and I are exhibiting again this year. Forms are available on the CFMS web site [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). Would you like to be a Demonstrator? Please contact Cheri George for information and to volunteer -- [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com) or 562-243-8470. Times available are in 3 hour increments, or if you want to be there for the entire day you can do that also. You can go to the CFMS Website for the show info and download the demonstrator/demo-dealer form.

There are a great number of activities for kid and the family. Book bags for the kids will be handed out on Saturday and Sunday at the show. **Fun and Educational Kids' Activities** include:

- Pirate's Treasure Chest – a free polished stone for every child!
- Spinning Wheel – a prize with every spin!
- Ugly Duckling Touch Table – rocks ugly on the outside reveal great beauty within!
- Grab Bags – filled with rocky surprises!
- Coloring Corner – a free activity for budding young artists!
- Sand Sifting – sift for buried treasure!
- Dino Excavation Box – with hands-on fun, see how paleontologists uncover dinosaur bones!
- Paint-a-Fossil – make a colorful creation!
- Mineral Identification – How do you identify a mineral? A hands-on display will show you!
- Earth Processes – How do sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks form?

Interesting and informative speakers are scheduled for all 3 days. There will be a big Silent Auction and a sales table for the CFMS Endowment Fund. The raffle prizes will feature an Amethyst (60 carats) pendant with a 14K yellow gold setting – Value of \$1,000, Sugilite Stone (6.5 oz.) – Value \$840 and a Turquoise Nugget (90 grams) – Value \$720. The cost for the tickets is \$5 for one and \$20 for five.

If you would like to help out at the Show, volunteers are needed for the entrance, set-up and tear-down, and helping at the Silent Auction and Kid's Activities. Donation of rocks, minerals and the like are needed for to Silent Auction, Endowment Fund table and the Kid's area. If you would like to volunteer or donate, contact me for details.

A new feature at the Show will be "Club Central" which is an area set aside for any society to have a table to advertise and promote their society. This is a timely opportunity to advertise OUR show and promote our society. We need someone to help develop our display and presentation. I will help CCM&GS organize and setup our table. We will need members to sit at the table during the Show. There will be periodic Round Table discussions on a variety of issues and opportunities concerning membership. Call me to find out what is needed and how you can help.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**NEWS** May 2015

by Bob Rush, CFMS Membership Committee  
Chairman

As many of you have probably heard there will be an area set aside for the Club Central activities at the CFMS annual show in Lodi in June. The purpose of this area and its activities is to gather information and ideas that will help the member clubs to conduct their activities in the best manner possible. From the club surveys that I have received so far it has become evident that many clubs share common problems that round table discussions could help us all solve as well as sharing methods that other clubs have developed to address these common problems. In discussing these issues with another member of the CFMS

Membership Committee - Dick Pankey - we have developed a list of things to be discussed during the round table sessions. They are:

1. How to grow your club membership
2. How to retain new members
3. How to retain older members
4. How to deal with disruptive, argumentive or toxic members
5. How to conduct and control board meetings when there is contention, name calling and other attacks on other board members

6. How to find younger workers for the more difficult physical activities at the annual show

7. How to recruit, motivate and educate potential new board members.

We are certain other topics exist but we need you to send them to us so that they can be included in the Club Central discussions. Please send them to me at [rocksbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rocksbob@sbcglobal.net) or Dick Pankey at [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com)

Bob



**Display Report**

There are four competitive categories each month. Everyone is invited to vote on the entries in each category. The winner in each category receives a prize of five dollars, and the person who has won the most competitions for novice cab during the year will advance to "pro" status and be awarded a Diablo Dan silver pin.

**Novice Cabs** – No entry this month

**Pro Cabs** - Four entries

A – Lyle Roessler – Montana Agate

C – Joe Yarbrough – California Aventurine

**D – Donna Albrecht – Jasper (winner)**

E – Mary Bufton – Lepidolite

**Shape of the Month – Round** - Six entries

A – Lee Jacoby – Petrified Wood

B – Barrie Bieler – Andesite Porphyry

C – Terry Caskey – Birdseye Rhyolite

D – Joe Yarbrough – Cathedral Agate

**E – Mary Bufton – Sunset Agate (winner)**

F – Donna Albrecht – 'Tsunami' Picture Agate

**Faceted Gems** – One entry

**IV – Terry Caskey - Amethyst (undisputed)**

**Miscellaneous Lapidary Project** – Two entries

A – Kelly Plumb – Amethyst Sage slabs

**C – Dennis Freiburger – Snakeskin Agate, tumbled & rough (winner)**

The tables were heavy with samples of Amethyst Sage (Kelly Plumb), Arizona petrified wood (Steven Zimmerman), and calcite & rhyolite from Chuck Olsen and Larry Blevin's recent field trip.

**2014 Shape of the Month Cabs**

January – Irregular

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June - No competition (Auction night)

July - Freeform (No symmetry)

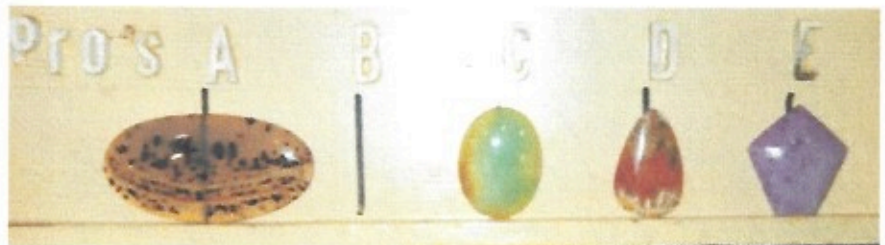
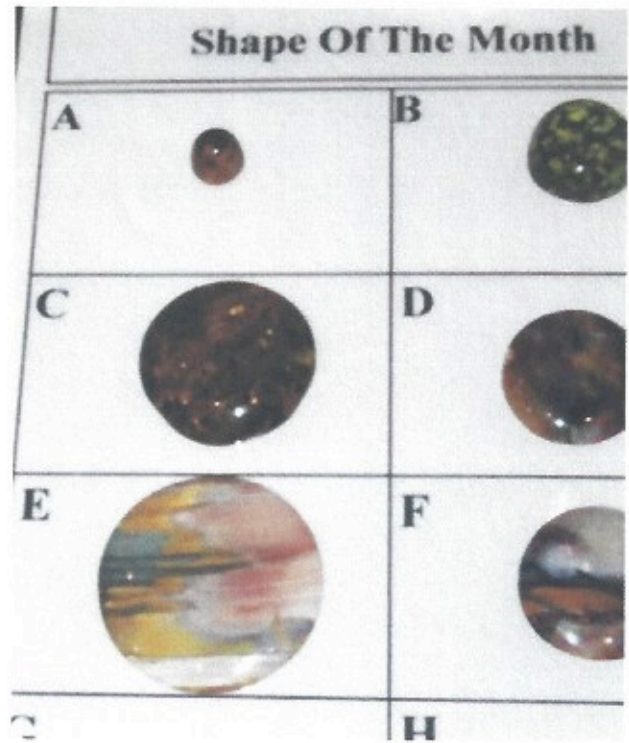
August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October - Rectangle (or Square)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Christmas party)





## Rock Donations



Debbie Blevins will be accepting rock donations again, as she is going to make rock identification kits which will be sold or auctioned off at the upcoming show.

If you have any extra rocks that you would like to donate to a good cause, will you please contact her at 925-680-6562 or [OHB@Astound.net](mailto:OHB@Astound.net)? She will need about 10 – 12 of each specimen, golf-ball size.

It's our understanding that donation slips are available for income tax purposes. Feel free to ask a board member who will be able to supply you with one.

Thanks very much for your generosity and kindness. The proceeds are going to a good cause.



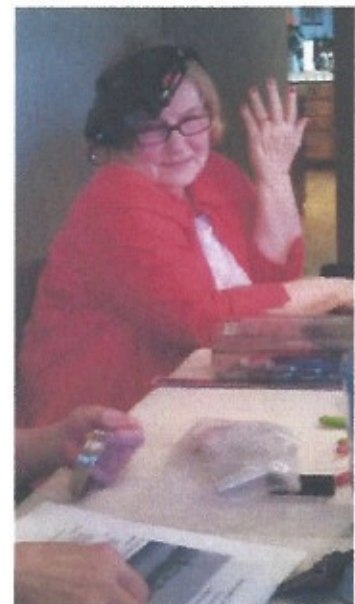
### MAY BEAD-IN

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 2:30pm – Debbie's house!

Bring your own project to work on – share ideas – have fun

RSVP to Joanne or Debbie. If you sign up – please show up ☺

Joanne



Vickie Hotopp at April Bead In

**ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!**

Field Trip and Show season is in full swing! Don't forget to bring back extra treasures for the silent auction, Spin-a-wheel and Dick Pankeys' "make your own rock collection" booth in the demonstrator court. He needs 500 to 1,000 thumb nail sized specimens of each type of rock. Right now he would like to get

mica samples.

This is the perfect season for getting out in nature and enjoying the chipmunks, ground squirrels and rattle snakes. Just kidding about the rattle snakes, but a word to the wise, do be careful while you are poking about in the brush. Not all critters are friendly or harmless. When the first members arrived for the CCM&GS picnic last week-end they found a prior occupant in the picnic area. They had to wait for a ranger to gently remove the chilled rattle snake from behind a tree. Later we found another one lounging in a hole on the outskirts of the picnic area. Luckily, as is usually the case, he preferred to avoid contact with the picnickers and stayed in his hole waiting for an unwary squirrel lunch.

**SHOWS:**

**May 9 - 10: ESCONDIDO, CA,** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Gayle Hamilton, (760) 743-0809

Email: [gemshow@palomargem.org](mailto:gemshow@palomargem.org), Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

**May 9 - 10: RENO, NV,** Reno Gem & Mineral Society Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center, 1350 North Wells Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 4; Sun 10 - 5, Contact: Steve Norman, (775) 358-7322

Email: [snorm11@hotmail.com](mailto:snorm11@hotmail.com), Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)



**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**  
**2015 SHOW & CONVENTION**  
**June 12 - 14**

*"Rocks & Vines"*

Hours: Friday & Saturday 10-5; Sunday 10-4  
Contact: Margaret Kolaczyk, [markolaczyk@gmail.com](mailto:markolaczyk@gmail.com)

**Field Trips:**

**May 23-24 Memorial day Weekend**— Sweethome Oregon

**SPONSOR CLUB** – Fossils For Fun Society

**LEADER & CONTACT INFO** – Debbie Bunn 916-929-6665

**MEMBER'S GUESTS** - ("x") Select One:  X Allowed  Not Allowed

**COLLECTION MATERIAL** – Petrified Wood,

**May 23 & 24th - GEM FIELD SITE, TONOPAH NEVADA.**  
**SPONSOR CLUB** – Mother Lode Mineral Society  
Contact name - Misty Watson, (209)480-3176  
[mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com](mailto:mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com)

**COLLECTION MATERIAL** – Rhyolite, agate/jasper. Rhyolite has high silica content and works up nice.

**June 20th – 21<sup>st</sup>, alternate dates:** June 27<sup>th</sup>, Bridgeport, Calif. Travertine Hot Springs

**MATERIALS TO BE COLLECTED:** Travertine. Other pursuits- Hot springs at Buckeye

**CONTACT NAME & field trip leader-** Misty Watson  
(209)480-3176 [mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com](mailto:mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com)

**Mail or email to:** Dan Brown, CO-OP Field Trip Coordinator  
US Mail Address: 36766 State Hwy 299E Sp61  
Burney, Ca. 96013

e-Mail: [rocky29988@frontier.com](mailto:rocky29988@frontier.com) (please note new email address)

**September 26-27 2015 at 9:30 AM, Wilson Canyon NV**  
**MATERIALS TO BE COLLECTED:** Agate, Large Petrified Wood (some green), fossils, Calcite, Gypsum, Jasper and More  
**SPONSORING SOCIETY:** El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

**Submitted by:** Thaleia Georgiades 530-957-3800  
[thaleia@directcon.net](mailto:thaleia@directcon.net)

Easiest way to get a hold of the field trip leader is to send an email.

**Mail or email to:** Dan Brown, CO-OP Field Trip Coordinator  
US Mail Address: 36766 State Hwy 299E Sp61  
Burney, Ca. 96013

Complete information for members, on any of the listed field trips will be available at meetings or by email to [Kellyplumb900@yahoo.com](mailto:Kellyplumb900@yahoo.com)

**CENTRAL NEVADA FIELD TRIP**  
**MAY 23-29, 2015**

**Host Club:** San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
**Contact:** Barb Matz, [barbmatz@yahoo.com](mailto:barbmatz@yahoo.com), 415-713-8482

**Sites:**

Various sites within an hour or two of Austin NV. The schedule has not been determined beyond Saturday and Sunday, and suggestions will be welcome.

Kelly Plumb

CCM&GS Program for April 13, 2015

## Intarsia The Art of Stone Painting

Intarsia, also called Pietra Dura, is the inlay technique of using cut and fitted, highly polished colored stones to create images. The two dimensional lapidary art has flourished for several centuries – most notably in Florence from the 16th century. Detailed, exacting work must be performed so that the contact between each section is practically invisible.

Naomi Morgan was carving in various stones during the 1980's. Wanting to use her remnant rock stock, she became inspired to develop Intarsia as an additional skill. Naomi is presently a volunteer instructor of Intarsia arts at the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley – passing on her almost 30 years of knowledge. Regularly attending our society's meetings as a longtime member, it's time for her to show us her wonderful creations and how she does it.



*Summer 2013: Intarsia by Naomi Morgan*

Johanna Fenton was our CCM&GS Program Speaker on March 9, 2015.

Johanna's interesting background as a Geologist, Gemologist and true Rockhound came through as she presented an intriguing program about gemstones. Is it natural or enhanced?" We learned to ask more questions about the treasured gemstones that we are buying. Johanna also brought her beautiful creations of natural gemstone and fossil jewelry from her business Mochi's Gifts.



Mary Jernigan

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