

SAARC members address the city council

Advocate for protecting Amateur Radio Operators

Editor's note: David Eaton/KB5EDB, Matt Healy/W5MAT and Ken Grimm/KG5BPY addressed the city council to advocate for the inclusion of an Austin-inspired sentence in the "ban on texting" ordinance that makes the operation of an FCC-licensed amateur radio device exempt from the ban.

This sentence, and the way the current language under consideration is written, would NOT exempt a licensed amateur from using a cell phone or other mobile device in an unsafe manner. Safety of radio operators and the general public is still of highest concern in the fulfillment of the public safety mission of amateur radio.

Here is the story from the San Angelo Standard-Time's Andrew Atterbury:

SAN ANGELO, Texas - San Angelo City Council supports a texting-while-driving ban, but councilors are torn on whether police and storm watchers should be exempt from the rule.

The council unanimously approved drawing up an ordinance prohibiting the use of mobile devices from behind the wheel, pulling from a similar law enacted in Midland earlier this month. City officials will discuss the ordinance at two additional meetings before it can officially be enacted.

"I think it's way past time," Councilman Johnny Silvas said at Tuesday's meeting. "We need to move forward on this."

As of Oct. 1, Midland drivers are not permitted to use mobile phones, tablets, laptop computers or personal digital

...continued on page 3

Happy birthday!

SAARC celebrates its 91st birthday with a cookout, cake, fellowship, a swap meet and ice cream made from an amazing machine

With a steady whirl of the flywheel and gears turning, ice cream was being created, powered by a 1920 Fairbanks-Morse 1-1/2 hp engine cranking at 500 rpm.

Across the way, a swap meet was set up with all kinds of goodies to buy-sell-trade for the ham looking for a great bargain or to make a few bucks from the ham shack stash.

These activities and more were going on at the 91st birthday celebration of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club held at the clubhouse at the airport October 10, 2015.

Check out the photo spread on pages 4-5!



Tom Austin/K4OTM and Joe Kent/W5UI enjoy a good laugh during the club's 91st birthday.

Photo: Ken Grimm

Concho Valley Two Meter Net

This net meets every Monday night at 8:00 p.m. (2000) on 146.94/103.5 or 145.27/88.5 as an alternate repeater. All amateurs licensed to operate on that frequency are invited to participate.

*NCS = Net Control Station

Let's share a meal!

Come join us for a meal and some fellowship fun! The Tom Green County hams get together regularly to eat and greet and just have some fun. The current schedule is:

Wednesday, 7:30 AM

T-Bears Café

2105 Knickerbocker Rd

Thursday, 9:00 AM

McDonald's (Wal-Mart)

5501 Sherwood Way

Saturday, 7:30 AM

T-Bears Café

2105 Knickerbocker Rd

Saturday, 9:00 AM

McDonald's (Wal-Mart)

5501 Sherwood Way

Concho Valley Open FM Repeaters

2 Meter

145.27- San Angelo PL 88.5
146.88- San Angelo PL 88.5
146.94- San Angelo PL 103.5
147.06+ San Angelo No Tone
147.30+ San Angelo PL 88.5
146.72- Eldorado PL 100.00
147.34+ Robert Lee PL 88.5
146.90- Brady PL 162.2
147.36+ Brady PL 114.8
(Echo Link Node)
147.39+ Eden PL 114.8

70 centimeters

441.750+ San Angelo PL 162.2
442.250+ San Angelo PL 162.2
444.225+ Robert Lee PL 162.2
444.350+ San Angelo PL 162.2
444.875+ Brady PL 162.2

6 Meter

53.63- San Angelo PL 88.5
Linked to 442.25 Repeater

D-Star

444.550+ KG5CNG

San Angelo Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC

Vice President: David Behrend/KF5FNK

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Freeman/KD5PIX

Activity Director: Ken Grimm/KG5BPY

Emergency Coordinator: Bill Hinds/KG5BQF

Grounds Chairman: Ralph Stout/KA5ULE

Appointed Positions

SAARC Trustee: Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

Registered Agent: Charlie Campbell/KC5EZZ

Public Information Officer: Matt Healy/W5MAT

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4002

San Angelo, TX 76902-4002



Club House Location

5513 Stewart Lane, Mathis Field, San Angelo, TX

assistants on public roadways within city limits.

Police officers and drivers operating authorized emergency vehicles are excused from the rule, so long as they are working within the scope of their official duties, according to the Midland ordinance.

Drivers caught phone in hand are charged with a misdemeanor and can be fined up to \$500 unless they are engaging strictly in a telephone conversation, including dialing and deactivating a call, using GPS applications or contacting emergency services.

Devices permanently installed inside the vehicle, push-to-talk functions and hands-free systems are also OK, according to the Midland ordinance.

City officials in San Angelo are modeling an ordinance after these guidelines, but some want to provide further exceptions for amateur radio operators.

Locally, cellphone distraction was the cause attributed to 26 crashes in 2014, Assistant Chief Jeff Fant with the San Angelo Police Department told the council on Tuesday.

Further, 107 crashes were caused by other distractions and 420 by driver inattention, Fant said, and of those 527, there's no telling how many might have been caused by cellphone use.

SAPD supports the ordinance, Fant said, if for no reason other than the awareness it creates toward preventing crashes.

"While enforcement may be difficult in a lot of instances, it is something that can be done," Fant said Tuesday.

According to the Midland Police Department, officers have probable cause to pull over a driver who is visibly handling a device if the officer believes they were texting or using an application. Should the driver claim to have been dialing a phone number, it is within the officer's discretion whether to issue a citation.

A group of storm spotters made a case to the council that they should be grouped with emergency responders in being

omitted from following the ordinance.

The services provided by amateur radio operators benefit the National Weather Service and the community, said David Eaton, a storm spotter for more than 30 years.

Although storm spotters wield radios, which would not be prohibited by the ordinance, Eaton said he uses a laptop and Internet in his vehicle for radar and faster communication to the NWS.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Grindstaff did not favor granting anyone immunity from the ordinance.

"I'm happy to look at a ban, but I don't think the idea of exemptions is consistent," Grindstaff said.

Grindstaff wasn't alone in her thinking. Councilman Marty Self took those sentiments a step further, saying even the police shouldn't use their phones and computers while driving.

"If we're going to stop texting, I say we stop it totally," Self said.

Restricting police officers from using computers could hinder response times, Fant said. Sometimes, 20-30 messages can come across the computer screen attached to one call, and that information is valuable, he said.

When asked, Fant could not confirm how many officers were involved in crashes caused by using a device while driving last year among the statistics he presented on Tuesday.

Mayor Dwain Morrison said the council should rule consistently one way or the other — exempting both police and storm spotters or neither.

"I don't think taking away from the police is the way to go," Morrison said.

The ordinance will be written, at least at first, to exclude emergency personnel and amateur radio operators. The council will discuss the ordinance again once city staff has drawn up the official language, then for a second time at another public hearing.

UPDATE: Texting and driving ban OK'd

San Angelo Standard-Times | Jan. 5, 2015 — The council passed an ordinance banning texting and other uses of handheld wireless communication devices — such as cellphones, PDAs and tablets — while driving in the city limits. The ordinance passed with a 5-1 vote.

Councilman Marty Self voted against the measure because he felt the ordinance shouldn't have exempted emergency service personnel "using authorized equipment and acting within the scope of his or her official capacity."

"They are normal people just like us and have the same problems driving and texting as we do," Self said.

Using GPS applications and contacting emergency services

are permitted, as are devices permanently installed inside the vehicle, push-to-talk functions, voice-activated and hands-free systems, according to the ordinance.

Violators would be charged with a misdemeanor and fined up to \$500.

The ordinance goes into effect Saturday, January 9th. However, Police Chief Tim Vasquez said there will be a grace period for residents.

Editor's note: The exemption paragraph we advocated for wasn't included, the council felt the wording covered our concerns as written in the ordinance that passed.



Scenes from the
SAARC's 91st Birthday Celebration
October 10, 2015 • Photos by Ken Grimm / KG5BPY





Scenes from the SAARC's 91st Birthday Celebration

October 10, 2015 • Photos by Ken Grimm / KG5BPY



Ham Of The Year Award 2015

The 2015 Ham of the Year (HOTY) award was presented to Ken Grimm/KG5BPY by club president Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC at the December Holiday Banquet at the Peppercorn Grill December 10, 2015.

Ken's nomination noted in part his creation of the Facebook pages for the club and Tom Green County ARES, his service as the Activities Manager for the year, and his taking on the editor position for the eKiloWHAT. plus the numerous presentations to the community through the year advancing the public awareness of the club and its activities.



Meeting Minutes

San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2015

I. Call to order

Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC called the regular meeting of the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club at 7:45 pm on December 10, 2015 at Peppercorn Grill.

II. Attendance:

The following club members were present: Leslie Roblin/K7PTZ, David Behrend/KB5FNK, Hughbert Robinson KC5NPC, Joe Kent/W5UI, Ken Grim/KG5BPY, Matt Healy/W5MAT, Leslie Healy/W5IFE, Jimmy Welch/KG5BQ, Ralph Stout/KA5ULE, Jane Austin/N4WES, Tom Austin/K4OTM, and David Lewis/W5DLL

In addition, the following guests were present: David Wolfe/KA5VTG, Lafoe Kent/KC5KXY, and guest of Jimmy Welch

III. Reports:

1. President, Hughbert: we had some rough roads in 2015, looking to rebuild and improve in 2016.
2. Vice President, David Behrend: Echoed what Hughbert said.
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Hughbert read financial report, accepted as read by members.
4. Grounds Chairman, Ralph: Handed out amendments and changes to SAARC Constitution and By-Laws. The club will discuss and vote on these changes during the January meeting.
5. Activities Manager, Ken: Had a good experience and lots of fun at Field Day. The local ARES Group appointed him as Emergency Coordinator for Tom Green County.

We then took a recess to eat. Motion made by Matt and seconded by Ralph.

IV. Old Business/Open Issues:

1. Ken Grim read November meeting minutes; motion to accept made by Leslie and seconded by Joe; passed as read by members.
2. Ralph reported he and Mike Dominy were working on a Technician Class for 70 students at Goodfellow AFB. There would be a Q&A session this weekend or next.

3. Joe asked about the club ARRL affiliation. Hughbert reported the club ARRL affiliation was past due; motion made by David Behrend, seconded by Ralph to pay 3 years dues for \$111; carried unanimously.

4. Joe reported the roof is now fixed in the clubhouse restroom.

V. New business

1. Elections:

a. David Wolfe accepted nomination for Secretary/Treasurer.

b. Ken Grimm cannot serve as he's the appointed ARES Emergency Coordinator.

c. Matt Healy suggested switching David Behrend and Hughbert on the ballot. This nominated David Behrend for President and Hughbert for Vice President.

d. Results were as printed on ballots with changes noted above and the following exceptions: Jack Roberts received 1 write-in vote for President, Matt Healy received 1 write-in vote for Activities Manager, which he declined to accept.

e. 2016 Club Officers are President David Behrend, Vice President Hughbert Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer David Wolfe, and Grounds Chairman Ralph Stout. The following positions are vacant: Emergency Coordinator and Activities Manager.

2. Amateur of the Year Award went to Ken Grimm for his outstanding work as Activities Manager.

VI. Good of the Order

1. Split the Pot: There was \$17 total. Jane Austin won the drawing and donated her prize back to the club.

2. Joe Kent held drawings for many small gifts.

3. Matt and Leslie Healy performed and sang a few Christmas carols.

VII. Adjournment

Hughbert Robinson/KC5NPC adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: David W. Wolfe

San Angelo Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2015

7:30 p.m. - Call to Order – David Behrens KB5FNK

Pledge led by Ken Grimm – KG5BPY

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of last meeting – passed unanimously

Financial report: Hughbert Robinson – KC5NPC

Read and approved

Activities report: Ken Grimm — KG5BPY

Transition Fair at ASU – need people there for parents night and the fair itself the next day. Ralph Stout KA5ULE could set up and be there for the parents night, but needed members to show up to man the table for the fair.

Ham of the Year Award — tonight is the deadline to hand in nominations to Hughbert

Eat and Greet meal — will be at Peppercorn on Thursday, December 10. Get there at 6:30, officers will be elected for the coming year and HOTY award given.

Old Business: Officer Nominations so far:

Hughbert Robinson – President

David Behrend – V. President

Sec/Tres – Open

Emergency Coordinator – Open

Activities Manager – Open

Ralph Stout – Grounds Chairman

Bylaws – Ralph Stout read the proposed changes for the bylaws. Much discussion ensued. Bylaws proposals will be put in the E-Kilowhat and distributed for membership reading, and any changes to these printed proposals to be voiced at Dec. meeting. If no changes, then vote on proposed bylaw changes at the Dec. Meeting. If there are changes, put the changes out to the membership again through the E-Kilowhat and vote on final bylaw changes at Jan. meeting.

New Business: Amazon Prime – Smile program (Gary Chaffin, W5ETJ, explained program) Much discussion ensued. Membership agreed it was a good thing to participate in if you use Amazon Prime.

Split the pot won by Ken Grimm/KG5BPY, donated share back to club. Total of split the pot was \$16.00.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Ken Grimm/KG5BPY



Tom Green County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The Tom Green County ARES group meets the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. (1930) of each month at the Clubhouse unless announced otherwise on the Monday net.

The Tom Green County ARES group is sponsored by the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club.

New ARES Emergency Coordinator appointed by ARRL for Tom Green County

Dale Durham, W5WI, Section Emergency Coordinator, West Texas Section of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) has appointed Ken Grimm, KG5BPY as the Tom Green County Emergency Coordinator for Tom Green County in Texas.

The San Angelo Amateur Radio Club's office for Emergency Coordinator remains vacant as of this writing.

"I look forward to working closely with all of the agencies and offices involved to help grow the capacity for the TGC-ARES group to fulfill its public service mission," said Grimm. "There is a lot of ground work to do. We have a very passionate, informed and dedicated team in place at the moment, and we all are on the same page in moving the direction of the group in a positive, effective manner going forward."

The next meeting of the TGC-ARES group is this coming Thursday, January 21st at 7:30 p.m. (notice this is a slight time change from usual) at the clubhouse on airport grounds. (The location and other information about the clubhouse is on page 2.)

"The public service mission of TGC-ARES dovetails with the abilities and passion of the SAARC. TGC-ARES is where the rubber hits the road and the unique abilities inherent in ham radio can be used to provide a service that no other technology can. Bottom line, what we do saves lives," said Grimm.

If you are interested in a community service role and would like to explore the offerings of the TGC-ARES group, you are welcome to join in this Thursday. While a license is required for radio operation, no license is required to join in and help out in a capacity that will serve our communities when they need it most.

See you there!

Check your Go-Kits

2016 looks to be a repeat of the 2015 active weather year!

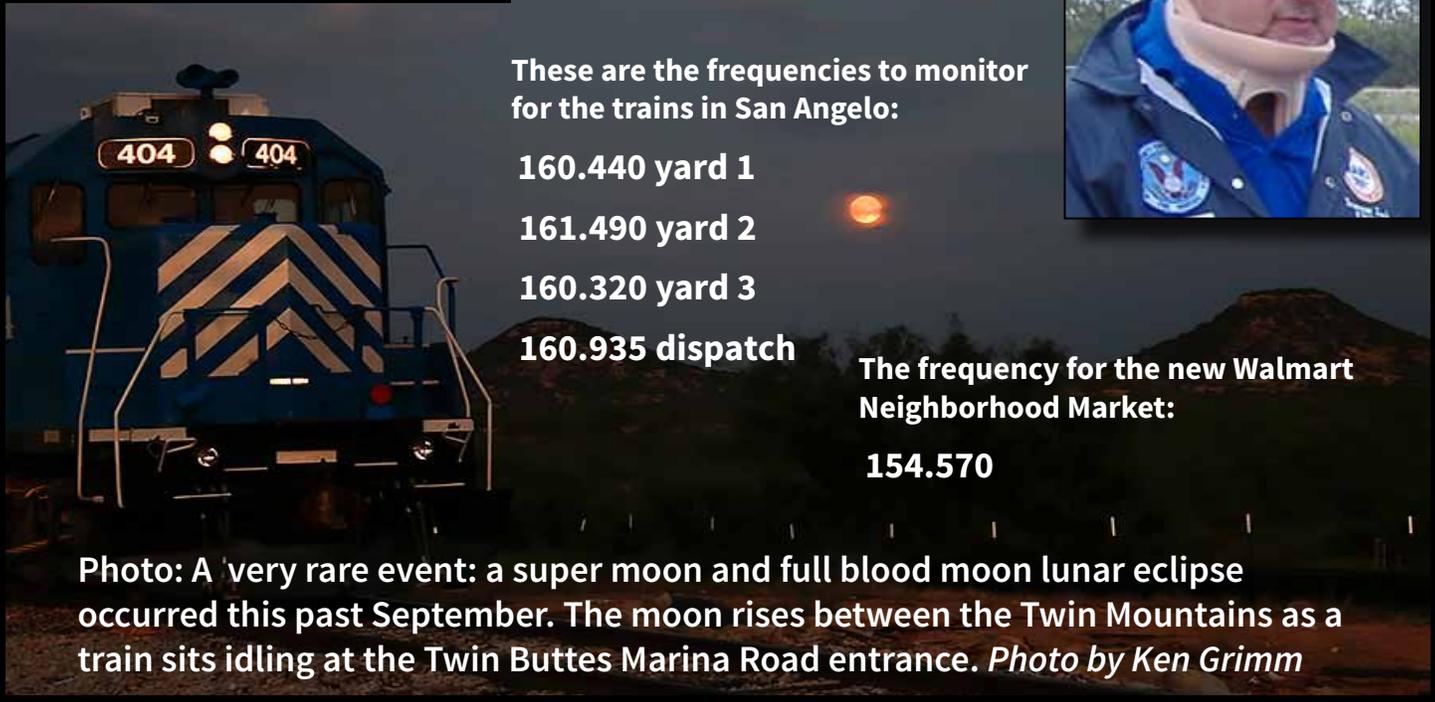
Keep yourself prepared for those emcomm situations, it would be a good idea to check through your Go-Kits: Charge batteries, check the radios, chargers, coax lines, portable antennas, ARES procedure booklets, frequency charts, phone contact lists printed out. Having an up to date phone list kept in your glove compartment sure is a good thing to have!

Chuck Dixon/K5QZQ prepared an extensive Go-Kit List booklet for the club to use! Thank you!



SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

*"Scanner" Jack Roberts
KB5TMY*



These are the frequencies to monitor for the trains in San Angelo:

160.440 yard 1

161.490 yard 2

160.320 yard 3

160.935 dispatch

The frequency for the new Walmart Neighborhood Market:

154.570

Photo: A very rare event: a super moon and full blood moon lunar eclipse occurred this past September. The moon rises between the Twin Mountains as a train sits idling at the Twin Buttes Marina Road entrance. *Photo by Ken Grimm*



*San Angelo
Amateur Radio
Yahoo Group*

Yahoo Group for all hams

By Ralph Stout KE5ULE

Join this Yahoo group made for all hams! Fully functional with pictures, calendar, files section and link section.

From the site: "Welcome to the San Angelo Amateur Radio Group!"

All ham radio operators are welcome to join the group, upload files, links and photos. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events.

All are welcome to use this group to discuss Amateur Radio, share tips and promote Amateur Radio in San Angelo and the surrounding area."

This is a restricted group that requires approval for membership, and messages require approval for posting.

Go here for more information and to join!

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/saarg76903/info>

ON THE NET

www.csvhfs.org — Central States VHF Society

k5wph.org — Sun City ARC K5WPH

www.w5es.org — El Paso ARC W5ES

k5elp.com — West Texas Rptr Assn, K5ELP

www.hamradioelpaso.com — New web site in El Paso

www.bigbendarc.com — Big Bend ARC, Alpine TX

www.w5qgg.org — Midland ARC, Midland TX

K5LIB.org — Lubbock ARC, Lubbock, TX

hamradio.noaa.gov — United States Skywarn

wx.findu.com/k5wph — SCARC's WX Sta

dx.qsl.net/propagation/index.html — Flare/MUF info

spaceweather.com — Aurora, sun spots, CMEs

www.irlp.net — Internet Radio Linking Project

irlp.g4eid.co.uk/status/all_reflectors.html — Shows status of all reflectors

www.sota.org.uk — Summits on the Air

www.w5qx.org — San Angelo ARC, San Angelo, TX

www.abilenehams.org — Abilene ARC, Abilene, TX

www.orgsites.com/tx/w5wx — Panhandle ARC, Amarillo, TX

HF Nets of Note *By Gary Chaffin/W5ETJ*

Net	Days	Local Time	Dial
Concho Valley Ragchew Net	S-M-T-W-T-F-S	0600	1900*
Concho Valley Ragchew Net	S-M-T-W-T-F-S	1700	3825**
7290 Traffic Net	M-T-W-T-F-S	1000-1200	7290
7290 Traffic Net	M-T-W-T-F	1300-1400	7290
Texas Traffic Net	S-M-T-W-T-F-S	1830-1930	3873
Central Gulf Coast Hurricane Net	S-M-T-W-T-F-S	1900-2000	3935
Texas ARES Net	Monday	1930-2000	3873
Big Bend Emergency Net	Sunday	0830-0930	3922
Texas Trader's Net	Sunday	0900-1000	7245
Concho Valley 6 M Roundtable	Sunday	2100	50.135

* Alternate frequency: 3825. ** 7212, or close, for summer months.

Upcoming Hamfests/Conventions

Date	Event	Location	Information
2/27/2016	Orange Hamfest 2016	Orange, TX	http://bit.ly/1OzclLt
3/5/2016	Irving ARC, Inc. Hamfest	Irving, TX	http://www.irvingarc.org
03/12/2016	WCARC Swapfest and License Testing	Georgetown, TX	http://wcarc.com
03/18/2016	South Texas Section Convention (Greater Houston Hamfest)	Rosenburg, TX	http://www.houstonhamfest.org/
03/19/2016	West Texas Section Convention (St. Patrick's Day Hamfest)	Midland, TX	http://hamfest.w5qgg.org
04/16/2016	HamEXPO	Belton, TX	http://tarc.org/hamexpo/
06/10/2016	West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com 2016)	Irving, TX	http://www.hamcom.org

Hamfests and Conventions are listed for Texas.

Others may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>.

San Angelo Amateur Radio Club **CLASSIFIEDS**

San Angelo Amateur Radio Club in no way endorses nor implies the condition or usefulness of any item presented here. These listings are a complimentary benefit for club members only.

HAM RADIO: Drake L4B & Ameritron AL811H Amplifiers | Kenwood TS870 w PS52/SP31 | Kenwood TS140s | Icom 706MKIIG | Screwdriver Antenna & other gear.
Dave - 325-656-1864

IC-910 H - 100Watt programmed

Kenwood TS2000 - HF

MFJ 4245 Switching Power Supply, 45 amp

IC 756 Pro HF

Shireen COAX 400, any length

ID51A ICom Limited Edition 50th Anniversary

Contact Joe B. Kent/W5UI | Phone 896-2038 for pricing



National Weatherman's Day

February 5, 2016 (details to come)

National ARRL Field Day

June 24-26, 2016

Membership renewals are due each January. Regular memberships: \$20, Each additional family member: \$5; Seniors (age 65+) and Juniors (under age 19): \$10, Renewal package deal: 5 years for \$80, Associate members: \$20

Dues may be paid to the secretary at any club meeting or mailed to the club's post office box.



**Application
for
Membership**

Last Name:	First Name:	Call Sign:
License Class:	Year First Licensed:	Previously Held Calls:
Mailing Address:		
Physical Address (if different from above):		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:
E-mail address:		
I hereby give permission to publish the above information in the club's membership roster which is distributed to all club members. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if you do not want your e-mail address linked on the club's Web site.		

Signature	Date
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