



Picture from SWTR 2007



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Cedar Hills Ride
Sunday June 10, 8:30 am
Cedar Hills, Texas
Alan & Renee Kailer

Join the Kailers Sunday June 10th at 8:30 a.m. at the Minyard's store on Beltline, just East of Highway 67 (From downtown Dallas, go South on I-35, bear right on U.S. 67, exit at Beltline and turn left onto Beltline). We will follow the route of the Head for the Hills Bicycle Rally held on May 12. There are 64 mile and 41 mile routes. For those interested, we can eat at one of the Mexican restaurants located nearby.

DATES Favorite Ride (a.k.a. Pilot Point)
Sunday June 17, 2007 – 8:00 am

Pilot Point, TX
Charlie & Pat Jenkins
Kevin & Linda Vinson
Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy

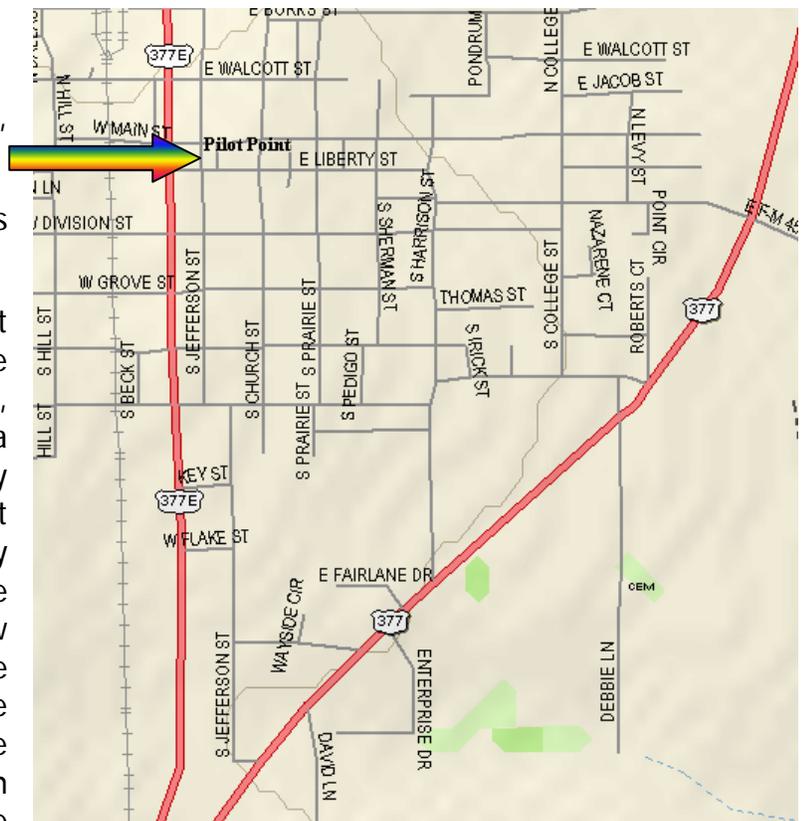
Join your fellow DATES members for a ride in the country on DATES favorite route. Routes of approximately 20, 36, 44, 51 or 59 miles will be available.

Meet at 8:00 am, ride at 8:30 am.

We'll meet at the Pilot Point Town Square, located on Business US-377 & 1192 (Liberty)

Pilot Point is conveniently located only 11 miles north of US-380 on US-377.

This is a fairly flat, peaceful ride on quiet blacktop roads that takes us through horse farm country and out to Lake Ray Roberts, where we ride across the dam or take a shortcut along the base of the dam (on the dry side). There is a rest stop/convenience store at mile 12, in Aubrey, where those wanting only 20 miles can begin their route back to the start. Those going on will discover a few curves and a couple of hills on the way to the Lake Ray Roberts Dam. There are 2 more excellent restroom stops on this part of the ride. We'll have a recommendation for a lunch stop at the end. Some refreshments will be available.



We will have 3 ride leaders to ensure there will be a group for everyone:

- Charlie & Pat Jenkins will ride with the 1st group (you know...the ones who see how quick they can finish, and miss all the sights). They will plan to ride approximately 18+mph, or whatever the group dictates.
- Kevin & Linda Vinson will ride with the 2nd group. They will plan to ride a more reasonable pace of approximately 16mph, or whatever the group dictates.
- Bruce Hudson & Carol Croy will ride with the 3rd group. They will plan to ride approximately 14mph, or whatever the group dictates. They will make sure they see everything, so they can tell the other groups what they missed!

Distance options:

- **Short** – 20 mostly flat miles through horse farm country.
- **Regular** – 36 rolling miles through horse farm country and over the Lake Ray Roberts Dam
- **Regular Plus** – 44 or 51 miles. Add 15 mile east loop, or 8 mile west loop to Regular route
- **Long** – 59 miles. Add both 15 & 8 mile loops to Regular route.

This ride is the last opportunity for a DATES ride prior to the England trip. If you are going to England, don't miss this one. If you are not going to England, come out & ride with those who are!

Never been to a DATES ride? This is a perfect opportunity. Good quality low traffic roads, groups designed for everyone. Route distances for everyone. Come & ride with old friends & meet new ones on a familiar route. The gas prices in Pilot Point are cheap enough to drive up just for gas!

No RSVP required...just show up & ride.

- Charlie & Pat – (903) 463-1516 or (903) 624-9744, dates@ntsk8.com, sk8erbyker@gmail.com
- Kevin & Linda – (972) 625-6110, vinsonlj@sbcglobal.net, vinsonkj@sbcglobal.net
- Bruce & Carol – (214) 320-8708, HudsonCroy@sbcglobal.net

Castles & Gardens of Dallas
Saturday July 7, 2007 - 10:00 am
Dallas, TX
Tom & Brenda Shaddox

Ride starts at east side of Preston Hollow Park: Park Lane @ Thackery,
Dallas Lunch at the Gingerman Pub

A different kind of ride through the shady back streets of Preston Hollow. Probably no more than twenty miles total, but with lots of stops to enjoy the architecture, landscaping and yard art of North Dallas and the Park Cities. Group pace, no drop. Never been on a DATES ride before? Try this one!

Tom & Brenda Shaddox
972-517-4534
res1rrzj@verizon.net

TROLS Big Adventure of 2007

September 14 - 16

Jefferson, Texas

Linda & Reggie Bowers

Notice: As of May 30, there are only 13 spots available...Register Soon!

The following is the announcement that the TROLS are now officially taking registrations for the Big Adventure of 2007. Please pass the word on to your tandem club members and anyone else wishing to be a part of our tandem weekend in Jefferson, TX.

The Tandem Riders Of Longview (TROLS) are hosting another tandem weekend in Jefferson this September 14-16. If you have a tandem bike and like to cycle the rural wooded roads around Jefferson, visit our web site at <http://trols.esawireless.com> for details and a registration form.

Due to accommodation limitations, registration must be limited to 50 teams, so register early to assure a spot. For a snail mail copy of the information and registration form, you can contact:

Reggie or Linda Bowers:
(903) 663-2144
txhobbit@yahoo.com

Hope you can make it!

Linda & Reggie
Longview, TX

go out on the town

with a couple of the boys

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NEW:

Check out the DATES Google-Groups discussion forum:

<http://groups.google.com/group/doubledates>

2007 Southwest Tandem Rally

La Grange, Texas

April 27th, 28th, & 29th

Report by Kevin Vinson

Let me start off by apologizing for taking so long to get this out. The 2007 SWTR was hosted by HATS (Houston Area Tandem Society). Mike and Susan Mahoney first announced the 2007 SWTR at the 2006 SWTR by playing a few notes of the hit song, La Grange by ZZ Top. For Linda and me, we had never been to La Grange. There was no way we were going to miss this SWTR.

What a rally it was! Much kudos goes out to HATS for putting on such a great rally. First off, La Grange was a great location for the rally. Officially, there were 102 teams that attended the 2007 SWTR. For those of you that have never been to La Grange, it is located half way between Austin and Houston. It plays a key role in the MS150 that goes from Austin to Houston by providing overnight accommodations to the thousands of riders.

La Grange is a quaint town with a vibrant town square. There's a lot of history surrounding La Grange including the famous Chicken Ranch which received national attention with the successful play, Best Little Whore House in Texas. It's easy to focus on just the Chicken Ranch but there truly is a lot of history surrounding La Grange. Linda, as always, did her research regarding La Grange. As for HATS, they did a tremendous job of providing plenty of information in the rally packets.

As for the rally agenda, Friday started off with packet pick-up. After that, the Friday ride was an "On-your-own" ride touring the "Painted Churches" between La Grange and Schulenberg. Riders had the option of driving from the host hotels to Hostyn for loop rides of 21 or 32 miles. For the more adventurous riders, you could ride from the hotel to Hostyn that would add an additional 14 to 19 miles to the loops.

After Linda and I picked up our packets, we decided to be adventurous riders and ride from the hotel to Hostyn. It was a very nice ride. US highway 77 goes through La Grange. Part of the route from the hotel to Hostyn includes riding on US 77. While on US 77, you cross the Colorado River. After you cross the river, you begin a nice little climb that reminded Linda and I of some of the climbs we had in Spain.

This particular climb had the switchbacks that are the norm in most of Europe. There was a small shoulder but it was enough to keep us out of harms way. Once we reached the "summit", the route took us off of US 77 and onto some very nice and quiet country roads. We really enjoyed the serenity of the country outside of La Grange. Our ride to Hostyn was fairly quick. Once we reached Hostyn, we could not pass up the ice cream that was available to the riders.

While in Hostyn, we ran into teams Casteel and Thompson. Since we started our ride from the hotel and we got off to a later start than we had hoped, Linda was hoping to keep our stop in Hostyn brief. Unfortunately, I didn't live up to my part of the deal. So, once we resumed our ride, I was sort of in the doghouse. LOL! It didn't take long for me to get out of the doghouse when Linda saw all of the Bluebonnet fields. What a sight! They were in full bloom this year.

Just to show you how colorful the Bluebonnets were this year, Nanette Bryant was kind enough to donate the picture below. This was along the route.

Before I forget, I was already in the doghouse before the rally even started. When Linda and I got to La Grange Thursday evening, I discovered that I left our Camelback bladders in the refrigerator. We only had two Polar bottles (the small ones) we normally use for Gatorade. As for finding a place in La Grange to buy Camelback bladders, no such luck.



Fortunately, the rally packets included two water bottles. Unfortunately, I had removed all but two of our water bottle cages a couple of years ago. It's easy to look back now and laugh about it.

Getting back to the Friday ride, we were going to do the long loop but since we got off to a late start and me socializing too much at the ice cream social, we had to cut our ride short so we could get back to the hotel and get ready for the social hour and group dinner. Even though we had to cut the ride short, we really enjoyed the route. We met up with Team Thompson and rode with them to the point where they made their way back to Hostyn.

The descent into La Grange on US 77 was great. Those switchbacks made for an exciting descent. The motorists were very courteous. The social hour was really nice. It was BYOB. One of the many sponsors of the 2007 SWTR was New Belgium Brewing. They are famous for the beer Fat Tire. Even though it was BYOB, New Belgium Brewing was kind enough to provide the beer. It was great seeing teams we have met in the past.

July 2007 DATES-LINE:
Notices & Articles due by: June 28, 2007
Send us your notices, articles & PICTURES

After the social hour, we adjourned to the pavilion for a catered dinner. The group that catered the breakfasts and dinners did a great job. The food was very good. The pavilion reminded me of an old dance hall. This pavilion was located on the county fairgrounds which also was the "tent city" for the MS150. It was a great place for everyone to meet.

Saturday called for a mass start from the pavilion. Route options of 24, 45, 61, 74, and 87 miles were offered. When Linda and I set out, we intended on riding the 61-mile route since we road approximately 40 miles the day before. We were hoping to hook up with Larry & Nancy Gingerich since this was their first SWTR in a few year. At about the 10-mile mark, we had caught up with them. Larry & Nancy were trying to get in as many miles as possible because they had the DFW MS150 coming up the following weekend.

Once we caught up with Larry & Nancy, we informed them that we were going to ride the 61-mile route. They stated they were going to ride the 74-mile route and tried to talk us into joining them. Nancy didn't give up. As we continued to ride, she continued to persuade us to ride the 74-mile. Our first rest stop was in the quaint little town of Round Top. While in Round Top, Nancy finally "strong armed" (LOL!) us into riding the 74-mile route.

Needless to say, we had a very nice time riding with Larry & Nancy. The 74-mile route was just as nice as the route we rode on Friday. It was very scenic with lots of fields filled with Bluebonnets. We had one other rest stop in Fayetteville. The town of Fayetteville had a very nice town square. A lot of the old store fronts were original. From Fayetteville, we made our way back to the pavilion where lunch was awaiting us. Linda and I were glad we rode the 74-mile route.

Saturday evening's agenda called for another BYOB social hour and dinner. Like the social hour on Friday, we hooked up with friends from past rallies and also took advantage of the finger foods and New Belgium Brewing beer. Just like Friday, the catered dinner was very good. During the dinner, dates for the 2008 SWTR were announced by the Oklahoma contingent. The official dates for the 2008 SWTR are April 25th through the 27th in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I forgot to mention that Saturday's agenda included Yoga instruction, a "Couples Massage", and the bike games. Sunday's ride was a mass start from the pavilion with route options of 12, 23, 31, and 39 miles. Linda and I decided on the 12-mile option. Even though it was a short ride, it was another scenic ride. We got a chance to ride with Don & Karen Shawhan of HATS. We have had the good fortune of riding with them before at previous SWTRs and also the Southern Tandem Rally in Tallahassee, Florida. It was great seeing Don & Karen.

After getting cleaned up and checking out of the hotel, we drove back to the pavilion for box lunches. It also gave us a chance to visit with some of the teams one last time before we see them again in Tulsa. The weekend in La Grange was wonderful. Again, kudos to HATS for doing such a great job. For the weekend we had two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners catered. The route maps and cue sheets were great. The little tidbits about the routes were very nice.

Let's hope the SWTR returns to La Grange in the near future. For those of you that missed this year's SWTR, you can go out to the <http://hats.sharepointsite.com/default.aspx> web site for pictures and so forth.

2007 Georgia Tandem Rally

May 18th, 19th, and 20th

Hosted by Roger Strauss, Eve Kofsky, and Elliott

Ride Report by Kevin Vinson

Linda and I enjoyed the 2006 Georgia Tandem Rally so much that we could not miss this year's edition of the GTR. This year's GTR was held in LaGrange, Georgia. LaGrange is located approximately 60 miles southwest of Atlanta along Interstate 85. The GTR has been hosted by Roger Strauss, Eve Kofsky, and their son Elliott for the last 9 years.

For Linda and I, this was our second GTR. We arrived in LaGrange on Thursday afternoon. Arriving on Thursday afternoon gave us plenty of time to sightsee around LaGrange. LaGrange offers a very vibrant downtown square that includes some very good restaurants and retail. There is also an art museum and a new 10-screen movie theatre located off the square. In the past, Roger & Eve have limited the GTR to 75 teams.

This year's GTR filled up in 6 days. Officially, there were 76 teams that participated. For dinner on Thursday evening, Linda and I decided to check out the restaurants located on the square. As we were making our way to the street that the restaurants are located, we ran into Roger & Eve. We first met Roger & Eve at the 2002 Southern Tandem Rally in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. That's where we first heard about the GTR.

We had a very nice time visiting with Roger & Eve. They are such a very nice couple. After dinner, we made our way back to the host hotel for packet pick-up. We spent some time visiting with couples we had met during last year's GTR. That is one of the nice things about these tandem rallies; you meet some of the nicest people.

The agenda for Friday called for a morning ride and an afternoon ride. Both sessions offered routes of 32, 46, and 59. Linda and I decided on the 46-mile route. The start was a remote start that was a 4-mile drive from the hotel. When we arrived at the parking lot of the Rosemont Baptist Church, we noticed a news crew in the lot. Come to find out, CNN was there to cover the rally. Both Roger & Eve work for CNN. To read the CNN story about the GTR, see <http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/diet.fitness/05/28/hm.tandem.cycling/index.html>.

Before the start of the ride, we got a chance to visit with couples we didn't see at the packet pickup. One of those couples was our own Pat & Charlie Jenkins. They had made the drive to LaGrange for their third GTR. Pat & Charlie chose the 59-mile route.

One of the couples that we have gotten to know real well is Al & Heidi Parker from Tallahassee, Florida. Al & Heidi along with Greg & Angela Knecht hosted the 2003 Southern Tandem Rally in Tallahassee. We spent time with Al & Heidi at that STR and also at last year's GTR. We really had a great time riding with Al & Heidi on Friday's ride. The 46-mile route included approximately 2000 feet of climbing. The route took us up Pine Mountain. Below is a picture of Linda and I with Al & Heidi Parker at the top of Pine Mountain.

As an option, we could ride into Calloway Gardens. Along with Al & Heidi, we decided to save the trip to Calloway Gardens for the afternoon.



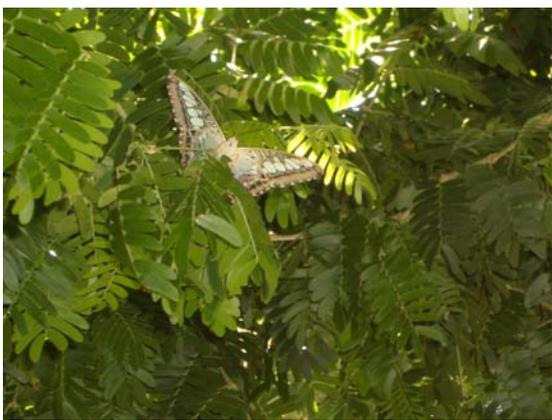
The route was very scenic. Georgia has some of the best roads for cycling. You will not find any chip & seal in Georgia. During this ride, one of our rest stops was at the Purple Cow in Pine Mountain. What a cute place. As for the ride, besides the scenery, we had a lot of climbing. Even with the climbs, we had a great ride. We really enjoyed visiting with Al & Heidi during the ride.

Once we got back to the remote start, we had just finished packing up the

bike when we were approached by a young gentleman. We first thought that this gentleman was from the Rosemont Baptist Church and just wanted to say hi. Come to find out, he was a reporter for the LaGrange Daily News. He proceeded to interview Linda and me about the rally and tandem cycling in general. The article appeared in the Saturday edition of the LaGrange Daily News. Pat & Charlie were kind enough to get us a copy.

Saturday afternoon was spent at Calloway Gardens with Al & Heidi. One of the attractions of Calloway Gardens is the Butterfly House. Linda couldn't wait to visit the Butterfly House. We spent quite a bit of time in the house. The butterflies were unbelievable. They were all over the place. Linda was taking it all in. Here are a few pictures of the butterflies.

Friday evening called for dinner on our own and then the "GTR Scoops on the Square Ice Cream Social". We hooked up with Al & Heidi; Roger, Eve, & Elliott; Greg & Angela Knecht; and Jack & Pat Deacon from The Villages, Florida for a wonderful Italian dinner on the square. After the dinner, we made our way to the Lafayette Plaza on the square for the ice cream social.



We spent most of the social walking around the square gathering answers for the trivia questions Roger provided to everyone. We had a lot of fun with the fact-finding mission. As for the ice cream, it hit the spot.

Saturday's ride agenda called for a remote start for 33-miles and ride options of 50, 71, and 78 miles from the host hotel. Along with Al & Heidi, Linda & I decided on the 71-mile route. Saturday's ride took us to West Point Lake, one of the largest man-made lakes in the country. This lake is located west of LaGrange on the Georgia-Alabama border.

Like Friday, Saturday's route was very scenic. It also included approximately 5,000 feet of climbing. With Saturday's ride, there was only one ride option after the lunch. The luncheon was held at the Rocky Point Recreation Area on West Point Lake. The lunch was very good. It hit the spot after the riding 44 miles. The route back to the hotel was 27-miles and included a ride across the dam on West Point Lake.

The 27-miles back went by fairly quickly. Pat & Charlie Jenkins led a pace line that we stayed with for a little while. Just so everyone knows, Pat & Charlie rode the most miles of any team that participated in the GTR. It was announced at Saturday's dinner. Speaking of Saturday's dinner, the group dinner was held at Butts Mill. This was a great place to host a large group.

It was a BYOB affair and the food was catered by the same group that has catered past GTRs. Prior to dinner, Elliott was looking for a foursome for the miniature golf. Along with Eric Osgood and his father Don, we joined Elliott for an exciting round of miniature golf. Eric Osgood and his wife Linda Woods are joined by Eric's father Don on a triple. Don is 80 years old and can hold his own on the bike. We first met Eric & Linda in Bay St. Louis. As for Eric's dad, we first met him at last year's GTR.

After the round of golf, we made our way back to the pavilion just as dinner was being served. We had a real nice dinner. Awards and prizes were handed it out after dinner. The rest of the evening was spent roaming the grounds of Butts Mill.

For Sunday, two route options were offered. The short option was 26-miles and the long option was 43-miles. It appeared that most of the riders on Sunday opted for the 26-mile route. For Linda and me, we had a long drive ahead of us back to Dallas. Just like Friday and Saturday, we rode with Al & Heidi Parker the entire route. Again, the route was very scenic with very smooth roads and very little traffic.

We also hooked up with Roger & Eve and Greg & Angela later in the route. We took advantage of a rest stop at the 19.7 mile mark.

The 6 miles back to the host hotel didn't take us long at all. Once we got cleaned up, packed, and checked out of the hotel, had lunch at a local Mexican restaurant. There were 26 of us for the lunch. After lunch and saying our goodbyes, we made the journey back to Dallas.

I strongly encourage everyone to try and attend a Georgia Tandem Rally. Next year's GTR will be the 10th. To find out more about this year's GTR, visit the <http://www.georgiatandemrally.com/> web site. Many thanks go out to Roger & Eve for putting on such a great rally.

The Brake Pads

With time and regular riding, it is not uncommon for your bike to need new brake pads or a pad re-surface and cleaning. In most cases, you can simply remove a wheel and look at the brake pad surface (the part that makes contact with the rim) and see a glaze or build-up on the pad surface. This glaze is caused by dust, dirt and other contaminants that were ground into the pads under normal braking. This build-up can cause a grinding sound, which will lead to poor braking as well as pad and rim damage. An easy way to restore your brake pads is by using 200-grit sandpaper or an emery board to "sand" the brake pad surface. The amount that you will need to "sand" depends on the amount of glaze present. Once you are happy with the improved pad surface, use a cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol to clean the rims and brake pads. Pay attention to the brake pad wear indicator line and be sure that the wear is not past that point. If the amount of wear is questionable, replace the pads.

Kyle Carlson
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Saturday 9:30-6:00
Tuesday 9:30-8:00

DATES Rides and Activities

RIDE	DATE	START TIME	START PLACE	RIDE HOST	PHONE # / EMAIL	DISTANCE	DETAILS
Cedar Hills	June 10, 2007	8:30 am	Cedar Hills, TX	Alan & Renee Kailer	See Website	41 or 64 miles	Will follow the: Head For The Hills Rally Route
DATES Favorite Ride (Pilot Point)	June 17, 2007	8:00 am	Pilot Point Square	Jenkins, Vinson, Hudson/Croy	(903) 463-1516, dates@ntsk8.com (972) 625-6110, vinsonlj@sbcglobal.net (214) 320-8708, HudsonCroy@sbcglobal.net	20, 36, 44, 51 or 59 miles	See Website & Newsletter
Castles & Gardens of Dallas	July 7, 2007	10:00 am	Preston Hollow Park	Tom & Brenda Shaddox	(972) 517-4534 res1rrzj@verison.net	20 miles	Group Pace – No Drop
English Castles & Gardens Tour	June – July 2007	TBA	Wimborner England	John McManus & Brenda Cole	John_J_McManus@yahoo.com	40-50 miles each day	See DATES website
TROLS	September 14 - 16	TBA	Jefferson, TX	Reggie & Linda Bowers	(903) 663-2144 txhobbit@yahoo.com	TBA	http://trols.esawireless.com

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DOUBLE DATES, the Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts, is a recreational club for riders of tandem bicycles. Membership dues are \$18 payable annually in January. If a team joins mid-year, the dues are: Jan – June \$18; July – Oct \$9. Teams joining in November or December pay \$18 and are paid up for the following year.

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