



# Radio Active Times, Issue 16, August 2026

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**The official newsletter of the Handiham Radio Club.** Issue 16,  
August 2026.

## Greetings from the Editor

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In 24 days, many club members will be invading Bloomington, Minnesota, for the 2026 Handiham Program Radio Camp, Metro Edition. The excitement is building. Camp is a great time to catch up with friends, learn new skills, and generally have a great time, and I am definitely looking forward to all the activities this year. To get everyone ready for the fun, here is a little story about my plans for camp this year. If you figure out what is special about this story, tell me about it in Minnesota, and you might win a prize.

I have a Delta flight to camp this year. We should land in Yankee country around 2234 Zulu. Mike and his brother William, who became a new papa again in January 2025, will also be on the flight. If they irritate me too much, I might have to change my destination to Quebec City. There is a little café in the old town that sells the best maple walnut strawberry ice cream; it is so good it is worth the trip. Once I make it to the hotel, I will meet up with Charlie for a tango lesson. I am pretty sure that is not his real name, as he is from India. Last year he tried to teach me to foxtrot on the roof, but I was too busy looking for Alpha Centauri.

On Saturday, Oscar from Lima, Peru, will be reenacting the trip to the Sierra Nevadas he took last November. He said he lost at least a kilo each day of his trip. On Sunday, I will make a motion during our

meeting that we form a radio club putt-putt golf team. With the number of blind people in our club, we would kick some serious windmill tuchus.

Toward the end of camp, I will perform the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet with Victor. Victor will need whiskey to perform this scene. I, on the other hand, will be so out of it by that point in camp that I won't need a thing. This performance will be extra special because we will perform it in Starfleet uniforms. If we pull this off without anyone needing an X-ray, then a hearty chorus of bravo will be in order. Let me echo what I am saying: if we do not get beamed up, cheer for the performance.

Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY, Editor in Chief

## **Contributions Wanted**

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If you have something related to ham radio or technology that you want to share with the club, please submit it to our Editor in Chief, Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY. There is no deadline for submissions, and the submission guidelines are quite flexible.

## **President's Message**

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Hello, everyone, and greetings from your club president. We are 3 short weeks from Radio Camp, and the excitement is building. Once again, members will be bringing several radios and other toys, which makes camp exciting. Many members will be coming to camp with lots of questions, and it will be fun to hear them all.

I have been contacted by several new members, so it appears everyone is reaching out to friends and telling them about our great club. Keep up the good work, and I will see you at camp.

73,

Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, HRC President

## HRC Daily Net Statistics for July

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*By Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, Net Manager*

July saw a marked increase over last year. In July 2025 we logged 571 checked-in stations; in July 2026 we checked in 676 net participants, an increase of 105. Our average was about 24.14 per net, up 3.7 from 20.4 a year ago.

### Check-ins by week, July 2026

| Week                             | Check-ins  | Average per net |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <b>Week 1, July 1–3 (4 nets)</b> | 92         | 23              |
| <b>Week 2</b>                    | 149        | 24.83           |
| <b>Week 3</b>                    | 149        | 24.83           |
| <b>Week 4</b>                    | 131        | 21.83           |
| <b>Week 5</b>                    | 155        | 25.83           |
| <b>July total</b>                | <b>676</b> | <b>24.14</b>    |

- We have now had 31 consecutive weeks topping 123 check-ins.
- The week of July 27–31 now holds the weekly record, with 155 check-ins, passing the previous record of 154 set during Radio Camp last year.
- On July 10, 2026, Larry Marcum, K7GND, logged 32 stations; a week later he raked in 31, and he capped off the month with a whopping 33. In July, Larry logged a total of 146 stations.
- Since January 1, 2026, the HRC daily net has logged 4,129 stations.
- In July, 26 of the 28 nets held logged 20 or more stations.

Keep up the good work, HRC!

Be sure to drop in at 11:00 AM Central time, Monday through Friday, and at 7:00 PM Central time on Wednesday nights, for our nets:

- EchoLink: node 490506
- AllStar: node 2627
- DMR: talkgroup TGIF, TG 3141

Please note the change to our preferred EchoLink and AllStar node numbers. The EchoLink HANDIHAM conference server (node 494492) and AllStar node 473670 will still be active, but we will no longer mention them in our net preamble. For better reliability, please start using the new node numbers.

## **New Members**

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The following people have recently joined the club:

- Nancy Ungar, WD8QMD
- Ed Matarazzo, KE8GIM
- Lynette Kersey (no call yet)
- Teresa Carroll, KE2ITM

Welcome to all our new members!

Have you earned your ticket, upgraded, or gotten a new call sign? Have you moved, or changed your phone number or email address? If so, please let the Handiham Program staff know by emailing [handiham@allina.com](mailto:handiham@allina.com).

Thank you,

Lucinda Moody, AB8WF, Handiham Program Coordinator, and Melissa Brown, Handiham Program Administrator

## Learning to Talk Ham: Multimeter

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A **multimeter** is an electronic test instrument used to measure current, voltage and resistance in a circuit. The term covers all meters that can make these measurements, such as the volt-ohm-milliammeter (VOM), the vacuum-tube voltmeter (VTVM), and the field-effect transistor VOM (FET VOM).

### Article 1: D-STAR

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*Adapted from the Wikipedia article "D-STAR," used under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.*

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data protocol for amateur radio. It was developed in the late 1990s by the Japan Amateur Radio League and uses minimum-shift keying in its packet-based standard. Other digital modes have been adapted for amateur use, but D-STAR was the first designed specifically for amateur radio.

Digital voice modes use less bandwidth than older analog modes such as AM and FM, and the received quality is better than analog at the same signal strength, as long as the signal is above a minimum threshold and there is no multipath propagation. D-STAR radios are available for the HF, VHF, UHF and microwave amateur bands. Besides the over-the-air protocol, D-STAR also specifies network connectivity, so D-STAR radios can be connected to the internet or other networks and voice or packet data can be routed via amateur radio. D-STAR radios are made by Icom, Kenwood and FlexRadio Systems.

### History

In 1998, an investigation began into a new way of bringing digital technology to amateur radio, funded by the Japanese government's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and administered by the

Japan Amateur Radio League. D-STAR was published as the result in 2001. In April 2004, Icom began releasing "D-STAR optional" hardware, starting with the IC-2200H 2-meter mobile. Icom followed with 2-meter and 440 MHz handhelds the next year, though these needed the UT-118 add-on card, which was not yet available, to operate in D-STAR mode. The June 2005 issue of the ARRL's QST reviewed the Icom IC-V82.

The Japan Amateur Radio League released some changes to the D-STAR standard in late 2004, and Icom delayed its hardware to accommodate them. The Icom ID-1, a 1.2 GHz mobile radio released in late 2004, was the first D-STAR radio with digital data (DD) mode, transferring data at 128 kbit/s as a wireless bridge through its RJ-45 Ethernet jack. It was the only radio with this feature until the IC-9700 in 2019.

The first D-STAR satellite QSO took place in 2007 between Michael, N3UC, in Haymarket, Virginia, and Robin, AA4RC, in Atlanta, Georgia, through AMSAT's AO-27 microsatellite; they had minor trouble with Doppler shift. As of late 2009, there were around 10,800 D-STAR users on internet-connected repeaters via the G2 Gateway, and about 550 G2-enabled repeaters, not counting users out of range of a repeater or on repeaters without internet connections.

The first D-STAR-capable microsatellite was launched in early 2016: OUFTI-1, a CubeSat built by Belgian students at the University of Liège and the Haute École de la Province de Liège. Its name stands for Orbital Utility For Telecommunication Innovation, and the project's goal was to develop expertise in satellite design and operation. The satellite weighs just 1 kilogram and uses a UHF uplink and a VHF downlink. In 2015, FlexRadio Systems added D-STAR support to its HF transceivers and receivers through a software upgrade, which requires NW Digital Radio's ThumbDV device.

## Technical details

D-STAR can link repeaters locally and over the internet, using call signs to route traffic. Servers are linked over TCP/IP with proprietary gateway software from Icom, letting amateurs talk to any other amateurs in a particular gateway "trust" environment. The master gateway in the United States is run by the K5TIT group in Texas, who installed the first D-STAR repeater system in the US.

D-STAR carries voice and data by digital encoding on the 2-meter, 70-centimeter and 23-centimeter (1.2 GHz) bands. There is also a 10 GHz radio system for linking systems within a local area, valuable for keeping emergency networks linked if internet access fails or is overloaded. In D-STAR digital voice (DV) mode, voice is encoded as a 3,600 bit/s stream using proprietary AMBE encoding, with 1,200 bit/s of forward error correction, leaving 1,200 bit/s for a data path between radios. On-air bit rates for DV mode are 4,800 bit/s on all three bands.

A digital data (DD) mode at 128 kbit/s is available only on 23 centimeters, and a higher-rate protocol, believed to be much like ATM, is used for 10 GHz site-to-site links. Radios offering low-speed data in DV mode typically use an RS-232 or USB connection at 1,200 bit/s, while the Icom ID-1 and IC-9700 offer a standard Ethernet connection for high-speed 128 kbit/s data on 23 centimeters, making it easy to connect computer equipment.

## Monthly Contest Spotlight

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*By Tom Behler, KB8TYJ*

Here is a list of contests and state operating events you might consider as we move from August into September. As always, it is only a small sampling of the many contests happening, covering the ones I know best. I encourage you to visit the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for the complete listing.

You will notice a number of state QSO parties and operating events. You might think the participants only want to rack up in-state contacts, but that's not necessarily true: multipliers and other credit are often awarded for out-of-state contacts, so don't hesitate to work a state event even if you don't live there. I can assure you your contacts will be welcome. Finally, I continue to be interested in any contest tips or stories you have to share. The more of us who get involved in contesting, the more fun it will become.

- **Hawaii QSO Party**: 1600 UTC August 22 to 0200 UTC August 24.
- **Ohio QSO Party**: 1600 UTC August 22 to 0400 UTC August 23.
- **Kansas QSO Party**: 1400 UTC August 29 to 0200 UTC August 30, and 1400–2000 UTC August 30.
- **Tennessee QSO Party**: 1700 UTC September 6 to 0300 UTC September 7.
- **Colorado QSO Party**: 1400 UTC September 12 to 0359 UTC September 13.
- **New Jersey QSO Party**: 1400 UTC September 12 to 0200 UTC September 13.
- **Ohio State Parks on the Air**: 1400–2200 UTC September 12.
- **ARRL September VHF Contest**: 1800 UTC September 12 to 0300 UTC September 14.
- **Texas QSO Party**: 1400 UTC September 19 to 0200 UTC September 20, and 1400–2000 UTC September 20.
- **Iowa QSO Party**: 1400 UTC September 19 to 0200 UTC September 20.
- **New Hampshire QSO Party**: 1600 UTC September 19 to 0400 UTC September 20, and 1200–2200 UTC September 20.
- **Washington State Salmon Run**: 1600 UTC September 19 to 0700 UTC September 20, and 1600–2400 UTC September 20.
- **Wisconsin Parks on the Air**: 1600–2300 UTC September 19.

## Article 2: Colombian Emergency Network Activated Following Earthquake

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*Summarized from reports by Carlos Alberto Santamaría González, CO2JC, IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator, dated August 10 and August 13, 2026, as published in the ARRL news feed.*

On the morning of Monday, August 10, 2026, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Colombia at 7:34 AM local time. According to the Colombian Geological Service, the epicenter was in the municipality of San José del Palmar, Chocó, at a depth of 96 km, and several aftershocks followed, including one of magnitude 4.8. The government's preliminary assessment reported 111 dead, 87 injured, more than 1,500 homes damaged, dozens of buildings collapsed, and damage to health centers, schools, roads and airports. The Coffee Axis and Pacific coast regions were hit hardest.

Within minutes, the IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator was in touch with Faber Mosquera, HK6F, emergency coordinator for the Colombian Amateur Radio League (LCRA), who was coordinating with the country's National Disaster Risk Management System. Emergency coordinators from Guatemala, Cuba, Venezuela, Honduras, El Salvador and Ecuador, and from IARU Region 1, were also kept informed. LCRA members deployed alongside the Colombian Red Cross to provide communications support, and radio amateurs everywhere were asked to keep the IARU Region 2 emergency frequencies clear and simply monitor them:

- 80 meters: 3.985 MHz
- 40 meters: 7.060, 7.240 and 7.275 MHz
- 20 meters: 14.300 MHz
- 17 meters: 18.160 MHz
- 15 meters: 21.360 MHz
- 2 meters: 146.520 MHz simplex

By August 13, Colombian hams had done excellent work keeping communications running. When cellular and Wi-Fi networks went down and repeater backup power failed to switch over, members of the Asociación de Radioaficionados del Eje Cafetero (Asorec) in Pereira had the emergency communications system back up within about 15 minutes, with generator power from a neighboring radio station's transmitter site. Volunteers from Liga Radio Quindío headed to Cerro Campanario, 3,600 meters up in the Central Cordillera, to restore strategic repeaters with solar panels and batteries. When the Dosquebradas Fire Department's digital systems collapsed, it switched to the amateur repeaters. Clubs in Medellín, Cali, Manizales, Bogotá and Ibagué linked repeaters and EchoLink, installed an additional VHF repeater, and lent equipment, including 15 portable radios for government risk-management officials and infrared-equipped drones for the search. As the IARU coordinator put it, this work in rescue, recovery and locating people affected by the disaster "makes us proud to be amateur radio operators."

## **Special Notices**

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### **September meeting date**

The Handiham Radio Club's September meeting will be moved to September 13, because the first Sunday of September falls on Labor Day weekend. The club bylaws automatically move our monthly meeting to the second Sunday when the first Sunday falls on a holiday weekend.

### **Radio Camp office hours**

If you will be attending the 2026 Handiham Radio Camp in Minneapolis, September 9 through 16, you may have questions or special requests. Handiham Program Coordinator Lucinda Moody, AB8WF, is holding Zoom office hours every couple of weeks until the Saturday before camp starts, for questions, information about camp, and special

requests for the hotel. You can join as often as you like, and you are not required to attend.

- Saturday, August 22, 2–4 PM Central Daylight Time
- Saturday, September 5, 2–4 PM CDT

The meeting link is in your welcome-to-camp email, or you can ask the Handiham Program office to email it to you again.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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### August 2026

- **August 15–17**, 1800–0100 UTC: Deltana Fair special event station. KL7DRC, Delta Amateur Radio Club, Delta Junction, Alaska. Frequencies: 14.250, 14.320 MHz.
- **August 22**, 1330–2100 UTC: NS Savannah maiden voyage anniversary. K3S, Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC, Port of Baltimore, Maryland. Bands: 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters.
- **August 23**, 1700–2100 UTC: Green Valley Amateur Radio Club 47th anniversary. WE7GV, Green Valley Amateur Radio Club, Sahuarita, Arizona. Frequencies: 14.242, 14.246, 14.248 MHz.
- **August 29 – September 12**, 1300–2300 UTC: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival special event station. K9A, Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association, Auburn, Indiana. Frequencies: 7.180, 14.250, 28.350 MHz.
- **August 29 – September 7**, 0000–2359 UTC: Buhl Farm Park Celebration. W3LIF, Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, Hermitage, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 7.185, 7.074 MHz.
- **August 29 – September 2**, 0000–2359 UTC: Commemoration of the end of WWII. W5J, Meridian Amateur Radio Club, Meridian, Mississippi. Frequency: 14.230 MHz.
- **August 29–30**, 1200–0200 UTC: The Myers family, Levittown civil rights, August 1957. W3M, Penn Wireless Association, Feasterville-

Trevoze, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 7.200, 14.250, 18.135 MHz; 146.79 MHz repeater (−0.6 MHz offset, PL 131.8 Hz).

- **August 29–30**, 1018–1018 UTC: The Battle of Brooklyn at the Old Stone House. W1B, Kings County Radio Club, Brooklyn, New York. Frequency: 14.270 MHz.

## September 2026

- **September 3–6**, 1400–1800 UTC: Midwest Old Threshers Reunion special event. W0ARC, Washington Area Amateur Radio Club, Washington, Iowa. Frequencies: 28.400, 21.300, 14.300, 7.200 MHz.
- **September 5–7**, 1600–1600 UTC: Return to Paradise #48. K7RDG, Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Sierra Vista, Arizona. Frequencies: 3.890, 7.225, 14.070, 14.285 MHz.
- **September 5–6**, 1700–2100 UTC: Route 66 100th anniversary. W9SPI, Sangamon Valley Radio Club, Springfield, Illinois. Frequencies: 7.180, 14.250, 21.325, 28.400 MHz.
- **September 5**, 1200–2000 UTC: W2GSB POTA activation. W2GSB, Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Babylon, New York. Frequencies: 14.245, 28.500, 21.325, 7.275 MHz.
- **September 5**, 1300–2100 UTC: W8OG special event, 250th birthday celebration. W8OG, Clark County Amateur Radio Association, Springfield, Ohio. Frequencies: 3.900, 7.280, 14.280, 28.600 MHz.
- **September 9–11**, 0000–2359 UTC: FRVA-ARC Fall Rally. WE4RV, FRVA Amateur Radio Chapter, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Frequencies: 14.074, 14.3075, 21.074, 21.277 MHz.
- **September 9–16**, 0000–2359 UTC: Handiham Radio Camp. W0ZSW, Handiham Radio Club, Minneapolis, Minnesota. CW: 28.050, 21.050, 14.050, 7.050 MHz. SSB: 28.350, 21.350, 14.250, 7.200 MHz.

- **September 11–12**, 1200–0100 UTC: Pentagon, 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. K4AF, Fairfax, Virginia. 20 and 40 meters.
- **September 11–13**, 1300–1700 UTC: The RC Jamboree Weekend. W2A, OMARC, Red Hook, New York. Bands: 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.
- **September 12**, 1500–2100 UTC: VARS 60th anniversary special event station. WA0CJU, Viking Amateur Radio Society, Waseca, Minnesota. Frequencies: 14.074, 14.250, 14.275, 7.074, 7.225, 7.250 MHz.
- **September 12**, 1700–2359 UTC: 9/11 25th anniversary. NI6IW, USS Midway Museum Ship (CV-41), San Diego, California. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.320, 14.070 MHz; PSK31; D-STAR on Papa System repeaters.
- **September 12**, 1330–2100 UTC: Baltimore Defenders' Day. K3S, Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC, Port of Baltimore, Maryland. Bands: 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters.
- **September 12–20**, 0000–2359 UTC: Route 66 On the Air. W6H, Albuquerque DX Association, Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Frequencies: 7.266, 14.074, 14.266, 18.080 MHz.
- **September 13**, 1000–1600 UTC: Blue Ridge Bonanza. W4CA, Roanoke Valley ARC, Roanoke, Virginia. Frequencies: 7.220, 14.250 MHz.
- **September 13**, 3:00 PM Central time: Handiham Radio Club meeting.
- **September 16–26**, 0000–0000 UTC: PAARC Founders Week special event station. K3ZMC, Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 14.325, 7.225, 3.980, 28.415 MHz.
- **September 16–24**, 0000–2359 UTC: The Saving of the Liberty Bell. W3L, WV2M, Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 7.030, 7.240, 14.030, 14.240 MHz.

- **September 17–24**, 0700–0700 UTC: Constitution Day/Week. W3C, Jeff Widen, Rancho Cucamonga, California. Frequencies: 14.239, 7.239, 21.339, 28.339 MHz.
- **September 19**, 1400–2000 UTC: Fred Harvey House Museum on the Air. KS0LV, Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club, Leavenworth, Kansas. Frequencies: 14.046, 14.304, 7.240, 21.362 MHz.
- **September 19**, 1400–2000 UTC: State Line Radio Club annual picnic. W3A, State Line Radio Club, Holtwood, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 14.240, 21.280 MHz.
- **September 19**, 1400–2359 UTC: Wright Brothers' first complete circular flight, near Dayton, Ohio. W8DGN, Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club, Bellbrook, Ohio. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.317, 28.425 MHz.
- **September 20**, 1200–2000 UTC: Fort Herkimer recognition. W2FHA, Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association, Ilion, New York. Frequencies: 7.262, 14.262 MHz.
- **September 26–27**, 1400–1900 UTC: Historic Soldiers Weekend, Fort Mott State Park. W2M, Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, Pennsville, New Jersey. Bands: 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.
- **September 26**, 1400–2000 UTC: America 250 Fort Steuben special event. K8F, Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club, Steubenville, Ohio. CW, FT8 and SSB on 20 and 40 meters.
- **September 26–27**, 1400–2350 UTC: Tri-States special event, where South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota meet. W0JH, Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, Stillwater, Minnesota. Frequencies: 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360 MHz.
- **September 26–27**, 1230–0300 UTC: Villa Rica Gold Rush special event. W4G, West Georgia Amateur Radio Society, Temple, Georgia. Frequencies: 3.85, 7.30, 14.26, 21.32 MHz.
- **September 26**, 1400–2000 UTC: Volcano Days. W8PAR, Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub, Parkersburg, West Virginia. SSB 14.225 and 7.200 MHz; CW 14.125 and 7.100 MHz; FT8 on 20 and 40 meters.

- **September 26**, 1700–2100 UTC: White Trail Grange Car Show. W7TT, Central Washington Amateur Radio Club, Ephrata, Washington. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.250, 21.350 MHz.
- **September 27–29**, 1200–0200 UTC: Bolton Mansion / Phineas Pemberton House. W3B, Penn Wireless Association, Levittown, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 7.200, 14.250, 18.135 MHz; 146.79 MHz repeater (–0.6 MHz offset, PL 131.8 Hz).

## **Handiham Radio Club Board, August 2026**

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- President: Jerry Maccoux, W0UH
- Vice President: Tom Behler, KB8TYJ
- Secretary: Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY
- Treasurer and Handiham Program representative: Lucinda Moody, AB8WF
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- Second Member at Large: Christoph Bungard, DF9WM

To reach the club or any board member, please contact the Handiham Radio Club through the Handiham Program.

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