

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2012 Issue February

Meeting: February 2, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88
 2663 Halls Mill Road
Main Speaker: Jason Smith
 Meteorologist / Outdoorsman
Quick Hits: Bill Midgette

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2012

President:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice Pres:	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer:	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary:	Bill Perry	661-0129
Membership:	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Doug Tierce	593-0275
Logo Items:	Bill Graves	443-8017
"	Bob Ward	661-3118
Awards:	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Statistics:	David Thornton	458-2775
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Food Advisors:	Brenda Wilson	513-0313
"	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Mini Seminars:	Adam Barker	747-1552
Quick Hits:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

Upcoming Events

Thursday February 2 1st Meeting
Saturday February 4 'Grub' Tourney
Thursday March 1 2nd Meeting
Fri-Sun March 9-11 Boat Show
Saturday March 17 1st Tournament

New Direction in 2012

President's Message:

Thank you, Vince Hawkins for leading this wonderful fishing club for the last three years. We suffered through the recession, an epic oil spill and the ACFA is still going strong. The Mayan calendar is supposed to end in 2012 so we will see how we do with that. I am looking forward to this year and I hope our few changes and additions to the club will be well accepted by all current and new members. We have planned some great things to help the club become even better through the next 15 years.

Hunting season is coming to a close soon and the weather has been more warm than cold lately which has confused both the fish and the fisherman. Causeway fishing has been slow since the high water around Christmas time. But speckled trout and redfish still remain in decent numbers in the tidal rivers along the bay such as Dog, Fowl, Fish, and Magnolia rivers. If you want to chase something without spots then head toward the lower end of the bay and fish the rigs, bridges, and jetties for sheephead. These will not typically be the big giant spring time sheephead but you could fill the boat with scrappy 2 lbs-5 lbs fish.

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What's New?

- Increase dues to keep pace with perks and expenses
- Have at least one raffle item per meeting
- Find more sponsors for more/ better door prizes
- Identify local businesses that would support ACFA discounts
- Add a "Net Man of the Year" Competition and Award
- Attract more kid participation 'Family Day' @April weigh in
- Alter May Tournament format to be more FUN!
- Reward guest speakers with an ACFA 'gift bag'
- Increase ACFA internet website visibility by selling ads
- Involve more local guides as ACFA guest speakers and add monthly fishing forecasts to newsletter & website
- "Meet club members" in newsletter bios
- Publicize the club more in local media and Boat Show
- Liquidate 'old' ACFA logo inventory and add new items
- Have door prizes @ Awards Banquet

2012 Memberships are Due and ...

You can mail in your **\$50** membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to:

ACFA c/o Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Dr Chickasaw, AL 36611

The form can be found at the end of this newsletter or on the club website at <http://acfafishing.com/membership/form/meb.pdf>

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crush at the Treasurer's Table at your first meeting?

This will go a long way to alleviate the crowding and confusion at the meetings and leave more room for NEW members to sign up.

Plus mailing your membership (by April 1st) will include you in one of two membership refund drawings to be held at the April meeting. IF you have already renewed your membership, give the form to a friend you'd like to join the club and have them check you as a referral.

Remember, ANY member who refers at least one new member is eligible for a drawing to refund their \$50 membership fee!

And the ACFA member who has the most referrals by New members will have their \$50 membership fee refunded.

So there are four ways to win!!!

Lastly, remember those who already have fish entered in the 2012 Big Fish Contest **MUST** have renewed their membership by the end of February, or their Big Fish Contest entries have to be removed.

ACFA 2011 Awards Banquet Recap

Over 135 members and guests attended the 15th Annual ACFA Awards Banquet held Friday evening December 2, 2011. Over 75 awards and trophies were given out and mass quantities of HOT seafood and side dishes from **Fishhead's Catering** were consumed along with numerous "scrumptious" desserts and hors d'oeuvres contributed by the attending members. It was another great ACFA party, featuring the band "Mystifiers". So if you missed it, then you REALLY missed it! Of course the focus of the evening was the award presentations.

Our 2011 Big Fish Champions were:

Blackfish: 1st and 3rd place Kyle Mitternight (28.29 #) A new club record, 2nd place John Erwin, 4th Summer Williams, & 5th Ed Greer

Sheepshead: 1st place Todd Golomb (10.90#), 2nd place Phillip Guy, 3rd Bruce Howle Jr, 4th David Hare, & 5th Robert Moseley

Flounder: 1st place Jerry Markow (5.60#), 2nd place Doug Tierce, 3rd Gary Tingle, 4th Charlie Dowdle, & 5th Patric Garmeson

Spanish Mackerel: 1st place Norman Lewellen (4.56#), 2nd & 5th place David Thornton, 3rd Vicki Foster, & 4th place Steve O'Dell

Ground Mullet: 1st and 2nd place David Thornton (1.98#), 3rd Phillip Guy, and 4th Bekki Ludlam, & 5th place Austin Lee

Speckled Trout: 1st place Bill Graves (8.00#), 2nd & 4th place O.P. Harrison, 3rd Chris Conken, & 5th place Jerry Markow

Redfish: 1st place Jarred Kelly 7.30#, 2nd place Erik Nelson, 3rd Trevor Harrison, 4th Rob Howell, & 5th place Theo Koulianos

White Trout: 1st and 5th place O.P. Harrison (3.06#), 2nd place Marty Garmeson, 3rd Trevor Wood, & 4th place Vicki Foster

All the overall winners in the yearlong Big Fish Contest are assigned points based on the number and place of fish they had in the final 2011 Big Fish Contest results. We refer to this as the Big Fish Championship. Based on these point totals 5th place went to Phillip Guy,

4th place was a tie between Vicki Foster and Jerry Markow, 3rd place was Kyle Mitternight, 2nd place went to O.P. Harrison and the **2011 Big Fish Champion was (again) David Thornton**. Not a bad run for a guy who fishes from a pier most of the time.

But that is proof that just about anyone in the club is capable of putting together an award winning season (or two ;-) So get after them!

In addition we recognized the accomplishments of club members who consistently placed in our (8) monthly tournaments by their standings in accumulated point totals at the end of the competition season. Michael Nicholas and Doug Tierce tied for 5th place, O.P. Harrison 4th place, Mike Foster 3rd place, Trenny Woodham was 2nd place and our **2011 Tournament Champion was Vicki Foster**.

Also we mathematically compare each individual's rank in the Big Fish Contest and Tournament point totals to determine an overall champion.

By virtue of a half point difference, our coveted **2011 Master Angler was Vicki Foster**. She was also the **Lady Angler of the Year**.

We use the same formula (lending equal weight to both contests) to select the overall junior angler and new angler for each year too.

Thus the **2011 ACFA New Angler Trophy went to Michael Nicholas** and the **2011 Junior Angler Trophy was awarded to Trevor Harrison**.

The "**Founder's Award**" is another coveted trophy. Each year it is presented to the individual in the ACFA who is considered to have advanced the club by giving time and effort beyond expectations or job description. For his tireless work in 2011 the Founder's Award went to **Vince Hawkins**.

A very important part of the success of the ACFA is the support of the club by individuals, businesses and organizations who help us out. At the end of each year the club tries to recognize (albeit in a small way) the most deserving of them for their contributions with a plaque of recognition. In 2011, the ACFA recognized **Post 250, The American Legion** (tournament weigh in site), **Scott's Landing** (for contributions and use of weigh in site), **Middle Bay Marine** (financial support throughout the year), **Southern Bama Bait & Tackle** (Big Fish Contest plaques and monthly door prizes), **Deer River Bait & Tackle** (for support and contributions), and especially to Angel and Steve of **ABC Trophy Center** (for their continued support and patience and doing such a wonderful job with our plaques and trophies!).

The last award given during the evening was the **Grand Attendance Prize** drawing (an ice chest filled with lures and other 'goodies' worth in excess of \$750). About 30 members qualified for the drawing (by attending at least 8 of the 10 regular monthly club meetings).

The 'lucky' member for 2011 was **Jay O'Brien**. Congratulations to all our 2011 award winners and THANKS to all who made it possible!

The Mini-Seminars will return...

The huge popularity and success of the Mini-Seminar Series is due in large part to the efforts of member Joe Sirmon who spearheaded the idea years ago. This year we plan to provide even more discussions (and facilitators) on the local aspects of weather and water (tide) data and forecasts, tackle and boating, 'open floor' fishing discussions, more professional guide involvement and a veritable cornucopia of resources available to the beginning angler or seasoned 'old salt' (including the world wide web) that can make YOU a better informed, better prepared and better overall fisherman!

We would like to hear from you about what other topics (and facilitators) you would like to see discussed along the lines of "questions we'd like to hear answered, but were afraid to ask." You can pass your ideas on to Patric at the meetings or call Adam Barker @ 747-1552. We hope to see you in March!



Patric Garmeson

Meet the Angler

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 7th 1980. Patric moved with his family to Spanish Fort, Alabama in 1985. He was taught the art of fishing at the early age of 2 by his mom and dad. And his first memorable accomplishment as a fisherman was at the young age of 9, when he landed a 9.5 lbs bass on a private lake in Brewton, Alabama. Patric was immediately touched with a sense of stewardship after his remarkable catch, and he turned from a child to a conservationist. Since that day he has always made it a point to strive to return breeder size fish back to the water whenever possible.

In 1998 he graduated from Daphne High School and later attended Faulkner State Community College. In 2001 he completed college with a golf course management degree. In 2006 he was encouraged by Leslie and Doug Smith to join the ACFA. This was a decision he made not knowing what to expect from the club. His first season was highlighted by fishing an extremely rough day in the gulf in a small boat while in pursuit of spanish mackerel. And he placed in his first ACFA tournament that day!

In 2007 he managed to place in enough tournaments to finish the year tied for 1st in points with his step father Mike Foster and longtime member Bill Midgette. In 2008 he and his partners (Jim Foster and Adam Barker) made a run once again with Jim Foster running away with the point championship. Then in 2009 Adam Barker would not be left out in the cold. With Patric at the helm most of the time, Adam made a strong end of the season push and took home the club points championship that year.

From 2008-2009 Patric helped the club out by setting up the mini seminars for the meetings. In 2010-2011 he served as ACFA vice president and obtained his United States Coast Guard Captain license. During this time he started his fishing charter business "Ugly Fishing" www.uglyfishing.com and was working with fellow club member Doug Tierce doing home remodeling. Patric was featured in a Mobile Register Outdoors article "Spoon Fed Specks" in 2010. During January 2011 Patric and fishing partner Adam Barker broke their Battle of the Grubs (BOG) curse and landed a 3rd place speckled trout creel and 1st place redfish calcutta (this personal victory came at the cost of a blown outboard and had to be towed in by fellow anglers Bruce Howle and Jimmy Quint). Also in 2011 Patric made a career change to the lawn and landscape industry with Sexton Lawn and Landscape of Daphne. This career has allowed him time to fish most every weekend and to run charters when his schedule will allow.

Patric's biggest news of 2011 came on the date of 11-11-11 when he exchanged vows with his new bride Autumn Lundy. And just recently the newlyweds have announced they will be expecting a child in September! Autumn has been an active club member for 2010 and 2011 seasons along with her now 10 year old daughter, Chloe. They both have enjoyed fishing with Patric for fun and during tournaments and look forward to their growing family. Now in 2012 Patric resides over the ACFA as club president and is very motivated to draw new members as well as provide a better experience to those who have already been club members.

Please pass on any suggestions for articles like those above and below to Patric or to David Thornton (your newsletter editor).

ACFA Guide's Tip of the Month

Jump Start for Spring

It's that time of year again, the weather's cold and rainy, the fish aren't biting. It's time to get a jump start on boat and trailer maintenance for Spring.

The thing I'd like to start with is checking out my trailer. First I need to check all lights and connections. Then I need to check hubs and axles, and then check tires for wear.

And now for the boat...

I'd like to start off with a good coat of wax inside and out. Clean all connections on batteries for the motor and trolling motor. I go through all of my pumps and switches on console to make sure it's all working properly. I also like to check all flares and fire extinguisher to make sure they're up to date.

Just a few items to start working on before Spring arrives.

By: Joey Gates noslactackle.com



Short casts:

ACFA Logo Items will likely be on sale to reduce inventory and make way for new items and more or the most popular. See or call Bob Ward or Bill Graves for more info.

The ACFA will be at the **Mobile Boat Show March 9-11**. We will again have a booth and will need volunteers (plus their wives) to talk up the club and promote our family orientation. Also the club will be putting on several seminars on Sunday. PLEASE show your support to the club and patronize any of our sponsors who are also there. More to be announced later.

Donations are needed! We are always looking for new local and national sponsors who will help us out with contributions. PLEASE pass along any donated items or contact info to Doug Tierce our Donation Chairman.

Enjoy your newsletter!

You are likely receiving this complimentary copy of our first 2012 ACFA newsletter because you either are now or have been a member. We don't want to let you 'get away' without letting you know how much you mean to the future success of this, the largest inshore fishing club in Alabama. And we want to give you an opportunity join in our efforts and FUN!

Statistics...

as of January 20, 2012

The BIG Fish Contest

Mail your 2012 Big Fish Contest entries to: **David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604 (ph: 251-458-2775)**

Blackfish		WT	Flounder		WT	Ground Mullet		WT	Redfish		WT
1			1			1			1		
2			2			2			2		
3			3			3			3		
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		
Sheepshead		WT	Spanish Mackerel		WT	Speckled Trout		WT	White Trout		WT
1			1			1	Jay O'Brien	6.44	1	Bill Midgette	2.54
2			2			2	Trenny Woodham	6.06	2	O.P. Harrison	2.48
3			3			3			3	O.P. Harrison	1.91
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		

* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

***BOG 2012**

*BOG stands for Battle Of Grubs, as in artificial ONLY!

Some years ago ACFA members David Hare and Bruce Howle started a tradition of hosting pay tournaments during the club's off season. That seemed the best way to lure winter speck fishermen out of the woods and/or hibernation.

"Why?" You might ask...

"TO MAKE FREAKIN HISTORY BROTHER!" 'Burl Minnow' stated on the club forum @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=12161>

He added "IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU WILL FIND OUT WHERE THE FISH WERE BY COMING TO THE WEIGH-IN. IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME THAT 'SOMEONE' FIGURES OUT WHERE THEY ARE.

MORE INFORMATION ON SPECK FISHING IS THROWN AROUND THAN JUNK IN A NEW ORLEANS KRYSTAL. YOU WILL GET A YEARS WORTH OF INFORMATION, IN A DAY."

Sounds like a 'good deal' for \$20 or \$30!

When: Saturday Feb 4, 2012

Signin: Waffle House on Hwy 90 @ I-65 (5-5:30 am)

Burl says "Come by and have breakfast with us." ;-)

Price: \$20 per man/ 2 per boat, but you may fish solo.

Optional \$10 'Winner Take All' Redfish Lunker

Payout:

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Speckled Trout (best 5 fish per boat)

+Lunker Speckled Trout +Heaviest 'Slot' Redfish



Kyle Mitternacht (L) is congratulated by *Battle of the Grubs* co-founders Bruce Howle (M) and David Hare (R) at the conclusion of a recent tournament held January 7th. A total of 20 people participated in the 'slot' redfish pool which Kyle won. Scuttlebutt is Kyle will miss the next BOG while on "vacation", laying low from the IRS. After all it is almost tax time! Reports stated 14 boats participated in the January event and a total of 26 boats entered the first tournament on Dec. 10, 2011 They have lots of fun!!! And chances to win some \$\$\$

ACFA 2012 Schedule

M	"Drop Dead" date everything MUST be to newsletter editor by...	Mail newsletter 1 1/2 weeks prior to meeting	Monthly Meeting Date 1st Thursday	Tournament date Saturday	Tournament Name	Tournament Species	P #	REMARKS
Jan.	XXXX	XXXX	NO regular MEETING - Board meeting in Jan BEFORE 1st Newsletter					
Feb.	Jan. 20	Jan. 23	Feb. 2	NONE	-----	-----	--	NO Tournament in Feb. Too Cold!
Mar.	Feb. 17	Feb. 20	Mar. 1	Mar. 17	March Madness	Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheephead, Ground Mulllet	12	Tournament later ACFA @ Boat Show Mar 9-11
Apr.	Mar. 23	Mar. 26	Apr. 5	Apr. 7	Spring Breakout and FREE Boat Inspections	Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheephead, Ground Mulllet	12	USCG Aux. FREE Boat Safety Inspections and "Family Day"
May	Apr. 20	Apr. 23	May. 3	May. 5	Speckled Trout Challenge	Speckled Trout & Jr Speckled Trout	10	ACFA Younger Anglers vs ACFA Older Anglers Weigh In on Causeway / Fish Fry
Jun.	May. 20	May. 23	Jun. 2	Jun. 4	Summer Starter	Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Ground Mulllet, Spanish Mackerel	15	-- 5 Species --
Jul.	Jun. 22	Jun. 25	Jul. 5	Jul. 7	Rodeo Warm-up	Speckled Trout Creel (5/Team), Flounder Creel (3/Team), Redfish, White Trout, Blackfish	18	2 angler teams/5 speck creel & 3 flounder creel Weekend After July 4th
Aug.	Jul. 20	Jul. 23	Aug. 2	Aug. 4	Mobile Bay Grand Slam	Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish	22	-- 5 Species -- 1st thru 5th Place Plaques in Slam Categories Shrimp boil / Biggest Slam Award
Sep.	Aug. 24	Aug. 27	Sep. 6	Sep. 8	End of Summer	Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Spanish Mackerel	15	-- 5 Species -- / Fish Fry on Causeway
Oct.	Sep. 21	Sep. 24	Oct. 4	Oct. 20	Mutt Burke Causeway Classic	Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheephead	12	Launch from Causeway/ Chill Cook-off @ Scott's Landing
Nov.	Oct. 20	Oct. 22	Nov. 1	NONE	-----	-----	12	NO Tournament in Nov. 2012 Big Fish Contest ends Nov 14 and '13 begins Nov 15
Dec.	Nov. 23	Nov. 26	Dec. 7	NONE	-----	-----	--	NO Mail on Thanksgiving! RSVP (by phone) for Banquet by nite of Nov 30
							128	plus Junior Angler Plaques for ALL Tournament Species

OFFICIAL ACFA 2012 Calendar

 Meeting Date
 Tournament Date
 Newsletter Due Date
 Newsletter Mail Date

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
NO MEETING OR TOURNAMENT						

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
NO TOURNAMENT						

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Boat Show Mar 9-11/TOURNEY LATER						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	28	29	30	31		
Speckled Trout Challenge						

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
ADSR JULY 20-22						

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Grand Slam Tourney & Shrimp Boil						

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NO TOURNAMENT						

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Mutt Burke Causeway Classic later

Big Fish Contest ends Nov 14th

NO Tourney / Awards Banquet Dec 7

Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.

Upcoming Events & Holidays

- Thursday February 2 1st Meeting
- Saturday February 4 'Grub' Tourney
- Monday February 20 Presidents Day
- Thursday March 1 2nd Meeting
- Fri-Sun March 9-11 Boat Show
- Saturday March 17 1st Tournament
- Tuesday February 21 Mardi Gras Day
- Sunday April 8 Easter
- Monday May 28 Memorial Day
- Monday September 3 Labor Day



A Family Oriented Fishing Club - since 1997

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Membership Application Form

mail w/ \$50 to: ACFA c/o Vince Hawkins 112 BARATARA DR CHICKASAW, AL 36611

Date 2012

First Name/Middle Initial _____ M.I. _____
 Last Name _____

(Please use your common name (nickname, Sr, Jr, III, etc) that you will use in the Tournaments and wish to have printed on memberist and in the newsletter to help avoid confusion.)

Street Address _____
 City _____
 State/Province _____
 Zip/Postal Code _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

First Time Member? Yes No

Newsletter by postal mail? Yes No

(NOTE: Select 'Yes' to have your newsletter mailed to your address)
 Newsletters are available on the ACFA website to read or print, or you may opt to have them emailed to you.

Online Screen Name _____
(if registered on the online forum)

Boat Type/Make _____
 Boat Name _____

% Time Fishing With Artificial Bait _____ Live Bait _____

Topics you would like to hear discussed at meetings _____

% Of Time Targeting	Speckled Trout	_____	Redfish	_____
	Flounder	_____	Sheepshead	_____
	Ground Mullet	_____	Blackfish	_____
	White Trout	_____	Spanish Mackerel	_____

Referred to Membership or Sponsored by _____

Other family members who qualify to fish tournaments on your membership:
 Spouse (First Name): _____
 Children under age 16 before February 1st (including step-children)
 First Name(s): _____

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