

# PACESETTER

Created for PACE Miata Club members and Miata MX-5 fans



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout my adult life, whenever someone would be in my face and rant and rave, rather than waste time thinking about what I should say next to put this person in his/her place, my standard response has been to simply ask, "Are you done yet?" Then walk away. It helps keep my blood pressure under control, and also limits any possibility that, when given the chance, I didn't say this (or that.) Well, I can honestly say that will not work this time, when COVID-19 has been screaming in my face for the majority of 2020.

So, now what? It's December already and the past nine months seem to have all been a blur... except it's cold! I don't know about you, but I'm sorely in need of a change. And with pandemic-pandemonium on the rise, things don't look like there a'changin anytime soon. On a brighter note, the elections are over and regardless of how you swing, let's all just agree to disagree, hope for best in 2021, and play nice in the sandbox.

So, with our best regards, do your best to enjoy the holidays however you can. We hope that COVID-19 has not affected your health or the health of anyone you know. To share Carol Piersol's quote: "*Miata Is Always The Answer.*" In times like these, those five words can bring a whole lot'a comfort to our souls. *Happy holidays, SANDY AND JOE*

## HELLO, FROM MEMBERSHIP

Nina and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and better new year. And, we hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. As of mid-December, I am happy to welcome our newest member, **Rhonda Sheldon**. Rhonda lives in Ephrata and drives a 2006 GT in "Atomic Teal (Wrap)."

That's all for this month and remember,

*"Fly Miata,"* **ROD SLENKER**

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## Member Quiz: December

Many of you came up with the correct answer to November's member quiz. And, of course the correct answer in was **Fred and Ethyl Mertz!** (oops, I meant **Fred and Sue Stauffer!!!**).

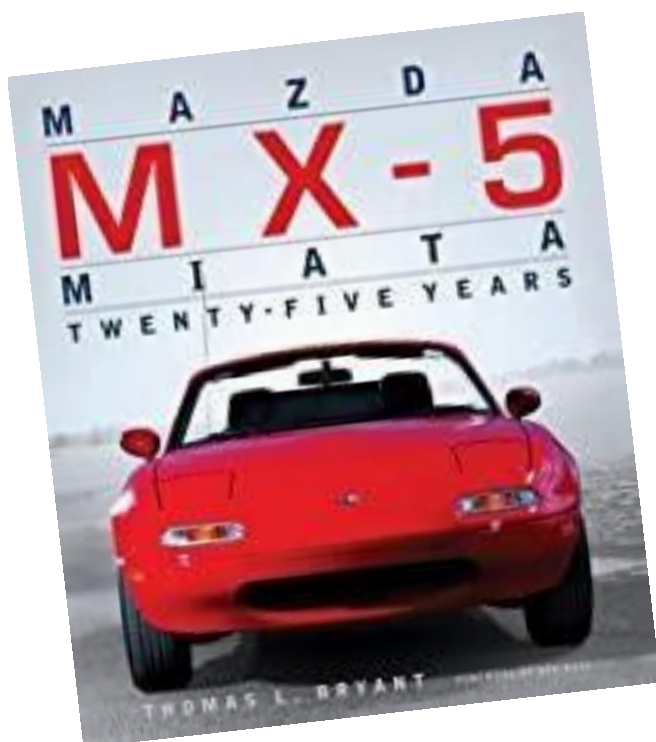
For your edification, and if you don't already know, the Stauffer's are Club treasurers. So, if there is anything finance-related you'd like to know about PACE, contact Sue.



Now, let's try this again. Circle the correct name and sign up to win a Club prize at our next event.

Are this month's members: **Bill and Melinda Gates, Rick and Marilyn Yanchuleff, or Abner and Gladys Kravitz?**

To claim your prizes, email [rick@yanchuleff.com](mailto:rick@yanchuleff.com) for a quick reply. Winner must be present to collect the prize.



## For your reading pleasure... by Rick Yanchuleff

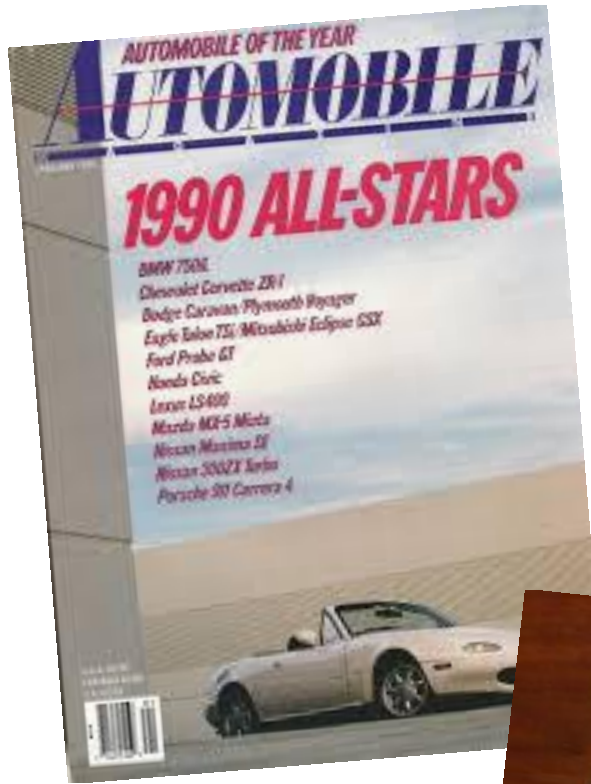
This is the sixth chapter in the series from the coffee table book: **Mazda MX-5 Miata: Twenty-Five Years** written in 2014 by Thomas L. Bryant. It's a great book that will help you understand why you enjoy your Miata so much. Should you care to read the book from the beginning via PACESETTER, you can reprint the past issues by clicking on the website.

## Miata: Road Tests around the World

Many factors play into the success of any automobile's sales, but by any reckoning

*(cont'd)*

the Mazda MX-5 Miata is a remarkable winner in the marketplace. First, it is a handsome sports car that retains the style and feel of sports roadsters from previous eras while feeling thoroughly modern at the same time. Second, it has sold more than 900,000 cars around the world. This is the largest-selling sports car in history. And recall how it came to be: a conversation between a senior Mazda executive and a young American automobile journalist. If we hadn't lived this for the past 25 years, it would seem to be a dream.



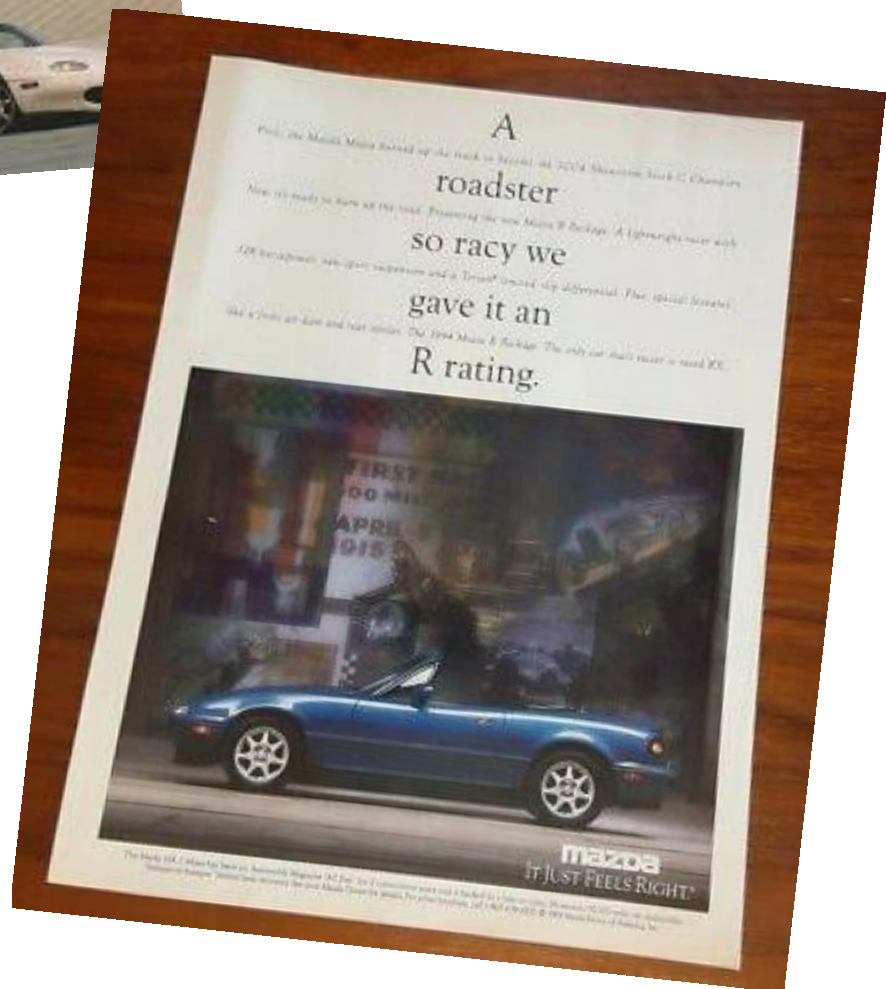
Much of the car's success comes down to one factor: throughout its evolution, the MX-5 Miata has always been in the hands of enthusiastic designers, engineers, and planners—experts who love sports cars and want to bring forth a car that people around the world, of all ages, will find enchanting, affordable, comfortable, economical, and fun to drive.

During these first 25 years, Miatas have been the subject of many road-test articles from magazines around the world. It is remarkable that well over 45,000 MX-5s have been sold in the United Kingdom, while nearly 30,000 have been sold in Germany.

Australia has been in the market, too, with some 20,000 MX-5s sold there. There are other countries that have a handful of the Mazda sports cars, including Russia (approximately 400) and China (around 1,500), while Mexico, Puerto Rico, and other nations have a total of about 4,500.

It's somewhat surprising that the country that ranks second in total MX-5s is Japan, which, as of this writing, is closing in on 200,000 Eunos (as Miatas are called in Japan) sold.

(cont'd)



This is quite an achievement, as, heretofore, Japanese buyers have chosen small sedans and utility vehicles in big numbers, but not sports cars. It seems the MX-5 Miata is the sort of roadster that attracts interest everywhere.

Especially interesting is the story of how the little sports car captured the attention of automobile journalists around the world. While the first Miata article came out in the US magazine *Automobile* in March 1989, right on top of the car's debut at the Chicago Auto Show, it was quite a surprise that the second was written by Peter Nunn and published in the June 29, 1989, edition of the British weekly *Autosport*.

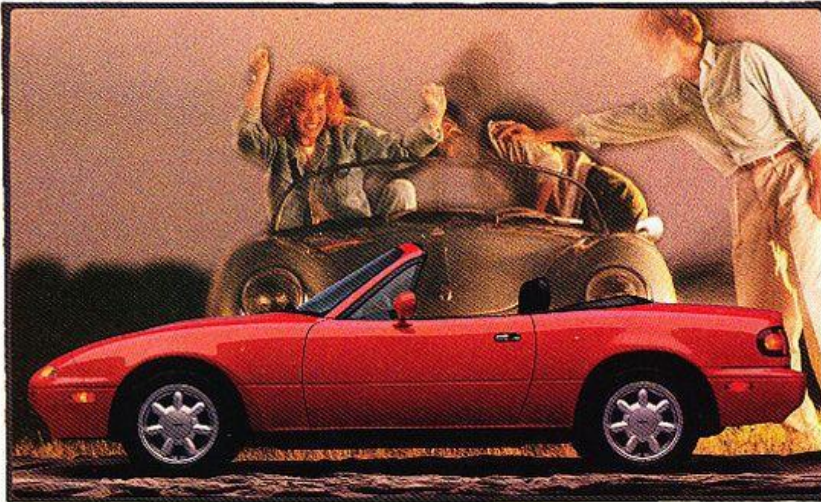
While Nunn was ahead of other journalists outside of the United States, the catching up came quickly and clearly. In the March 1990 issue of *Car New Zealand* magazine, the headline read "Marvelous Miata!" and the subhead was "We were so impressed with Mazda's MX-5 sports car that we went out and bought one." Donn Anderson wrote the

road-test article, which again, started with unabashed zeal.

"Out there on the streets it's hard to generate enthusiasm for any new model car, unlike 10 or 20 years ago. Drive a brand spanker model—even one that's a model—even one that's yet to be launched—and hardly a head turns.

"Until now. Enter the Mazda MX-5, and suddenly people are yelling from car windows, horns are beeping, passers-by are stopping, talking. This is no ordinary arrival, and the world is telling you so."

The road test in *Car New Zealand* gave a positive liking to the car, which Anderson had bought for himself. The road test summary featured a "For & Against"



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## INTRODUCING MAZDA MIATA.

### IT NOT ONLY GIVES YOU A GLIMPSE OF THE '90S... IT TAKES YOU BACK, AS WELL.

IT IS A CAR THAT INSTANTLY EVOKES A RUSH OF EMOTION. FOR IT IS, AT ONCE, AN AUTOMOBILE OF BOTH CLASSIC FORM AND VISIONARY TECHNOLOGY.

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MAZDA MIATA. IT'S DESIGNED TO NOT ONLY PERFORM RIGHT, BUT ALSO FEEL RIGHT. SO DISCOVER THE PURE FUN AND PASSION OF DRIVING A MAZDA MIATA. IT NOT ONLY GIVES YOU A GLIMPSE OF THE '90S... IT TAKES YOU BACK, AS WELL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THIS NUMBER: 800-424-0202.

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segment on the test chart: "For: Just about everything; distinction; character, driveability, satisfaction. Against: Seat comfort."

You would have to say the New Zealand writer found the car of his dreams. "It is the most significant roadster of the decade: a classic in its own time," he wrote. (cont'd)

At the same time—March 14, 1990—the popular British weekly publication *Autocar* was on the newsstands with a complete road test of the MX-5. The subhead of the article was “Mazda’s MX-5 may not be particularly fast but it’s one of the most complete and satisfying sports cars money can buy.” *Autocar*’s road test report is the usual thorough and informative report one would expect from one of the best automotive publications in the world, and is contained all the charts, drawings, and comparisons with other sports roadsters, and more. Its opening paragraph continued the positive trend.

It costs 14,249 British pounds [\$23,225 US], it goes on sale today [March 14] however, if you haven’t already placed your order than you won’t have to wait for more than a couple of months. The world’s most written-about and, arguably, the most affordable car—the Mazda MX-5—is here at last.”

Sparing no attention to detail, the road test also signaled that everything from the gearbox to the steering wheel is a delight for the driver. And the ongoing discussion of the Mazda MX-5 looking much like the original Lotus Elan continued, “It may shamelessly ape the Lotus Elan of the ‘60s, but it is a more fitting successor to [the] crown than the new Elan will ever be.”

Moving on to another nation, *Car South Africa* magazine presented its road test of the Mazda MX-5 in December 1990.



“Just one look, that’s all it took, yeah. Just one look, to fall in l-o-v-e.’ The Hollies 1960s lament reflected a stimulating environment in miniskirts, Paisley prints and the Lotus Elan, than a radically modern sports car. So filling the Mazda MX-5 test car with the sounds of the Hollies while threading down Hex River Pass was appropriate enough, since the little Japanese roadster that has caused such excitement world-wide is the spiritual successor to the original Elan.

“It’s small, lithe, sexy and best of all, it handles perfectly—factors characterized Colin Chapman’s two-seater and helped put it a generation ahead of contemporary British sports car. It is perhaps ironic that it should be the Japanese who have recaptured the theme by providing an honest, relatively simple rear-wheel drive sports car at an affordable price (if you buy it in Europe or the US, that is); but then times (*cont’d*)

change. “Or do they? In any era a really good sports car has inspired emotional bonding and this MX-5 is as good as they come. In fact, it’s as much a product of American input as Japanese, as the original concept and design came from Mazda Research and Development of North America, based in California.”

Under the head of “Bold Decision” in the *Car South Africa* road test, they wrote: “The Japanese presented alternative mid-engine and front-wheel drive designs but it soon became obvious that the Californians were spot on and the bold decision to go ahead has been amply justified by results. In fact, the MX-5 has been a huge hit everywhere.”

Unfortunately for many fans, the heavy import tax in South Africa at that time pushed the MX-5s price to 85,077 rand, which was approximately 28,500 US dollars.

It was no surprise the German periodical *Auto, Motor und Sport* also found the MX-5 and excellent sports roadster, although they felt that more horsepower would have made for a more sporting car—plus one that could be even faster along the *autobahn*.

On the other side of the world, *Car Graphic*, Japan’s very esteemed publication, gave the MX-5 Miata a very positive review, saying it would become a popular worldwide sports car for enthusiasts everywhere.

*(cont’d in the January 2021 PACESETTER)*

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## Photos from a recent “Impromptu” event to Muddy Creek

### Photos submitted by Lloyd Weston

For those of you who may have the luxury and are able to take advantage of the many “impromptu” runs that several members arrange—some with very little notice—they are a great addition to our normal scheduled runs. These last minutes trips help keep the momentum going and gas in the tank of the Miata.

If you are of an impulsive nature, please take advantage of whatever the event may have to offer—probably interesting and possible undiscovered destinations, good weather and great fellowship with some of our members (oh, yeah, and most likely ice cream, too!)



Thanks for sharing, Lloyd,

**RICK YANCHULEFF**, editor

## COMING UP... by Carol Piersol

### IT'S 2021...SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Jan. 9 2021

### PACE Annual Polar Bear Run

Join Sandy and Joe Golesh for the first event of 2021. After what comprised much of 2020, we are hoping and planning on a great 2021 beginning the year with our traditional Polar Bear Run.



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We plan on the usual drive on curvy two-lane roads that feature covered bridges and other attractions. The drive will be about one-hour long and features lunch at Nick's Bistro [nicksbistromarietta.com](http://nicksbistromarietta.com) in Marietta.

This run is weather dependent, however, we are comfortable with anything from 0 to 95 degrees, as long as there is no snow or salt covered roads. We will meet at The Sheetz, 1158 River Road, Marietta, for an 11AM departure. So, don't put the roadster away for the winter yet—or at all. Plan on arriving early for some socializing. There will be gas, hot coffee, snacks, bathrooms, etc., available at Sheetz! Be sure to let Sandy and Joe know if you will be joining them. [j.golesh@hotmail.com](mailto:j.golesh@hotmail.com)

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### ANY DAY YOU CAN MAKE IT!

### IMPROMPTU DRIVES

Would you like some friends to join you for an Impromptu Drive? Send an email, preferably one-day in advance, to Carol Piersol who will notify all Club members. Please make sure to include the meeting place and time. [pacerevents@gmail.com](mailto:pacerevents@gmail.com)

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### NON-PACE EVENTS

RESCHEDULED August 12-15, 2021

### Canada's Capital Miata Meet

<https://www.umn-c2m2-2020.com>

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## **DON'T FORGET... about our Leader Incentive**

*Wikipedia* defines **INCENTIVE** as something that motivates an individual to perform an activity. As a reminder, and for those who may be new to the *Club*, any member can plan and lead an event. And, any day of the week can be an "event" day (even if it's last minute.)

**Now for the INCENTIVE: Plan and lead your first event and receive a \$25.00 Visa Gift Card!**



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## **PACE INFORMATION**

**Website:** [pacemiataclub.org](http://pacemiataclub.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/PACEMiataClub](https://facebook.com/PACEMiataClub)

**Membership:** \$30/year Rod Slenker, 717-755-9805 [rslenker43@outlook.com](mailto:rslenker43@outlook.com)

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## **PACE STORE**

**Official provider: PACE Miata Club Embroidered Clothing:** Hersh Wellman  
[hwaprods@aol.com](mailto:hwaprods@aol.com)

**PACE Logo Clothing:** Elizabethtown Sporting Goods, 59 College Avenue,  
Elizabethtown, PA, 717-367-6633

B&T Sportswear, 240 Locust St., Columbia, PA, 717-684-5191

**PACE Lapel Pins:** \$3ea/2-\$5 and Magnetic Decals, 717-203-2971  
[michaelcory@epix.net](mailto:michaelcory@epix.net)

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## **MAZDA DEALER DISCOUNTS**

**Champion Mazda,** 765 Carlisle Street, Hanover, PA 17331, 717-637-6655

**Faulkner Mazda,** 5945 Grayson Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111, 717-901-3200

**Freysinger Mazda,** 6115 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, 717-697-8899

**Heritage Mazda,** 1800 Belair Road, Fallston, MD 21047 (888) 862-1819

**Jack Giambalvo Mazda,** 2425 Industrial Highway, York, PA 17402, 717-755-2944

**Piazza Mazda of Reading,** 3728 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA, 19605, 610-921-1500

**Xero Limit ECU Performance Tuning,** 484-272-5169 [sales@xero-limit.com](mailto:sales@xero-limit.com)

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## **PACE OFFICERS**

**President:** Joe & Sandy Golesh, 717-795-4468, [j\\_sgolesh@hotmail.com](mailto:j_sgolesh@hotmail.com)

**Vice President:** John and Pat Boyer, 717-682-7024, [paak111@comcast.net](mailto:paak111@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Mike Cory, 717-203-2971, [michaelcory@epix.net](mailto:michaelcory@epix.net)

**Treasurer:** Fred & Sue Stauffer, 717-757-2569, [suzons@yahoo.com](mailto:suzons@yahoo.com)

**Events:** Brian & Carol Piersol, 717-665-5999, [pacerevents@gmail.com](mailto:pacerevents@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Rod & Nina Slenker, 717-755-9805, [rslenker43@outlook.com](mailto:rslenker43@outlook.com)

**Member-at-Large:** Bill & Sharon Rimpler, 908-568-1861, [wfr2@ptd.net](mailto:wfr2@ptd.net)

**Webmaster:** Bill & Jeanette Latsha, 717-572-2855, [wjlatsha@comcast.net](mailto:wjlatsha@comcast.net)

**Newsletter:** Rick & Marilyn Yanchuleff, 717-205-3026, [rick@yanchueff.com](mailto:rick@yanchueff.com)

[mmyanch5515@gmail.com](mailto:mmyanch5515@gmail.com)



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## ABOUT PACE

**Our Mission:** To unite Central Pennsylvania Mazda Miata enthusiasts in a spirit of friendship and to enhance their enjoyment and knowledge of the Miata.

**Our History:** Back in 1992, Miatas were becoming numerous in the central PA area but there was no Miata club since the short-lived *Keystone Club* had disbanded.

Our founder, Dave Allen, decided to remedy that sad situation by traveling to the *Miatas at Indy* event in the summer of 1992 to obtain a charter for a new club from *Miata Club of America*. Also at that Indy event were Bob and Jo Bookwalter, along with Julie Swope and three Miatas (**one red, one white, one blue,**) that formed the nucleus of the new club. That summer, more Miata-crazed individuals joined the club and after a few local drives—in October of that year—*PACE* took its first run to the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, VA. *PACE* membership has continued to grow through the years from this small group to almost one hundred Miatas—and their occupants.

Since then, *PACE* has explored most of the great and many twisty country roads in our area and has run trips to various other parts of the country from Ocean City, MD, west to Utah, and from Charleston, SC, north to Nova Scotia. Our events have ranged from scenic drives, picnics and dinners to autocross and performance driving



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