

# THE PICKET LINE

Back country Horsemen of GALLATIN VALLEY  
P. O. Box 3232 , BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59772-3232

JULY 2011  
Newsletter

<http://qvbch.bchmt.org>

## Officers (1 year)

### President

Jim Allbright 599.4620

### Vice President

Rich Inman 388.1564

### Secretary

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

### Treasurer

Charley Smith 547.3459

## Directors

### 2 year

Clark Kinney 388.1505

Michel Harney 586.3571

Mike Haugan 539.0538

### 1 years

Stacy Bragg 222.0077

Henry Glenn 578.2084

Brenda Kessler 763.4241

## State Board Directors

Rich Inman 2 years

Jim Allbright 1 year

Alt: Stacy Bragg 1 year

## Membership

Marianne Meyer 388.2676

## Newsletter Editor

Brenda Kessler (temp) 763.4241

## BCH Webmaster

Dan Marsh 587.7578

webmaster@bchmt.org

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## **OUR PURPOSE:**

*To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands and. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage. Foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.*

## **Up coming Events**

**July 9, 2011 Poker Ride: Bridger Bowl**

**July 21 General meeting , 7:00 P.M.**

**Belgrade Alliance Church**

**205 West Cameron, Belgrade Mt 59714**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

President's April Report.....	Page 2
Board Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2011.....	Page 2,3
General meeting Minutes, June 14,2011.....	Page 3
Ice Cream Social...: (photos and article by Janice Cartwright).....	Page 4
Up-Date on Bridger Bowl GVBH Poker ride.....	Page 4& 5
Trail Reports.....	Page 5& 6
Montana Back Country Horses Then and Now: by Dan Aadland.....	Page 7
Sponsors & Contributors.....	Back page



## President's report JULY, 2011

Hi GVBCH,

This past Wed, June 22, was the first trail clearing day for the summer of 2011. And, it was interesting to say the least. After about a mile or so we came across our first tree. Well I was the first sawyer to cut with the chain saw. I fired that little engine up and put the chain to the wood. Wow! It ate through the log like soft butter. I have never had a saw as sharp as this one. In fact, I asked Larry what was wrong with the saw as it was cutting far too effectively. Larry laughed and said, "I made his day cause he was the one who sharpened the chain."

Well, from there we went up the Cottonwood trail until we reached snow and running water. Cut a whole bunch of trees and I believe this is only the beginning. Next, we started down the trail to go home. Around 5 o'clock I dropped my water bottle and I thought Koda, my horse was coming unglued. Right before he was heading for a tree and the woods, I got him under control. It was then that Rich noted that my saddle pad had slipped. Off I jumped and tied Koda to a tree. As I started to remove the saddle to adjust the pad, Koda decided he wasn't going to do this. He jerked his head and "yep!" the rope untied. I watched Koda trotting down the trail without me. Bummer! As there was still 5 miles to go: But, thanks to Wally, Rich and Larry, because they caught him, I only had to walk a half mile. All and all we had a great day and we are all looking forward to the next Wed.

Now a little note about the 501 (c)3. All the paper work has been sent in per the IRS last request and we are waiting to hear from them. Hopefully, telling us we have our status. And don't forget the Poker Ride the 9th of July and the general meeting the 21st of July. Shall see you all there.

Jim



**Ready to saw!!!  
Hard hat and all**

## Board Meeting Minutes June 2, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jim Allbright, President.

Officers and directors present were: Jim, Rich Inman, Dan Marsh, Charley Smith, Larry Thomas as proxy for Stacy Bragg, Brenda Kessler, Mike Haugan, Clark Kinney, Michael Harney, and Marianne Meyer. Also present was member Sonya Berg.

Jim A. asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 5 board meeting. Dan made the motion, Clark seconded and the motion passed.

### **Bills/Correspondence**

Letter was received from the IRS. Jim will come back to this under business later in the meeting.

### **Membership**

Marianne reported 77 paid memberships.

### **Issues**

Dan Marsh had some news on the EHV-1 outbreak in western US states. No cases have been reported in MT. There are new cases in Idaho, all horses had been to the same event in Utah.

The State Veterinarian is recommending vaccinating for West Nile due to all the flooding in the state this year. Mosquitoes are expected to be a problem this summer.

Rich Inman says that Ken Salazar made the statement that "no more wild land or monuments will be designated in Montana". This may affect the 1470.

### **Publicity**

Stacy Bragg could not come to the meeting as he was busy filling sand bags. His proxy, Larry Thomas, reported that the PSA for the Poker Ride has gone out. There is also a good chance Stacy can get an announcement on TV – he has connections.

## **Trail Crews**

Larry says everything is on hold right now. He got a call from Will Shoutis who had been up to Hell Roaring. He got to the first mud hole and ran into some hikers who reported lots of snow right after the Y. Also: snow is still deep on South Cottonwood.

## **Programs**

Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, general meeting will be at Janice's. Program by Joe Turner. Michael (Pickle Barrel) will donate the ice cream this year.

## **Old Business**

FS Chain Saw certification for volunteers – Forest Service still has not set a date. Rich tried to contact Lisa, Brian, and Fred the day of the board meeting but had to leave voicemails. He said he put on some pressure again (i.e. no BCH trail work until FS training has been provided) and we need to wait them out.

Larry and Kay met with Randy at Bridger Bowl. Randy is very happy and pleased with the work that has been done at Bridger Bowl and everything is set for the Poker Ride.

## **New Business**

Jim read the latest letter from the IRS regarding our 501c3 application to the board and informed the board on the next steps that have to be taken. He is handling most of this with help from Dan Marsh, Rich Inman, and Henry Glenn.

The letter requested the following additional steps:

BCH is supposed to change its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State to include the statement:

"Purpose: The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

The Users fee for an organization whose gross receipts will exceed or have exceeds \$10,000 annually is \$850. The

**(Continued next page)**

*(board minutes continued from previous page)*

users fee submitted with your application was \$400. Therefore, please remit an additional payment of \$450.

... the information you submitted indicates that you receive a substantial part of your support in the form of gross receipts from admissions, sales of merchandise, performance of services, or furnishing facilities, and from membership dues, gifts, grants and contributions. You are the basis for non-private foundation status under Section 509(a)(2); therefore, you must furnish a written statement dated and signed by an officer requesting consideration as a non-private foundation under Section 509(a)(2).

Jim spoke to Aaron from the Advocacy Services for Taxpayers in Helena by phone. Aaron proposed to NOT pay the additional \$450. Discussion about all of the above ensued. The board then voted on actions to be taken.

Rich made a motion to change the club's Articles of Incorporation as requested in item 1. Michael seconded the motion. Rich amended the motion to include the \$15 fee to the Secretary of State. The motion passed. Dan Marsh will handle this step.

Rich made a second motion to get approval from the board for the following actions:

Jim Allbright will request an extension from Ms. Daniels

We will get our articles changed and send a copy of the amended articles to Ms. Daniels

We will make the payment of \$450 (to ensure we do not lose our standing in the application process so far)

We will request clarification of item 3 above. Our reply could read "we don't understand item 3...we only receive money in donations, memberships, Poker Ride fees..."

Mike Haugan seconded this motion and the motion passed.

Michael Harney suggested putting together a ride in the Pipestone area where the snow is gone. He would be willing to lead and is available on Monday and Wednesday.

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Michael made the motion, Larry seconded, and the motion was passed.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

## **General Meeting Minutes**

### **June 14, 2011**

After the presentation by Joe Turner and ice cream refreshments by the barn, Jim Allbright, president, called the meeting to order at the campfire at about 8:10 pm. Officers and directors present were: Jim Allbright, Rich Inman, Brenda Kessler, Michael Harney, Clark Kinney, Henry Glenn, Mike Haugan, Marianne Meyer, Dan Marsh.

Jim asked for a motion to approve minutes from the May meeting as reported in the Newsletter. Swep Davis made the motion, Janice seconded, and the motion passed.

New Member/Guest present: Carl Blaskovich, new member referred by Brenda K. and a friend (guest) of Beth Merrick's who is visiting from Portland.

#### **Bills**

No new bills presented or approved since Charley is not present to issue checks.

#### **Membership**

Marianne reports a membership of 81.

#### **Issues**

There now is a case of EHV-1 in Gallatin Valley. However, the animal has been under quarantine since returning from the event in Utah and is not showing signs of illness. It was tested for the virus and tested positive but did not get sick.

An amendment to the horse slaughter bill is in the works.

#### **Publicity**

Stacy is putting out PR for the Poker Ride in Belgrade News/Mini Nickel. Marianne reports that Murdoch's has printed up "bag stuffers" and they will have them at checkouts about 10 days prior to the event.

#### **Newsletter**

Jim says Brenda continues to work on the newsletter. Takes a lot of time .

#### **Trail Crews**

Rich has received lists from the Forest Service for both crews, there are new trail assignments. The Forest Service will have saw training for the GVBCH at Battle Ridge on Saturday 6/18. Participants have already been selected and notified. Once completed, Jim will sign the volunteer agreement with a current roster of our membership attached. FS has confirmed dates to work at Windy Pass cabin in August and Window Rock in mid-July.

#### **Programs**

Janice does not have a program for the July general meeting yet. Once she has something lined up she will let Brenda know.

#### **Old Business**

Vi Huffman had a new stack of Poker Ride posters to hand out. This round is to replace posters that might have been taken down at some businesses, or to post in places we missed in May. Beth Merrick reminded members to get prizes turned in to her as soon as possible.

Jim reported on the status of our 501c3 application. He asked for a motion to get reimbursed for a \$35 expense. Brenda Davis made the motion and Anna seconded. Motion was passed. He also asked for a motion from the general membership to approve payment of an additional \$450 to the IRS for our application. Beth made the motion, Vi Huffman seconded, motion was passed.

Lastly, Jim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clark made the motion, it was seconded by Henry, and the motion was passed.

Submitted by Marianne Meyer, Secretary.

**Our June (Ice Cream Social) Meeting** was well attended by over 35 members and guests. (Pretty sure that some were just there for the ice cream.) Thanks to the Harney family for donating 2 HUGE tubs of this dessert delight! Thanks to Vi for providing the accoutrements along with helping Henry to park all of those vehicles. Our horse demonstration was provided by Joe Turner, horse training BCH member. The weather was cooperative and our campfire council provided Jim with a good start to the business portion of our meeting. Now, it's on to the trail clearing part of our year if the weather agrees.



Joe Turner's demonstration



Vi & Henry,  
parking  
attendants



Michael furnished  
the ice cream  
Ice cream  
dipping  
Campfire  
meeting



(Report & Photos by Janice Cartwright)

24th Annual Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen

# POKER RIDE

Sat., July 9 Registration 8-10 a.m.

Bridger Bowl • Route is approx. 12 mi. (8 mi. shortcut)

- Adults \$20 (poker hand, raffle, dinner)
- Children (under 12) \$10 (includes raffle, dinner)

**Proof of Neg. Coggins Required**

**No Dogs—No Stallions**

Over \$3000.00 in PRIZES!!!

Info: **686-9169** or **570-4676**

All participants  
subject to Montana  
Equine Liability Law.  
Weed-free hay only.  
Bring lawn chairs!



## Poker Ride

### News :

(from Sherrie White)

We're down to the wire on our 24th Annual Poker Ride coming up on Saturday, July 9 at Bridger Bowl.

Here are a few notes and reminders:

Continued: next page

[More on Poker Ride from \[previous page\]](#)

## PRIZES

**Wow! We have a zillion** prizes this year thanks to the hard work of our prize-getters and generous members. Make sure you join the fun and the odds are pretty darn good that you'll go home with something. Maybe a custom hat from Rocky Mountain Hat Company, a jacket, Tony Lama bull hide boots, pannier and bedroll cover, one of MANY gift certificates, lots of horse goodies, jewelry, horse training, vet care, camp chairs, horse feed and hay, fishing lures and all kinds of good stuff. If you have prizes that still need to be turned in, please contact [Beth Merrick](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com) at [bmerrick1@aol.com](mailto:bmerrick1@aol.com)

## WORK ROSTER

Below is a list of volunteers; if your name is on this list, make sure you are there and on time. If for some reason, you can't be there, please contact me ASAP so I can try to fill your slot . . . Please, provide a note from your doctor or parole officer. (lol)

### Friday, July 8

Flagging Crew: [Kay Tate](#), [Ron Rassley](#), [Janice Cartwright](#) and crew, [Dick Haines](#), [Jane Huffine](#), [Sherrie](#) and [Ron White](#).

Set up and potluck: 5 p.m. Everyone welcome . . . bring food.

[Clark Kinney](#) to bring trailer.

Prize Tent and Prize Board: Start set up and check prizes, etc. [Beth Merrick](#) and [Alice Pilgeram](#)

### Saturday, July 9

Coggin Checks/Parking: [Henry Glenn](#), [Clark Kinney](#) and [Mike Haugen](#). [Henry](#) will bring orange vests and cones. Be there by 7:15

Cash Box: [Charley Smith](#) will bring 3 (don't forget to bring your easels, too!); plus cash

Pop Stops: Be at Bridger Bowl by 7:15. [Ron Rassley](#) and [Marie Doubrava](#) (#1); [Bonnie Hammer](#) and [Larry Thomas](#) (#2); [Ken Yankelevitz](#) and [Ron White](#) (#3). Make sure we have a first aid kit at each pop stop and a radio (Henry will provide radios). Also, we need to make sure GATES are all open. [Rich](#), can you get keys to [Ron](#) and [Kay](#) prior to flagging on Friday? Could we get extra keys made?

**Registration Crew:** Be there by 7:15, unless you make other arrangements with God. Bring a smile and all the charm you can muster to sell 50/50 and extra hands. [Julie Gavin](#), [Beth Merrick](#),

[Madeline Lieb](#), [Marianne Meyer](#), [Colleen Carnine](#), [John](#) and [Barb Mutter](#) ([John](#) needs to go out with the sweep riders).

**Advance Riders:** [Janice Cartwright](#), [Joe Turner](#), [Margaret Burns Vap](#), [Kirsten Alston](#). You know the drill and Janice is the sergeant.

**Food Pickup:** [Kay Tate](#). 10:30 at Lee & Dad's in Belgrade. Have your cell phone in case I need to reach you.

**Sweep Riders/Deflaggers:** [Clark Kinney](#), [Mike Haugen](#), [Wally Becker](#), [John Mutter](#), [Wendy](#) and [Mickey Lessley](#). You guys will leave shortly after 10:30. Make sure you have a pack horse or bags to collect flagging material and signs. Save all signs; we'll use them again. Don't forget to check the parking lot and around camp for signs, flagging, etc.

**Emcee/Music/Audio:** [Dan Marsh](#)

**Sanitary Engineers:** [Jim Allbright](#) and anyone else that can pitch in.

## OTHER STUFF

**Coolers:** [Esther Fischbach](#), [Charley Smith](#), [Clark Kinney](#), [Larry Thomas](#), [Mike Haugen](#), [Beth Merrick](#). Your cooler should be delivered to Big Sky RV by 4 p.m. on Friday OR you can bring it to the set up on Friday.

**Tables:** [Esther Fischbach](#), [Sonja Berg](#), [Larry](#) and [Billie Thomas](#). We can use more, if you come on Friday, bring a table if you have one to spare.

**Easels:** [Sherrie White](#), [Esther Fischbach](#), [Charley Smith](#)

**Picnic Tables/Benches:** [Ron](#) and [Sherrie](#), [Esther Fischbach](#). We could use more plus lawn chairs.

**AND, DON'T FORGET:**

*"We're Back Country Horsemen, so please dress western if you can. Jeans, shirt, hat would be great. It's okay with me if you smell like a horse."*

Even if you don't ride, buy a poker hand, win a prize and have a delicious lunch . . . and HAVE FUN!

If I forgot anyone or anything or you need to talk to me about anything, call or email.

## Thanks everyone!

[Sherrie](#) - phone, 686-9169; e-mail; [sherrie@mexico-villas.com](mailto:sherrie@mexico-villas.com)

## Trail Crew Reports

### Wednesday Trail Crew: June 22, 2011 South Cotton wood Trail

First time out and it is a beautiful day, sun shining, the sky blue and the foliage so green! Six people arrived at the Cottonwood Trail head about 8.30. [Rich Inman](#) with [Mandy](#), his pack mule, was the first to arrive. [Jim Allbright](#), [Larry Thomson](#), [Wally Becker](#) and [Brenda Kessler](#) were the other four people ready to go by 9:00. [Larry](#) said that no one else had called so all six started up the trail. The creek was high with water roll-

ing but the horses did not hesitate. They managed the crossings well going up the trail. The crew found the first log to cut about a mile up. After the third crossing of the creek, the downfalls became numerous, especially when the crew turned onto the History Rock and cabin trail. It was estimated about 15 trees or downfalls were removed with one big log requiring about 5 to 6 cuts to get it off the trail. All in all about 30 to 35 cuts (total) were made. After lunch, [Rich](#), [Jim](#) and [Brenda](#) continued up the History Rock trail until snow and water made it necessary to turn around. They met [Larry](#) and [Wally](#) coming up from checking the cabin trail. [Rich](#) gave [Mandy](#) and his horse over to the crew as he walked down, creating and cleaning water bars. [Wally](#) and [Lar-](#)

ry took turns helping. Once again by the creek, it was time to seriously start for the trail head. It was at the second to the last creek crossing that Mandy stepped into a hole and her whole front disappeared under water. Rich said he looked back and thought she had become a submarine with bubbles and all. It created grave concern for the rest of the crew, looking from behind, when those big ears disappeared. Especially since we still had to take our horses across and “when a mule stumbles in the creek with roaring water?” But Mandy gathered her feet underneath her body and the ears and head came up. She did look wet and definitely abashed. The rest of the horses with riders, carefully, made it across safely. The consensus was a sixteen mile day and all were out of the woods and at the trailhead by 5:30



Cottonwood Canyon-lots of chain sawing

Cottonwood canyon —cutting those logs

## JUNE 29 WED TRAIL CREW

### REPORT: Spanish Creek trail

Again the crew met but this time at Spanish Creek trail head, 8:30 to 9:00 with all ready to go around 9:15. The crew consisted of Bonnie Hammer, Kay Tate, Wally Becker, Rich Inman (of course, he had Mandy mule as the pack animal), Brenda Kessler,

Jim Allbright and Larry Thomas as the trail boss. About 20 minutes

into the ride, a quiet, shushed voice called out: “bear!” Sure enough, there in the clearing was a bear digging furiously. He seemed ‘no mind’ to us and the horses quietly observed until Brenda’s asked: “What kind of bear is it?” Her voice carried. The bear looked up, observed the group and hurriedly scampered into the woods. He was a cinnamon colored black bear about 200 to 300 lbs, and he looked fat and very healthy (*This was the consensus of group later. It was also claimed that this bear had been sighted before.*)

After that moment, the group continued up the trail, crossing the creek several time on the bridges (one bridge was the very narrow foot bridge-(which the horses handled very well) and several times the swollen stream. All went safely with no incidences. After cutting and removing about 10 downfalls, taking the fork to the lakes, the crew ran into snow about a mile up the (right fork). There they ate lunch and turned around. Having more time, the crew then went a mile up the Mirror Lake fork cutting about another 10 or so downfalls. Also, Bonnie and Kay had their “loppers” and found many opportunities to clear away overhanging brush. Running out of time, it was decided to return to camp but only after discovering more work ahead on that trail. So it means a return trip soon. It was a beautiful day, weather was great, with some wind but much was accomplished. Always a great time out in the wilds even though all the work required the crosscut saws, i.e., takes much more effort than that chainsaw.

## Montana Backcountry Horses Then and Now

### Some Miscellaneous Thoughts from Dan Aadland

**Premise:** Horsemen will eventually breed a type of horse (not necessarily a breed) whose conformation reflects their primary use, limited, however, by the gene pool available.

**IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MONTANA**, all horses were "backcountry" horses, since roads were poor or nonexistent. One of the best records we have of the horses and tack used is by L. A. Huffman of Miles City whose hundreds of photos document Indians, cowboys, and buffalo hunters during the cattle heydays of the late 1800's. The saddle horses pictured tend to be lean, hard, and narrower.

#### RACING TYPE vs. SADDLE OR RIDING TYPE

Equine physiologist Dr. Deb Bennett classifies light horses by primary use. Both the racing type and the saddle type are ridden, but conformation suggests each will tend to excel in a given area.

The Racing Type tends to be built downhill (croup higher than withers), and is moderate to long in the back. Sprint racers are more heavily muscled than distance racers and may be wider in the chest.

The Saddle Type tends to be built uphill (withers higher than croup), is moderate to short in the back, has broader (wider loin), is moderately muscled, is medium in chest width but deep from withers to sternum and may have a greater angle in the hock than the racing type.

Many horses are halfway in between. Where does your own horse fall?

#### WEIGHT CARRYING CAPABILITY

Judging weight carrying capability as a percentage of body weight (20-25%) is useless at best and damaging at worst. Such a scale assumes that an in-shape 1000 lb horse could carry less than the same horse if it picked up 200 pounds of fat. The opposite is true. Additionally, heavy muscling of a type not directly tied to weight carrying ability is a liability for the purpose, not an asset

Actual capability is based on **conformation and conditioning** more than height or weight. As a general rule, smaller horses can carry a higher percentage of their body weight (though not more total weight) than larger horses. Ponies, Icelandic Horses, Peruvian Pasos, and Paso Finos carry weight well for their size. **Conformation assets** for weight carrying: a short back; broad loin, good bone; moderate muscling; good physical conditioning. It's possible for a Welsh pony to have a broader loin than a Thoroughbred race horse. **Conformation liabilities** for weight carrying:

long back, narrow loin, obesity, unnecessarily heavy muscling.

HUMAN FACTOR include conditioning and capability of the rider and proper placement of the most weight over the horse's center of gravity (fairly far forward).

BONE: A good minimum for the rugged backcountry horse is 7" circumference of the cannon bone measured just under the swell of the knee. Good bone is usually reflected in adequately-sized feet.

GAITEDNESS defined as possession of at least one intermediate four-beat gait between the walk and canter (as an alternative to the trot) has ebbed and flowed in popularity according to use and location. Where a civilization developed rapidly but without construction of good roads, gaited breeds were popular through history: Early Britain, South America, early American West, Mongolia, Iceland, etc. In regions with good roads, wheeled vehicles supplanted horseback riding, and the trot was ideal for buggy horses. Additionally, racing and other competitive events became popular, and gaitedness was not necessary for these. Lastly, smooth, fast gaits are not necessarily an asset for horses trailered to an event or show at which they will perform. (In earlier days, horses were often ridden long distances to horse shows, brandings, and other events.)

Article provided by: Dan Aadland

*Absaroka Tennessee Walking Horses and Gaited Mules*

Box 578, 2906 Hwy 57, Absarokee, MT 59001

[draa@inontana.net](mailto:draa@inontana.net); <http://my.montana.net/draa>

**GALLATIN VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ARE INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2010 POKER RIDE**

Ag Depot  
All West Veterinary  
Ardeson Boots and Shoes  
Barnett's MT Gourmet Honey  
Biggerstaff Construction  
Big Sky Yoga Retreats  
Bob Steinman & Assoc. Real Estate  
Bozeman Saddle Outlet  
Bridger Feeds  
Bridger Glass & Windows  
Bunkhouse Originals  
CBU (Citizens for Balanced Use)  
C'est la Vie Salon  
Chalet Market  
Cole Custom Saddles  
Damasco's Restaurant  
DJ Bar Ranch Stud Service  
Double Diamond Halter Co.  
Equine Solutions  
Four Corners Saddlery

Freeway Enterprises  
Gold's Gym/Jim Albrook:  
Greater Yellowstone Flyfisher  
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