

BMW MOA Club #231	BMW RA Club #209
July 2016	Volume 25, Number 07

All meetings are held the SECOND Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Shopping or Immediately following the meeting is a Lunch Ride

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes

Our next meeting is July 9, 2016

Following Meeting: Aug 13, 2016 Web site: <u>www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers</u>

President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice Presidents Treasurer Newsletter Editor Web Master Pat Kelley Betty Ward Paula Ellis & Cathy Beyers Jim Mick Nick Holland Ives R. Potrafka pakel62 @ gmail.com bettyward27 @ gmail.com mcbvicepres2 @ bizblvd.net Jim @ RidingIsWonderful.com nick @ holland-consulting.net ives @ bizblvd.net

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Prez Sez



Well it is July, not March or was it February, anyway for those that read last month's newsletter but did not make it to the meeting, I just want you to know that it was NOT Nick's fault that February's Prez Sez was in the newsletter. I told him to put it in, one I wanted to see how many people would comment on the out dated writing, and two, I let May get by way too fast and did not have one ready when he needed to go to print. So, I am writing this one a couple days early but have to write the ride report too. The picnic just finished, we had almost the 30 members that said they were attending. Unfortunately, Doron and Julia Helfman could not make it as Doron was not feeling well after returning from a business trip. Also, Jay Mick was not able to make it to the picnic. There is

always next year, and several more club functions this year yet.

As always, the picnic was fabulous. Fort Gratiot County Park is probably the best venue for us. The pavilion provides plenty of shade, we have the beach to walk on, lots of parking as we are generally there early. I did notice it got quite crowded later in the day. We missed seeing Rhys and Jill Blair, but we look forward to seeing you two later this summer. Great job on the steak selection and I heard the pork chops were amazing. A big Thank You to Lori Domany and to Betty's friend Mark for cooking the steaks, mine was perfect. There are lots of people to thank for this year's picnic, Betty Ward did a great job of picking the right weekend, the weather could not have been better. I think she knew it was going to be great so she waited until we had to move it to a week later than normal. Next up, is Lori, first to arrive and start setting up, thank you so much for taking the reigns of the grill from Rhys, and on to Mark who helped with the timing of the rarity levels of the meat. Thanks to Nick, Paula, Keith, Bobbie, and my wife Lynn for all helping to set up, while lves and I supervised. I also remember something about a green LT laying on someone's foot, you may have to come to the mid winter banquet to learn more. Overall, Great day, wonderful friends, and really good food, lots of deserts, and salads, and potatoes, and beans, and way too much eating!!!!

On to other business, the Beemer Blast was a success, please see my trip report. Fairly small group for the first year of this but we had fun and a little excitement.

Next event is the BMW MOA National Rally in Hamburg, New York the weekend following the meeting, 14-17th of July. Lynn and I are going, planning on camping on the grounds somewhere, looking forward to running into everyone. I will probably be going through the vendors area quite a bit as I usually do. It will depend some on how hot it is going to be as to where we will be during the day. I will have my big green/grey/and orange Kelty tent (that you can stand up in) and probably my three legged Kelty sun shade. I have signed up for the Sanctioned Club Officers Luncheon to hear what is in store for the MOA for the next few years. I will be reporting on that when I get back.

Summer is in full swing and it is already July, we don't have a lot going on specific to the club for the next month or so. Ives wants to know who would be interested in a Waldo run for a fried bologna sandwich, we generally do this in August, so if you are interested, please let me or Ives know. We will pick a weekend to

make the run probably at the 9 July meeting. We were talking about either the first weekend or the third weekend, that would be either the 6th or the 20th. The 27th is the observation run that I am hosting. Last year we had a good turnout and some new people. I promise to have an ending location that does not change while the run is in progress. At least almost everyone was pretty observant to see me on the side of the road waving my arms like a mad orangutang.

We have had some new members at the meetings, and quite good turnout too. Last month we went to the Dorsey House for lunch, I think we had 15 or 17 take the ride. This month we are going to the Fenton Firehouse, or for those that want to stay local, El Patio is the alternate.

Half the year is over, I tried on the helmet and it is starting to fit a little bit. Not sure it should be, maybe it shrunk a little, I was testing it's crash worthiness in the dryer. We will have to see over the next six months. I really don't think that my head has gotten that much bigger, do you? But then again you should have seen Lynn's air mattress at the Beemer Blast, does the term queen come to mind; and if she is the queen then I must be the KING, thank you; thank you very much.

And with that I bid you ado! Pat '13 R1200GS

Editor's Corner



A few months ago, I mentioned having replaced the (failed) stereo in my LT with an aftermarket unit...and having been completely unhappy with the results. In short, not loud enough to be heard on the highway, no auto volume adjustment with speed, and no easy-access controls. And I had vowed to spend some time trying to fix my factory stereo. Well, at a recent MCBeemers meeting, I discovered super-mechanic Don has found a source for REBUILT BMW stereos. They are taking the broken stereo (mostly, bad power amp chips – insufficient heat sink and air flow causes them to fry would be my guess) and replacing the failed chips with more powerful and better cooled power amp chip. The good news is one retains 100% of the functionality of the old stereo.

BETTER than 100%, in fact, in that as long as they are reworking the stereo head, they can add a cable to let you plug in your mp3 player or iProduct. The bad news is the enhanced rebuilt unit is about \$450 (plus install), which is outrageous until you understand the work that goes into manually reworking the old units and providing a warranty (trust me on this. And no, I'm not doing yours). I'm pretty sure I could have done it myself, other than I'd have to tear apart my LT and use it as a test fixture until I had the unit working, since all the stereo's controls are on the bike. And yes, next time Paula ends up stuck listening to one of my songs she so hates, she can reach down and hit the "Next Track" button that she has next to hear seat (turns out that while I couldn't hear my aftermarket stereo, she could!). So...if you are suffering through the loss of your BMW stereo and prefer open speakers to in-helmet audio, talk to Don at the dealership, he's got an answer for you.

Last month's ride to Dorsey House was great, though I was somewhat amused by the parking lot as we left. We did what MCBeemers usually do in a parking lot – grabbed whatever spots where available, some up on center stands, some slouched over on their side stands. Some backed in, some nosed in. While we were there, a Harley group showed up, and did what they obviously do regularly – parked every single bike in a perfect row, all backed into spots, perfectly parallel to each other, all leaning at the same angle. We might have some room for improvement there! I actually expressed my admiration for their style to one of the HD riders, and we ended up having a nice little chat.

I have noticed we've had a few unfamiliar people hanging around the dealership on meeting days – let's make sure we go say "hi" to these people and make sure they know we want them to be part of our group, whether they be BMW owners or "just looking". Invite them to join us for lunch (even if they haven't paid up!), and tell them about the Wednesday dinners...and make sure they get a copy of the newsletter before they leave (there's a pile of them in "our" corner of the dealership). I can say with some certainty that Jim M's approaching Paula and me at our first meeting had a lot to do with our deciding to join the group...something we've been very glad we did.

See the note from the BMW RA regarding the Seca Rally (next page). BMW makes cars, who knew? Guess that explains the BMW logo on those silly cages I've passed (ok, I confess, I did consider a Z3 recently).

For the record, I'm denying my LT is green.

Nick.

<u>Club events</u>

Lunch rides take place right after the Saturday meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Other events as we can make them happen!

Date	Event	Alternate local lunch	
July 9	Club Meeting – Lunch at Fenton Firehouse	El Patio	
August 13	Club Meeting – Lunch at Pompeii – Port Huron		
August 23	Pat's Observation Run		
September 10	Club Meeting – Lunch at Tavern 109, Williamston)		
September 17	Frankenmuth Dinner		
September 17/18	After Frankenmuth Port Austin overnight Ride		
October 8	Club Meeting – Lunch at White Horse Inn		
November 12	Club Meeting – Lunch at Zukey Lake Tavern, Pinkney		
December 10	Club Meeting – Lunch at Azteca		
January 14	Club Meeting – Lunch at Great Baraboo		

<u>Rallies</u>

July 14-17	BMW MOA	Hamburg, New York
Sep 30-Oct 2	RAMS Rally	Parker's Crossroads, TN.

Other events:

Stockbridge All Clubs Day has been announced for Sunday September 18, 2016. Fliers have been uploaded to the Facebook group (Thanks, Pete!)

From BWM RA:

Dear BMW RA Rider,

Instead of our usual rally this year we are joining in the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the BMW Company. There are multiple events and venues starting with the Legends of the Autobahn on August 19th and carrying through with the BMW RA's hosting of activities from August 25th and ending August 28th at Laguna Seca:

- BMW Car *and* Bike Demo Fleet
- N8 Kern and his HP Display
- Peter Nettesheim's world class collection of Historic BMW bikes and vehicles
- Q&A sessions with experts from BMW Headquarters in Munich
 - Fred Jakobs, BMW AG Chief Archivist
 - Thomas Tischler, Head of Service, BMW Group Classic
 - Georg Blumoser, Head of Parts Sales, BMW Group Classic
- Custom & Racing Bikes
- GS Giants on the Land Rover Off Road Track
- and much more

Beemer Blast Ride Report

This was the first (hopefully to become annual) Beemer Blast. The concept for this event is to get to a beach on the east shore of Michigan to watch the sunrise over Lake Huron, then blast it across the state to a west shore of Michigan to watch the sunset over Lake Michigan. This year, I chose to start the day on the beach at the day use area of Tawas Point State Park. I reserved a couple camping spots in the State Park for Friday night that way we would not have to get up at 2:30 in the morning to get to the beach in time to see the sunrise. Sound familiar Bill? Bill Harlan did just that, and he just made it to the dawn as we were walking along the beach. Anyway, the ride started Friday morning with 9 of us meeting for breakfast at the Ted's Coney Island in Richmond, MI. at 9:00am. I set sidestands up for 10 am. Leaving Ted's was Lynn and I, George and Lori Domany, Ives Petrofka, Tim Perry, Keith and Bobbie Harrison, and Jay Mick. Just as we got to downtown Richmond we gathered John Saarinin. We meandered up toward Capac where Keith and Bobbie split off at the train tracks, not sure you should have done that Keith. Then up through the Thumb where Tim split off at M53 and M90. We then headed up through Clifford (actually just South of town) on to Mayville where we took a break to get some water and rest. On up through Vasser, to Bay City, up to Pinconning where we cut the corner from M13 to US23 by taking North shore to Arenac State Rd that comes out at Omer. We had lunch at a little restaurant called Ali's Up North. Good sandwiches, at least I didn't hear any complaints. Next we went out to the State Park where George and Lori, Jan, Lynn and I were camping. John went to find a motel room and Ives was headed for his In-Laws place. We had a nice little campfire Friday night, Jay brought some dryer lint as a good fire starter and I got to try out my magnesium stick. Worked like a champ. But deciding to get up at 4:30 in the morning, put a bit of a damper on the late night fire side chats. John and I sat up for awhile until the Michigan State Birds got bad.

On to Saturday, the morning started early, I was up at O400 hrs, What does the O stand for, OMG it's EARLY. Anyway, gave John a wake up call but it went straight to voicemail so I tried again. I guess he didn't want to talk to me so early. I had everyone up by 5, John rolled in about then, the six of us walked out to the beach before dawn. Ives said he would meet us at the restaurant. The Sunrise was amazing. Sunrises over a large body of water are always better for some reason. John took lots of photos as did the others. We will get these into some form to be displayed at some point this year. As we were walking on the beach that is when we saw Bill Harlan walking along. After the pictures were taken, it was time to go back to camp and break down and pack up the tents for the blast across the state. Everything was really wet from the heavy dew. We dried as best we could but it was getting unpacked and put back up later that afternoon anyway. As we got everything ready to go, John headed for the restaurant to meet lves, then Jay headed out to go to his family reunion in Frankfort area. Lynn and I were last to leave the campsite. Just after Bill left, Lynn went to start her Burgman and it only got about a half rotation then the battery was DONE! My fault for thinking that a motorcycle batter would last 7 years. We got a jump from one of the campers near us, and as soon as we would break the connection, the bike would die. So, we thanked him and gave him our firewood we had left over. I went into town and got a new battery, put it in and voila it worked, just as Bill came back for us. We got to the restaurant about an hour and a half later than we should have. I was concerned that it might be the charging system, so a couple of us looked for a multimeter but to no avail. So we left after breakfast to go to Walmart to get a multimeter. I got one at the autoparts store next door. Everyone was baking in the sun waiting for me to get the meter to make sure the alternator was putting out a charging voltage. Yea!!! It Was!!!! SO, off toward Manistee by way of M55. Kinda boring but getting a 2 to 3 hour late start, didn't have much choice. Bill peeled off when we got to I-75 out side of West Branch to head home, longer day for him. We stopped for a break in Houghton Lake at Powell's family restaurant. They had a good Rhubarb pie. I think lves learned not to wear suspenders into that restaurant, or maybe he should not have asked a bunch of guestions. We all thought the waiter was pretty funny.

From there we went to Cadilac and on toward Manistee. About 30 miles out, we stopped for gas and

something to drink at the station where M55 and M37 intersect. Good stop point, Unless you realize you lost your topcase and are sure that it is back at the last restaurant. Moral of the story, ALWAYS, NEVER FORGET TO CHECK YOUR RESOURCES, I mean recesses, to include little nooks and crannies and hidden pockets in pouches. We didn't have to go back!!! YEA!!! You will have to come to the Mid Winter Banquet to find out who it was. Onward we go, we got to the Orchard Beach State Park about 5 pm I think. Ives said, he made it and was heading home. John came to our campsite and then went to find a motel. Jay was at the family reunion. So George and Lori, and Lynn and I set up our tents and ordered the "Best" Pizza in Michigan from Big Al's, they delivered! YEA!!! Not sure about the Best part but it was actually better in the morning than it was at dinner time. John came back to the campsite and let us know that he had run into Jay and that he made a last minute decision to head home for the night. I don't think he wanted to fight with the tent again. Sunset over Lake Michigan was spectacular. We were high up on a bluff and there were clouds out on the horizon but the sunset was great going down through the various layers of clouds. There were a lot of people enjoying the sunset with us. John and I stayed there for about a half hour after the sun went below the horizon. Every minute the colors in clouds would change and they just kept getting better and better. John took pictures until his battery died. At least it was just his camera battery.

We went back to the campsite and sat around the campfire until the state birds came out again. This time John and I just endured their endless attack. I still have a few marks to prove it. Went to bed about midnight Saturday night. Long Day! Slept in on Sunday morning until about 7. We woke to a dry camp, there was just enough wind to keep the dew off. I made coffee for use one at a time with my little camp stove, worked great. We packed up and the four of us headed out about 11 am. We took M55 to Cadilac, then 115 to M61, over to Harrison. We had lunch at the S&R Diner, good food again. Went to Gladwin, down to Beaverton over to Pinconning and down into Bay City. Then the most of the same route back except when we got to M90 we went through Brown City over to M19 down into Yale for a sack and stop to stretch. Then down M19 to Richmond and we split off from George and Lori in New Haven. Made it home about 7 pm.

Overall we could not have asked for a better weekend, no rain, it was a bit hot on Sunday but we endured. No real major malfunctions that could not be solved in a few hours. No incidents, everyone made it home safe and sound. I would have to say the inaugural Beemer Blast was dare I say it "a BLAST". Hopefully more will think about trying this ride. I have a few Ideas for next year.

Pat. Patrick and Lynn Kelley. '13 R1200GS '09 Suzuki Burgman

Wednesday Dinner Gatherings



The Wednesday dinners are a long-time, though less formal, tradition with the MCBeemers, started and run by Betty Ward. She picks out a dinner location, lets us know...and we get together and eat! Food is usually ordered around 6:30pm, but some of us don't straggle in until closer to 7:00pm.

Absolutely no agenda other than Good Food and Great People!

← Dinner at Juan Miguel's, 10/28/2015.

July 6	Murphy's Inn	505 Clinton Ave. St Clair, MI 48079 810.329.7118
July 13	Bath City Bistro	75 Macomb Place Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 586.469.0918
July 20	Duggan's Irish Pub	31501 Woodward Ave Royal Oak, MI 48073 238.549.3659
July 27	Ike's Family Restaurant	38550 Van Dyke Rd Sterling Hts, MI 586.979.4460
August 3	CK Diggs	2010 W Auburn rd Rochester Hills, MI 48309 248.853-6600
August 10	Juan Miguel's	21342 Hall Rd Clinton Township, Mi 48038 586.783.9751

Recruit a new member! Cut-out and carry these cards!

Hi, I couldn't help but notice you also ride a BMW Motorcycle! I'd like to invite you to join us, the Motor City Beemers, on the second Saturday, monthly, 10:30am BMW Motorcycles of Detroit 34080 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights, MI 48312

www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

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Treasurer's Report

Check book balance for the end of May:	\$2228.11
Check book balance for the end of Jun:	\$2177.63
Balance end of Mar:	\$1678.09
Balance end of Dec:	\$2516.39
PayPal balance for the end of May:	<mark>\$524.52</mark>
PayPal balance for the end of Jun:	<mark>\$544.52</mark>

Jim Mick

Having missed the June club meeting and I have received no money or report... only the following change since last month:

Keith & Bobi H, Jim & Jeri M, paid for the Picnic using 'PayPal' which added \$20 to PayPal. Jay M, Don & Carolynn P paid using 'Bill Pay' from their Bank/CU. Ives P even rode his bike from South Lyon to Macomb to pay cash for the Picnic. Another \$105.00 was collected from Betty W for several who paid her. Cathy B also paid for

Frankenmuth. Rhys B was reimbursed \$180.48 for the meat purchase for the Picnic. Net change to the CkBk was -\$50.48

[Jim's excellent information about on-line banking and using PayPal to pay for club membership and activities is available as a document on the Facebook group, and in past newsletters, for example, the February 2016 issue]

Bavarian Inn Perks Card

John's Bavarian Inn card has helped reduce the cost to the club of our Frankenmuth chicken dinner for a number of years now.



To the Grand Canyon and back in 7 Days

That's 4,117 miles with the first 1,025 completed in less than 17 hours.

Day 1: June 14th

Departed home at 5:32 AM, with the first stop at the Speedway to verify my starting point. A perfect time to start because I was already to Ann Arbor before I found any traffic. I really didn't mind riding hard considering the very boring landscape of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Not to mention the odor; there was a lot fertilizing going on if you know what I mean. It was 9:20 PM, CDT when I arrived at Holiday RV Park, in North Platte, NE to claim my Saddle Sore 1,000. The Camp attendant, Shawnee, volunteered to be my witness and signed my form.

Day 2:

The enjoyable scenery starts at the Colorado boarder and continues to improve as you traverse the Rockies (Ski slopes still have snow), and with another 200 miles I arrived in Green River, Utah. This town, population 900, is the only significant sign of civilization for the next 150 miles. No wonder they chose this area to develop Nuclear Bomb; any misfires wouldn't hit anyone. The town was active however; it was the weekend for the International Collegiate, model rocket launching contest with competing Universities from around the world. This is not your casual fireworks mind you; last year's first place rocket reached 22,000 feet. I actually got the last remaining tent space at the KOA.

Day 3:

It started with a very friendly breakfast at the "Green River Café", a very unique and interesting place. The decor reminded me of my hippie days in the 60's, peace signs and graffiti included. I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming. Small talk with the owner-operated, she explained that the town population dropped significantly when her Grandma a Grandpa passed away recently. She mentioned that her Grandpa retired from Uranium mining 20 years prior ("Yuck"). Then a casual 200 mile ride to the meet, The Red Rock Rendezvous in Panguitch, Utah (SW corner) arriving late afternoon. The rally is coordinated by the Beehive Beemers out of Salt Lake City and it was well planned and organized. Daytime temps around 85 to 90 but nighttime 45, "burrrrr". I need to talk to Cabela's, because my 20 deg F mummy bag wasn't keeping me warm.

Day 4:

Friday morning it was off to the North ridge of the Grand Canyon, about a 160 mile run one way. This was a very scenic fun ride, with elevation changes and many twisties, and of course the fantastic views of the Canyon. Two, fortunately not so close incidences with deer. Anyone one notice the deer crossing signs that are outlined in flashing amber lights? Does that mean the deer pushed button for the crosswalk? Anyway on the way back I decided I needed just a little more riding and deviated to the Cedar Banks National Monument, and then finally back to camp early evening.

Day 5:

I wanted to ride the Scenic Route 12 on Saturday and since it was on the way home I decided to break camp and start my way back home. Just an amazing scenic ride, 150 miles; stops at Bryce Canyon, the Grand Staircase Escalante (ran into a group of Germans riding Indian Motorcycles; go figure), Calf Creek Falls, Boulder, Torrey and then a right turn on 24 to Fruita, Hanksville (couldn't find anyone named Hank but nice people anyway) and eventually up to I-70 towards Green River. The route from Hanksville to I-70 was just completed with black top resurfacing; took me 5 hours to get most of that crap off my bike when I got home. The only alternative was to add at least 200 miles to my route. Anyway, since my butt was feeling okay and dry roads ahead, and thank God they suspended construction on I-80 because there was a 10 mile back-up on the eastbound side near Vail when I came out, I continued to just East of Denver. I settled at a very suspicious looking campsite (Pepper Pod, Hudson, CO), but I didn't care because I was

just too tired to go any further.

Day 6:

Out at just after Sunrise and traversing I-80 and fighting a very strong South wind, I finally arrived at a very nice and well maintained camp in Oxford, Iowa (20 miles West of Iowa City) called Sleepy Hallow; I can highly recommend it. Very nice tenting area and I got the best night of sleeping I'd had so far.

Day 7:

Up and ready to go just after sunrise and the weather is beginning to look like it might get wet sometime today. I can now see that my tires have taken a lot wear and rear is mostly a slick. I have managed to avoid any wet weather and arrive in Kalamazoo for my last gas stop. In getting ready to rest a bit I checked the weather radar and I see a big storm headed to Battle Creek and figured I has about 20 minutes to beat the storm, or otherwise I would have to sit-it out for awhile because I didn't want to run on wet roads with the worn tires. Arriving in Battle Creek, I had either beat the storm or it passed ahead me leaving a dry road. I arrived home safely around 4 pm.

In summary:

Gas \$350, Camping rental \$135, food and other \$235; the experience, "Priceless"

More numbers:

Zero; the number times I was stopped for speeding, also the number nights in a hotel

17; deer carcasses on the side of the road

3; Words that I come to hate "Road Work Ahead", Words I appreciate "Rest Area Ahead", and the number of time zones covered

1; GPS message "Home is on your right"

[Mike included a number of fantastic pictures with his article, but this newsletter format doesn't do them justice, so Mike's posted them to the MCBeemer's Facebook Group, but I include this one teaser:]



MOTOR CITY BEEMERS NAME TAGS

- Motor City Beemer name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc. Highest Honor, Inc is located at **34711 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083**. Their shop is just south of 15 Mile Road, on the west side of Dequindre. Herb and Jeff have a die set up with the club logo and can add your name and/or nickname for a cost of only \$9.00.
- The easiest way to get your ID tag is to send Jeff an e-mail at: <u>www.jeff@highesthonor.biz</u>. Spell out exactly what you want on your tag and when you want to pick it up. You can also call Jeff at **248-588-7845**. Tell him what you want on your tag and when you want to pick it up. You can have two lines of text, the first your name, and you can add a nick name as the second.
- Join the growing number of members who proudly wear their ID tags with their one of a kind moniker. It will help us to get to know each other and sure works a lot better than *"Hey you!*

"A tip of the MCBEEMER helmet . . .

... goes to Viles & Associates, Inc., who have volunteered print the free copies of the newsletter available at the dealership. They are also BMW riders.





R1100_, R1200GSA and even the new 1600GT/GTL (if equipped w/engine guards). Look at www.ridingiswonderful.com

ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP with purchase of motorcycle from BMW MOTORCYCLES OF DETROIT

MOTOR CITY BEEMERS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Club Web Site – <u>www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers</u> Club eGroup Email – <u>mcbeemers@yahoogroups.com</u>

Annual membership dues are \$15 per year for full membership and \$10 per year for each associate member and runs from January to January. Renewal payments are requested by January 31 of each year.

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(Please Print)					
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