

SNO-DAK NEWS

What's Inside

**North Dakota
Parks & Recreation**

Club News

Region Reports

SNOFEST

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Board Messages



Executive Director

Hello everyone! My, my, how time flies. I started my new position as Executive Director in October and convention came in December with lots of familiar and a few new faces. As I write this we are gearing up for State Ride and looking forward to riding with everyone. It was so good to see everyone at the convention. A big thank you to all involved with making a successful convention happen.

As of mid-January, we have three systems in the northeast open (NE, RNN and RRS) with some cold weather on its way to make some safe ice for a couple additional systems. We have many miles we could open up if we had safe ice. We have been stressing to everyone to stay safe and wait for the bodies of water to freeze sufficiently. There have been reports of several vehicles going through the ice across the state. With many areas having a layer of snow on top of the ice, it takes much longer for thick ice to form.

To date, I've made two loops around the state inspecting trails and meeting with area Trail Coordinators. The signing all over the state has been very impressive. We have very few areas to correct, some issues being caused by strong winds blowing signs over or turning them. It is very evident how much time and effort has gone into the chore of signing across the state. Job well done!

We are looking forward to the rest of the season with the possibility of having several additional areas open for the first time in a couple seasons. The snow cover maps are looking good with only a few inches of snow needed for a good base in many areas. Let's continue the Snow Dance!

Todd Thronson



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Board Messages



President

Hello All,
I don't know about the rest of you, but I need some ride time on my sled. As my wife will tell you, I get a little ornery if I don't get enough trail time this time of year. I guess I will need to step up my snow dance so we can get more of the trails open in the state!

I have been looking through the trail reports that Todd has sent out to the Associations. I will have to say that the hard work that everyone has been putting in is showing. GREAT JOB! I know with our trail system, we may know the area, but we still need to have it signed like we have never ridden the area before. Over the last 10 years in which we have had these trail inspections, the amount of corrections has decreased a lot. This means that something is working and the hard work is paying off. This says quite a bit about our organization.

As the snow starts to fall around the state, more and more of the trails are starting to open. I know I am ready to get out and ride, so load up those trailers and support the clubs throughout the state. You can find what trails are open and upcoming events on the SND website.

It's not about the miles, it's about the smiles

Troy Klevgard



Office Manager

As I am writing this I can finally say we have snow in the state!!! We have had most groomers out test grooming and we have had three trail systems have been opened since December. (Hopefully more once this article comes out) I can tell more clubs have been meeting since memberships have been coming into the office like crazy.

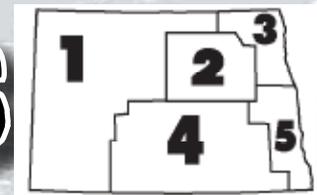
Clubs have been sending in their events dates into the office and we have been putting them up on the website. So if you are looking for places to ride please visit our website to see if any events are in your area.

Todd has been busy working with Automatic Logistic Solutions on the GPS units for the groomers. Can't wait for this feature to be working correctly and up on our website. All riders will be able to see where and when trails were last groomed. Hopefully this will entice people to get out and ride their local trails!

Tari



Region Reports



Jesse Fritz Region 2

Where have all the short tracks gone? Has anybody else noticed the dying trend of short tracks? Although they're still out there, it seems every year you see less and less of the MXZ's, XC's, Indy's, ZR's and Vmax trail machines on North Dakota snow. I think our neighbors to the east in Minnesota still have a strong population of the aforementioned models, but here in North Dakota it seems to have trended towards the narrow, long, tall paddled mountain machine. There are a number of factors at fault for the demise of the local short track industry, but I would say the biggest is the growing number of thrill seekers traveling west to the Rocky Mountains for their riding enjoyment. Can you blame them? Social media and the mainstream of videos like Slednecks, 509 and Thunderstruck have aided in this western movement as well. The weather has struggled to produce any significant amount of snow across the state in last several years and that has hurt us too. Why would somebody who can only afford one snowmobile buy a short track when the only place they can ride is at 10,000' high above an old mining town in Montana? When you walk into most dealerships across the state you can take your pick of several models tattooed with a sticker that says 146, 154, 163 and even a 174, but rarely anything shorter. A short surf on the world wide web to bismanonline.com and you will find there are 3 times as many mountain machines for sale than short tracks. I am a "victim" of the social media reading, Go Pro wearing, Sledneck watching, alpine rider aboard a 163 of current times, but most weekends you can find me shredding the North Dakota snow on a jumpy, hyper, strung out short track. It will be interesting to see where the weather and industry takes us in the next 5-10 years. I can only hope the parking lot at Kelvin Clinic will be overrun with short tracks then.

There are many good things involving snowmobiling taking place around Region 2 this winter. We recently held a safety class in Rugby and 15 eager students took part. On January 2nd the Northern Lights Trailblazers were able to hold their annual fun run. Oddly enough it's been a struggle to hold this event the last few years. Just outside of Region 2 to the north, Bottineau has formed a new club, has many anxious members and a new groomer to pound out the trails. All good things happen when the ground is stacked with the white stuff!!! See you on the trails!

Brent Haugen Region 5

Greetings from snowy Harwood, ND. I am new to the board this year from region 5. I live outside of Harwood ND with my wife and daughter. I have been involved in snowmobiling for years, and I am looking forward to serving on the board representing Region 5.

As I am writing this, we got snow this week, 13+'' in one shot of soft powdery snow. Before we got this snow, my daughter was wishing for more snow so we could go snowmobiling. Well she got her wish, and today after school, I took her for a short ride to shake the cobwebs out of the sled. Not many miles were put on last year so we are looking forward to many miles of riding this year.

I hope to see you on the trail, and looking forward to the state ride being hosted by the Sheyenne Valley Trail association, and based out of Marion ND.

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club News



Magic City Drift Busters

I want to start out our article this month by **THANKING** the businesses and individuals that sponsor, host and donate to our snowmobile functions and fundraisers to help promote snowmobiling. Like all our hardworking volunteers, we could not do this without you!

Vintage sled popularity is exploding here with lots of events in our area this winter. A local dealer in Minot, Wild Bill's Motorsports, had their first Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show on Friday, January 22nd & Saturday, January 23rd. People were encouraged to enter their vintage sleds and vintage snowmobile gear for display. The show was held in their showroom where they offered refreshments during the show. Devils Lake is having a vintage get-together on Saturday, February 27th, and I am told Towner is planning an activity as well, that they will pick a date on next week.

The Vintage Drift Busters will host their 3rd Annual Vintage Show and Ride in Deering, ND on Sunday, February 28th. The Show and Ride is a great Sunday afternoon event. Attendees can expect to see a variety of old snowmobiles with participants to go on a "short" ride. The group has also decided that they will have awards at this year's event. Local Deering merchants welcome attendees to stop in, warm up, and enjoy a bite

to eat or a beverage. Something new "and nice" out on the trail north of Minot is the addition of an unmanned fuel station in Deering. My husband checked it out, and they have super unleaded. So, if you are out on the trails north of Minot, you can now use your credit/debit card and fill your sled up in Deering!

I've had lots to talk about in this month's article, but I have one more thing to share. In December, my husband and I were finally able to make the trip up to Canada to pick up the two-place snowmobile trailer that I won in last year's Sled 'N Snap Snowmobile Sledding Photo Contest. This is the coolest thing I have won to date, the previous most memorable prize being a case of Coca-Cola in high school. Because a few friends out there might remember... there was a "group" pull tab winning in college, but the winnings were basically "paid out" to the group in liquid form, so I have always maintained the case of pop as my big win. Getting back on topic, I just want to encourage everyone to submit their photos. With the great cameras on our phones and readily available photo victims, I mean riding friends; there are great opportunities to get great photos to submit. Who knows, maybe you will top your best prize win too! The contest offers great prizes and is easy to enter, so I can't wait to see and vote for your

photos in this year's contest. As a fellow voter, I will just say I am partial to the little ones partaking in snowmobiling. Visit sledsnap.com to enter and vote. This year's entries must be submitted by March 31, 2016. Good luck to everyone!

We have a few new members this year, and we want to welcome you all to our club. If you are interested in checking out our club, our meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the first Friday of each month from September to March. The clubhouse is north of Minot just west of Hwy. 83 on 86th avenue. A Steak Fry is held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month. If there is snow and good weather, the third Friday of the month may be a ride night instead of the steak fry. If weather permits there are rides on Tuesday nights and on Sunday afternoons as well. Updates should also be posted on our Facebook page: Magic City Drift Busters Snowmobile Club.

Jenn



Club News



Rough Riders Snowmobile Association

The 37th SND State Convention was a success from all the ways we can measure it. The turnout was good and the presentations were well attended. Bret Rasmussen and Amber Holt discussed their mountain riding techniques and Dr. Tim Juelson gave a valuable talk on procedures we can implement whenever an emergency occurs while riding and help is not immediately available. The grooming classes and youth snowmobile training class were well attended. The Rough Riders and Extreme Trailer Sales of Mandan paid the fees connected with the youth training class. The Dutch

auction items all sold well and most of us were able to get nice items at a nice price. A BIG THANK YOU to all the donors and to the attendees at the convention.

Following the Convention we received about 6 inches of snow and as usual the snow drifted some so the ditches filled even more. Snowmobilers have been riding on our marked trails for several weeks now and of course we're looking for additional snow to get our groomer into operation.

A good number of our members spent some time over the Christmas

- New Year period hitting the mountains of Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Idaho. There was a very nice snowfall in many of those areas and riding was exceptionally good.

We hope to see many of you at the State Ride so until then good riding and be safe out there.

Bob Gregoire, Secretary

Sheyenne Sno-Drifters

It was such a big hit last year the Sheyenne Sno Drifters were invited to design a display for one of the front windows at the Barnes County Museum again this year. Members Charlene Stenson, Jerry Perkins, Todd and Zack Anderson, and Joel and Chris Iverson recently set up a scene featuring Perkins' 440

Johnson snowmobile and vintage clothing and equipment belonging to various members. There are a few final adjustments to make but the display should be set up until early February. If you get through Valley City stop by the museum and take a look.





North Dakota Parks & Recreation

Hey all you snowmobilers!!

WOW!! We are into February already. We have had a decent winter with good snow in areas! Waterways definitely had a late freeze though with ice not thickening up until early January. I hope everyone has been enjoying their winter!! State ride just finished up in Marion and it was great to see everyone again!

In this article I am going to talk about riding on the ice since we did have late freeze up. That's right, lakes, rivers, creeks and slews. These are places that a lot of snowmobile enthusiasts like to ride on but should also know some of the hazards associated with bodies of water.

First things first, if you don't see any tracks going out onto the water, don't try to be the leader and make first tracks because it is probably not being driven on for a reason. NDPRD and SND recommends that the ice be AT LEAST 8 in. thick it to be safe for you to take your snowmobile out on. A good rule to go by is if you see ice houses out on the lake or river, it is probably safe to ride on.

Ice is a funny thing, it could be 20 inches thick on one side of the lake and on the other side it could be 2 inches thick or have open water! Remember, be very careful when driving on bodies of water and NEVER completely feel safe on the ice! ALWAYS be WATCHFUL of where you are going!!

If you have any questions or any stories you would like to pass on, please feel free to call me at 701-328-5357.

Be safe and enjoy the snowmobile season!!

I'll see you on the trail,

Think \$NO...



Erik Dietrich

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Polaris® Acquires 509 **NEWS RELEASE**

Expands Polaris' portfolio of aftermarket snowmobile-focused apparel and accessories brands

MINNEAPOLIS (January 4, 2016) — Polaris Industries Inc. (NYSE: PII) today announced the acquisition of 509, an aftermarket leader in snowmobile helmets and goggles. 509, a privately owned company based in Spokane, Wash., joins Polaris' growing portfolio of aftermarket apparel and accessories brands, which includes Klim®, Kolpin®, and Pro-Armor®. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"We are always exploring opportunities to make Polaris a stronger, more competitive global company. As we look toward the future, parts, garments and accessories will continue to be a growth driver for Polaris," said Steve Eastman, President of Parts, Garments and Accessories for Polaris. "509 is a growing brand that resonates with snowmobile enthusiasts and complements our current portfolio. As snowmobile enthusiasts ourselves – and having worked with 509 on co-branded goggles for three years – we like their products, we like their brand, and we like their team."

509 will continue to operate as a distinct brand under the leadership of Tom Delanoy, founder of 509, who will continue in his role of President. Operations will remain headquartered in Spokane. 509 was advised by The Meriwether Group.

"The 509 brand was created from an authentic and passionate love of snowmobiling," said Tom Delanoy, 509 founder and CEO. "We have a passion for making highly technical riding gear and producing award-winning films and media content that truly captures the amazing experience of snowmobiling. 509 is very excited to be a part of the Polaris family. Sharing the same passion and vision with the company that mass produced the first snowmobile six decades ago is truly a great fit for us. We look forward to banding together and building an exciting future for the 509 brand."

About Polaris

Polaris is a recognized leader in the powersports industry with annual 2014 sales of \$4.5 billion. Polaris designs, engineers, manufactures and markets innovative, high quality off-road consumer and military vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and the Polaris RANGER® and RZR® side-by-side vehicles; snowmobiles; motorcycles and on-road electric/hybrid powered vehicles.

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Polaris Cross-Country Snowmobile Racer Taylor Bunke Wins Two Classes in USXC Racing at Devils Lake, N.D.

NEWS RELEASE

Aaron Christensen Takes Second in Top Two Pro Classes

MEDINA, Minn. (Jan. 11, 2016) – Polaris cross-country snowmobile racers Taylor Bunke (Bunke Racing) won two classes and Aaron Christensen (AC Racing) took second in two Pro classes at the USXC's Devils Lake 250, Jan. 9-10 in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Taylor Bunke won the Semi-Pro 600 class while fellow Polaris racers Alex Hetteen (Hayford Racing) finished third and Dan Revering took eighth.

Bunke also won the I-500 class and Hetteen finished second, which bodes well for their prospects in the Feb. 10-13 Seven Clans Winnipeg to Willmar 500. Polaris racer Ron Bestul finished 10th in the class at Devils Lake.

Aaron Christensen finished second in the USXC's two premier Pro classes, Pro Open and Pro 600.

Jill Tangen (Hayford Racing) won the Women's class at Devils Lake, where windchills were -15 F and colder throughout the weekend. Polaris racers who earned podium spots in the Sport classes were Jeff Hayford (Hayford Racing), who finished third in Sport 600 Open, and Dan Herberg, who took second in the Sport 600 Stock class.

The Devils Lake event was the second of five straight weekends of USXC racing, after which there will be one free weekend prior to the I-500 that starts in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Feb. 10. The next race on the USXC schedule is the Grafton 100 on Jan. 16 in Grafton, N.D.

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Polaris Snocross Racer Petter Narsa Reaches Podium Twice in Frigid ISOC Pro Open Racing at Shakopee, Minnesota

Jake Angove Soars to the First Pro Lite Victory of His Career

MEDINA, Minn. (Jan. 11, 2016) – Swedish snocross racer Petter Narsa (Hentges Racing) warmed up a frigid Minnesota weekend on his Polaris race sled, finishing second and third in the weekend's two Pro Open finals during ISOC National racing Jan. 8-9 at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn. As windchills at the racetrack dipped to -20 F, Narsa excelled and moved up to fifth place in Pro Open points.

While Narsa finished third in Friday night's Pro Open final and took second in Saturday night's final, Polaris racer Corin Todd (Leighton Motorsports) earned two top-10 finishes to become one of four Polaris racers in the top eight in points. Narsa's Hentges Racing teammate Kody Kamm is second in Pro Open points, followed by Narsa in fifth, Kyle Pallin (Team LaVallee) in sixth, and Todd in eighth.

Past champion Ross Martin (Judnick Motorsports) raced in the first two rounds of qualifying on Friday night before withdrawing because his injured ankle was not sufficiently healed. The team said he would have the ankle re-examined following the weekend to determine if he could race at Deadwood, S.D., in two weeks.

Jake Angove Earns First Pro Lite Win

In Pro Lite racing at Shakopee, Jake Angove (Judnick Motorsports) won Friday night's final for the first Pro Lite victory of his career. He was joined in the top 10 Friday night by James Johnstad (Cottew Motorsports) in seventh and Luke Wollenberg (Wollenberg Motorsports) in 10th.

In Saturday night's Pro Lite final, Cole Cottew (Cottew Motorsports) reached the podium with a third-place finish while Angove finished fourth, Johnstad was fifth, and Zak Mason (Team LaVallee) took ninth. In the Pro Lite Points standings, Jake Angove is in fourth, James Johnstad is seventh, and Zak Mason is eighth.

Nickolas Lorenz Wins in Sport Class

Two Polaris Sport class racers reached the podium on the weekend as Nickolas Lorenz (Lorenz Racing) won Saturday's final and Durk Roper (Roper Racing) finished third on Friday night. Six Polaris racers are in the top 10 in Sport points, including points leader Jacob Yurk (Team Vermillion). He is joined by: 4. Nickolas Lorenz; 7. Durk Roper (Roper Racing); 8. Adam Peterson (Peterson Racing Inc.); 9. Evan Daudt (Daudt Racing); and 10. Jake Geeseman (Wollenberg Motorsports).

Elina Ohman (Team Southside Polaris) finished second in the Women's Pro-Am final at Shakopee and is currently the class points leader.

In Sport Lite racing at Shakopee, Adam Peterson (Peterson Racing Inc.) won Friday night's final, and Taylor Cole (Plaisted Racing) won on Saturday with Jordan Wolfe (Wolfe Racing) finishing second.

The next stop on the ISOC National tour is Deadwood, South Dakota on Jan. 22-23.

Polaris Cross-Country Racers Alex Hetteen and Taylor Bunke Earn Victories at the USXC's Grafton, N.D., 100

Hetteen Reaches Podium Twice and Wins I-500 Class, Bunke Wins Semi-Pro 600

MEDINA, Minn. (Jan. 18) – Polaris cross-country snowmobile racers used the competitive advantage of their AXYS® Chassis race sleds to win two top classes at the USXC Grafton 100, as Taylor Bunke (Bunke Racing) won the Semi-Pro 600 race and Alex Hetteen (Hayford Racing) won the I-500 class. Polaris racer Derick Krug (Krug Racing) won the Sport 600 Open class during the USXC event held Jan. 16 in Grafton, N.D.

As Bunke took top honors in Semi-Pro 600, he was joined on the podium by Hetteen, who finished third. Polaris racer Nicholas Jahnke (Midwest Powersports) took ninth.

Hetteen also finished second in the Semi-Pro Improved class and won the I-500 class. Bunke finished fourth in the I-500 class as racers continued to prep themselves and their sleds for the Winnipeg to Willmar I-500 Feb. 10-13.

Aaron Christensen (AC Racing) took second in the Pro Stock class, while Bobby Menne (Hayford Racing) finished eighth and Jahnke took ninth.

Krug won Sport 600 Open and was the first of five Polaris racers to finish in the top 10. He was followed by: 3. Jared Christensen; 4. Jeff Hayford (Hayford Racing); 7. Michael Feigitsch (Mueller Racing); and 10. Derek Frie.

Krug finished second in Sport 600 Stock and was joined on the podium by Andrew Diekmann, who finished third. Other Polaris racers with top-10 finishes were: 5. Jeff Hayford; 8. Jared Christensen; and 10. Dan Herberg.

Jill Tangen (Hayford Racing) took second in the Women's class. Next up on the busy USXC schedule is the Thief River Falls [MN] 300, Jan. 23-24.

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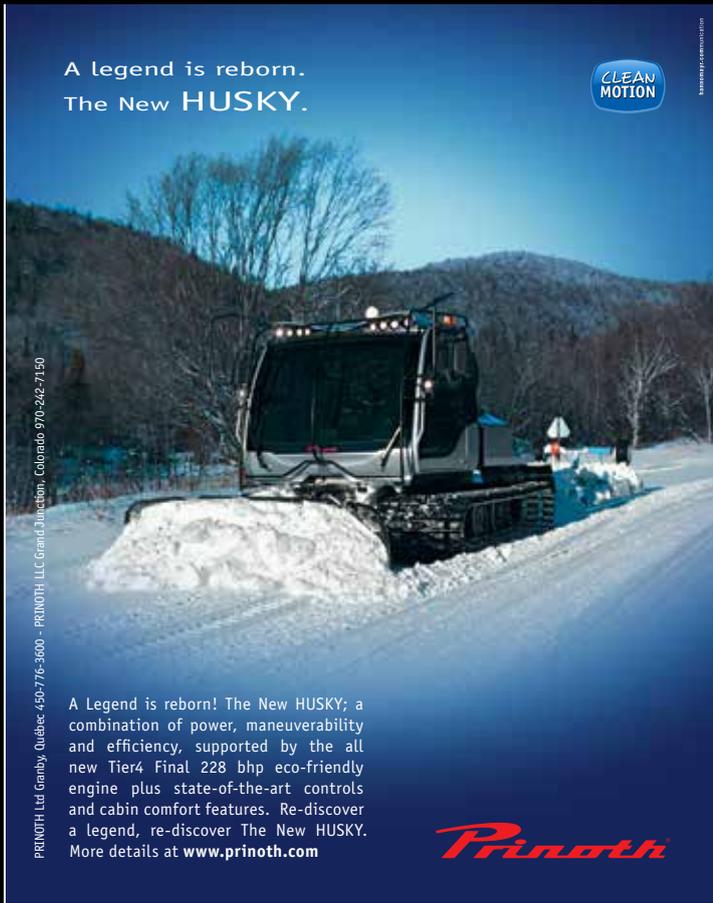
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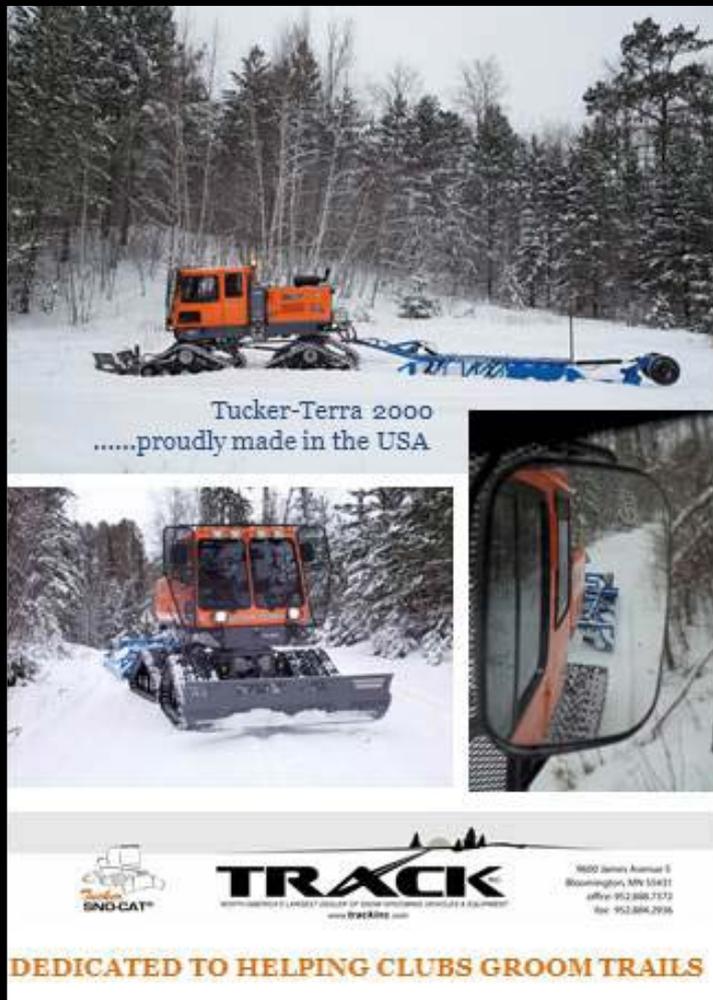
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