



The Switch Tower

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Seacoast Division NMRA

www.seacoastnmra.org



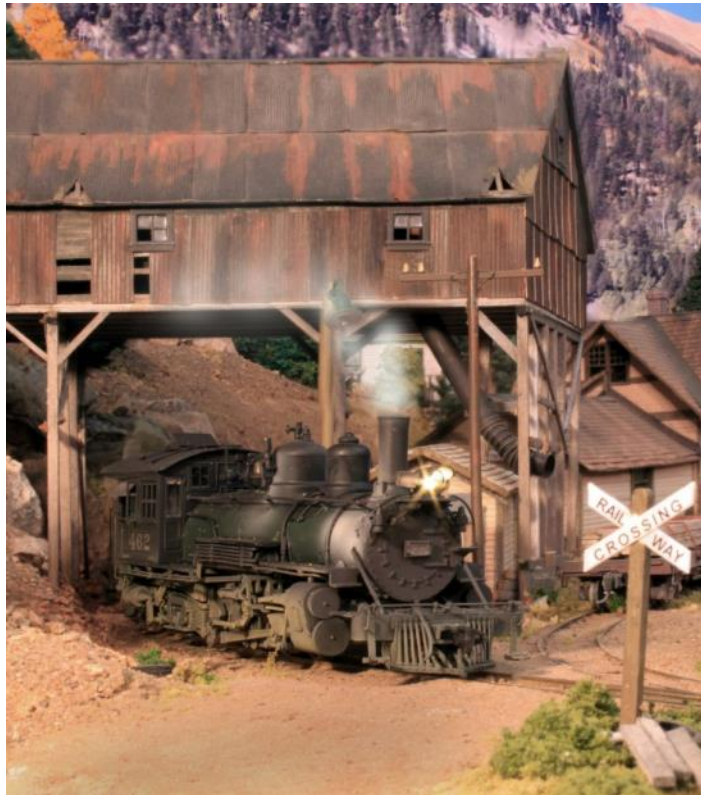
Seacoast Division NMRA Summer Event Saturday, July 13, 2024 10:00am-2:00p

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

144 Mill St
Auburn Me

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Bill Brown's HOn3 D&RGW Colorado Narrow Gauge layout will be hosting an operating session on Thursday afternoon during the convention

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

Greetings Seacoast Members,

Summer is just a few days away and it will be in the high 90's for the next few days. Working in the basement seems like a really good idea today. With my helix work complete (built but not installed) my current task is installing control circuitry and control panels for my West Chicago yard. I started by designing my own circuits. After getting them to work I realized how much time it would take to build them up. I looked at alternatives from Berrett Hill and NCE and finally chose NCE. Wiring up 39 Tortoises with the NCE modules is taking much more time than expected. That seems to be a common theme with all of my overly ambitious railroad projects – they take too much time. I hope all of you are making much more progress than me.

The Seacoast Division Spring Event was held on April 6, 2024 at the James W. Foley Memorial Community Center in Rochester NH. Thanks go out to Rich Breton for getting us the venue. Thanks also go out to Jay Ehlen for coordinating the event and Will Everitt for taking on the A/V operator role which resulted in much improved sound for those viewing on Zoom.

Chris Oliver gave the first clinic on Wiring a Layout for DCC. His previous clinic focused on DCC circuit breakers and power modules. This clinic focused on wiring the layout so that everything works and keeps working in the future. He explained which wiring type and interconnects to use for specific purposes. He pointed out that frog juicer circuits cannot be wired to the track feed that has current sensing. Even without a train in the block, the frog juicer circuit board will draw enough to trip the detection circuit. Chris is removing frog juicers from his layout and installing keep alive circuits in all his locomotives. That is something to think about. Thanks Chris for another informative clinic.

The second clinic was given by Bruce Nickerson, the owner of Seaport Model Works. While his product line is primarily aimed at ship and boat modelers, many are in HO scale and can be used in model railroad layouts. Bruce discussed the history of his company and his product line. He explained a lot about resin casting and how he creates the molds for the hulls of his ship kits. His website is www.seaportmodelworks.com. Thanks Bruce for a great clinic.

The third clinic was given by Rich Breton. Rich discussed adding scenery, particularly shrubbery to a layout. He reviewed many of the scenery products that are available and went into detail about creating your own shrubbery using sisal and jute rope. Once again, the attendees learned new modeling techniques from Rich. Great job Rich.

Tage Erickson and John McHugh presented the status of the **Concord Flyer** 2025 Convention planning effort. The **Concord Flyer** 2025 NER Convention Committee,

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

led by co-chairmen Tage Erickson, Peter McKenney and Will Everitt, continues to make progress planning the **Concord Flyer** 2025 NER Convention to be hosted by the Seacoast Division in Concord, NH on September 18 - 21, 2025. The publicity committee recently completed the logo for the convention.



Congratulations and thanks to all the Convention Committee members who are working to make the **Concord Flyer** a great convention. Please remember that will need a lot of help from Seacoast Members to run the convention. If you are interested in helping and have not already signed up to support the convention please contact Tage Erickson or me.

Dave Delorey continues to do a great job with our website at www.seacoastnmra.org. The website has an incredible number of resource documents and clinics linked to it. Please take a look when you can.

Geoff Anthony, the Switch Tower Editor, is always in need of articles for the Switch Tower. Even a few photos of your latest project will be a welcome addition to the Switch Tower. The April 2024 edition of the Switch Tower was recently added to the website.

The Seacoast Division Summer 2024 Event is scheduled for July 13, 2024 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn Maine. The first event notice has already been sent out. Watch for upcoming details on the event.

The Lakeshores '24 NER Convention will be held on Sept. 19 thru 22, 2024 in Rochester New York. I hope to see many of you in Rochester.

Again, we are always looking for members to give presentations and clinics at the Quarterly Events. If you are interested contact Jay Ehlen or myself.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Seacoast Summer 2024 Event either in person or on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Glenn Mitchell
Seacoast Division NMRA President and Director

**Seacoast Division Summer Event 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.
Great Falls Model RR Club
144 Mill St Auburn ME**

The Seacoast Division Summer 2024 Event will be held in person and also On-line with ZOOM . There is ample on-site parking

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS -

Clinics – Tom Oxnard - building the B & M plant , Portland, Maine
Bob Bennett - modeling On3 and HO structures

Layout Presentations –

Jim Gore and Tage Erickson

2025 NER “Concord Flyer” Convention Update

Great Falls Model Railroad in action

Show and Tell – have something that you would like to share with attendees, please contact Jay Ehlen “jayehlen@gmail.com, to be placed on the agenda

For Sale: There will be a table set up for any members that wish to buy/sell any surplus modeling items they may have. If you have any model railroad related items (loco’s, rolling stock, buildings, etc.) that you don’t need and wish to sell, you are encouraged to bring them to the meeting. Please put a tag on each item with your name and the asking price. Maybe one of your fellow members might be interested!

www.seacoastnmra.org

SEE YOU ALL THERE

RAILFUN DERRY NH**JUNE 15, 2024**

The last Railfun gathering for 2024 is behind us. So, how did we get here? Last year the HUB BoD took a look at the whole Raifun program to see how it was fitting into the wider HUB program of member benefits and some shortcomings became very apparent. As the world was moving out of the restrictions of the Covid era the Railfun program was going the other way. Attendance was falling off and complaints were being received regarding timing and location of the event. In addition to this business arrangements became problematic as well. It was due an overhaul.

The HUB BoD explored several approaches and decided to implement a new way of doing things. First, the Railfun program would move around the Division's area bringing the event closer to more members. Then a hybrid program would be tried using NMRA resources of zoom presentations alternating with live gatherings would be tried. Peter Watson took the lead to pull these ideas together. The result was more members started to attend the events and more presenters came forward to lead the discussions. Railfun attendance doubled and the program was on its way.

Then, at a BoD meeting in the early spring, Peter Watson mentioned that all the Railfun dates were committed with location and topics except the June date. Pause, yup, the silence was deafening. "How about doing a joint event with Seacoast Division?" Less than a micro-second later the idea was accepted, voted on, signed, sealed and delivered! Thank you, members of the HUB Division BoD, in your faith in my abilities to do this task. A few quick e-mails and a short discussion at an op session and we had a program and a meeting place. "Houston, we are good to go!" Tom Oxnard, MMR and John McHugh, both from Seacoast Division, jumped in with a program and layout tour plan and the concept was sealed. We would do two layout description PowerPoint presentations then have those two layouts open to visit after lunch. Add in an announcement segment at the beginning and a Model Showcase at the end and the two-hour program was ready to go. Three more area layouts soon joined the day's event making it five layouts to visit after lunch. The Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry, NH made a perfect assembly place close to Route 93 and only fifteen minutes north of the Massachusetts border.

How did this last Railfun of this year's program go? FANTASTIC! The results are in

RAILFUN DERRY NH

JUNE 15, 2024

and the judges have rendered their decision: Attendance was 27, 14 HUB members, 9 Seacoast members and one non-NMRA member that asked to join the NMRA after the meeting! There was so much clapping that we were disturbing the other goings-on at the Center with a call to stop clapping and toss money instead was issued. (grins) There were NMRA members from five states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont). Model showcase had Tom Oxnard MMR showing two structure models, B&M Baked Bean factory and a downtown Exeter, NH store front building, both have been excepted for up-coming publication. Then we had our own HUB Headlight editor, Bill Barry, was joined by Chris Carfaro, the North-eastern Region Coupler editor to cover the doings in Derry, NH. And, the seven modelers that met at the Ober Easy Diner for lunch had a great time, too!

What will be next? Maybe next June the HUB Division could do a joint Railfun with Little Rhodie Division or perhaps, with Nutmeg Division. All it takes is a few contacts and a couple of people to pull a plan together. Hint, hint: The position of Railfun Coordinator is open and is in need of a volunteer to step into the position. That could be YOU! Contact any member of the BoD to show interest in “putting something back” into the Division. If you do..... you’ll like it. Submitted by: Bruce Robinson

Dave Martini’s Layout 2024 NER convention





My First *Concord Flyer* Convention Thoughts

By Mike Pedersen

You may have heard by now that the Seacoast Division will be hosting the 2025 Northeast Region NMRA convention, *The Concord Flyer*. This doesn't mean we are inviting a bunch of regional model railroaders to gather and share model railroading experiences. This means that we, the Seacoast Division, are responsible for planning, arranging and conducting the convention and doing our best to make it the best convention the region has seen!

I got myself involved in the planning group and am wondering if I made the right decision. The reason for that is I consider myself somewhat of a model railroading outlier. I have been model railroading since I was a kid, but started modeling in earnest when my adult life finally settled down. When I began building a layout, my bench work was literally scrap wood. I bought a couple three-foot sections of flex track and a couple switches and started building. My rolling stock was two small steam engines and some cars I had kept since high school. I didn't have an overall plan, and I was doing it on my own – I didn't know any other model railroaders at the time. The layout grew over the years as I acquired more wood, track, switches and rolling stock. Needless to say, in the 1980's it was a DC layout. I had two cabs and a rack of Atlas© block switches. The "earnest" part of my model railroading began when I saw a notice in a local newspaper of an organizational meeting for those in the southern Maine area interested in starting a model railroad club. I attended the meeting and found that several other modelers lived in my area. That was thirty-some years ago and I am still in contact with a number of them.

Why do I consider myself an outlier? First, I am still pretty much of a loner. I have been to operating sessions at several friends' layouts, but I don't hold my breath waiting for the next invitation. Second, I'm not a great fan of modern electronic technology. Yes, I converted my layout to DCC years ago, and I have installed a motorized turntable and individually powered roundhouse stalls, but my switches are all manual and there are no block signals, street lights, animated signs or anything else. Third, my pace of work on the layout is slow, to say the least. What has taken me forty years to accomplish I have seen others do in months. I have scenery and track ballasting partially done. While most of my structures are kit bashed in one way or another, or scratch-built, none of them are what anyone would call super detailed. One thing I do enjoy is weathering, both structures and rolling stock. My favorite techniques are chalking and dry-brushing. Every time I try to use an airbrush it plugs up after about two squirts! Finally, I should mention this is the third time I have been a

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member of the NMRA. The first was for one year after we formed the model railroad club. I did it, frankly, to get copies of the NMRA standards! I never went to any NMRA meetings then. The second time was about twelve years ago. I went to a meeting on my own, but didn't go back because I felt uncomfortable not knowing anyone. The third time was several years ago when one of my model railroad club friends told me he had joined and invited me to one of his operating sessions and introduced me to other NMRA members.

Why am I mentioning all this? Because we have a convention coming up next year; and even though I volunteered to help plan it, I am wondering if I have made the right choice. I still consider myself to be a loner. Even though there will be a lot of Seacoast Division friends there, there will be a lot of people I don't know. Do I want to step out of my comfort zone? In this, I feel I am not alone. About fifteen to twenty percent of us attend the Seacoast Division quarterly events, either in person or on Zoom. I am told that when the division held its last conference, in 2013, in Laconia, New Hampshire, only about eight Division members attended. I'm thinking I will probably overcome my reluctance and attend this one. Did I mention I had never been to a conference before? If you have also not been to a convention, I hope that you, especially you who haven't attended one of our Division's quarterly events, will strongly consider attending. Many who attend regional conventions and beyond look at them as a mini-vacation. Wear your nametag. Bring some photos of your layout. Jump in with both feet. I, and all the others in our Division, want to meet you and hear your modeling experiences.



Boston & Albany Central /
Dick Heir NER Convention
2024

Seacoast Division Election Jan 2025

Its election time coming up for the new year. Here are the current directors that are currently up for re election .

Geoff Anthony (elected in 2022)

Jim Seroskie (elected in 2022)

Jim Gore (filled seat vacated by Dave Kotsonis, who had been elected in 2022)

All of the above said they will Stand for re-election. If you would like to run contact Bruce Campbell . The voting is in January 2025.

Canada, Spokane, and Pacific Drew James MMR NER 2024 Convention



Northeast Region Convention Sept 19-22 Rochester NY



LAKESHORES

'24

NMRA Northeastern Region Annual Convention

.Thinking about operations? Are you wanting to start operating even before you get to the convention? You are in luck

Four layouts in the Central New York Division, centered around Syracuse, NY, will be opening their layouts for operating sessions on Thursday afternoon. We feature those layouts .

There are also some great train and hobby shops in the convention area. And the convention team is providing you a bag to fill with model train goodies...and here is the kicker, the owners of the stores will be providing a discount off of the regular price for whatever you fit in the bag!

- I Don't forget to register to be scanned by [miniprints](#) for your own "minime".

If you are looking for tools, pre-order them from [Micro-Mark](#).

There are two prototype tours. Don't forget to register for them when registering for the convention!

And of course, register for the convention and book your hotel room.

. So come to Rochester for Lakeshores'24 in September!
Register online by credit card via the Convention Website by [clicking here](#).

The best values for the convention are the Combo packages, which include the convention registration, Thursday welcome reception, Saturday night ban-

Northeast Region Convention

Sept 19-22 Rochester NY

Combo Packages:

Members: \$175 (\$185 beginning Aug 1)

Significant other and/or family members: \$90

à la carte options:

Convention Registration (no food): \$85 (\$95 beginning Aug 1)

Significant other and/or family members (no food): \$20

Welcome Reception Thursday evening: \$20

Dinner Banquet Saturday evening: \$50

Awards Breakfast Sunday morning: \$30

The Convention Hotel is the [RIT Inn & Conference Center](#) located just outside Rochester, NY in Henrietta..

The room rate is \$129 per night for a standard room single or double occupancy. The rate is available through August 29.

Hotel registrations are handled through the hotel website so you must register for the convention and your hotel room separately.

1 To make your reservation:

2 Go to [RITInn.com](#)

1. Click Reservations at the top left of the homepage

2. Enter the number of guests and rooms needed, and then click Add Code.

3. Next click Discount Code followed by Group Attendee.

4. Insert the following code in the open box: **240919NMRA**

You will then be able to select check-in/check-out dates, method of payment, etc.

The Lakeshores Division will have many great layouts to operate on during the convention. But, before you get to the convention, you will likely be passing through the Central New York Division.

On Thursday afternoon, there will be four layouts open in the Syracuse area on Thursday afternoon. Let's take a look at them!

If you are interested in operating on them, be sure to select the layouts that interest you when you register for the convention.

Northeast Region Convention

Sept 19-22 Rochester NY

D&RGW Colorado Narrow Gauge Bill Brown MMR

Go back in time to an era when nothing in railroading was easy. Bill's Colorado Narrow Gauge Layout is mostly based in 1949...just a few years before the Rio Grande Southern ceased operations. Bill's rendition brings it back to life. Tight turns and steep grades were the norm back then, and operators get to experience it firsthand. Steep mountain cliffs, deep cuts and rickety trestles are just some of the highlights. A portion of the layout takes one back even further to 1910 when tiny engines pulled and pushed freight into amazing areas. Scenery here has to be seen to be believed!

◆ CSX Northeast Division by Dave Martini

The CSX Northeast is a prototypical, freelanced CSX/Conrail merger prior to the breakup of Conrail. The layout features a single track mainline from Cleveland OH to Buffalo NY both represented by staging. Overhead freights pass through Euclid OH, Erie PA, Fairport Harbor and Dunkirk NY. There are several industrial switching areas and a helix to a 2nd deck and the fictional S&N Railroad. The West end features the shortline Central Ohio Railroad that interchanges with CSX at Euclid OH. The railroad has an operating ABS signaling system.

Boston & Albany Central by Dick Hehir

The B&A Central Division is a freelanced layout representing a fictitious part of the Boston and Albany Railroad connecting the towns of Westfield and Millcreek. There are interchanges with both the Boston and Maine and New Haven railroads.

Operators will have the opportunity to perform switching duties and to run trains over the main line during a low stress session on this finely detailed pike. This is a chance to see what a smaller layout can offer in the way of an operating session .

Canada, Spokane & Pacific by Drew James, MMR

The CS&P is a freelanced bridge line, jointly owned by Burlington Northern and Canadian Pacific, set in the early 1980s. A long mountainous single track mainline connects five modeled towns with Spokane, Washington and Calgary, Alberta on this point-to-point railroad. This layout was designed for operations, and features wide aisles and a comfortable lounge for off duty crews. The layout features a replica US&S CTC machine and is fully signaled .

Northeast Region Convention

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Here's a useful and money saving gift for all registrants at Lakeshores'24:

The official convention tote bag!

Not only can you carry your convention goodies, but you can also use it for some bargains at four hobby shops located within the Lakeshores division's boundaries. You'll get anywhere from 10% to 20% off pretty much whatever regularly-priced items you can stuff in the bag during the duration of the convention days plus a few days after.

[Despatch Junction](#) in East Rochester, [The Train Place](#) in Mendon, [Lake City Hobbies](#) in Geneva, and [Dan's Crafts and Things](#) in Rochester are all participating. The first three are all train shops; Dan's has a very nice train department, but they are also well stocked with supplies and tools for other crafts.

Please support our local brick and mortar shops. And don't forget to bring your bag!

Did you ever want a miniature you for your layout? Bernard Hellen aka. Dr. Mini is bringing his [miniprints](#) scanning equipment to the Lakeshores'24 convention! Now is your chance to come and get shrunk and populate your layout with "minime's" of you. [You can register for the 3D body scanning sessions online by clicking here.](#) Remember, spots are limited so register today!

As an extra incentive to take advantage of early registration for the convention, Bernard will hold a drawing and award a free \$50US miniprints gift card for anyone registering early for the convention. That means you must register no later than July 31. But why wait? [Register for the convention](#) now and get your name in the drawing!

There's still time to get in on the Build-it scratch-building project!

Jim DeMarco MMR hosts regular model building sessions for Lakeshores and Western New York members at his home in Kendall, NY. The NERx/Lakeshores'24 Build-it Hybrid is an extension of those sessions and describes from start to finish how to scratch-build a 36' wooden boxcar. The project is aimed at novice modelers, but even those with years of experience may learn a trick or

Northeast Region Convention

Sept 19-22 Rochester NY

two. Construction of the car body began during NERx in March and will continue through Summer 2024. You can watch the first two presentations from NERx by clicking on these links:

[An intro to the project](#)

[Steps 1 and 2 of construction](#)

Additional presentations to complete the basic car body will be posted and archived during the next month or so. Lakeshores'24



Detailing and finishing the car will happen during the Lakeshores'24 in-person convention. Jim will give a one hour clinic on Thursday evening from 6PM to 7PM on fabricating details and placing them on the car. Then on Friday and Saturday, at one of the Learning Tables in the Interchange Room, Jim and/or other experienced modelers will help guide the hands-on finishing of the car.



With your car built at the conclusion of the convention, all that remains is to paint, decal, and weather your car. You will be able to do this at your workbench when you return home.



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For those who started making the 36' boxcar during NERx, please be sure to attend the clinic and make some time for the Learning Table sessions in between other activities at Lakeshores'24.

If you didn't start during NERx, you can still catch up. Please take a look at the archived presentations, and if they interest you, email superintendent@lakeshoresnmra.org for information on ordering a materials packet which has enough supplies to build one car with enough extra to cover a few goofs.

...and even if you aren't able to do any modeling over the next few months but just want to see and hear what this scratch-building project is all about, feel free to sit in on Jim's Clinic and Learning Table. No pre-registration is required.

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Friday, September 20, 2024

1 - 6 pm

Cost: \$10

Tour New York State's largest collection of historic trains at the [Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum](#).

NMRA members will have exclusive access to the Museum's collections on Friday, September 20, 2024, from 1PM to 6PM. Members can pre-register for the event when registering for the convention.

Included in the \$10 per person entry fee are hourly diesel train rides and self-guided tours of the restored 1909 Erie Railroad depot, museum exhibits and restoration shop.

Rail Excursion to the Medina Railroad Museum

Saturday, September 21, 2024 10 am - 3 pm Cost: \$75

On Saturday, September 21, from 10 am to 3 pm,

NMRA members can ride a [Genesee Valley Transportation](#) train from the SUNY Brockport campus, about a 35 minute drive from the Convention hotel, to the [Medina Railroad Museum](#) and back. The route is over the former NYC Falls Line using ex-NYC RS-32 #2035 and ex-C&O and ex-DL&W coaches. The \$75 per person fare includes at least one photo run-by, admission to the Museum (including its 14' x 204" HO scale layout) and a box lunch.

Jay Ehlen has worked hard to finish some lovely stations and diner and has earned 3 Merit Awards towards his Structures Certificate.

He has also earned a Merit Award for a scratch built caboose towards his Cars Certificate.

Editor's Ramblings

Hope everyone is having a great start to their summer . Weather here has been ok, and not very concussive to Model Railroading. Still trying to work through stuff that I don't need and or want. Sometimes I find something and go when and where did that come from and then realize its surplus to me. Time to make some table reservations so I can move my excess to someone else. Many friends that I have in the hobby have the same problem and have reached the same conclusion. New Layout is only going to be 17' x 30" so how much stuff do I need?

Been looking at a couple of Shelf Layout groups on you tube and realized that is all I really need ,so going to fiddle with some track plans and hoping I can start construction in the fall. All the best. Geoff

July 13 Seacoast summer event Great Falls Model RR club Auburn ME

Jul 13 Maine 3 Railers Show Lisbon rec center Lisbon ME

Jul 17-24 National S Gauge convention Harrisburg PA

Aug 3 South Shor Model RR club open house Hingham MA

Aug 4-11 NMRA National Convention Long Beach CA

Aug 18 Concord Model RR show Concord NH .

Aug 31– Sept 1 Model RR Show at Sea Shore Trolley Museum Kennebunkport ME

Sept 11 –14 44th National Narrow Gauge Convention Pittsburgh PA

Sept 19-22 NER Convention Rochester NY

Sept 22– 28 Maine # Railers at the Cumberland County Fair

OCT 5 Seacoast Fall Event Center Harbor NH

Oct 12 Great Falls Model RR Show Kora Shrine Center Lewiston ME

OCT 26 ST John Society of Model Railroaders Quispamsis NB CA

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