



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 APRIL 2009 NUMBER 4


	<p>NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2009 TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA ROAD ONE SEABROOK, TEXAS</p>
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The PROGRAM FOR April...

The program will be by Learn Lapidary by several CLGMS Members. The presentation, will be hands on demonstration of cabochon making, flap lapping and trim saw work. We have several new lapidary machines for member checkout and it is the desire of the program directors to provide real time instruction to members of the use of our lapidary tools.

SHOW and TELL

Share a report of our latest field trip or your own special dig. Bring in your prize specimens and educate us. Bring us your rockhounding finds and let us see how you did.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Stoney Statements Spotlight	Editorial
March Minutes 2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights a time for Reflection. We may soon all be riding rocks like this guy. Time to brush up on your lapidary skills.</p>	<p>Paleontological Resources Preservation Act The PRPA passed on March 25, 2009, greatly benefits amateur paleontologists. For instance, the BLM and Forest Service have been allowing casual collecting of common plant and invertebrate fossils for many years, but without specific statutory authority from Congress. This activity could have been taken away at any time. However, the PRPA ensures amateurs can continue to pursue their hobby on BLM and Forest Service lands. The Savings Provision specifies that, "nothing contained in the Act shall apply to, or require a permit for, casual collecting of a rock, mineral or invertebrate or plant fossil that is not protected under this Act."</p>
The President's Column 2		
Earthquakes and Volcanoes 3		
Birthdays/Anniversaries 4		
Lapidary Corner-What to take Rockhounding 4		
FIELD TRIPS – Rockhunting Field Trip for CLGMS 5		
HUGE FIELD OF DINOSAUR TRACKS FOUND 6		
Big Sky Country – Montana on My Mind/Regional Show Dates 7		

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?"- *Will Rogers*

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, March 16, 2009

President Ed Tindell called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no changes or corrections to the February Meeting Minutes as published in the March Stoney Statements. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as presented.

President Ed Tindell reviewed committee reports:

Library Committee – Three new books and two new maps have been purchased. The on-line forum will have a catalog of the library items. The possibility of a locked cabinet in the building for the library was discussed.

Community Benefits – Need chairperson responsible for continued method of supporting schools, churches, books for libraries, scholarships, programs at schools, exhibits. A discussion was held regarding a rock display at Freeman Memorial Library, our support of 16 libraries in the area, and that our donations are anything related to the mineral sciences. Galveston and coastal communities are in dire need. Past level of support has been \$400-\$600.

Education Committee – Need chairperson responsible for education programs for the club, encouraging members to make five minute presentations on various topics of interest.

Publicity Committee – Need chairperson responsible for newspaper coverage of club activities, meeting posters for schools and libraries, applications and flyers in schools, museums and libraries.

Equipment Committee – Need chairperson responsible for club equipment and their use. Club has trim saw, slab saw, and genie. Genie requires 30 minutes of training by a club member who is qualified to use the machine prior to checking out.

Annual Show – Scout Area – need volunteer. Demonstration Area – need volunteer.

Old Business: There was no old business for discussion.

New Business : Lesley Gary announced her request for donations to the March of Dimes Walk. Chuck Schuler shared his experience when he visited the Kilborne Hole in New Mexico searching for peridot. The site is across the border from Mexico and an area that can be populated by illegal immigrants and drug runners. An announcement was made regarding the upcoming field trip in April. Our web site, CLGMS.org, is up and running with a dealer inquiry form and membership form. The Club Form/Forum Group on the web will be for members only. Yahoo and Google groups are being investigated.

Door prizes were presented during the break and refreshments were served.

The program was presented by William E. Heierman on the American Corundum, Rubies and Sapphires (and Emery) Localities in the United States. He announced that the National Federation Gem and Mineral Show will be held in Billings, Montana, on July 31 through August 2, 2009. He is the special exhibit chairperson and there will be a lunar display and area field trips. Mr. Heierman shared a large variety of photos of rubies and sapphires. Corundum was first discovered in the United States and was mined for abrasives and gems were occasionally found. The first discovery of a huge deposit was found near Franklin, North Carolina. He was able to share photos with us of some of the pre-1850 specimens. He further discussed localities to hunt and find rubies and sapphires and explained that you will not find a stone without washing the gravel. Old gold miners found the gems a nuisance because they clogged the sluices. Mr. Heierman discussed many gem locations and mining methods and how crystals are formed. After the presentation, there was a question and answer period.

The meeting was adjourned by President Ed Tindell.

Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams, Secretary

The President's Column

The first three months of the year are now history and we've already had one open club officer position filled (Program Director by Trina Willoughby and Leslet Gary), one field trip and one coming up to the same place (Alpine, TX), our annual show, a great talk on sapphires by Will Heirmann, the club locker reorganized and some of the club's lapidary equipment cleaned up and ready for use once again (flat laps) and two groups for the club started up on the Internet. As busy as we have been much remains to be done. We must continue to work hard and follow thru on the initiatives we have started.

The club is still searching for volunteers to fill the positions of:

Equipment Committee Chairperson, Publicity Chairperson, Community Benefits Chairperson and a Show Demonstration Chairperson. Please consider filling one of these vacancies. It takes a little work initially to get a committee going and get over the learning curve but once that is accomplished the work becomes routine with few hoops to jump thru. So what is involved? The Equipment Committee Chairperson is in charge of the club's lapidary equipment and any other equipment we may acquire in the future such as mineral identification instruments (hardness points, specific gravity scales, etc.), rock trimmers, an iron pipe cutter for breaking open geodes, a Proscope camera for mineral photography, etc. The possibilities are endless. They would be responsible for keeping track of this equipment, maintaining it and reordering supplies such as new flat lap disks, etc. The Publicity Chairperson is in charge of publicity for the club. They would be responsible for advertising our meetings and activities to the local papers, television and radio stations, which could easily be handled by making initial contact with each entity involved and finding out who to email the information to. Imagine having 20-30 uninvited guests at each club meeting, all who came because they heard or read about us and were interested in what we doing. I often wonder how many people would have come to hear the talk on sapphires?

The Community Benefits Chairperson is in charge of handling requests for assistance from the public such as giving talks or putting on displays at schools, donating books to local libraries, etc. They would be the contact point for such requests and would document each one for presentation to the club for consideration and approval.

The Show Demonstration Chairperson is in charge of arranging demos of rockhound related activities at our show such as cutting and polishing rocks, faceting stones, silversmithing, gem identification or other demonstrations that would high light different aspects of the hobby such as curating your collection, cleaning fossils, etc. They would be responsible for coordinating with the Equipment Committee Chairman and individual members and known area experts to set up and man the demo area at our show each year. These are but a few of the many opportunities available to you to get involved with the club. It is my hope and prayer that many of you will answer the call to serve. If you have any questions you can write me at <mailto:ed-tindell@sprynet.com>.

Thanks,
Ed Tindell, 2009 CLGMS President

Sunday, April 05, 2009 - An earthquake of 6.3 magnitude has rocked central Italy, 53 miles northeast of Rome, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Some residents in the town of l'Aquila, east of Rome in the mountainous Abruzzo region, ran out into the streets. Reports of collapsed buildings have been made and authorities are now checking to see if anyone has been injured. Rafael Abreu Hael U.S. Geological Survey told Sky News the quake happened at 3.32 a.m. local time.

"This is a significant earthquake," he said. "This is a shallow quake but there is definitely a possibility of damage and even injuries. It is going to depend on what type of buildings are in the area."

The quake was the latest and strongest in a series to hit the l'Aquila area on Sunday and Monday. Earthquakes can be particularly dangerous in parts of Italy where centuries-old buildings are left in disrepair.

Saturday, April 04, 2009 **ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Mount Redoubt volcano in Alaska has had another large eruption after being relatively quiet for nearly a week. This is the 19th major eruption in the last two weeks.**

The Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage says the volcano about 100 miles southwest of the city erupted early Saturday. The National Weather Service said radar indicated a plume of volcanic ash rose 50,000 feet into the sky, making this one of the largest eruptions since the volcano became active on March 22.

The ash cloud was drifting toward the southeast and there were reports of the fine, gritty ash falling in towns on the Kenai Peninsula. From: FOXNews.com



An April HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Roy Kelly	2
Dan Harry	25

Diamond (innocence).
In an ancient ritual in
India, the wealthy
sprinkled tiny diamonds
over the heads of infants
to keep them pure and
virtuous.

April Anniversary includes:

Dick & Mary-Ruth Rathjen	12
Verlin Fox	20



Those who have not paid their dues will
no longer get the newsletter for 2009

GOODIE GETTERS...For April

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

Rockhounding experience (our own and tips and hints from colleagues, customers, and friends) has led us to compile the following list of things you won't want to be without.

- FIRST AID KIT.** We hope the reason for this one is obvious. A friend and fellow rock hound says "Rock hounding is like hockey, it's not fun until you see blood." We won't go that far, but we often get scrapes, bug bites, etc.
- SPARE TIRE & TOOLS TO CHANGE A FLAT.**
Rocks reek havoc on soft rubber tires. We don't even want to go into the story of the day we were out in the desert with our flat, our spare and no lug wrench.
- GAS.** Make sure you have enough gas to make the trip into the desert and back out. It's a good idea to take an extra can full.
- WATER.** There is no potable (drinkable) water in the desert! Take lots.
- TOILET PAPER.** More uses than you think. The standard "paper work" use and it can also be used to wrap specimens. Make sure you take enough for both.
- GARBAGE BAGS.** Also dual purpose. The obvious choice for this item is hauling your trash out. They also make great wrap for specimens.
- HAND LENS.** <http://www.erockshop.com/Hand_Lenses_s/19.htm>. For those of you not familiar with this item, it's a small, high quality magnifier, that you can wear around your neck. You will want to look at ALL the crystals you find, large and small, and you won't see the small ones without a hand lens.
- GARDEN TROWEL.** Very useful for small digging.
- IDENTIFICATION GUIDE.** There are many guides on the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals.
- MAPS & GUIDE BOOKS.** Not only will you want to know how to get where you are going, you will want to know how to get home again. There are currently several guide books on Utah. They all have their pros and cons. We haven't found a guide book yet that didn't contain it's fair share of wrong directions. Most people end up with and use all the books to find great rocks, minerals & gold.
- NOTEBOOK & PENCIL.** Your specimens are much more valuable if you know where they came from. And you may want to go back and get more from a specific location. If you do not keep track of this information you won't have a way to do that. Not only write down the location, draw a picture of the area or your own map.
- ROCK HAMMER & SHEATH.** No, a nail hammer is not good enough. Rock hammers are a solid piece of steel. Therefore, the head cannot be broken off. Not only are they safer, but they will last you years of rock hounding. That is, they will last you for years if you carry them in a sheath. We consider Utah's deserts to be a large rock hammer exchange. We've left a few and collected a few. Now we carry them in a sheath so we don't set them down and loose them. We have found painting them construction orange helps to locate a misplaced tool.
- CHISELS.** In addition to your rock hammer, you'll want other tools. Chisels help remove rock or crystals with a little more precision. We recommend Estwing brand tools. They are also the best!
- SAFETY GOGGLES.** Eye protection is a serious concern when your are breaking rock. If you want to enjoy your specimens after you collect them, wear goggles or safety glasses.

(continued next page)

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell**Teri Smith Rockhunting Field Trips
Spring 2009 – CLGMS on last of APRIL****Field Trip Leader:**

Teri Smith. You can contact me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net, which is my preferred method, or by phone at (432) 837-2451 (Antelope Lodge); (432) 837-1026 (home); or (432) 386-3431 (cell).

Field Trip Locations:

The Ritchie Ranch is just Southeast of Alpine. The terrain is gentle hills and the roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. You can find many patterns & colors of agate, jasper, and quartz crystals. Much of the agate and jasper is suitable for jewelry. The cost is \$5 per person, and 75¢ per lb. for collectible rocks. This is a great ranch for both beginners and advanced collectors. It's also very "kid friendly".

The Larremore Ranch is 34 miles south of Alpine. This ranch contains some spectacular buttes at the south end of Kokernot Mesa. The roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. The best rock and fossil hunting is in the flatter areas at the base of the buttes, which are covered with thorny brush and cactus. You can find agate, jasper, quartz crystals, calcite, and marine fossils. The cost is \$20 per person per day. You can also pick through their agate piles for 75¢ per lb.

East Needle Peak is 95 miles South of Alpine in very rough country. A 4wd vehicle is recommended, and a high-clearance vehicle is absolutely required. This is a specimen hunter's paradise! You can find fossil shells, shark teeth, agate, petrified wood, jasper, chalcedony, flint, quartz crystals, calcite, aragonite, and selenite. Pseudomorphs of agate after aragonite and saginite have also been found, including the "pom-pom" agate for which the area is famous. The cost is \$35 per person per day.

Meet at: The lobby of the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine, TX.

Bring: Wear desert-smart clothing, a hat, boots, and gloves. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts will protect you from most of the stickers and thorns. Bring your lunch, lots of drinking water, and bags to put your finds in. Bring and use sunscreen, as our elevation is high enough that you burn quickly. Make sure your vehicle is appropriate for the terrain of the field trip location, and the gas tank is full. Ensure that you have a usable spare tire or at least a couple of cans of fix-a-flat, as we can be almost 100 miles away from the nearest tire shop.

Other Cost: Rollin Rock Club membership required. You may join at the time of the field trip. Membership for 2009 is \$10/individual and \$16/dual. However, if the field trip you are attending has been declared an "official" field trip for your local gem club, AND your club has the insurance offered by the AFMS and its regional subgroups, you do not need to join the RRC.

Alpine Accommodations:

I recommend the Antelope Lodge in Alpine. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 880-8106, or by emailing antelope.lodge@juno.com.



Thanks,
Ed Tindell
2009 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

What to Take Rockhounding cont.

15. **ROUND POINT SHOVEL & HOE.** These tools are very handy when digging is required. Especially at the geode beds.
16. **SPECIMEN CONTAINERS.** We've used all the following: cardboard boxes, milk crates, wooden crates, 5 gallon buckets, canvas sacks, egg cartons, Tupperware dishes, cookie tins, film containers, etc.
17. **A BUDDY.** We do not recommend rock hounding alone. Use the buddy system.
18. **FOOD, SNACKS & MEDICATION.** Besides your meals, take along plenty of snacks. It's better to have too much than not enough. Never leave for a collecting trip without any medication you may need!
19. **HAT & SUNSCREEN.** You will get a sunburn without these.
20. **CAMPING GEAR.** When rock hounding, nine times out of ten you will not be near any facilities. Be a good scout and go prepared with some basic camping supplies.
21. **PATIENCE, COMMON SENSE and COURTESY.** We've noticed that the most successful rock hounds are those that patiently keep looking around until they find something really great. Always use common sense when in the field.

Never trespass. Respect others and their property.
Source: <http://www.rocks4u.com/rockhounding.htm>
via The RockCollector April 09, Blue Agate News 2/09

HUGE FIELD OF DINOSAUR TRACKS FOUND

(REPRINTED FROM LIVESCIENCE.COM / OCTOBER 20, 2008)

More than 1,000 dinosaur footprints along with tail-drag marks have been discovered along the Arizona-Utah border. The incredibly rare concentration of beastly tracks likely belonged to at least four different species of dinosaurs, ranging from youngsters to adults. The tracks range in length from 1 to 20 inches (2.5 to 51 centimeters). “The different size tracks may tell us that we are seeing mothers walking around with babies,” said researcher Winston Seiler, a geologist at the University of Utah.

The tracks were laid about 190 million years ago in what is now the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

“There must have been more than one kind of dinosaur there,” said researcher Marjorie Chan, professor and chair of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah. “It was a place that attracted a crowd, kind of like a dance floor.”

While the site is covered in sand dunes now, the researchers say the tracks are within what was a network of wet, low watering holes between the dunes. In fact, the tracks provide more evidence of wet intervals during the Early Jurassic Period, when the U.S. Southwest was covered with a field of sand dunes larger than the Sahara Desert.

By studying the shapes and sizes of the tracks, Seiler suggests four dinosaur species gathered at the watering hole, though the researchers have yet to match the prints with specific species. Currently, the tracks are named for their particular shapes and include:

- Eubrontes footprints measure 10 to 16 inches (25 to 41 cm) long and have three toes and a heel. These tracks likely were made by upright-walking dinosaurs with a body length of 16 to 20 feet (5 to 6 m), or smaller than *Tyrannosaurus rex*.
- Grallator tracks are about 4 to 7 inches (10 to 18 cm) long, are three-toed and were left by small dinosaurs only a few feet tall.
- Sauropodomorph tracks, more circular than the other types, were left by creatures that walked on four legs and were the largest dinosaurs at the site. Their tracks range from 6 to 11 inches (15 to 28 cm) long. Seiler said the tail-drag marks are associated with these circular footprints, so they likely were made by sauropods.
- Anchisauripus tracks measure 7 to 10 inches (18 to 25 cm) long and were made by dinosaurs that ranged from 6 to 13 feet (2 to 4 m) in length.

Numerous dinosaur track sites have been found in the western United States and elsewhere around the world. For instance, tracks from a herd of 11 giant sauropod dinosaurs were discovered in the ancient coastal mudflats of Yemen. But the new discovery is rare in the density of tracks. “Unlike other trackways that may have several to dozens of footprint impressions, this particular surface has more than 1,000.” Seiler and Chan write. “At first glance, they look like weathering pits — a field of odd potholes,” he said. “But within about five minutes of wandering around, I realized these were dinosaur footprints.”

From the MAGS Rock News 2/09

This Eubrontes dinosaur footprint, including three toes and a heel, measures roughly 16 inches (41 cm) long and is thought to have been made by an upright walking meat eater. Credit: Winston Seiler



Big Sky Country – Montana on My Mind

By Doug True, AFMS/NFMS Convention Chair



The Billings Gem and Mineral Club invite you to attend the AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention. Come spend some time with us and see the wonders of the Big Sky country and experience a time of your life. We hope you plan on

spending some time in our state, visiting the many sights or hunting for Montana agate, Bear Canyon fortification agate, petrified wood, or fossils from the Hell Creek, Pierre and Bear paw formations. Join us for the many field trips scheduled for after this show. We will spend some time on the next issue talking about each field trip and what you may expect to find. Many special exhibits are scheduled for this show. We're excited about....

- A Moon rock from NASA, which has never been to Montana and should be a great draw for the area.
- An Ice age exhibit including a cave bear.
- Outstanding ruby and corundum, Yogo and Montana sapphires, and Gold exhibits.
- The Rock Food Table from Texas.
- World class collections of Montana Agate, Dryhead, Fairburn and Tepee Canyon agates.

We also look forward to seeing your special exhibits, so please take some time and think about what showcases you would like to enter, and also a collection or your craftsmanship that would make a great competition exhibit. Let's pull together and show the world what you have to offer. We expect a large number of our neighbors from Canada to attend the show also.

We hope you plan your vacation around this show and visit Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, the Dinosaur Trail including Makoshika State Park, and Little Big Horn Battle Field where General Custer fought. Besides collecting rocks, you should try out some fishing, camping, and hiking. (Montana has some of the best fishing in the U.S.) Watch for more information in the next several newsletters. For registration information and exhibit forms go to www.amfed.org. ~A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 3/09 via AGMS Newsletter 4/09

AFMS/NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION
 JULY 30, 31 AUGUST 1, 2 2009

30,000 SQ FEET OF GEMS, JEWELRY, FOSSILS, & MINERALS

SEE THE MOON ROCK FROM NASA
 DINOSAURS * YOGO SAPPHIRES * CAVE BEAR

WHERE: HOLIDAY INN TRADE CENTER
 5500 MIDLAND ROAD
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HOURS: THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY - 10AM-6PM
 SUNDAY - 10AM-5PM

Tickets: \$5.00 Ea.
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 4 Day Pass \$15.00
 (Children under 12 free with adult)

Shop @ more than 35 Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Lapidary Dealers
 Demonstrations, Educational Displays
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 A full week of Field Trips after the show

For more information: email Doug True @ dougtrue@billings.afms.org Call (406) 675-0506
 ALSO CHECK OUT WEB: WWW.AFMS.ORG/NFMS-REGISTRATION-SHOW

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
APRIL 11-12 ABILENE, TX CENTRAL TEXAS GEM & MIN. SOC. Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine	APRIL 17-19 ALPINE, TX CHIHUAHUAH DESERT GEM & MIN. CLUB Highland Events Center, Hwy. 90 East	APRIL 25-26 WACO, TX WACO GEM & MIN. SOC. Heart O' Texas Fair Grounds	MAY 16-17 LUBBOCK, TX LUBBOCK GEM & MIN. SOC. Lubbock Civic Center
MAY 23-24 FORT WORTH, TX FORT WORTH GEM & MIN. SOC. Will Rogers Memorial Center	AUGUST 08-09 BATON ROUGE, LA BATON ROUGE G & M S Fraternal Order of Police	AUGUST 15-16 BOSSIER CITY, LA ARK-LA-TEX G & M S Bossier City Civic Center	AUGUST 22-23 JASPER, TX PINE COUNTRY G & M S VFW Hall,

STONEY STATEMENTS
 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc
 PO BOX 891533
 Houston, Texas 77289

(Postage)

Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month – 7:30 P.M.
 April 20, 2009, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 27 & 28, 2010
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web: (new location)
<http://www.clgms.org>



Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

PURPOSE: To promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields

2009 OFFICERS:	President	Ed Tindell	281-930-0698
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	Lesley Gary
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Troy Nordyke
		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2010.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Open	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2009: Adult \$10:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$2.50 per member with adult at same address, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289

Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2009 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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