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# QSA-5

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

April 2016

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### Presidents Corner

#### Roots

This last month I was fortunate to be able to visit Boston and learn a little about the history of our country. Also, while in Boston I was lucky enough to be able to schedule a trip to the American Radio Relay League headquarters in Newington, Connecticut to take a tour and operate W1AW. Both of these trips were quite a learning experience for me. Boston is, of course, the center of the beginnings of our country. I learned a lot about where our country came from, the people who helped shape it and the events that led up to where we are now.

Visiting the ARRL and W1AW, I learned a lot of the same kinds of things about the history of Amateur radio and the people instrumental to its development. I also met some of the current staff and leaders of the ARRL who are, and will be, helping to shape the future of our hobby. It was a wonderful experience, and if you ever get the chance to visit either place or both, I would encourage you to take advantage of it. I am already scheduling my next visit for April, 2019.

Unfortunately the early history of our club, where it came from, and how we got to where we are today, is not as well-documented. There may be more information than what I could find on our web site, but reading what is there, makes me wonder about the people who started our club. What their lives were like, what the club itself was like, and how this club came to be what it is today.

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### From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

#### Life Long Learning and Podcasts

Last month I discussed lifelong learning and ham radio. Most of us have a technical question about ham radio at some time or other. I emailed the "The Doctor is In" column in the QST magazine with a question in the past and had my question answered in the magazine. I enjoy reading the column in QST written by Joel Hallas, W1ZR, as I usually learn something new.

Well now you can listen to Joel Hallas and "The Doctor is In". DX Engineering is sponsoring a podcast called "ARRL The Doctor is In" that you can listen to on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. This biweekly podcast will include discussions of technical topics and is hosted by QST Editor in Chief, Steve Ford, WB8IMY. You can even email questions to [doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org) and they likely will answer them in a future podcast.

A quick primer about podcasts for those who have not listened to one. Essentially a podcast is a prerecorded audio program that is stored on the Internet and streamed/downloaded to your device. You can store the podcast on your device and listen to it anytime or you can listen to one while connected to a website on the Internet.

I use Apple iTunes to download and listen to the podcast. You can also listen while connected to the Internet by going to Stitcher, <https://www.stitcher.com/>. You will have to register to use this website, but it is free. Or you can use the Stitcher app for iOS on Apple phones, Kindle from Amazon, or Android devices/phones.

So here is another way to learn something new about ham radio and operating. The podcast archive is at [www.arrl.org/doctor](http://www.arrl.org/doctor).

**ARRL The Doctor is In  
Podcast**

Available on iTunes & Stitcher



www.DXEngineering.com

I am just the newest of the many presidents our club has had, and while I am trying to be a good club president, I would say that the real leaders of our club are the members. There are those among us who always step up and are always there, making the decisions, acting on what needs to be done every day, just like in the history of our country and in Amateur radio. Some are well known and some are not. This is likely how it always was and why we, as a club, are what we are today.

Our successes, and our failures come from us...ALL of us. We are a product of every member of the club, the active and the inactive, the old members and the new. We all have a voice, it just depends on whether, and how, we use it. There is a great deal to be learned from our history and our predecessors.

I have only been a member of MARS for a few years and a board member and club President for a only few months, so my knowledge of the club's history, and our path to this point, is very limited. Fortunately, I have members who help me out, mentoring me, giving me direction and support (making sure I don't screw up). They are the embodiment of our living history and though most of you don't realize it, you benefit from their knowledge of our past.

History is interesting and though we cannot change the past, we can learn from it to guide our future. All of us, together, get to decide where we go from here, and it's going to be fun! Please join me in creating a positive future as we set about writing club history for those to come.

73

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

## Guest Speakers 2016

5/6/2016 - Kenneth Finnegan W6KWF - Wildflower Triathlon

6/3/2016 - Edison Fong - Tri-band J-pole

8/5/2016 - David Messerschmitt - Interstellar Communication

## Club Member News

Club members are gathering at the clubhouse on Sunday mornings to work on radio equipment, as well as practice code. On a recent Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Alan, K6AJB, Marc, KF6VNT, and Jan, WB6SPX are poring over a schematic so they can diagnose and fix a Heathkit DX-60 tube-based rig. Mike, AI6II, and Francis, WA6TFP were also helping on that day to repair A Swan tube radio.

Club members with tube type radios can come down on Sundays to get help and advice from fellow hams that are repairing radios.



## What's Happening in Radio

### National Parks on the Air Update

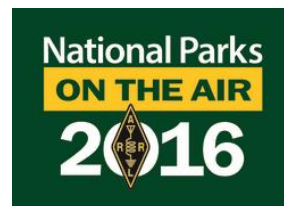
Thanks to the ARRL IT Department, there are now daily updates to the National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) activity statistics.

The new statistics are listed on the NPOTA Leader board page. There, you can find info on the number of parks activated, total number of NPOTA activations, and number of QSOs per NPOTA unit.

As of April 27<sup>th</sup> more than 294,000 NPOTA contacts had been confirmed in Logbook of the World, from nearly 4418 activations since January The California National Historic Trail has hosted 5268 QSOs, more than any other NPOTA unit.

Here are some of the upcoming activations for NPOTA. Give it a try and have some fun. All of the activations are listed here: <https://npota.arrrl.org/nps-events.php>

Name	Code	Call Sign	Start Date	End Date	Comments
Big Bend National Park	NP04	KE53L	2016-04-21 22:00:00	2016-05-01 02:00:00	20 and 40 meters PSK31
War in the Pacific National Historical Park	HP47	N69H/K0I2	2016-04-22 08:00:00	2016-05-02 12:00:00	I will use a Yaesu FT817ND (GR: SW out) powered by a UPS battery to a multiband dipole for 17, 20, 30, and 40 meters at 25 feet, local evenings only - approx 0800-1200Z. When QRV I will be logged into the SKCC chat page ( <a href="http://www.observersweb.com/skcc/index.php?board=skcc">http://www.observersweb.com/skcc/index.php?board=skcc</a> )
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail	TR12	N4T	2016-04-23 16:00:00	2016-04-30 22:00:00	Trail of Tears Commemorative Park Hopkinsville, KY. Primary date is 4/23/2016. Alternate date is 4/30/2016. Will have multiple operators. 10-40m based on conditions.
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	NP26	k9igng & k99ffz	2016-04-24 00:00:00	2016-05-01 00:00:00	2m, 6m, and 10m
Appalachian National Scenic Trail National Scenic Trail	TR01	k9igng & k99ffz	2016-04-24 00:00:00	2016-05-01 00:00:00	2m, 6m, and 10m
Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park	HP48	W1YRC	2016-04-24 13:00:00	2016-04-30 23:00:00	Mostly 40 and 20 SSB from 16:00 to 22:00 UTC.
Big Bend National Park	NP04	K2JPU/5	2016-04-24 15:00:00	2016-04-30 15:00:00	
Bandelier National Monument	MN06	N9S8B	2016-04-26 16:00:00	2016-04-27 20:00:00	I will be staying in the campground, weather permitting, and opening low power using a K3 and Buddipole. I will be on 20m. I will try to be on for 4 hours each day. Battery limitations.
Death Valley National Park	NP15	N6VV	2016-04-26 18:00:00	2016-04-28 18:00:00	Holiday operation from Furnace Creek. Mainly CW on 14044/7044. On Wed 27 Apr I will be hiking at Badwater Basin to the lowest point in North America (-282 feet) approximately 2 miles out in salt flats. Willey and I will be backpacking a QRP (100 Watt) station plus 20 meter elevated ground plane.
Kings National Wild and Scenic River National Wild and Scenic River	WR20	A661S	2016-04-26 22:00:00	2016-04-27 03:00:00	Short Day Trip in the mobile. Proposed schedule: UTC 2200-2300 14200-14285, 2300-2400 14200-14285, 0000-0100 7200-7285, 0100-0200 3805-3840, 0200-0300 1865-1957 or 3805-3840 depending on conditions and contacts. Please spot me when you find me as AG6IS NPOTA WR20



## Public Service Ridge to Bridge

The first public service event for MARS was Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the report filed by Michael Fischer. *ed.*

To all radio operators on today's first public event of our busy season, thank you, thank you.

Several of you went far beyond: Rob Rowlands for spending much of yesterday and today's pre-dawn hours installing portable digipeaters for our APRS tracking. To Isaac Bentley for installing a portable iGate at Cardiac, and for loaning four fancy Yaesu high-end APRS tracking radios. To our three radio-hikers, who spent a lot of shoe-leather and energy traipsing the trails along with the participants (Jim Greene, Jerry Kay, and Rob Rowlands.) To our first-time operators on a MARS event--you all did solid, professional jobs (Steve Ohr, Dale Komai, Sunita Dutt, Larry Bradley, Jan Leja, George Couch, and Isaac Bentley.) And, George: you were concise, direct, confident and extraordinarily skilled at net control: awesome, young man.

It was great, after a six-month hiatus, to be back in the field with good friends and skillful operators: Randy, Rita, Rob, Kris, son Steve, Doug, Dave, Skip, Brett, and Jerry. (Especially Randy and Rita, who got up at 2:30 this am, and who will get up again tomorrow at 3:30am for the Grizzly Peak Century!) I'm bummed that Don Engler torqued his back at the last minute yesterday afternoon--I look forward to its getting better so we can again hear his calm, sonorous voice and benefit from his decades of outdoor expertise in our Marin backcountry trails.

And, of course, it was great being out in the rest stops with old and new friends at the Ridge Trail Council; thanks, guys, for inviting us back. Keep up the great work of making it possible to explore the wilderness beauties of the ridges, mountains, forests, and valleys that surround us in the Bay Area.

Next weekend: the Miwok 100--see many of you there and then.

Cordially,  
Michael K6MLF



## On The Air

### Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 7 to 2359Z, May 8  
7th Call Area QSO Party, 1300Z, May 7 to 0700Z, May 8  
New England QSO Party, 2000Z, May 7 to 0500Z, May 8 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 8  
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest, 1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15  
CQ-M International DX Contest, 1200Z, May 14 to 1159Z, May 15  
EU PSK DX Contest, 1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22  
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 28 to 2359Z, May 29  
See complete list at:  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

### Museum Ships Weekend

Would you like to get your name on a certificate like this for 2016? If you have General privileges or above, just get in contact with Den Regan, CO of the NJ6VT Radio Club at [k6zju@yahoo.com](mailto:k6zju@yahoo.com); it'll be June 4-5 this year. Go to [www.maritime.org/tour](http://www.maritime.org/tour) for a virtual tour of the boat, including the cramped radio room. It's great fun working pileups as hams try to make contact with a real submarine, and as we try to contact as many other Museum Ships as we can.



## Tips for good communication practice

### Marin Amateur Radio Society

### Public Service Events

#### Operating tips:

1. Listen, listen, listen and learn from the tempo, protocol, and style of other operators. If possible, monitor another event prior to the event for which you are volunteering.
2. Think of what you are going to say before pressing PTT. Then keep it short; no rambling.
3. If it doesn't need saying, don't.
4. Keep your voice calm--even if you are not.
5. Press PTT, wait a second before saying anything.
6. Say the station you are calling first, then give your tactical call.
7. Use tactical calls, not your FCC callsign, until the closing.
8. No need to repeat the calls each time during a multi-exchange conversation.
9. Wait two counts before pressing PTT on each exchange (avoid tailgating in order to allow breakers.)
10. If you have urgent traffic, take advantage of those spaces to call "break-break;" then wait for net control to say, "Go ahead, breaker."
11. When finished with traffic in a conversation, then use your callsign in place of, or in addition to, "clear" or "out."
12. When you hear that final signoff, and you have been waiting to contact net control--that's your time to make a call. Do not interrupt a conversation in progress unless you have more urgent traffic.
13. Keep a paper log of your contacts with net control; s/he may later ask something like, "What time did the first sweep transit your rest stop?"
14. When reporting an injury, never use the name of an injured party in order to protect their privacy; use bib numbers or other descriptors.
15. In a controlled net, all traffic should go to (or through) net control; you may "go direct" to another rest stop only after receiving permission from net control to do so.
16. Use common English; avoid the use of "Q" codes.
17. Common "pro-words" are fine: "I say again," "I spell," "all after," "figures," "number-letter group," "roger," "correction," "go ahead," etc.
18. If using an HT: face the repeater input, hold the antenna vertical, don't move your head while transmitting. During initial checkin at the beginning of the event, check your copy with net control to find your best "hot spot."
19. Never turn your radio off, or volume down, to deal with a situation w/o telling net control that you will be away from the net and receiving permission to do so; check back in when you return to the net.
20. Make yourself known and available. Always introduce yourself to the rest stop captain (and medical crew if present) at the beginning of your shift; make a note of his/her/their name(s) for your after-action report.
21. Set up your position at the rest stop so that you can stay informed while staying out of the way. In many cases, this will be close to the rest stop captain or the medical crew. If that is not possible, or if the captain is a roamer, take a set of GMRS radios so that you and s/he are able to contact each other quickly.
22. At the same time, your operating position should be in a relatively quiet location, away from cheering crowds, rock bands, announcement speakers.
23. Make sure the captain knows to require the organization's sweepers to check in with you when they enter the rest stop, and to again check in with you when they depart the rest stop. You would report both times to net control.
24. If you are stationed at net control, there is to be total silence while the net control operator is passing traffic. Any chatting that might happen during a lull is to immediately cease.
25. Arrive at your duty assignment prepared to be self-supporting: food, water, sunscreen, a chair, warm clothing, extra batteries, etc.
26. An after-action report, together with photos, is part of your assignment; make notes to yourself during the event in preparation for your report.

## USS Pampanito



Our regularly scheduled Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) was underway around 1045 hours aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383, on Saturday, April 9th. Because of the weather, visitor traffic was light in the morning hours. It rained most of the day on Saturday, but visitor traffic did pick up some in late afternoon hours. Being that I was working alone, I had to devote most of my time talking with visitors aboard the boat and was not able to spend much time operating our station NJ6VT.

At 1100 hours, I contacted Ray, W6RAR, in San Jose to receive radio traffic for the Pampanito using the Big Rock Repeater, K6GWE, on 146.700 MHz. Ray relayed two historical radio messages from the 1945 log of the USS Pampanito. These two messages originated in Arizona and were originally sent by Mike Pulley, WB4ZKA. Thanks to Mike and Ray for taking the time to research and send these messages. The messages received aboard the USS Pampanito follow:

### MESSAGE #1

14 ROUTINE HXCF9 ZKA 21 PEARL HARBOR HI APRIL 4  
CAPT PAUL SUMMERS CO  
NJ6VT USS PAMPANITO SS383  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94133  
415 516 5310

OP NOTE DELIVER VIA 146R700 K6GWE REPEATER  
AT 1100L HOURS SATURDAY

### HISTORICAL RADIO EXERCISE 1945 LOG

RETURN TO PEARL HARBOR X  
REFUEL IN SAIPAN ENROUTE X  
TOUGH LUCK NO TARGETS THIS PATROL  
VADM LOCKWOOD  
COMSUBPAC

### MESSAGE #2

15 ROUTINE HXCF9 WB4ZKA 21 PEARL HARBOR HI APR 4  
CAPT PAUL SUMMERS CO  
NJ6VT  
USS PAMPANITO SS383  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 93122  
415 516 5310

### HISTORICAL RADIO EXERCISE 1945 LOG

REVISED ORDERS X  
ENROUTE PEARL JOIN BENNETTS SEA OWL SS405  
WOLF PACK TO PATROL WAKE COAST  
VADM LOCKWOOD  
COMSUBPAC

Thanks again to Mike, WB4ZKA, and Ray, W6RAR for handling the boat traffic. Also I thank Michael Fisher, K6MLF, for setting up the skeds.

NJ6VT was secured around 1645 hours. Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, May 14, 2016. Please let me know if you would like to help out.

73,  
Den Regan, K6ZJU  
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT  
USS Pampanito, SS-383

# General Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting  
Friday, April 01, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 hrs by President Tom Soskin.

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Twenty-four members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the March 04 General Membership Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin reported on the actions at the March 10 Board of Director's Meeting. The Board appointed a Field Day committee; Doug Slusher and Marc Bruvry. The Board also discussed participating on BSA JOTA, and discussed the tower stored in the back by EBARC. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 14. All are welcome.

There were four reports under "Fun with Ham Radio".

Mark Klein, KM6AWO was reported as a new member.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Club Station and Facilities:** No Report.

**Membership:** Membership Chairman Curtis Ardourel reported that we have 73 2016 members. He will prune the membership list in June.

**Education:** Instruction Team Leader Kris Backenstose reported on the meeting on March 20. Our next meeting will be on April 10, at 11:00, and is open to everyone.

**Technical / Repeaters:** Doug Slusher reported that the equipment for the remote receiver to be installed at building 402, was backordered. The Yaesu Digital Fusion repeater is ready to install on Mt. Tamalpais.

## **Other Reports:**

Secretary Jenkins reported on correspondence. There were bills.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present, and submitted no report for March.

**Public Service** – We have scheduled a training session for new public service volunteers for Saturday, April 02. Our first event is Ridge to Bridge on April 30.

**VE:** We have exam session scheduled on Sunday, May 15.

**Old business:** None

**New Business:**

A Field Day meeting with REDXA was scheduled for April 30.

We are looking at participating in BSA Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) on October 14, 15, & 16.

**Good of the Order:** Nothing offered.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:06 hrs.

Richard Dillman, W6AWO presented a program on Coast Station KPH History.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

Next General Meeting: May 06, 2016 Guest Speaker: Kenneth Finnegan, W6KWF – Wildflower Triathlon

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Rita Brenden, August Koehler, Howard Leistner, Marc Bruvry, Doug Slusher, Cal Anber, and Randy Jenkins. Members Curtis Ardourel, John Boyd, and Phil Dunlap were also in attendance. Ed Essick was reported as excused.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Soskin at 19:30 hours.

Changes to the Agenda were discussed. The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the March 10 Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published.

Tom made remarks under the President's Minute.

**Communications:** Randy reported on bills received, and reported them to the Treasurer by e-mail. Tom reported on emails received.

**Treasurer:** The 2015 Profit & Loss summary was attached to the Agenda. Dave was not present, and no one had a copy of his report.

**Technical / Repeaters-** The new Yeasu Fusion repeater is here and we will install it when the weather dries out, maybe 4/23.

**Membership:** Curtis Ardourel was in attendance, 2016 members were reported at 75, with 82% of last year's members renewing.

### Old Business:

RACES Drill Conflict – Resolved.

EBC Tower – Stored in the rear, outside. EBC is planning on disposing of the tower. Randy reported that there was some interest.

### New Business:

Two issues were assigned to Curtis Ardourel to take care of. First, eliminate the current space in call signs in the net roster listings. Second, annual change in July, in the password for access to members only pages on the website.

The Club Merchandise page on the website was approved to 'go live'.

Club Awards – Doug Slusher was assigned to get the plaques done. Doug will tell Tom how many gift certificates to get.

A request by the Marin Cyclists to use the clubhouse for monthly meetings was approved (first Thursday). A Certificate of Insurance will be required. Rob Rowlands will let them in.

Cal requested cash to get supplies for the clubhouse, and Field Day. There was a motion to advance Cal \$200.00 for supplies. Receipts will be turned in to Dave for replenishment. AKU/BBK/Pass

Curtis requested permission to contact one of his staff, who wants to begin writing grant applications. Approved in concept.

Good of the Order: Send condolences to Alan Best, who recently lost his wife.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2016

Agenda Items: Clubhouse Condition, Donations, Field Day Site

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:16 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporate Office.



**Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, membership@w6sg.net General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. From highway 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light. Stay right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines.

**Business/Board Meeting** meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday morning informal meeting** (aka bible class) meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting around 8am and runs to about 11am. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

**The Sunday Emergency nets.** The K6GWE emergency VHF net check-in is at 10:15 am on 147.700 (-pl 203.5). This is a directed net and the net control station may operate at the club house or at a member location. Members on the net check-in list that do not check in for three consecutive weeks are removed from the list until they reestablish check-in. Any member can sign up to act as the net control station. See the club website for signup instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Tom Soskin, W6MTS tomsoskin@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Kris Bakenstose, KK6AYC</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p><b>Treasure:</b> Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560</p> <p><b>Board Members</b> Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252 Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521 Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292 Howard Leistner, W2BBF Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715</p> <p><b>Other Positions:</b></p> <p><b>Education Chair</b> Randy Jenkins Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.</p> <p><b>VE Liaison</b> Randy Jenkins</p> <p><b>Building Co-Managers</b> Doug Slusher Dave Hodgson</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG</b> Augie Koehler K0CQL</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets</b> Mark Bruvry and other volunteers</p> <p><b>DX Representative of ARRL</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p>	<p><b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5</b> Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715 e.essick@comcast.net</p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Manager</b> Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p>
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