

# Long Path



Volume 20 Issue 5

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

February, 2003



## Presidents Report

Greetings Fellow *SEMDXA* Members!

As most of you know our Program Director had a senior moment last month and forgot the DVD for the **VP8GEO** DX-pedition. I think we need to fire the guy. But thanks to George, **LZ4GU**, and quick thinking on the part our President, the evening was saved.

George is now an Honorary Member and gave a very nice presentation despite being put under the gun so to speak. George made mention that he is retired from the military and is working diligently now on becoming an American citizen. I would like to say good luck to George and we hope you get your license soon and become part of the chase.

This month we had planned on a presentation by **K8DD** and **AC8W** on their **VC2C** DX-pedition to Zone #2 in Canada. Unfortunately Stan is going to be on vacation so the presentation will be put on hold till a later date. This month we will have the **VP8GEO** video which I have seen and I am sure you will enjoy. I assure you our Program Director will bring it as I have threatened him with dismissal.

Before I close I would like to mention that the Flag antenna I put so much time

on last summer is finally paying off. I am still trying to improve on it but as of this evening I have worked eight new countries on 160 of which I had to use the Flag on seven of them. My noise level here on 160 Meters using the Gladiator vertical is typically over S9. When I switch to the vertical I have absolutely no noise and most signals are in the neighborhood of S5 to S7 and would normally be buried. I have spoken with **W8JI** and he sent me a different transformer which I plan on trying soon to see if it will improve the performance at all. It is cheap to build and worth the effort.

So 'till February 14, I wish you best of 73 and good DX.

**K8SIX**  
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## January Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-six members and guests present.

We welcome new member **K8ZE**.

Minutes of the November meeting printed in the *Long Path*.

**WA5PAE** has been appointed to the DXAC by the new Great Lakes Division Director Jim, **K8JE**. Our own **K8NA** served on the committee over ten years. Thanks Ted!

President **K8SIX** announced that a substitute program had been arranged due to technical difficulties with the DVD...

Our special guest was George, **LZ4GU**, who has been living and working in Madison Heights for almost three years. He started his Ham career about twenty-one years ago and retired from twenty years in the Bulgarian military with a pension of about \$65.00 per month.

When he first got his license he had to have two years as an SWL before being able to get a ticket that allowed him to transmit. Many Hams operate from club stations such as **LZ1KAZ**

## SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

*President:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Vice-president:* John Millet, **K8JM**

*Treasurer:* Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**

*Secretary:* Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

*Director:* Ted Pauck, **K8NA**

*Web Site Editor:* Ken Schang, **W8LU**

*DXCC Checker:* Bill Jones, **N8KF**

*DXCC Checker:* S.Arnett, **AC8W**

*VUCC Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*CQ Checker:* Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

*CQ Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Program Chairman:* Vacant

*LP Publisher:* Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

Southern Bulgaria or **LZ2KAF** in the northern part of the country .

There are several classes of license in Bulgaria...class C & D operates SSB and class A & B can operate using CW. One interesting aspect is that Hams must re-test every few years to stay current! He said there is a 22% tax on radio equipment and a \$5 annual fee to use the equipment. Antennas and antenna restrictions are no problem...once you get your ticket. Power output is one KW for class A (first class) and 500 W for second class stations.

George told us that you can tell the location of Bulgarian Hams by the number in their call. LZ1, 3, 5 and 7 are in the north, and 2, 4, 6, 8 in the south.

**LZ4GU** speaks Bulgarian, Russian, Czech and, as he said, a bit of English. Thanks for a very interesting glimpse, George.

Stan, **AC8W**, announced that he, Hank, **K8DD**, Trish, **KA8AMX**, and Kathie (Hank's XYL) will be on St. Kitts, V4 from February 11 thru 20, with a small effort in the ARRL CW test. Calls not known yet. Please look for them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**AC8W**, Secretary



## DX Prospects

Several interesting DX-peditions are scheduled for the immediate future. The **AH3D** team which includes Bernie, **W3UR**; Martti, **OH2BH** and John, **K1ER** will be operating from KH3, Johnson Island beginning around January 27 through February 4, 2003. The plan is to concentrate on Europe, low bands, RTTY, Six Meters and the WARC bands. The EPA recently approved a plan to close the Johnson Island Chemical Weapons disposal site permanently. Likely, Johnson Island will be placed under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the future. This has consequences for DXers because future operations will be surely curtailed. Also, the Club Station **KJ6BZ** will be permanently closed.....

CW frequencies include: 1827.5, 3506, 7006, 10106, 14024, 18075, 21024, 24895, 28024 and 50105. SSB frequencies: 3795, 7082, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945, 28495 and 50105. RTTY frequencies include 14085 and 21085.

QSL this operation only via: OH2BH, 2003 Johnson Atoll DXpedition, PO Box 73, 02380 Espoo, Finland.

Good luck!

The Sudan is one of those DXCC Entities that is fairly rare. Two operations are in the works. One is current (**ST2X**) and one is planned for the mid weeks of March by a group of German operators. Gerben, **ST2X** has been QRV on 10, 15 and 20 and is planning antennas for 40

and 80 meters. QSL **ST2X** via **PA5NT**. The German operation noted above will be QRV on the higher bands around March 18 through April 2.

Solar Flux Indices are slipping rapidly. This is having a very noticeable effect on propagation on the higher bands. 10, 15 and 20 meters are nearly devoid of DX signals soon after sunset in our area. Six Meter F2 Layer propagation is probably gone for the duration of Cycle 23. One year ago, Solar Flux was in the 220 range and now has dipped to 120 or so. Those incredible Six Meter signals from all points of the compass are merely memories. It was great fun but just one of those things!

## W1CW SK

Robert White, **W1CW** -ex **W1WPO** joined the Silent Key ranks recently. Bob managed the DXCC program for 24 years before retiring in 1976. Besides being an ARRL life member, he was active FOC member and CQ Hall of Fame Member. He was first licensed in 1938 and served as a US Naval radio operator during WWII.

Other recent Silent Keys include Dxeders **W2AGW**, **JA1CMS** and **KL7Y**.

Additional current DXpedition operations include an all bander 10/160 **XY2A** by **JA2EZD** and **T31MY** (Canton Island) by Mike, **KM9D**. V2A (Antigua) will be QRV with the efforts of the Florida DXpedition group beginning February 17th. Operators include **W4WX** and **W1LR**. Traditional DX bands as well as WARC band activity is planned. Probable modes include RTTY, PSK31 and SSB.

## CQWW and VC2C

Last year at a *SEMDXA* meeting in Troy, MI, north of Detroit, Bob **VA3RD** had some pictures of a group of VE3's who had been going to Lac Ouescapis for CQWW SSB for the past four or five years, operating out of vans, tents and trailers. Bob indicated that for 2002 they were going to a logging camp with buildings, heat, food and no outhouses. I debated long and hard on the thought of going back to Zone 2 and being warm (all of 30 seconds) and said "if there's room, sign me on!". Stan, **AC8W**, agreed that it would be a cool place to go - more on "cool" later!

The projected line-up was Bob **VA3RD** and Don **VA3ZV** on 160M. 75M was Carl **VE3BY**, his wife Kim **VE3DXE** and Kevin **VE3KJS**. On 40M, Bob **VE3SRE**, Sam **VE3XAP** & Paul **G3SXE**. The 20M station for the past 4 years Karel **VA3KO**, John **VE3TV** & Manfred **VE3RMF** and the 15M station by Dennis **NB1B**, Chet **N8RA** & Ted **VA3TSG**. The 10M station didn't have any one volunteering for it for 2002. I made the mistake of asking what they expected from a 10M station and the next thing I knew the web page showed Stan and me, along with James **VE3TPZ**, as the 10M station!

Canada does not issue "contest calls", but like the US, they issue "special event calls". For the Centennial Celebration of the Pacific Submarine Cable between Australia and Canada, Industry Canada issued the special event call sign **VC2C**. Industry Canada approved the Team Zone 2 request for a propagation study on 60 meters for the week before the contest. It was great to be able to be a part of history and operate 60M and talk to stations in the British Isles direct on 60M and then cross band to stations in Canada and the US.

Leaving on Sunday and spending the night at **VE3BY**'s, we arrived late Monday night. Tuesday, Wednesday and part of Thursday were spent putting up antennas and setting up the stations in cool weather - cool being anywhere from 28 to 34 degrees F.

Antennas and equipment as follows: 160M, 102' shunt fed vertical with raised radials and a Kenwood TS-850; 80M, ViewStar PT1500 4-square with about 50 radials per vertical and a Icom IC-756Pro; 40M, 4-square with about 5 radials on the ground and a FT1000D with a Henry 4K amplifier. 20M, 3 element Yagi @ 40' and a Kenwood TS-870 with a Dentron Clipperton L A Amplifier; 15M, 4 element Yagi @ 40' and a Yaesu FT-1000MP with an Ameritron AL-1500 Amplifier; 10M, 5 element Yagi @ 50' and a Icom 746 with a Dentron MLA-2500 amplifier. 10M, 2 element 10M mini quad @ 30' and a Elecraft K2/100 Radio World (Toronto) and a Icom-Canada donated IC-756Pro, IC756ProII, IC-746Pro, Icom PW-1, several MFJ radio interfaces and Icom CT-17's. We tried the MFJ interface on the 80M IC-756Pro, but ended up using an Icom CT-17 for reliability! 160M tried an IC-756ProII but went back to their TS-850. On 10M we tried the IC-746Pro but went back to the IC-746.

Friday the A index went way up and the K index was high! On the high bands you could tell when we hit the packet cluster - the rate would jump up by 100 or more. The highest rate I saw was over 700 for the last and past 10 QSO's, but it didn't last long enough! The raw, not quite final, totals look like this:

| Band         | QSOs        | Zones      | Countries  |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 160          | 309         | 5          | 5          |
| 80           | 545         | 13         | 28         |
| 40           | 878         | 18         | 51         |
| 20           | 2091        | 33         | 108        |
| 15           | 2562        | 36         | 144        |
| 10           | 1834        | 31         | 122        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>8219</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>458</b> |

### Claimed Score 10,900,494

Monday morning saw a rapid tear down and we convoyed home to our various destinations. There was decent food, indoor plumbing, showers, warm place to sleep, a heated operating building and even a washer and dryer and with the current exchange rate, it was a moderately priced trip....even if it was SSB and 880 miles from Port Huron.

### K8DD

# SEMDXA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

## South Eastern Michigan DX Association (SEMDXA)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application for new membership \_\_\_\_\_ or Application for renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Full membership \_\_\_\_\_ or Associate membership \_\_\_\_\_ (check one) Dues: \$15.00 annually

(See SEMDXA website for membership requirements)

Present Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

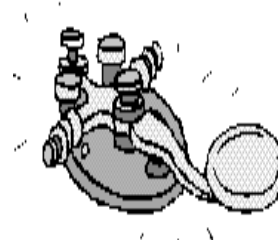
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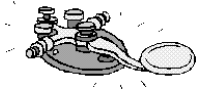
***MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA***

***Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:***

***Leon Switzer, Treasurer  
427 Jeffrey Avenue  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073***

***NOTE: TO RECEIVE THE CLUB NEWSLETTER "THE LONG PATH" YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!***





# February 2003

## SEMDXA Monthly Planner



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                                                                      | Tuesday                                                                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                          | Thursday         | Friday                                                                                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                                                                              |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>January</caption> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>March</caption> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                                                                                                              | S                                                                                                                                                     | M | T | W | T | F | S |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  |  | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>10-10 SSB Test<br/>Classic Exchange<br/>SSB/CW<br/>QSO Parties: VT,<br/>NH, MN, DE<br/>XE RTTY Test</p> |
| S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | M                                                                                                                           | T                                                                                                                                  | W                                                                                                                                                                                  | T                | F                                                                                                                                                            | S                                                                                                                                                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
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| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 10                                                                                                                          | 11                                                                                                                                 | 12                                                                                                                                                                                 | 13               | 14                                                                                                                                                           | 15                                                                                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 17                                                                                                                          | 18                                                                                                                                 | 19                                                                                                                                                                                 | 20               | 21                                                                                                                                                           | 22                                                                                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 24                                                                                                                          | 25                                                                                                                                 | 26                                                                                                                                                                                 | 27               | 28                                                                                                                                                           | 29                                                                                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 31                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Classic Exchange<br/>CW/Phone</p>  <p>Groundhog Day<br/>NA Sprint<br/>Sparton Sprint</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>3</b></p>                                                                                                             | <p><b>4</b></p>  <p>W1AW Qualify-<br/>ing Run</p> | <p><b>5</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>7</b></p>                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Asia Sprint CW<br/>FISTS CW Sprint<br/>OMISS QSO SSB<br/>Party<br/>RSGB 160M Test<br/>Winter 6M Test</p>                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>9</b></p> <p>NA Sprint CW<br/>QRP ARCI SSB<br/>Sprint</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>10</b></p>                                                                                                            | <p><b>11</b></p>                                                                                                                   | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>K6YR West<br/>Coast Qualify-<br/>ing Run</p>  <p>Lincoln's<br/>Birthday</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> | <p><b>14</b></p>  <p>SEMDXA<br/>Meeting<br/>St. Valentine's<br/>Day</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>ARRL DX CW<br/>Test<br/>YL QSO CW<br/>Party</p>                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>16</b></p>  <p>Full Moon</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>17</b></p>  <p>President's Day</p> | <p><b>18</b></p>                                                                                                                   | <p><b>19</b></p>  <p>W1AW Qualify-<br/>ing Run</p>                                              | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>21</b></p>                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Argentina Key<br/>Day<br/>CQ WW 160M<br/>SSB Test<br/>CQC QSO Party<br/>FYBO QRP CW<br/>Test<br/>REF SSB Test<br/>UBA CW Test</p> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Iwo Jima Flag<br/>Raising<br/>NC QSO Party</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>24</b></p>                                                                                                            | <p><b>25</b></p>                                                                                                                   | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>27</b></p> | <p><b>28</b></p>  <p>JMF Birthday</p>                                   |                                                                                                                                                       |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                            |