



February

2015

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Shamrock Overload: Club Dance

Sunday March 15, 2015

2:30 to 5:00 pm

The 519 Community Centre

CALLER: JOE UEBELACKER

LEVELS: All-level dancing.

Join us at the 519 and rock your

Shamrock-ness!

Go all-out and go **GREEN!**

Start time is 2:30 p.m sharp!
So we'll be dancing for 2.5 hours.
More dancing = more fun!

FIRST-YEAR DANCERS:

You are encouraged to attend,
for a day of great dancing!

COST: \$5.00 members, \$7.00 non-members.

No charge for non-dancing partners.

Get your tickets from Steve/Paul

MAPLE LEAFS REGROUP



T O R O N T O 2 0 1 6

Etiquette Tip # 6

KICK-OFF MEETING: Thank you to the 30 people who attended the Toronto 2016 Kick-Off Meeting on February 1st. If you weren't able to come, you can download a copy of the [handout](#).

PROMO KIT: If you are planning to attend a Fly-In or other dance event, please contact [Terri](#), *one-two weeks in advance*, to obtain a **Promo Kit**. It has Toronto 2016 teaser cards, flyers/registration forms, and an Info Sheet.

VOLUNTEERS: If you don't yet have one, please download the [special registration form](#) to pay the **Volunteer Rate of US\$160**. This is a significant discount from the current registration rate available to the general public of US\$210. The volunteer rate is good only until June 1, 2015. To discuss volunteer opportunities or to obtain the Canadian equivalent rate, contact the [planning committee](#).

Feel free to contact us for more information: info@toronto2016.com. Let's all work together on this great [convention](#)!

Once in a square, under no circumstances abandon it!

Your ability, or that of your fellow dancers, is no excuse. We all start at the same level and the only way to get better is to dance. An exception is a medical emergency or if someone is injured; of course you should use common sense. There is an accepted "emergency call for medical assistance": members in a square should surround the ill or injured person with uplifted arms to notify the caller or other persons in charge.





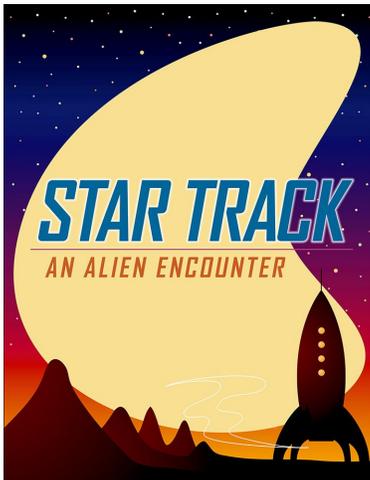
Going to your first IAGSDC Convention?

All Join Hands Canada will subsidize your convention fee so that you only pay \$165. If you haven't registered yet, just pay \$165 and let the convention committee (swingmeinstlouis2015@gmail.com) know that you're a first-timer. If you've already registered, please forward a copy of your e-receipt, showing what you paid, to Pam Clasper (pam@clasper.ca) and we'll refund the difference. Please ask a club officer to send me a note confirming that this will be your first convention.

Hope to see you there!

Pam Clasper

Billeting for STAR TRACK: An Alien Encounter



Would you be willing to open your home to an out-of-town visitor?

In order to encourage and enable out-of-towners to attend our Fly-In, we would ask that you put your name forward for billeting.

If you are willing to help host, please fill in the [Host form](#) and submit to Paul/Steve M or send a note to satb@trianglesquares.com.

We are also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the billeting!

Thanks in advance!

Do you have trouble hearing the caller due to other noise in the room, a dead spot where the caller cannot be heard clearly, or are distracted by the music? You do not have to have a hearing impairment to take advantage of The Hearing Assist System.

Test drive the Hearing Assist System by bringing your own ear buds. Let us know and we will make arrangements to have the system brought to your class.

And if you would like to have a system set up weekly in your class, please get in touch with Peter.

After you have tried it out and if you are thinking of purchasing a receiver, let us know and we will do a bulk order !

Hearing-assist system now available

By Susan Cox

The club now owns a hearing-assist system, along with two receivers. For those who have never seen or used these systems, here's how they work.

The low-frequency FM transmitter is attached to the caller's sound equipment and is set to broadcast at a specific frequency. Receivers are set to match that frequency. What is being broadcast is only the caller's voice. The result is that you'll always hear the caller clearly, via your earpiece, but you'll still be able to enjoy the ambient music. In noisy halls, the extra bit of clarity is a distinct advantage. And even if you're at the very back of a huge hall, you'll never miss what the caller is saying.

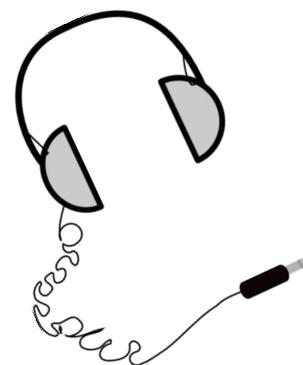
Dancers can use the receiver in one of two ways. They can attach their own earphones or earbuds (this is just a matter of personal preference), or, if they use hearing aids, they can purchase an induction loop and attach that to the receiver. Experience has shown that for most people who aren't using hearing aids, it's best to have an earpiece in only one ear, so that it's still possible to hear what's going on nearby and in the square. Receivers are usually carried in a pouch (on a belt), or, if they're small enough, they can be stored in a pocket.

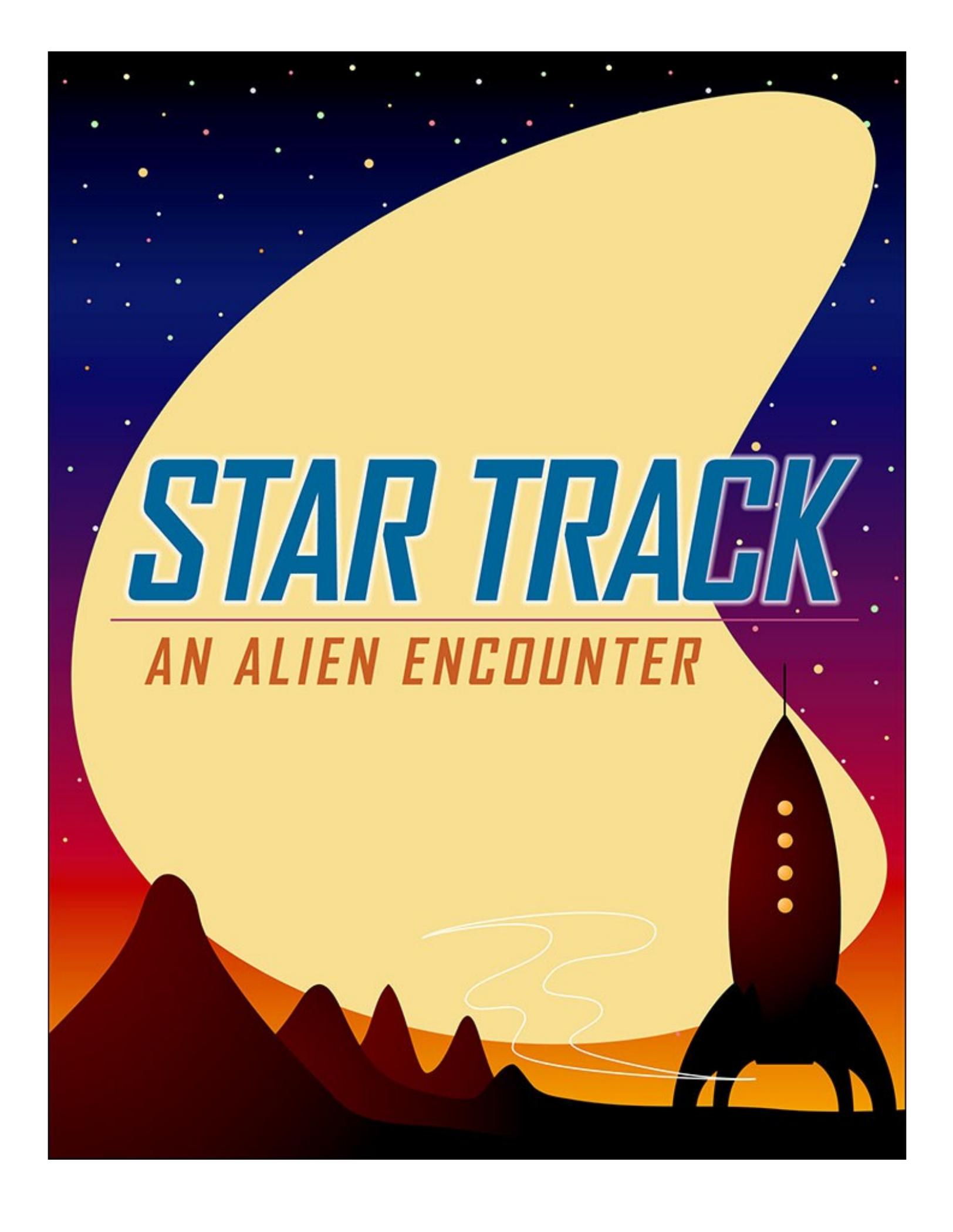
Transmitters are frequently used at conventions and fly-ins (although not always). Each transmitter is set to a unique frequency. When you arrive in a hall, you check the caller's table for info on the frequency being used, and then set your receiver to that number. This takes only a few moments.

Our club's equipment can be set up where needed. The transmitter is small, lightweight, and extremely easy to transport and set up. The receivers are testers, intended for try-outs, so that dancers can find out what it's like to use a hearing-assist system. If you try it and like it, you will need to purchase your own receiver.

To purchase, you have two options. You can buy the special receiver, or you might prefer to go for a portable radio that can receive low-frequency FM signals. Regular radios do not receive low-frequency FM signals, unfortunately, so you'll have to buy one that does. These radios are available on Amazon for around \$50. They're cheaper than the receivers, which usually cost around \$80 to \$100, so you'll save some money, but the radios are bulkier and heavier, and you'll need a pouch to hold one on your belt. They definitely do not feel comfortable when they're kept in a pocket! The main advantage of the receivers is their very small size, which is about the same as that of a cellphone.

I have tested receivers and radios at several events now, including our fly-in. Even though I have no hearing impairment, I really enjoy using a receiver, particularly when I'm in a big (and noisy) hall. I never have to strain to hear the caller, and I never miss a call. In fact, there have been a few occasions when I was the ONLY dancer in my square who knew what the caller had said! Having that extra bit of clarity is nice, because it allows me to relax and concentrate on the dancing.





STAR TRACK

AN ALIEN ENCOUNTER

Be An Intergalactic Ambassador!

Download a registration form and spread the word!

Full Weekend Registration

Sessional Registration



Triangle Squares presents

STAR TRACK: AN ALIEN ENCOUNTER

Toronto: October 16-18, 2015
Free Trail-In Dance October 15, 2015

Featuring Callers: Don Moger and Dave Hutchinson

Last Name	First Name
Last Name	First Name
City	Province/State
Phone number	
E-mail	
Club Affiliation	Dance Level
Pricing: Before Aug 1, 2015 \$90.00 After Aug 1, 2015 \$100.00	Total Amount:
Make cheque payable to: Scoot Across the Border	CASH CHEQUE CREDIT
Mail to: 2015 Fly-In c/o Steven McKeown 1-98 Follis Avenue, Toronto ON CANADA M6G 1S6	

NOTE: If paying by credit card, submit your registration and you will be emailed an electronic invoice with instructions to pay on a secure server.

EMAIL: SATB@TRIANGLESQUARES.COM

WEBSITE: <http://trianglesquares.com/pages/fly-in>

Square Up! The History and Social Milieu of Square Dance in Ontario

by Niall O'Reilly, [@scoot_n_swing](#)

[Triangle Squares](#) is a member club of the [IAGSDC](#), which is largely an urban phenomenon. Other Canadian member clubs are in Ottawa and Vancouver, and members from our club attend neighbouring Fly-Ins, including those in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Philadelphia. Triangle Squares is also a member of the [Toronto and District Square and Round Dance Association](#) (T & D), which plugs us into another large and active community.

Square dance is part of the oldest strata of Ontario culture. Any older and you're dancing [fancy feather](#). Lady Simcoe danced almost every night she was in Quebec City, Fort York, and Niagara, and was never out of crinolines (I know the type). The earliest settlers brought the precursors of square dance to Ontario with them, and many are still danced, including Scottish Ceilidh, Irish Set Dancing, English Country, and Contra Dance. The granddaddy of them all is French Quadrilles, which are occasionally danced at Grant Logan's [Mainly Contra group](#) on alternate Sundays.

Square dance proper was developed by colonial settlers as North-America's first folk dance, and came to Ontario with the first Empire Loyalists. You couldn't raise a barn without homebrew, a fiddler and a barn dance. That form of dancing, which is still danced today, is called Old Time square dancing. It is easier to learn and doesn't require lessons. Hannah Naiman runs a group called [Hogtown Hoedown](#), which features live music, on Fridays at the Dovercourt House. This group is very lively and prospering, and mirrors the newly flourishing Appalachian Revival scene in the U.S. Old time dances are marked by simple patterns that can be taught with one walk-through. The pattern usually repeats for each couple in turn (hence Couple 1, etc.). [Bill Hands](#) also runs a very traditional group in Etobicoke, and the [Canadian Olde Tyme Square Dance Callers' Association](#) annual dances (Spring and Fall) are still well attended. For a deep drink from the well of Ontario culture, try attending a [Fiddle Jamboree](#).

Old Time is also a feature at the University of Guelph and the 4-H clubs, which attracts young people in their teens and twenties, who can be seen competing at the Royal Winter Fair. Old Time clubs are still scattered across Ontario's rural belt from the Haliburton Highlands, through Muskoka and around

Guelph. My aunt grew up in the Muskoka Lakes area, where radio signals were slow to come. Saturday nights, you were either asleep with the cows, or dancing in someone's barn. The fiddler was king. Old Time has the advantage of being easy to learn, with live music, but it is ultimately repetitive.

Eventually, most square dancers are looking for more variety, and Modern Square is where you go. Modern square dancing developed from the post-war researches of [Dr. Lloyd Shaw](#), who collected and catalogued dances from across the U.S. Following his work, Callerlab was established in 1974 to standardise the calls, and establish a common curriculum, so dancers from different regions could dance together. This led to our modern programmes of Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, and Challenge.



Hogtown Hoedown with Hannah Naiman calling. Recognize any club members?

There are approximately 100 modern square-dance clubs in the [Ontario Square and Round Dance Federation](#), including many in the GTA and neighbouring environs. Waterdown, Guelph, Newmarket, Etobicoke, Willowdale, Oshawa, Peterborough, and Kingston all have [invitational dances](#), often in the spring when the new dancers have become proficient enough to dance with confidence.

In addition to calling for Triangle Squares, Joe Uebelacker is the caller for several clubs, including the

Square Up! Square Dance in Ontario (Continued)

Peterborough Lift Lock Squares, which is Ontario's largest club. They host one of the biggest events in Ontario, the [Spring Spree](#), which features Joe and popular callers such as Don Moger from Montreal. In addition, there are at least eight clubs in the Ottawa vicinity. Summer brings a whole season of [Camporees](#), the largest being in Blyth on the August long weekend (Terri and I stay at a B&B). Another large and popular event in August is [Summer Magic](#) in Cornwall, established by Don, a challenging caller.

If anyone is shy about going to these events, please don't be. Dancing without the gay styling comes back quickly, and many regions of Ontario have their own distinctive flourishes, which are fun to observe. Singles will almost always find a few other singles to dance with (Emma looks for the caller's wife). Single men (follow and lead) will also gain quick acceptance. Our club shirts are very recognizable, and many good dancers have blazed the trail before us. The [Ottawa Date Squares](#) consists of almost entirely men. Their trick is simply to square up on the dance floor and wait for people to join in. Someone always does. Dancing with other clubs triggers reciprocation, leading to dancers from neighbouring clubs often coming to Triangle Squares' club dances and [Fly-Ins](#), while others come down to learn C1.

I try to keep up with, and document, this social milieu, which

includes posting on both [Twitter](#) and [Flickr](#).

A funny thing about dancing: you quickly feel like you've danced with half the province, and you sometimes find yourself looking quizzically at someone on the subway, who's looking quizzically back at you, wondering where you've seen them before. Spread the word and bring friends. Things can't be all bad if you're dancing.



Ottawa Date Squares at the Mississippi Squares' Halfway Dance in Carleton Place,

Ever thought about becoming a caller?



Just before the annual IAGSDC Convention, the GCA runs a Caller School. This year the coach will be Betsy Gotta, a CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach. All Join Hands Canada sponsors Canadians who attend the school so that your fee will be only \$75. For all information, and to register, go to the GCA website: gaycallers.org

Pam Clasper

President, All Join Hands Canada

Upcoming Fly-Ins and Dances

- Triangle Squares **Shamrock Overload Dance**, Sunday, March 15, 2015, 2:30 to 5:00 pm, Caller Joe Uebelacker, Location: The 519 Community Centre - All Class Levels Welcome
- **Other Upcoming 2015 Club Dances:**
* April 12th Spring Dance * May 10th May Dance ***Stay Tuned for further details
- **Promenade The River**, April 17th-19th, 2015 Grand Rapids Michigan, Anne Uebelacker & Aaron Wells
- **Swing Me In St. Louis**, IAGSDC Convention, May 22-25th, 2015. St Louis, Missouri
- **Kingston Magic**, May 22-23rd, 2015, Don Moger, A2 with C1 tips
- Click **here** for other upcoming IAGSDC Events

Contact Us

Do you have anything you wish to share with the club?

If you want to write an article for the newsletter, advertise your community event, or share ideas on how to get the word out about square dancing and our club, please feel free to contact us at:

Newsletter

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Special thanks to Pam Clasper, Terri Rothman, Niall O'Reilly and Susan Cox for their contributions to the newsletter

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