



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 9: ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2007



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donald A. Bajger, The Iceman.

Well, as the hunting seasons are winding down I hope everyone has had a successful season. The geese are still flying at the farm, and the deer are moving about for the late season hunters. Our pheasant program is only stocking the club and pig farm at this time as our supply of birds is low. We are now attempting to serve lunch specials at the bar on weekends in an attempt to increase camaraderie and the status of our general fund. In order to make this program work your support will be needed.

On another note, the Executive Board meets at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month. Please feel free to address these meetings with your ideas or concerns. I would like to remind all members that our Christmas Eve party is from 1:00 to 6:00 pm on Dec 24th, and the New Year's Eve party is from 6:00 pm till? on Dec 31st. There will be a sign-up sheet at the bar for both parties (bring your favorite dish). On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to thank everyone for helping the Fin, Fur and Feather Club to have another successful year and wish all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 8	Membership Meeting
Jan 12	Setback Night
Jan 15	Newsletter Article Deadline
Jan 20	Game Dinner
Jan 25	Spaghetti Dinner and Fishing with Alaska's Bears
Feb 12	Membership Meeting
Feb 15 – 17	Connecticut Hunting and Fishing Expo FFF Booth
March 11	Membership Meeting
March 16	Children's Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 8	Membership Meeting

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Please note that the deadlines for material to be submitted for the next newsletters will be March 10th and June 10th. Thank you very much for any and all written submissions and photographs.

SLOW DOWN!!

The Club is a great resource and we recognize that members are generally anxious to use the many facilities that we support. However, folks are driving too fast and often going wide as they turn into the Club's driveway from Chewink Road. The posted speed limit is 15 mph and we should drive well below that. Remember that members, their families and their dogs may be walking along the drive. Please practice safe driving and slow down.



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BAR SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

This is a very important reminder.

Members cannot be served at the bar unless they present their membership card to the bartender – this is a state regulation. In the event that a member forgets their card and still wishes to purchase beverages, they must sign their name in the bar book/log. Please abide by these requirements to help our bartenders and to ensure that the Club will not be fined by the state liquor commission.

MEMBERSHIP - 2008 MEMBERSHIP INVOICES

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Membership Chairman.

By now you should have received your 2008 invoice. Payment is due by Jan 31st. Please update any information on the invoice that is incorrect and send it to me. If you feel that you were billed for work hours, when in fact did work a function or an event, please indicate this on your return invoice and specify the activities that you helped with. Any "short pays" on your invoice must be accompanied by a note explaining the short pay. This helps the bartender and me rectify why the invoice is not being paid in full. If you are claiming a hardship, please contact me before the Jan 31st deadline – a payment schedule can be arranged. Please note that in a couple of previous years, members were awarded their 10 hrs if they brought a new member into the club. However, this has not been in effect since 2006. Some members are under the assumption that this is on-going policy, but that is not the case. The following Table provides a summary of our membership by category for the years 2001-2007.

	MEMBERSHIP				
	Regular	Associate	Junior	Life	Total
2001	382	10	11	80	483
2002	477	25	15	83	600
2003	426	39	16	88	569
2004	393	42	17	90	542
2005	396	40	22	94	552
2006	413	46	24	94	577
2007	407	56	27	98	588

NEW OFFICER TEAM

As a result of the vote that occurred at the October membership meeting, the following officer team was approved. President, Donald Bajger; Vice-President, Bob Hruskocy; Secretary, Dick Palmer; Treasurer, Tom Hoagland. As past president, Steve Davis was automatically elected to the Board of Directors and will be joined there by David Fromerth, Jim Gifford, Keith Moorehouse, Tom O'Neill, John Postemski, and Bill Spears. Michael Sobol Jr was elected Alternate Director. Congratulations!

CHECK THE CLUBHOUSE BULLETIN BOARD & POSTINGS

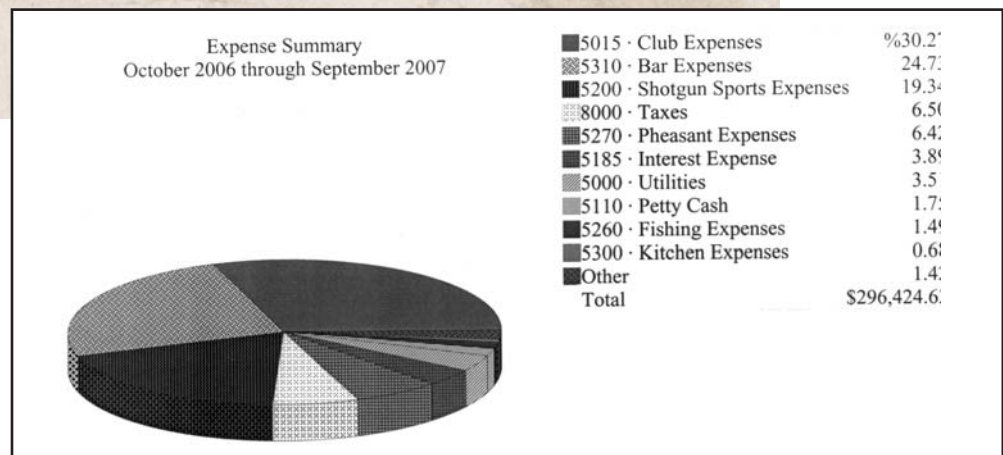
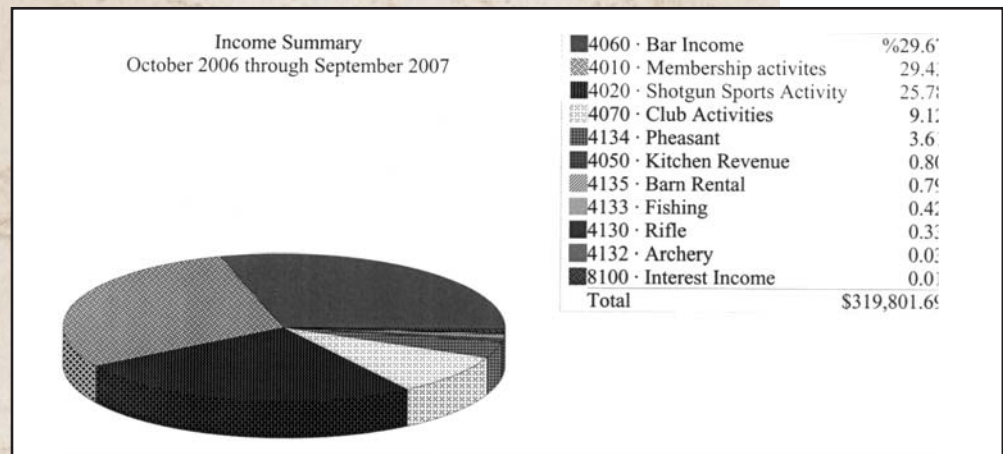
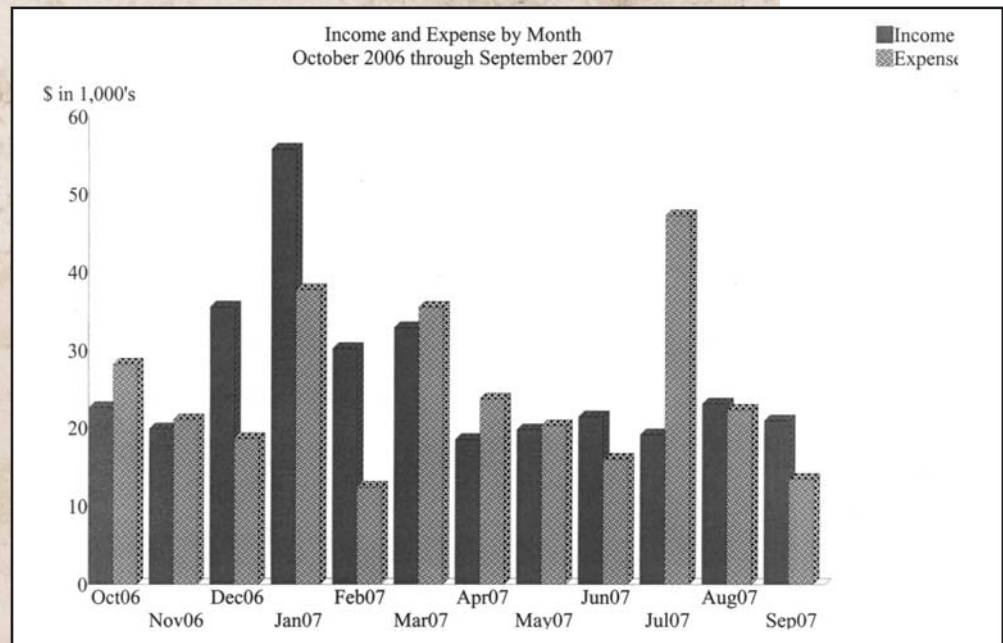
Dick Palmer

Everyone is reminded that monthly events are posted on the Cub's web site, so those that can visit the web site to check on what's happening. Activities are updated on a regular basis so be sure to check in.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

As of December 6th the tax return for our club has been completed. We ended up with a taxable income of \$14,000 and owe \$2,139 in federal and \$326 state taxes. The Fin is like a small business in terms of the income and expenses and I do my best to make sure that all members see the sources of revenues and expenses. I have included some charts below that you may find of interest. Club expenses, bar expenses and shotgun sports comprised 74 % of our total expenses. The top three categories in terms of income were bar income, membership activities, and shotgun sports and these accounted for 75% of all income. Please note that the second biggest category for income has no expenses, i.e., our club operates from our dues and assessments. The second thing I would like everyone to see is that the total income was \$319,801.69 and total expenses, \$296,424.63. There is a lot of money coming and going at our club. We are always in need of ideas for money making activities. We have nice facilities and they can be put to good work for both fun functions and income generation. Please become involved and try to earn some money for our club.



SIGN OUT YOUR FISH

A recent summary of our fish program revealed that a large number of fish are unaccounted for (i.e., the number recorded as being harvested is low relative to the number of fish stocked). Our fish ponds are a wonderful asset and we ask that everyone that uses this resource takes the time to "sign out" the fish that they keep. We are pleased when our members take advantage of the opportunity to harvest fish but we need a better accounting of the inputs and outputs for budget planning purposes. Thanks.

OUT IN THE FIELD



TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The FFF will hold a registered trap shoot on July 27th 2008. In the past, this shoot was held on Father's Day and this has reduced the total number of shooters. Hopefully by switching the date to a later time, participation will increase. Help will be needed with sponsoring this event and it's a great way to gain your work hours. More information will be available in future newsletters.

For those that use the trap machines during the winter months, **PLEASE** make sure the hydraulic pump is warmed up before you turn on the Canterbury system. If targets continue to be thrown, please shut the voice system down and allow the pump to warm up. This warm-up period may require 20 minutes in cold weather. We don't need to be wasting targets. If there are any problems down at the fields, please get in touch with me.

Regards.

SHOTGUN SPORTS

The 2007 Fin's Summer Shotgun Sports League was a great success. Thanks to Jim and Nancy and their efforts with the 5-Stand, we had a nice complement to our traditional strengths in skeet and trap programming. The following members won their respective fields.

SKEET

Division A - Bill Spears;

Division B - Nick Krukoff

High Women's - Rosalie Gifford

TRAP

High Women's - Brenda Liappes

5-STAND

Division A - Mike Sobol;

Division B - Mike Sobol Jr.



The Club Championship was coordinated by Jim and Nancy Davidson and we thank them for their tremendous efforts. This event required each shooter to complete 4 separate disciplines, Skeet, Trap, Modern Skeet, and 5-Stand, each with 25 targets. Shooters were placed into squads of 5 individuals and entered into the course. Mike Sobol emerged as this year's victor – congratulations. Two shooters finished second with the same score, so a matching card format was implemented to separate the two. John Mathewson was awarded 2nd place, and Dick Palmer was awarded 3rd place.

Summer League Chairman, Dave Fromerth, coordinated the Summer League cookout with Audibelt caterers and Brenda Liappes handling the food and refreshment responsibilities, respectively. All in all, we had a great summer league, Club Championship and cookout. The food was delicious, the drinks were cold, and there was plenty of bragging among shooters. Thanks to Jim and Nancy Davidson for coordinating the Championship, to Bill Spears and Dick Palmer for mowing the fields all summer, and to Joe Pirollo and Rich Rushman for refereeing the Modern and Trap shooting events. And of course, thanks to all who participated.



PISTOL NEWS

Dick Palmer

The Club needs someone to run the Summer Pistol League. The paperwork will be completed by me, but I need assistance from someone to help run the program and be present. Interested individuals can leave a note for me at the bar, or call @ 860-933-4768.

We will be having NRA certification classes which will provide interested individuals with the certification needed to obtain a State Pistol Permit. Check the bulletin board at the Club House or call me for additional details.

During the winter months we generally do not plow the access road to the range though we will attempt to keep it passable for those wishing to shoot. Until the next time "Keep 'em in the Ten Range".

THIS MONTH'S CANDID



Shane Enright with a nice cock pheasant retrieved by Miami Palmer

REGISTERED SKEET SHOOTS 2007, 2008, 2009

Frank Mauri

Three registered skeet shoots were held at the Fin this year. The Northeast Open, our premier event was held the weekend of June 1st. This shoot was a 500-target affair with 100 targets shot in each of the 5 competitions. These are Doubles, 12 Ga., 20 Ga., 28 Ga. and .410. There were 102 entries in the shoot. Each entry paid \$38.00 for a total gross income of \$3876.00. After all expenses were met including the cost of targets thrown we showed a net profit of \$818.00.

The Fin Open was held on Sunday July 15th. This was a smaller shoot involving the 12 Ga. and 20 Ga. only. A total of 50 entries were in this shoot with 26 in the 12 Ga. and 24 in the 20 Ga. Each entry paid \$38.00 so our gross income was \$1900.00. After all expenses were paid including the target costs we made a profit of \$700.00. Our last shoot, the No-Name Open, was held on August 5th. It also involved the 12 Ga. and 20 Ga. guns. This was an extremely small shoot involving only 30 entries, 15 in each gun. After expenses we were able to show a net profit of \$400.00.

For the year 2007 we made a total of \$1918.00 after paying for all expenses including the cost of the skeet birds thrown during the shoots. This profit was garnered after an enormous amount of work hours were expended. The skeet shoots are labor-intensive. Fortunately, we have a small but dedicated group of workers who make the shoots run smoothly. They function in many ways but those who referee the shoots are the major contributors to the ultimate profit. These folks donate their time which otherwise would cost \$85/day!

We need more members to participate as registered skeet shooters. The Fin must depend almost entirely on the willingness of shooters from other clubs both within and external to Connecticut, in order to hold successful and profitable shoots. At the shoot held on Aug. 5th, we had 15 shooters in each gun, but only 1 or 2 were Fin members. We must somehow increase the participation of the Fin members in these and other shoots!

The Fin will again host three shoots during the 2008 season. The Northeast Open will be held June 6-8, 2008. It is our premier shoot and involves all five events – doubles, 12 Ga., 20 Ga., 28 Ga., and the .410. Later in the summer on July 13th we will host the Fin Open, a two-gun shoot in 12 and 20 Gauge. Finally on August 24th we will host the No-Name Open with 12 and 20 gauge shoots. This latter event occurs the weekend before the State Shoot and thus will provide a nice warm-up for that competition that will be hosted at the Hartford Gun Club.

The Fin will host the 2009 Zone 1 registered shoot and the 2009 Connecticut State Skeet shoot. Last year, these two events garnered us more than \$10,000 not including income from the bar and field kitchen. We need to prepare now for these 2009 events and some of this preparation should involve a club-wide attempt to increase the participation of members in the shoots this year so they will be prepared to compete in 2009.

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EVENTS

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Laura & John Pawelec

The Children's Fund held a "decorate-the-hall" work party the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Thanks go out to Troy, Amber and Josh Quick, Nancy and Jim Davidson, and Ali Hoagland for decorating the hall. It looks beautiful!!

The annual Children's Christmas Party was a great success with 69 happy and excited children. Santa arrived in his new soft velvet suit and presented every child with a gift. There were giveaways, tattoos, raffles, prizes, and plenty of food for all.

Special thanks to Don and Marie Bajger, Nancy Davidson and Ali Hoagland for all of their help that day. Also, thank you to everyone who put away tables, chairs & picked up after the party. You had it looking nice and clean in 3.2 seconds!

The next Children's Event is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 16th. Look for the sign-up sheet in the beginning of February. Thanks.

GAME DINNER

The Game Dinner, an FFF tradition, will take place on January 20, 2008. If you wish to attend, you must purchase a \$5.00 ticket in advance; no walk-ins will be accepted! Tickets may be purchased at the bar.

FISHING WITH ALASKA'S BEARS

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

A spaghetti dinner and talk on fishing in Alaska will take place on Friday, January 25th beginning at 6:30 pm. Proceeds from the dinner fund-raiser will help subsidize the cost of stocking fish this spring. The cost will be \$6.00 and you must purchase tickets in advance at the bar. Bring the whole family (children free) for the food and the after-dinner slide show.



DODGE TRUCK
Northeast Fishing & Hunting Expo™ 2008
Connecticut Convention Center - Fri, Feb 15 - Sun, Feb 17

CONNECTICUT HUNTING AND FISHING EXPO

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club will again sponsor a table at the 2008 Connecticut Hunting and Fishing Expo (<http://www.fishinghuntingshow.com/>). Scheduled for February 15th to 17th, our booth will provide an opportunity to recruit new members and brag about our Club. Volunteers are needed at the booth. It's very easy to do and helps the Club immensely. Please contact Bob Hruskoc for additional details.

FUTURE MEMBERS?

Member Pat Enright is a tremendous advocate for getting youth involved in outdoor activities. He helped friends Mitch (top) and Nate (bottom) fill a deer tag this fall. Both boys are anxious to become club members and most likely will join after January. Thanks for getting kids involved Pat!



3-D ARCHERY SHOOTS

3-D archery shoots will return in 2008. At present, we are planning to sponsor two 3D shoots, one in April and the other in August. If you are willing to help re-establish this great activity, please contact Kevin Sarazen, Archery Chairman.

OF INTEREST

“HUNTERS FOR LOVE OF THE LAND”

D. Frommerth.

This was the title of a recent pro-hunting article published in *National Geographic* magazine (Nov. 2007; volume 212, pp. 112-139). It is well worth reading and presents ample evidence to its readership that hunters contribute substantial monies, time and effort to the conservation of wildlife and open space. The article's author Robert Poole, former executive editor of *National Geographic*, notes that, “The irony is that many species might not survive at all were it not for hunters trying to kill them. The nation's 12.5 million hunters have become essential partners in wildlife management.”

HARD WATER HOT SPOT: MANSFIELD HOLLOW RESERVOIR

Contributed by Robert Sadowski.

Some 460 acres of ice is waiting for your auger and tilts this winter at the Mansfield Hollow Reservoir in the towns of Mansfield, Chaplin and Windham. Known as Naubesatuck Lake in the local native language, Mansfield Hollow is one of the state's Bass Management Lakes and Northern Pike Lakes. That means the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has imposed slot length restrictions and creel limits to improve the average size and number of Bass and Pike. Studies conducted by the DEP revealed that some lakes and ponds, like Mansfield Hollow, were overfished, impacting the quality of fish caught, as well as the fishing experience. With the new regulations the fish populations are healthy and strong. In fact, Mansfield Hollow has more fish species to offer than Bass and Pike. We have all heard about the 26-pound, 13-ounce channel catfish caught in February 2005. Did you also know that the state record rainbow trout was caught at Mansfield Hollow? It weighed in at 14 pounds, 10 ounces. Pike are common to 34 inches, which nets out to approximately eight pounds. Some Pike pulled from these waters have reached 15 pounds. Largemouth Bass are common in the 10- to 14-inch range. You will also find the other assorted cast of characters: black crappie, pumpkinseed, bluegill sunfish, and yellow perch. The Army Corp owns the property so the entire shore is accessible to the public. Give it a try.

BUTCHERING A DEER

In the November 2007 issue of the NRA publication, *American Hunter*, there was a great article entitled “The Art of Butchering, Prepping and Cooking Venison” (p. 57). If you would like to prepare some great sausage from your venison trimmings take a look at the following website: <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/ext/sausage.htm>.



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Bob Hruskocy, Vice-President	860-569-1592
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steven Davis (past-president)	860-558-1890
David Fromerth,	860-742-6749
Jim Gifford	860-455-2034
Keith Morehouse	860-647-1333
Tom O'Neill	
John Postemski	860-423-9396
Mike Sobol Jr. (alternate)	860-918-0415
Bill Spears	860-822-6567

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY	
Kevin Sarazen	860-670-1566
BAR	
Steve Davis	860-558-1890
PERMITTEE	
Brenda Liappes	860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
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Glenn Heinonen	860-423-8144
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec	860-429-7033
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FAMILY PICNIC

Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
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FIELD TRIALS

Ralph Fonda	203-393-8922
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FINANCE REVIEW

James Northrup	860-642-6802
Ken Shane	860-456-8315

FISHING

Jon Guarino	860-428-2873
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HEALTH/WELFARE

Mary Goss	860-423-3211
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HUNTING

Don Bajger	860-423-6693
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INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis	860-423-3341
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JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright	860-429-0172
Kevin Segar	860-429-4925
Arnie Postemski	860-423-4637

KITCHEN AVAILABLE

Your # here

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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MERCHANDISE

Brenda Liappes	860-455-0521
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NEWSLETTER

Cameron Faustman	860-423-9101
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PHEASANTS

Tom O'Neill	
Don Bajger	860-423-6693

PISTOL

Dick Palmer	860-487-0388
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RIFLE

Peter Mathewson	860-456-8588
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SHOTGUN

Joe Pirolo	860-742-5003
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SPORTING CLAYS

Jim Davidson	860-456-8782
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TRAP

Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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