

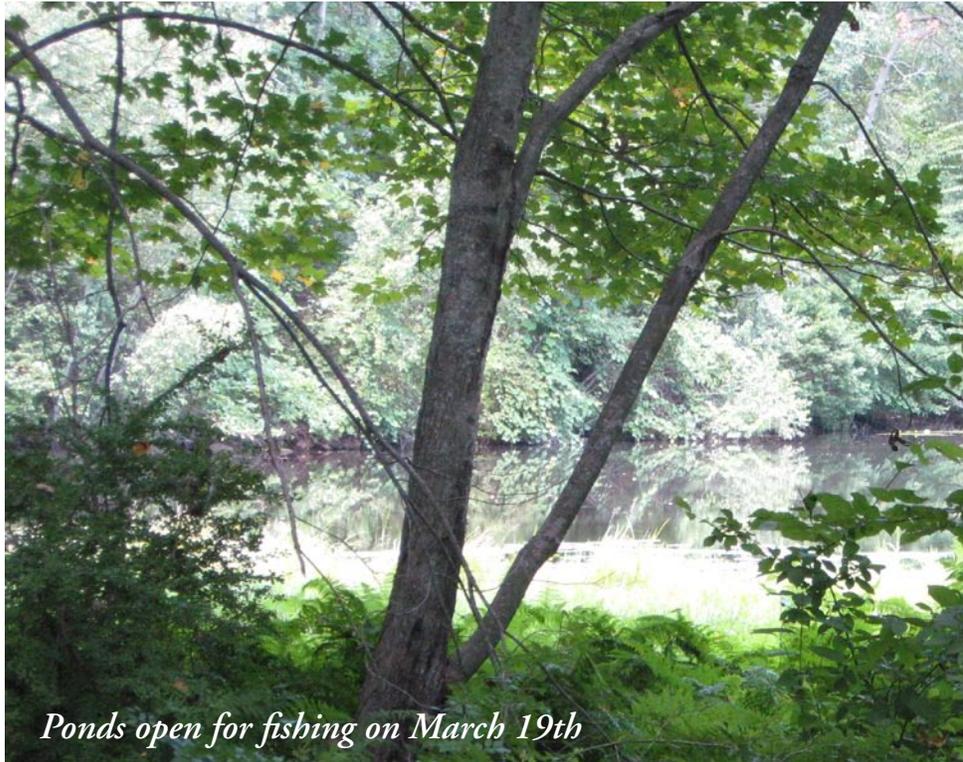


ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 12: ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

GOODBYE WINTER



Ponds open for fishing on March 19th

PRESIDENT'S SPOT

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen. With a long hard winter all but gone, spring is just around the corner, so get your fishing poles ready. The ponds will be stocked and ready and waiting for your flies, worms and lures. Please read all of the rules posted at the ponds and don't forget your armband. Tentatively, I would like to have a spring clean-up day for April 2nd. Watch for emails and the website for any changes.

Getting back to the "RULES POSTED", if you didn't get checked out on the TRAP, SKEET, RIFLE and PISTOL RANGES and you are using them, you are in violation of club rules!!! This goes for regular, associate, honorary, life and junior members. Please get checked out and confirmed for use of these facilities. It's a quick process that emphasizes safety first and is not like going to the doctor – it only takes 10 minutes per event.

As of this writing, I don't have the final numbers on the Annual Raffle, but I can say it was \$18,000 plus! *Larry Shewokis.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

19 Ponds open for fishing

APRIL

- 2 Wild Boar Roast Dinner
- 3 Connecticut Trappers Fur Auction
- 8 – 10 Adventure Scout Event
- 16 3D Archery Shoot
- 17 Easter Egg Hunt
- 30 Fly Fishing Tournament

MAY

- 1 Kid's Fishing Derby
- 7 3D Archery Shoot
- 7 Registered Trap Shoot
- 14 Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays
- 22 Sporting Clays

JUNE

- 3-5 Northeast Open Skeet Event
- 12 Sporting Clays
- 18 3D Archery Shoot
- 18 – 19 Johnny Appleseed Shoot
- 26 Sporting Clays

JULY

- 9-10 Fin Open Registered Skeet
- 17 Sporting Clays
- 23 3D Archery
- 31 Registered Trap Shoot

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we are again with another newsletter update. I have been occupied with our loans over the past two months. As a result, we were able to have the Skeet Field loan renegotiated to a 6.5% fixed ten-year loan. The Ostrager loan is 6.0% and we are quickly approaching the end. As you all know you pay the interest up front to some extent and the interest payment for the land purchase is about \$40 per month. We have about 18 more payments on this loan (~ \$750). We pay double payments on this loan which would bring the number of payments left to 9 and our interest would be about \$360. If we made a triple principal payment we would be paid off in 6 payments at a cost of about \$240.

The Skeet field loan is now at the start and the interest payments are large. Interest per month is about \$600 while the principal is about \$700 per month. I calculated how much the total interest would be if we made the required payments each month for 10 years; the required plus \$500; the required plus \$750; and the required plus \$1,000. The plus 0 total interest will be 40,000; the plus \$500 will be 25,000; the plus \$750 will be 21,000; and the plus \$1,000 will be 18,000. Again we can save a lot if we can pay it off early. The Board will consider our needs and direct me to make early payments.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

The club's membership remains steady even during these difficult times. There were 33 member (Reg/Assoc) who did not renew their 2011 dues. However, we did have a decent crop of new applicants in 2010 and a total of 55 members joined the club (24 Reg & 31 Assoc). The club took in \$18695.00 in non-completed work hrs for 2010. The club's Regular membership has dipped slightly from the recent past, but the Associate membership remains strong (as per table). If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, please have them contact me. *Regards, Bob*

	REGULAR	ASSOCIATE	JUNIOR	LIFE
2008	402	57	34	104
2009	383	83	30	115
2010	379	115	34	117
2011	360	108	31	116

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Keep those articles and photos coming! The deadline for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be June 15th.

RAFFLE UPDATE

By now you've realized that the sale of Spring raffle tickets has become mandatory for Regular and Associate members. The Board made this decision in an attempt to maintain current services without imposing an increase in membership dues. This approach permits non-members to support our interests by purchasing raffle tickets.

THIS YEAR'S RAFFLE WINNERS WERE:

JOHN VANONI

1st Prize - \$750 Cabela's certificate

HOWARD JORGENSEN

2nd Prize - \$500 LLBean certificate

JOSHUA MOULIN

3rd Prize - \$300 Center Sports certificate

BEN LOCASTO

4th Prize - \$200 Home Depot certificate

DAVE FROMERTH

5th Prize - \$100 Angellino's certificate

SPORTSMEN'S TAG SALE

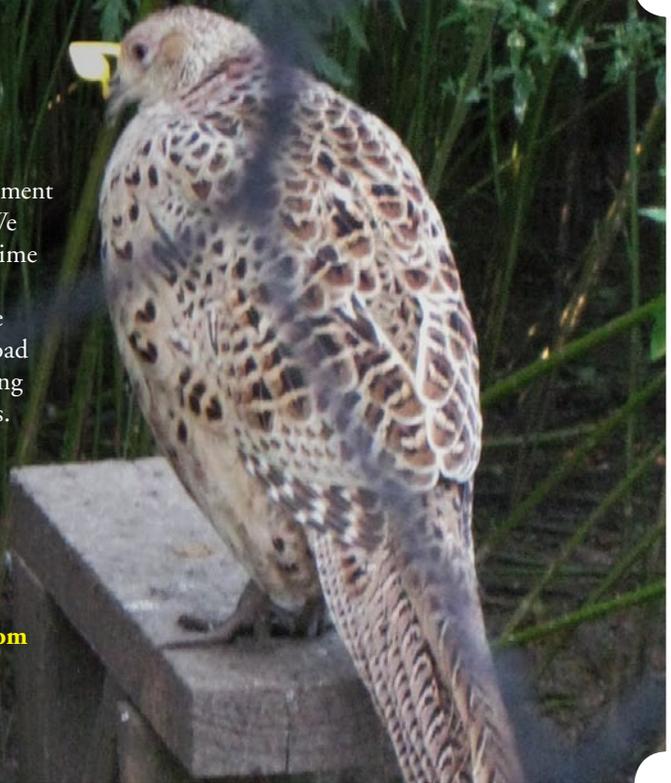
The Fin sponsored a sportsmen's tag sale on March 5th and more than 200 people showed up to shop and browse. Many non-members were also in attendance. Vendors sold hunting and fishing items including shotguns, BB guns, tree stands, and fly fishing and saltwater fishing equipment. The kitchen was open for lunch. Due to the strong interest in the event, we are considering holding another sale in the fall. Stay tuned!

OUT IN THE FIELD

PHEASANTS ARE COMING...

The 2010 pheasant stocking season went well. We had a lot of involvement from many members and want to *thank those of you that helped!* We will again be ordering **3,500** 8-week old birds; they will arrive sometime in the 1st week of July. Of the 3,500 birds, 1,500 birds have been earmarked for outside sales to offset the costs of raising the birds for use at the Fin. About 20 to 30 people will be needed to unload crates from the delivery trailer when the birds arrive. We will be having work parties in April and May to repair the nets and prepare the pens. Specific work dates will be emailed and posted in the bar area; please sign up and help with these much needed repairs. Additional sign-up opportunities will exist for assisting with (1) the pheasant feedings; sign up at the bar on the calendar, and (2) and/or running the field trials in September and October. Help Out! Let's make this another very successful year again!!!!
Call me at 860-377-0453 or email CardinalService151@Yahoo.com to help, to ask questions, and provide suggestions or ideas.

Thank you, Paul Cardinal.



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, 860-933-4768

The Sporting Clays season is just around the corner. We are having our annual work day on April 23rd at 9am; we need to set out the safety fences, gun racks, hull barrels, and clear up around the shooting stations. Please bring your gloves and anything to help remove brush; should only take about 3 hours. We are having 2 huge shoots this spring/summer, the Connecticut Ducks Unlimited event that will be held on Saturday May 14th, and the CWA shoot (same group from last year) on June 26th. These two events will start at approximately 7:30 am and end around 1:00 pm. They will require 30 club members to ensure a successful outcome and workers will be rewarded with a BBQ dinner. Sign-up lists will be posted on the bulletin board inside the bar - we need trappers and scorers.

We also have five 50-target shoots scheduled for May 22nd, June 12th, July 17th, August 7th and Sept 11th. These shoots require about ten members to help work the course. These shoots begin at 8am and usually finish up before 1:30 pm. You get a choice of a breakfast sandwich or a lunch burger, and trappers are needed for those days. As September 11th will be the last shoot, we would like extra members to help pick up the equipment and put it away for the winter.

The Sporting Clay program has been very well received, and our club has one of the finer courses in eastern Connecticut thanks to you. Please set aside a couple of days to help out again this year – it's a fun and easy way to get your work hours. Watch for future e-mails, mark your calendars, and stop at the Club and check the Upcoming Events board for information. As always, thank you and, *"Keep breaking those targets"*.



LEFT-TO-RIGHT:

*Dave Fromerth, Dick Palmer, Matt Halloran.
At the 2011 Game Dinner, Dave and Matt were given a Special Recognition Award for their work with the Sporting Clay Program.*

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PISTOL MATCHES BEGIN APRIL 6TH

In case of unreasonable weather we will start on Wednesday April 13th – we shoot rain-or-shine unless there is lightning or the rain is exceptionally heavy.

The pistol range will be open to match competitors at 3 pm for instruction, coaching and practice. **Matches begin promptly at 6 pm. Cost is \$3 per night for members, \$4 for non-members; Juniors under 18 shoot for free.** If there is time and space on the line, we will have additional relays.

This year, we will have 2 classes for shooters. The first is for NRA Classified Bullseye competitors who will shoot one National Match Course with the .22 and the same course with any Centerfire Pistol (10 rounds slowfire at 50 yards, and 10 rounds timed fire 10 rounds rapid fire at 25 yards with turning targets). The second is for any other shooters including Beginners and Juniors who will shoot the same course of fire at 25 yards and may use one or two hands or just a .22. We encourage participation at all levels. Please come early if you need further explanation in the courses of fire. The range is open at 3 pm for persons who wish to practice. I will provide one .22 pistol and ammunition to any Junior who wishes to shoot. It is recommended that a parent accompany the junior to the first few matches. If there are several Juniors, they may shoot different relays and share the gun.

What to Bring: Eye and Ear Protection which is required for all shooters and spectators. **Staple guns J21 type** (heavy duty industrial staplers are overkill).

Spotting scopes, binoculars and whatever shooting accessories you have.

Guns unloaded in their cases. No loaded carry guns are permitted on your person while shooting. It is suggested participants take a turn calling the line so the match director can shoot. We will provide targets, cardboard and frames. If you have extra 2'x 2' cardboard backers, you are welcome to bring them.

At the end of the league, the names of everyone attending more than 2/3 of the matches will be put into a drawing for a brick (500 rounds) of RWS .22 ammunition which I will donate. Anyone shooting a clean target (score of 100) will receive an extra ticket to go into the drawing for the ammunition.

Note that our last League NRA Classified Bullseye Champion was Peter Mathewson, and our Junior Champion was Will Cassidy. Please call or contact Mary Goss to sign up. maryclip@earthlink.net or 860-423-3211.

PISTOL RANGE UPDATE

Please note that members no longer need to sign in when using the Pistol Range.

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The club will have two registered trap shoots this year. The dates are May 7th (Saturday) and July 31st. Help will be needed for both shoots. Please get in contact with me if you are available to help on either of these days.

ARCHERY

Welcome to a new year of Field and 3-D Archery! This year's first 4 scheduled shoots are on Saturdays April 16th, May 7th, June 18th, and July 23rd. Please note that Set-Up for each of these shoots will run from 6:00am to 8:00am, and that the actual shoot will take place from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Two additional shoots will take place on Sundays September 19th and October 9th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (please note that set-up for these two shoots will be communicated in future emails).

I would like to have a basic clean-up party on March 26th, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm to assist me in walking the course, removing any downed trees and branches, and placing the shooting stakes out. We will be able to determine if we will need any addition stakes. If you have a chain saw or other general brush-cleaning equipment, please bring them along.

I realize that April 16th is opening day of Fishing Season. The set-up may not need to occur if I can get the Scouting units to assist me on April 10th. An e-mail will follow week if assistance will be needed. In addition, when the fields dry out, I would like to get a party to finish the removal of the old archery shed from the Archer Field, the date and time to be determined.

Our Archery committee had a total of 473 total work hours from all participants. I do not think we will need quite so much this year since we have the fields back in fairly good shape. I hope to see you all again, and for those who missed last years' shoots to participate too. Thanks, Jim Michaud. 860-402-4155, james.e.michaud@comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com.

REGISTERED SKEET - 2011

Early this year we received the sad news of William (Bill) Morrisette's death. Bill spent the last years of his life bedridden in a nursing home in Willimantic. Prior to his hospitalization, he had been an active and hard working member of the Fin. Bill was an officer and executive committee member during his many years as a member. He was a long time chairman of the fish committee, but his most important work was with the Fin's shooting sports program. Bill energized a moribund skeet program, developed a trap program, and with Dick White, and Jim and Nancy Davidson began the 5-stand and sporting clays activities we now enjoy. He helped raise the awareness of the Fin membership to the social and moneymaking possibilities of the shooting sports. He worked with other members who planned, got the financing and oversaw the construction of the skeet fields and the sporting clays facility. Bill, with his jovial good nature and his organizational skills, got many of the Fin members to try their hands at registered skeet or to add to their winter league competition the summer registered skeet competition. He attracted many non-members to our registered skeet competitions ensuring our shoots were a success and brought money to the Fin treasury. He was admired around the state for his hard work in the registered skeet program and was one of the Fin members instrumental in obtaining a place for the Fin in the Zone 1 rotation and returning the State Skeet Shoot to the Fin. Both of these events bring a large influx of money to the Fin's treasury; money we can really use.

A new skeet season will soon be upon us with the first registered shoot to be held at the Hamden R & G club in early April. Our first shoot will be held the weekend of June 3, 4 & 5. We will have 5 events at this shoot with Doubles being shot on Friday the 3rd

in the afternoon and the other events to be held on Saturday and Sunday. We plan to hold a 2-gun shoot on Sunday July 10th and another on August 14th. The June shoot is our biggest and this year it is particularly important as it will be a warm-up for next year's Zone 1 shoot and Connecticut State Shoot.

We need help at the shoots particularly for the June event. We need 2 or 3 members on Friday who can work for about 4 hours from 1 to 5 pm. Then on Saturday and Sunday mornings we will require an additional 3 members from 8 to 12 noon followed on both afternoons with 3 more members from 2 pm to 5 pm. The work is not particularly difficult or strenuous, nor does it require knowledge of skeet or of the target machines. The July and August shoots will need people to help but since they are smaller competitions not as many people are needed. Anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact me at frankm@toast.net or 860-9741425 or leave a note at the bar.

REFEREES FOR THE SHOTS ARE NEEDED.

I hope I can count on those who helped last year because they did such a great job and I heard nothing but praise for their work everywhere I went around the state. They should contact me as given above and we'll take the referee test and get registered. I would like to do this in early April so we can be listed in the NSSA register of official referees.

Keep the 2nd weekend of August and the Labor Day weekend 2012 free for the Zone 1 and CT State Skeet Shoot. These are labor intensive events, with many outside competitors so we want to create the very best impression possible of our facilities and of our members. *Thanks, Frank Mauri.*

VENTURE CREW 15 FIN FUR & FEATHER SKILLS WEEKEND

Jim & Trish Michaud

The Fin Fur & Feather Club has graciously opened their doors, April 8th, 9th and 10th to a scout weekend sponsored by Venture Crew 15 from Tolland, CT. Venture Crews are young men and women ages 14 to 21 years of age. This Crew, run by Trish Michaud and assisted by Jim Michaud, has invited numerous Crews and Boy Scout Units to attend this weekend.

The skills weekend will assist the Crew and Scout members to learn about and meet various Merit Badges and Ranger requirements. These are skills that earn the member awards. The specific skills being offered will be; Pistol and High Powered Rifle Skills (these two are for the Venture Crews only due to Boy Scout regulations), Rifles (.22 caliber), Shotgun Shooting (12 and 20 gauge), Black Powder Rifle, Archery (Standard and 3-D), Fly Fishing, Orienteering, First Aid, and the Department of Environmental Protection van (for Soil and Water Conservation and general Wild Life Management). This great event will not only teach the youth the skills but get them interested in shooting, archery, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Several Club members have volunteered to assist. They are Rick Turcotte for Archery, Martin O'Rourke for Fly Fishing, Kevin Segar for Black Powder, Fred Verdic for Rifle and Larry Shewokis for Shotguns. BUT, we could use more help. We have about 5 or 6 .22 Rifles, several 12-gauge Shotguns, and a .38, 9-mm, .44 and .22 pistols being provided with the Crews and Scouts. We could use anyone who is willing to teach on a 20-gauge shotgun for smaller scouts, and additional Black Powder, and of course ammo. To assist in reducing the cost of the event for the scouts, we are looking for donations of ammo. If you have some laying around that you would like a tax deduction for donating, please give Jim Michaud a call (860.871.9179) or e-mail (james.e.michaud@comcast.net). Experienced 3-D archer volunteers are needed to work with 11 to 21 year olds. We would like to send one adult out with 5 scouts on the 3-D range. This takes place from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon.

During this 3-day event, the Board has closed, on Saturday, Skeet Fields 7 and 8, 5-Stand due to field 8, the Archery Range, Archery 3-D Range, Sporting Clays due to 3-D Archery, the Rifle Range and the Pistol Range. For the Fly Fishing a small area will be staked off, at the Fly Pond, for the scouts to use, but they will have hookless flies. The other ponds are open to members.

PROJECT APPLESEED MARKSMANSHIP CLINIC AT THE FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB

ONE DAY EVENT - MAY 28, 2011

The Fin, Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin will be the site of the "Project Appleseed – 1-Day Marksmanship Clinic" sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans



Association (a 501(c)(3) organization). **Pre-Registration Fees: \$45 for one day; Walk-On Fees: \$50 for one day. Additional range fee may apply. Women, under 21, or active military shoot or a nominal fee. Range fees apply.**

TWO DAY EVENTS - JUNE 18-19, 2011; AUGUST 27-28, 2011; OCTOBER 8-9, 2011

The Fin, Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin will be the site of the "Project Appleseed – 2-Day Marksmanship Clinic" sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association (a 501(c)(3) organization). **Pre-Registration Fees: \$45 for one day or \$70 for both days. Walk-On Fees: \$50 for one day or \$80 for both days. Additional range fee may apply. Women, under 21, or active military shoot for a nominal fee. Range fees apply.**

Additional details and registration forms for these events are available online in by going to "<http://www.appleseedinfo.org/>".

Contact Fred Vernic: 860.942.2151 or fvernic@yahoo.com

START THINKING PUMPKINS!

The 5th Annual Great Pumpkin Challenge is about to begin. Pick up your share of "proven giant" seeds at the bar and try your hand at growing a whopper! There are 3 classes for you to compete in: (1) Main Event – use our seeds, plant after Memorial day – May 30th, no vine injecting, (2) Open Class – any variety of seed – plant anytime – use any growing technique, and (3) Carving Class- you do not have to grow the pumpkin- more info to follow. Our Pumpkin Festival event will be on October 15th. Good luck and happy growing season.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Fin, Fur & Feather Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday, April 17, 2011, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The event is free to all FFF members' children & grandchildren (ages 2 to 10). Please sign up at the bar by April 2, 2011 (sorry, no walk-ins welcome). BYOB (bring your own basket)! A light lunch will be served to egg hunters.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GAME DINNER

Fin members enjoyed another delicious Game Dinner. Thanks to all who participated. An added bonus this year was the great success of the raffle that was implemented by the Fish Committee; it raised \$1,970!



President Larry Shewokis (right) congratulates Paul Cardinal with the Fin's Man of the Year Award.



Jay Liappes is presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award for his many contributions to the Fin.



Many thanks to Martin Buckley and his kitchen crew who once again provided a great game dinner.

FIN FUR & FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY & DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF-owned and leased property for the 2011 season.

- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Bass Property
- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Club-owned property
- I wish to hunt Deer on Club-owned property (Archery only)
- I wish to hunt Deer on the Bass Property

Method(s) of hunting deer: Archery Shotgun Muzzleloader

- I understand that Tree Stands are not allowed
- I understand that this application must be returned to the clubhouse bar by April 14, 2011 in order to be considered: and that once all applications have been reviewed, permits to hunt will be available at the clubhouse bar by April 28, 2011.
- I have read State law and regulations and club rules and I agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

Name: _____

FFF Membership ID Number _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Deadline: April 14, 2011 (return to the Bar).

NOTICE:

You must purchase a valid 2011 armband to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, and so forth on club-owned and club-leased land.

Members are hereby notified that they must observe all State hunting laws and regulations, in addition to Club Rules.

Failure to abide by State law and regulations or Club rules may result in Board action against the offending member, including action subsequent to court rulings against the member.

– FFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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***Our Purpose:** To Promote The Conservation of Fish, Game, and Other Natural Resources, To Practice and Teach the Highest Degree of Sportsmanship and to Promote Safe and Proficient Use of Sporting Equipment.*

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