Rivers West Tens

We inspire people to build and use low impact boats

President's message

Welcome to the Winter newsletter. Many of us have slowed down a bit for this season. The days are shorter and it's getting colder outside. There are some days when sitting by the fire, reading a good book is a lot more attractive than doing that task that you need to do in the shop.



Good news: The RiversWest
Library is open and Bruce
continues to organize our many
volumes of nautical material. Craig
has posted photos of the library's
volumes on the website in the
'Gallery' section for you to browse.

One of the people who hasn't slowed down this Winter is Randy Torgerson. Randy is building a 21' Tolman Skiff in the last bay of

RiversWest's shop and he is making significant progress. Every time I check in with him he seems to be working on another phase of his project. The boat is coming together with Randy now working on the cabin and decks.

John Ost has been busy as well. In the time since the last newsletter, John has had the thickness planer serviced due to a jammed mechanism and the miter saw has been replaced. Our old miter saw had served us well for many years, but finally the guard mechanism was completely worn out. Fearing a catastrophic failure, the saw was disconnected and we shopped for a new tool since replacement parts were not available. Once the new miter saw was in place, John modified the dust collection and hood to allow the tool to fully function.

I've used both of these tools in the last couple of weeks. The thickness planer works like new and the miter saw is a significant improvement over the old one. By the way: John had the foresight to order a replacement guard mechanism for the new saw, so when this one wears out we'll have the replacement parts.

As the days get longer, I'm looking forward to Spring and being on the water more. I look forward to our Splash-Ins, where we can be physically distanced but socially engaged. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at our 1st and 3rd Saturday virtual Open Houses. We're getting pretty good at these things now! There have been meaty topics presented and great discussions about all things boat related. If you still haven't joined us on Zoom for one of these, give it a try.

Mark

"If a man is to be obsessed by something, I suppose a boat is as good as anything, perhaps a bit better than most."

- E. B. White



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Nauti Book Group by Peter Wilcox

Having been an enthusiastic reader of nautical literature all the way back to the Swallows & Amazons series as a young boy, I launched a nautical book group with some boatbuilding friends in the early 2000's while president of Riverswest. Our monthly meetings soon had a core of eight committed readers that included Sam Johnson, Richard Stover, Dan Pence, Tony Allport, Shane Jackson, Jeff Saylor, James McMullin and me. (Apologies to anyone I may have forgotten!) Not long after, nautical historian and author, Sam McKinney, joined the group and, over time, so virtually did a number of boatbuilders from around the region and world. At one point we effectively had nearly 50 local and distant members in total. Reading 57 mostly great nautical books over the next five years, we had a Force 12 blast! When we read Robin Cody's inspiring Voyage of a Summer Sun recounting his grand solo canoe voyage from the headwaters to mouth of the Columbia, at the confluence of readers and writer Robin, a friend, detailed his effective conversion in the process to a conservationist. It was magical!

Sam McKinney, another celebrated nautical author, recognized Oregon river historian, serial boatbuilder, impressive marine explorer and nearly bottomless rum partaker quickly became a focal member of our group. His storytelling was enchanting. At many a meeting at one of our boat shops, backyards or living rooms, he captivated us as we gathered around an Inside Passage chart or another as he took us into the essence of a bight, bay, or boat while describing a particular storm, anchorage or unique encounter. We were thrilled when one month he showed up with a draft of his upcoming book, Sailing Uphill, and invited us readers to offer comments.

Later he arranged for the group to travel with him in his Spray replica to Bill Garden's studio and home on a tiny island north of Victoria (a trip I sadly had to miss). In 2006, we were all deeply saddened when his wife, Gail, told us that he had passed from cancer. His memorial and the spreading of his ashes was at Kelly Point Park, where most of us arrived by boats either Sam or we ourselves had built. Together with other friends and family members we spread Sam's ashes into the Columbia around us.



Bill Garden's own schooner, Toadstool



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It was a good goodbye and a true celebration of a life well lived, written and read. Sending some of his ashes floating down the river to the Pacific in a little wooden hull I had carved, I hoped that Sam's voyaging might continue.

After Sam had passed, taking the wind with him out of our sails, I suggested that we take a short break in our meetings, which we did. Around that time, Peter Spectre, author of the long running "On the Waterfront" column in Woodenboat magazine published the list I had sent him of the books we had read up to that point in his very last column. The entire book list, including a great many maritime classics, is on the next page.

It was another Riverswest president, Sal DiGrande, and member, Art Wilson, who got the book group going again, only eight years later! Sal formalized a new name for the group, the Nauti Book Group! Two summers ago at a meeting at Bruce Goodrich's, while showing especially poor judgement the group asked me to sing and play a song on my banjo that I wrote about my Inside Passage Decarbonization Project (IPDP), which I managed to do without causing any serious injuries...



Onboard Dan's Ginger

Several of us from both the original and new groups continue to meet each month - on Zoom for now, and hopefully later back to meeting at alternating members' homes, or boats. The Nauti Book Group is looking to add a few additional members interested in reading and discussing nautical literature...and other mostly related topics once a month over beer, cider or...in Sam's honor, a nip of rum by gum.



At Bruce's with Peter playing his sea shanty, "The Bio-Rigged Boat"



- Capt. Peter Wilcox, IPDP Founding Director peter@decarbthepassage.net



Nauti Book Group Book List

- 1. Joshua Slocum: Sailing Alone Around the World
- 2. Richard Henry Dana: Two Years Before the Mast
- 3. Rudyard Kipling: Captains Courageous
- 4. Sam McKinney: Reach of Tides
- 5. Don Berry: To Build a Ship
- 6. Maurice Griffiths: The Magic of the Swathways
- 7. Erskine Childers: Riddle of the Sands
- 8. Phil Bolger: Boats with an Open Mind
- 9. Farley Mowat: The Boat Who Wouldn't Float
- 10. Maria Coffey: Sailing Back in Time
- 11. Giles Milton: Nathanial's Nutmeg
- 12. M. Wylie Blanchett: The Curve of Time
- 13. Peter Spectre: Different Waterfronts
- 14. Michael Ruhlman: Wooden Boats
- 15. Tania Abei: Maiden Voyage
- 16. Mark Twain: Life on the Mississippi
- 17. Sena Jeter Naslund: Ahab's Wife
- 18. Annie Proulx: The Shipping News
- 19. Alvah Simon: North to the Night
- 20. Thor Heyerdahl: Kon Tiki
- 21. Rockwell Kent: North by East
- 22. Ann Spencer: Alone at Sea
- 23. Randy White: The Man Who Invented Florida
- 24. Patrick O'Brien: Post Captain
- 25. Miles Smeeton: Once Is Enough
- 26. Alexandra Morton & Billy Proctor: The Heart of the Rainforest; A Life Story
- 27. Bet Oliver: Ed Monk and the Tradition of Classic Boats
- 28. Rockwell Kent: Voyaging Southward

from the Strait of Magellan

- 29. Joe Upton: Alaska Blues
- 30. John Steinbeck: The Log from the Sea of Cortez
- 31. Myron Arms: Riddle of the Ice
- 32. Sterling Hayden: Wanderer
- 33. Jack London: The Sea-Wolf
- 34. E.F. Knight: The Falcon on the Baltic
- 35. Joseph Conrad: The Mirror of the Sea
- 36. Robin Cody: Voyage of a Summer Sun
- 37. R. Hemingway-Douglass: Cape Horn: One Man's Dream, One Woman's Nightmare
- 38. Sam McKinney: Sailing with Vancouver
- 39. Sam McKinney: Quest
- 40. Gavin Menzies: 1421
- 41. Joseph Conrad: Lord Jim
- 42. Jerome K. Jerome: Three Men in a Boat
- 43. Vito Dumas: Alone Through the Roaring Forties
- 44. Derek Lundy: Godforsaken Sea
- 45. Bernard Moitessier: The Long Way
- 46. Ernest Hemingway: The Old Man and the Sea
- 47. Hal Roth: After 50,000 Miles
- 48. Robb White: How to Build a Tin Canoe
- 49. Robert Stone: Outerbridge Reach
- 50. Tom Davin, editor: Rudder Treasury
- 51. Herman Melville, Moby Dick
- 52. Rigel Crockett, Fair Wind and Plenty of It
- 53. James Gibbs, Tillamook Light
- 54. Ernest Hemingway, To Have and Have Not
- 55. Ferenc Mate', Ghost Sea
- 56. Bjorn Larsson, The Celtic Ring
- 57. John Vigor, Small Boat to Freedom book



Smug Mug for Your Photos

The photo gallery on the RiversWest web site has been completely revamped, using an online service called Smug Mug. This has allowed us to organize the photos in hierarchical folders for easier access. We have also added many photos to the galleries, including pictures of various RW events, boats built by members, and photos from many of our demos and workshops. To access this new archive of photos just go to the Gallery tab on the RiversWest web site. here is a quick link to the photos: https://photosriverswest.smugmug.com/

If you have photos that you would like to see on this site please let either Craig Bryant or John Bouwsma know.

Craig: craigb@pobox.com
John: john@bouwsma.net

From your Newletter Team -

John Bouwsma is getting some help with layout and production from Ralph Cohen. We're also trying a new layout tool - open architecture software called "Scribus". We hope you are satisfied with the results.

Notes from the RiversWest library by Bruce Goodrich

First of all thanks to John Bouwsma for photographing the book titles; if you are looking for a specific title just go to the RiversWest web site and click on gallery. Then browse to find the books in the library. Most of us are stuck at home and doing more reading, so finding a book from home might be useful.

Speaking of more reading, we are always looking for new additions to our great nautical library. If your bookshelf is overflowing, please consider donating some to our library. We need titles about boat building, design, maintenance, and repair; also cruising, sailing, rowing, sea stories, etc., etc.

However, please do not donate any Wooden Boat magazines unless you have # 239 and 244 which we need to make a complete set. We have too many extras at this point and will be looking into letting them sail away possibly by selling, donating, or at some point, recycling.

Happy Reading!

When you're a member of RiversWest, you don't need to be a shipwright, own a shop full of tools or have a large space at home to build your dream boat. We have it all.

www.riverswest.org



ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWEST DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 Annual Membership Meeting

This year's Annual Membership Meeting was held on October 17, at the beginning of a regularly scheduled Virtual Open House meeting.

Virtual Open House Meetings on Zoom

We had to replace our usual bi-monthly open House events with a Virtual Open House using Zoom. These will occur, as with the REAL Open House meetings, on the First and Third Saturdays of each month, and will start at 10:00. We will send out a link a few days before the meeting. All you have to do is click on the link and follow the instruction on the screen. It helps to have a video camera on your computer, phone, or tablet but isn't absolutely necessary. You will need to have a speaker and microphone, and of course they have to be turned on. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a member.

The turnout has been impressive; we are typically getting around 20 member at each one. In recent months we have shown several videos from Off Center Harbor, who is graciously allowing us to show them as well as giving a huge discount to any of our members who subscribe to their library of boat building videos. We have also had demonstrations by several members, including special shop tricks, favorite tools, tips on building lapstrake boats, methods of getting boats on top of cars, and more. We have more lined up for the coming year. These include more shop tricks such as methods of holding down work on a bench, methods of storing tools in a cabinet, silver soldering, sharpening, and anything else we can think of or that someone is willing to volunteer to do. We

can either use the Share Screen function in Zoom, or you can send a slideshow or video to Craig Bryant and he will manage it from his computer. Shop tours are always interesting. We would welcome anyone who is willing to either walk around their shop with a phone camera and Zoom, or to take a series of photos and present them as a slide show.

Boat Shop

The Boat Shop is open for use, with some restrictions. Our policy on Boat Shop use is posted on our web site https://www.riverswest.org/ and is also posted in the shop.

Library

The library is open, however there are limitations when returning books. There is a box on the table by the library with instructions. Please put any returned books in the box with a sticky note giving the date of the return. We will return the books to the shelf after 10 days.

Board Meetings

Our board meetings are also being held virtually. If you would like to attend, they are generally held after one of our virtual open House meetings using the same link. All members are welcome.

Rental Bays

The rental bays are open for use, but again, we ask that anyone using them follow the rules laid out for the Boat Shop. Cost is \$150/month full bay and \$75/month half bay. Full bay is 10'x23' with lighting and electrical power.



Demos

We have been able to hold Demos and shop tours during our Virtual Open House meetings, virtually naturally! We have watched Mark Ramsby do lamination with fiberglass between layers of wood and Craig Bryant demonstrating a fixture used with a planer to flatten a warped board. Lacking a demo we have been watching videos from Off Center Harbor, who have graciously allowed us to show their videos during these meetings.

Membership

We are offering free 2021 memberships to any 2019 and 2020 members who have been financially affected by the COVID crisis. Contact John Whitehouse for more details at johnwhitehouse1@msn.com

Family Boat Building and Portland Boat Show

Family Boat Building & Portland Wooden Boat Show are on hold for 2021. The decision to proceed, delay, or suspend will be made in April.

Messabouts / Splash-ins

We are still getting together on the water and socially distanced. Watch for announcements in the spring.

Crater Lake Boats Still Available

We are still looking for good homes to adopt the remaining two Crater Lake Boats. We hope that these boats will have a new life somewhere, they are beautifully designed and built, with solid mahogany planking. These boats would make truly luxurious cabin cruisers.

They can be viewed underneath the ramp leading to the Hawthorn Bridge, at SE Salmon and SE Water Streets. If you want to get a close look inside the fence, please contact a board member.







FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES by Craig Bryant

Capital Campaign

Since the plan for the new bridge across the Columbia River is out, with a deadline for acquiring land of October, 2024, we have a more more specific goal for raising money to find a new location. Our Capital campaign is more important than ever. See below for several ways you can contribute.

Amazon Prime

As an Amazon Prime member you can request a matching donation of 0.5% of each purchase from Amazon to go to the non-profit of your choice. This will cost you nothing; the entire cost is borne by Amazon.

- 1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- 2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to add a charity.
- Type in "RiversWest Small Craft Center"Fred Meyer

Fred Meyer has a program similar to Smile.Amazon.com. All you have to do is sign up; the entire cost is borne by Fred Meyer. You must have a Fred Meyer Rewards account to set this up.

Need to sign up for a Fred Meyer Rewards account?

https://www.fredmeyer.com/account/create??redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/

Once you have a Fred Meyer Rewards account, you can link your account to RiversWest. At the end of each quarter, RiversWest will get a donation from Fred Meyer based upon your purchases.

To set up the matching donation, follow this link: https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/

Sign in and select "RiversWest" as your designated non-profit. It's that simple. Do you have questions?

https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-frequently-asked-questions.

This does not affect your rewards, but is on top of it. It is a charitable donation to qualifying non-profits from Fred Meyer.

Direct Donations

Direct donations may be in cash or in goods. Over the years we have had many members downsize prior to moving to retirement homes or smaller houses and apartments. We have often been the beneficiaries as they have thinned out their tools, boats, and materials. While we welcome these donations we have to be careful about what we accept. We had our annual garage sale in August. Following that we have been selling some things on Craig's List, some to members, and items we haven't been able to sell we have made available to members. free of charge.



Steve Najjar donating his partially finished boat.



Building a Dave Gentry Wherry by John Ost



Ric Fry and I built a skin on frame, Dave Gentry sliding seat wherry at Ric's place over the summer. The stringers were ripped and the frames were cut out at RiversWest. The frame received six coats of spar varnish before being skinned with 3.7-ounce aircraft Dacron. The skin was stapled to the frame, sealed, and finished with Kirby marine enamel.



The decks were our addition. They increase the seaworthiness of the boat and provide protected storage space. They were stapled to the hull using the same Dacron and sewn to the cowling kayak fashion, sealed with three coats of dewaxed shellac, and finished with four coats of spar varnish. The hope is to use the boat for overnight trips on the Columbia. The finished 19' boat, without the sliding seat, came in at 45 pounds. On November 21, 2020, the boat was launched into the Willamette River.





Preserving Varnish by Mark Ramsby

Good spar varnish is expensive and goes bad quickly once the can is opened. Here's an idea to save those expensive partial cans of your precious liquid.

The way it typically works is you use 1/2 of the quart of expensive varnish. Now you have 1/2 quart of varnish, 1/2 quart air. The varnish oxidizes and coagulates. The next time you need some varnish, half of your \$30 or \$40 quart of varnish is now a sticky, useless mess.



Recently, I found super heavy duty zip lock bags in my grocery store. They are meant to be re-usable food preservation bags. The Mason Jar styling is kind of silly, but they were 16 oz. capacity, really well made and that was just about the amount I had left in the varnish can at home. I bought the package of three bags for about \$5.

The enemy of varnish is exposure to oxygen in the air. Remove the oxygen, store it in the shadows, and the varnish will last a long, long time.



This type of bag will allow you to store small quantities of varnish for much longer than you normally do within its original container. The reason is that you can purge the container of most of the air.

Give it a try. Just "burp' the bag of air prior to re-sealing to preserve your precious varnish, then store it away out of the light! You are now able to able to open, then reseal it over and over. Upon resealing, purge the air from the bag each time.



Update on Willamette River Regulation by Oregon State Marine Board

Really good news! As of January 27, 2021 the proposals for regulation of wake surfing on the South Reach and up to Willamette Falls have been adopted by the Marine Board. The pass-through extension on the west side of Ross Island, Buffer Zones and no wake surfing rules from Waverly Marina to the Willamette Falls were all approved.

This is terrific news for those of us in small craft as well as those with docks and houseboats within this area. It should return this section of the Willamette River to a more natural state without the large, steep wakes needed for wake surfing.

This has been a project spanning many years, initiated by Renee Morgan and the Calm Water Coalition. RiversWest joined this group years ago in the interest of preserving the river for all users in this small boat friendly section of the river.

There is also pending legislation to regulate power boats in the Newberg Pool (HB 2555) and the composition of the OSMB to open it up to a broader group of constituents (HB 2695). Both of those are ongoing and we will continue to support and follow them.

Mark Ramsby, President

RiversWest Small Craft Center

Information provided, below, if you'd like to write to your Representatives. If you are a member, please identify yourself as a RiversWest member. You can also send an email to the marine board: osmb.rulemaking@oregon.gov

HB 2555 sets a weight limit of 4,000lbs in the Newberg Pool stretch of the river. This is important because to date, wake boats can range up to 10,000 lbs and more, and that does not include ballast.

Write to:

Member Representative Susan McLain, Rep.SusanMclain@oregonlegislature.gov

HB 2695 would increase the size of the Marine Board, and would provide a broader level of representation, from those with ecological expertise, to tribal representation. As of now, the Oregon State Marine Board has the feel of a power boat club at times, with some exceptions, and this needs to change.

Write to:

Chair Representative Brad Witt, Rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov



Board Member profile: John Bouwsma, Secretary, RiversWest

Editor's Note: This will be an ongoing feature of the RiversWest newsletters until all the board members have had a chance; by then it is likely we will have some new ones. If we run out of board members we will have to start volunteering members who are not on the board.

I am basing my self-portrait of my life in boats on Steve Najaar's writeup several newsletters ago of how he got started with wooden boats. My story begins when I was about 7 years old and was told we were going to Lake Michigan for a week. I immediately started building a boat. It was about 8" long, made out of several small pieces of 2X4 nailed together. My nailing skills were negligible; most of the nails got bent over, and I didn't have the muscle power to pull them out so they were a permanent part of the boat. When I launched the boat in the lake it turned turtle and sank, mostly from the weight of all those bent nails.

My next boat was built when I was around 30 from plans in Mechanics Illustrated for a flatbottomed, 8' rowboat. Not having the mentorship of my friends at RiversWest, I used AC plywood and resorcinal glue. That boat lasted for about 2 years and then disappeared from our pond in northern Minnesota. Another 2 years later my wife found it sunk in mud about a mile back on the pond. I suspect that a kid in the neighborhood went joyriding and abandoned it when it got stuck. I dragged it home but it had already begun to delaminate and fall apart, so I burned it, thinking I would create a boat vacuum into which another boat would be drawn.

This finally happened when I was 43. I helped a friend on a remodeling project and he gave me a mahogany strip canoe that he had built with his father as a boy scout project. The experience was not good and he had no desire to keep the canoe. It had been left in the direct sun for 20 years, the ends had gone into the dirt and rotted, and the fiberglass had delaminated and cracked letting in water that had stained the mahogany. I spent many hours refurbishing it, and it looked pretty good from about 30' away. It was entirely functional though heavy.

When I was 55 I built a cedar strip kayak. This was a wonderful boat, built correctly with the mentorship of RW friends, using sophisticated plans and epoxy and fiberglass; it completely made up for my previous failures.

Another 6 years later, I decided I wanted to try my hand at stitch and glue, so I built a 12' V-bottomed sailboat, also a great success thanks to my association with RW. But like with many RW members, it turned out that while I loved building these boats, I never did get around to using them very much as I was always too anxious to get back to whatever project I had going in my shop.



Have did you bear about Divers/Most?

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Have you renewed for 2021? Mail in form (below)

Or sign up and pay with PayPal or credit card at website: https://www.riverswest.org/join-us.html

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Your membership in RiversWest will enable us to keep working toward our goal of making low impact boats and boat building available to anyone who has an interest.

In addition membership to RiversWest:

Provides you with a subscription to the RiversWest newsletter

Gives you access to RiversWest shop and boat building reference library 24/7.

Gives you access to building bays 24/7, at an extra monthly fee

Gives you access to RiversWest boat building workshops and demos

Gets you invited to all RiversWest social functions

Gives you a vote for RiversWest board members and officers

Enables you to get involved with the RiversWest board, if you so desire

Gets you discounts at some local building suppliers, e.g. Crosscut Hardwoods

RiversWest dues qualify for tax deductions - consult your tax advisor

There are two levels of Membership to RiversWest.

Membership Categories	Annual Dues	now did you near about Riverswest?
General Membership Youth (under 18) Membership College student w/ID Membe New membership Renewal Name (first) Name (last)	r \$50.00	 □ Facebook page □ RiversWest website □ Word of mouth □ Portland boat show □ Art in the Pearl □ I am currently a member □ Other
Address		Payment
CityState _ Zip Country _ Email		Membership \$ Additional donation \$ Total \$
Phone(s)		Please send check to
Emergency contact name		RiversWest Small Craft Center PO Box 19234
Portland, OR 97280 Emergency contact phone number		

Recent updates in the Shop by John Ost

<u>Table Saw</u>: The 220 volt extension plug is very sensitive to moisture. The area of the floor over which it passes connecting to the table saw is frequently wet following rain. Keep the two plugs off the floor by placing them on the parts bucket as shown in the photo. Never let the 220 volt extension plug lay on the floor.



Miter Saw: The miter saw has been replaced. Basic operation of new miter saw is a bit different than the last one. Starting the saw is a two step procedure. Incorporated into the trigger is a safety lock. The safety lock needs to be depressed each time before the trigger can be squeezed and the saw turned on. I've attached a dust collection hose to the exhaust port and directed it into the dust collector. The power switches will turn the dust collector on and off with the saw. Please leave them so set. There is now one extra socket for the battery charger or paint warmer or other use. The manual is on the counter next to the saw. It is a good idea to peruse it before using the saw.

<u>Disc Sanders</u>: Recently replaced the discs on each sander. Please use cleaning "rubber" briefly before and after each use.

<u>Burr King 760</u>: New belt installed on metal belt sander.

<u>Planer</u>: The planer has been repaired. It appears that someone tried to force the planer to accept a board that was too thick and damaged the alignment of the head. The narrow range dial on the left side has been disengaged to prevent this in the future. Please do not force the planer beyond what it can easily accommodate.

RIVERSWEST BOARD

Officers:

Mark Ramsby, President:
 president@riverswest.org
Craig Bryant, Treasurer & Web Mgr:
 treasurer@riverswest.org
 website@riverswest.org
John Bouwsma, Secretary, Newsletter, Demos
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Directors:

John Whitehouse, Membership Coord
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Bruce Goodrich, Librarian
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