THE OCTORARO LOOP

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) News
Issue No. 1 – Volume 8 – Spring 2007 - On Line – WWW.HSRAA.ORG

The purpose and mission of the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

"To preserve and promote the spirit and heritage of Horseshoe Scout Reservation and its camps (Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H. Ware, III), to be a benefactor to the Reservation and to promote the brotherhood of Scouting among the alumni of the Reservation."



HSRAA REUNION CELEBRATES WARE'S HERITAGE...BE THERE!

JOIN us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Explorer Canoe Base, later known as Camp Jubilee, and now as we know it, Camp John H. Ware, 3rd.

The HSRAA will hold the Eighth Annual Reunion at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd on Sunday, July 15, 2007. The Reunion moves to Ware to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the camp and to show off the latest HSRAA project.

HSRAA's Eighth Annual Reunion will feature open program areas at the pool, shotgun, archery, handicraft, and rifle/BB in the afternoon.



Past Directors Mellinger & Christenson with Jim Montich

Trained staff will be available in these areas to provide instruction and to insure safety. After the activity period, dinner will be served and a brief HSRAA business meeting will follow.

CAMP JOHN H. WARE, 3RD HIGHLIGHTS

1932 – 1935 During this period, the Lewis Property acquired by Council as a buffer for Camp Horseshoe.

1950's – Council takes on future plans to handle bourgeoning Scout membership.

1957 – Camp Expansion Fund was used to open up the Lewis property for camping. Pete Tobiessen joined the camp staff as Ernie Heegard's assistant. They were asked to develop and expand the Council's Explorer program. This program was to operate on the Lewis property, north of Flagpole Hill and across the Octoraro in Lancaster County. Heegard: "Pete and I built rope slides from trees on opposite sides of the Octoraro in order to ease access to the old farm, cleared and repaired the old springhouse located at the rear of what is now the rifle range at Camp Ware. We ran a long pipe to "Aunt Molly", a latrine and washstand we built as the first structure on the property.



1958 – Explorer Base was in high gear. A new headquarters building, Lawrence Lodge, was constructed and dedicated to E. Hibberd Lawrence, who had been a farmer on the Tudor farm in Avondale. Two permanent campsites were added to this developing Explorer Base. They were named Lewis and Clark, and Frontier. One was an Adirondack site, and the other a tent site. A large cook shelter in each site provided meeting and eating space.

1959 – 1960 – Explorer Base offers a positive experience for older campers at Horseshoe. It became the base for canoe trips from the upper reaches of the Octoraro Creek to camp and for trips to the Susquehanna River. The Base offered a wide range of instructional and shakedown activities which included back-packing, hiking, trail food preparation, dutch oven baking, field sports (archery, 22 caliber skeet shooting), and bait casting, as well as canoeing and sailing instruction.

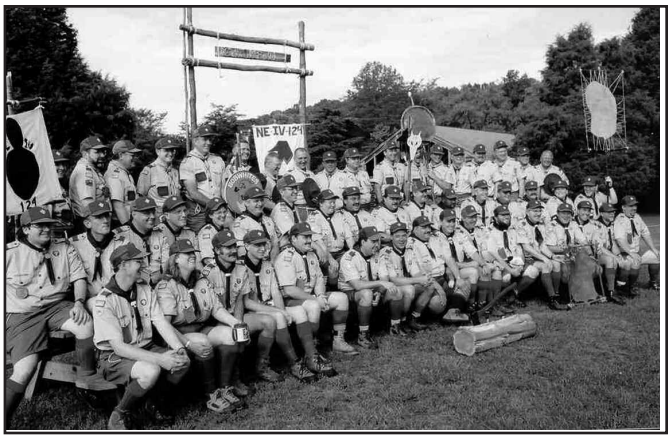
1961 – The Jubilee year of Scouting prompted the renaming of the Base to Camp Jubilee. A Jambo-style camping program was developed for troops who wanted to experience outdoor skills under their own leadership in contrast to Camp Horseshoe's structured programs. New campsites were added. Patrol tables were built and canoes and rowboats were acquired.

1962 – Jubilee offers a 6-day camping week experience at $16 per Scout.

1963 – Projects to improve the camp were proposed: a swimming pool with showers, a "low water" bridge to facilitate travel between the camps and a Ranger's home.

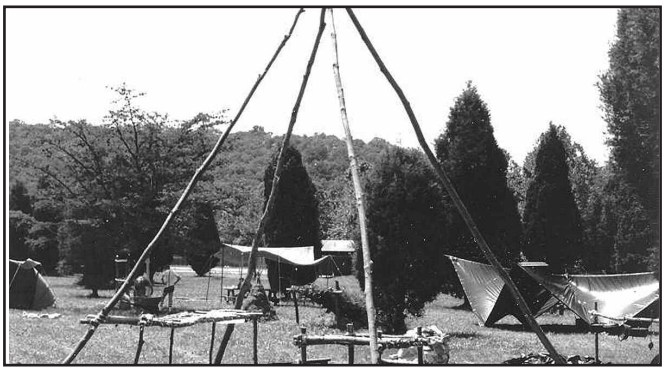


1964 – Pool construction started and completed for use in1965. All were in the swim!



1969 – The Council's first Wood Badge course conducted at Camp Jubilee under "Pete" Peterson's leadership. Since then, almost all Wood Badge courses have been held there and the camp has become a training center for adults and youth in off season. Other types of training events used the facilities including Junior Leader Training courses, adult leader courses and training for National Jamboree Council troops and Crews for the Philmont Scout Ranch.

1979 – Sloan Lodge built for winter camping and summer staff use. Added advancement programs offered troops.



1980 – Webelos Scout camping developed as a part of the Cub Scouting program. In later years the Council would build upon its Cub programs using Jubilee/Ware offering "Parent and Pal" weekends, Webelos camping, etc.
1982 – Innovative programs of a Computer Camp and Energy Camp were first offered in Scouting at Camp Jubilee. This was later to be followed by Space and Energy camps and other off-shoots of specialty programs.
1985 – The 75th anniversary year of Scouting. Jubilee was renamed Camp John H. Ware, 3rd. Senator Ware, of Oxford, had played a prominent role in the Council as Council President from 1957 – 1961 and continued to serve on the Councils' Camping Committee thereafter. His sons attended Horseshoe; and, he with his family were benefactors of our Council. That summer, the US Army Corps of Engineers, thanks to Colonel David Pergrin, constructed a "Bailey Bridge" over the Octoraro between Ware and Horseshoe.
1986 – The bridge served us briefly but had to be demolished and parts used elsewhere by the military.



1988–In preparation for the International Jamboree of Polish Scouts in Exile, a new Dining Hall, with handicap access, was built. 1200 Girl and Boy Scouts from around the world come to Camp Ware and Horseshoe with our Council's volunteers and camp staffs playing a full service role throughout their encampment. The girls were camped at Ware while boys were at Horseshoe.



1989 – Handicapped Camporee weekends were initiated at Camp Ware during and continue to this day. Now referred to as Special Needs Camporee. Octoraro Lodge 22, Sue and Bob Fisher played prominent roles in these events as well as Ware staff.
1990 – Camp Ware over the years was used by outside organizations, including football practice teams, etc.. This summer 150 Scout members of the LDS Church used the facility supported by Ware staff.
1993 – An Open House for Cub Scouts held to attract parents and youth to Ware. Themed summer activities introduced at Ware for Cubbing programs.



2000 – "Irish Scouts 2000" from Ireland camp at Ware with support of Staff and Council volunteers. The Horseshoe Scout Reservation

Alumni Association (HSRAA) formed to include any person camping at either Camp Ware or Horseshoe.



Sue Fisher, health officer, and new post

2001 – Health Lodge was built and an equipment storage facility was added.



2002–Camp Ware gateway built by HSRAA funding greeted new campers. Council announces a capital campaign to raise funds to build Cubtown at Camp John H. Ware, 3rd. This major project was to enhance our Cub Scout programs and build upon our Scout membership.Venturing Scout program introduced.



2003 – Ground breaking for Ware's new facilities, including: Cubtown Lodge, Trading Post, expansion of Dining Hall, and construction of a Staff City and other related needs. Powderhorn Training for adult leaders began at Camp Ware.



2004 – Open House at Ware introduced new and improved facilities for Cubbing, Boy Scouts and Venturing Scouts.



2007 – HSRAA Reunion at Ware. HSRAA plans were made to fund a new major project to benefit the Ware camp and Scouts this summer.

CAMP WARE LEADERS 1958 - 2007

1958	G. Ernest Heegard
1959	Peter Tobiessen
1960– 1968	Missing detail
1969	Craig Wright
1970	Frank Penrose
1971	Nelson Wenner
1972 – 1979	Raymond Pauley
1980	Robert McCarter
1981 – 1982	Matthew Christenson
1983 – 1988	David Mellinger
1989 – 1991	Paul S. Owen
1992	C. W. Bruton
1993	Alfred Stoudt
1994-1995	Steve McCall-Carter
1996-1997	Ben Bruton
1998	Josh Bruton
1999-2002	Marjorie Prosock
2003–present	James Montich

WARE PRESENT DAY TROOPS-LEADERS

Thanks to a few of many who made a difference at Camp Ware over the years. Since 1969, three generations of the Robertson Family of Troop 44 – Bruce and Ryan with Dad, Bill

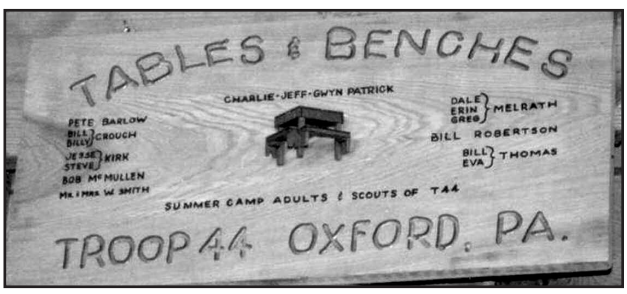


– have been there..and Bruce will be there this summer. Through the years some of the others that come to mind are names like Herb Eye, Ray Pauley, Chuck Kelly, Gwyn Patrick, Dale Melrath, Joe Warram, Cal Wallace, Al Foard, Merce Sloan, Herb Warner, Pete Sirocco, Tom Cooper, the Brutons Matt Christenson, and Bill Hess.

Current Troops at Ware include – Troop 8, SM David Mengel; SM Larry Schuman with Troop 92; Troop 66 with Jim Harris; Dave Spangler and Troop 28; Troop 22 with SM John McCabe; and, a new unit at Ware, Troop 101, with SM Raul Laguum. Also, Troop 65 of Exton is there, too.

Thanks to Alan Forssmark, Roy Cole and Ray Hadyn in making a difference to Cub, Boy Scout and Venturing Scouting programs and facilities.







OUR CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This winter, my family and I attended the first ever reunion of Troop 24 (Kennett Square). It was great seeing and catching up with many of my Scouting contemporaries. The reunion was held in conjunction with the troop's 20th annual father-son weekend, held this year at Camp Spencer. I really enjoyed seeing that many of my troop's traditions were still followed. Of course, because Camp Horseshoe was such an important part of my Scouting experiences, my thoughts turned towards her at various times during the reunion.

Actually, having the troop reunion at a 'foreign' camp helped underline, in my mind at least, the important role that Camp Horseshoe played in my development throughout scouting. It's easier to take Horseshoe for granted—the Reservation has been around for over 75 years—and many of the landmarks that I remember from my youth are still prominent camp fixtures. In fact, many of them are as old or older than the camp itself—the White House, the Mason-Dixon marker, the Octoraro Creek, Buzzard's Rock, etc.

One of the greatest things about Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware is their continuity. Many "old" traditions from my youth are still followed today, and the core values communicated by the summer staffs, scoutmasters and other leaders remain the same. Of course, the Reservation is not static—new traditions, consistent with the reservation's values, continue to emerge. The summer camp program and facilities continues to evolve—offering even better opportunities for development of the scouts.

The Alumni Association is dedicated to preserving the traditions and core values of the camps. We are currently in the midst of our annual membership renewal cycle. If you are

already a member, I encourage you to renew your membership for 2007. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join. Over 90% of our member dues are used directly to support the camps by funding reservation improvement projects.

This year, Camp John H. Ware 3rd celebrates its 50th anniversary. Ernie Heegard, its first Camp Director, and a number of other former Camp Jubilee/Camp Ware Camp Directors, former staff and leaders will celebrate this event at our annual HSRAA Reunion, to be held on Sunday, July 15th. Today, more than ever before, the camps relationship is symbiotic.

For those of us who camped at Ware at some point in our Scouting careers, this is a tremendous opportunity to see how the infrastructure and nature of the camp have evolved while remaining faithful to its core mission and values. For those of you who never made it across the river, this is a great opportunity to understand the important ways the camps and their futures intertwined. And of course, more importantly, it's a great opportunity to see your scouting contemporaries.

YOURS IN THE "SPIRIT",
Mark Hammond, **'79 Chairman**

COUNCIL DINNER HONORS VOLUNTEERS, EAGLES AND NEW

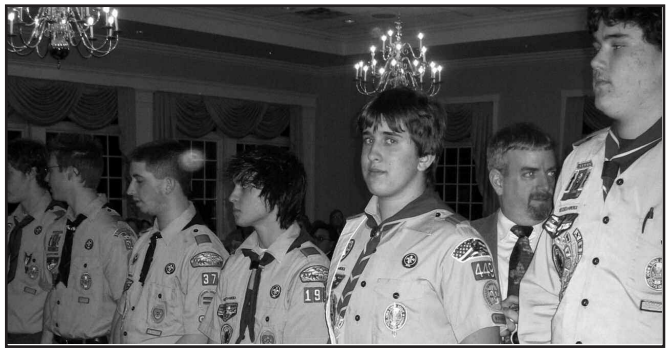


SILVER BEAVER AWARDEES

HSRAA member, Thomas A. Murphy, of the Octoraro District, was honored as one of four recipients of the Council's most prestigious award, the Silver Beaver. This is the 74th year the award has been presented.

In addition to Tom, Silver Beaver awards were presented to Lenni Lenape's Tom Stalnaker, Diamond Rock's George Quay and Horseshoe Trails' Jeff Miller. A reception in honoring all four recipients was held following the Banquet at the Coatesville Country Club.

New Eagle Scouts and Volunteer Scouters were also honored before a crowd of 220 Scouting friends and families.



IN THIS ISSUE, "Ernie says"

Talks of his memories of his first days at Camp Horseshoe and …

More than sixty years have passed, but the memories of my first week at Camp Horseshoe for summer camp are just as vivid today as they were that first summer. Actually the build-up started the previous January at winter camp.



Browning Memorial Lodge 1927

Our troop had spent a week-end in Browning Memorial Lodge. The building was cold and drafty in spite of the roaring fire in that enormous fireplace. You could easily roast one side of your body, while the other side froze even though you were standing just a few feet from the blaze. The drafty and sometimes smoky building, the snipe hunt, the constant echoing phrase, "CLOSE THE DOOR," and woodcutting were all part of the lore and experiences of Horseshoe. I had my first taste of some of the best characters you would ever want to meet, namely George Cole (the camp ranger), and C.C. Cole (retired ranger and George's dad). The two returned that Saturday night with songs, harmonica, and a hand saw played like a violin. Yes, I had seen enough to become firmly hooked, and could not wait to

sign up for summer camp.

The day finally came that I could go to camp, and nothing could match the experience of traveling the old camp road along the Octoraro to enter Horseshoe. The lush green trees overhead, narrow dirt road beneath, sparkling water to the left, and nothing but pure excitement just around the next bend, kept me wide-eyed! Kindness Center and the White House were the first buildings that came into view. Then there was the steep climb up the hill behind Browning Lodge to the dirt field, which combined both parking lot and parade field. After parking, I dashed off to the front porch of the White House to check in, then out the back door to join some other Scouts bound for the Kit Carson Stockade, our camp-site for the next 2 weeks. Each camp-site (or stockade as they were called in the early years,) was named for a key person or place in history. The names and buildings have not changed over the years, and have been wonderfully maintained by the Order of the Arrow.

(Look for Ernie's "LIFE IN THE STOCKADE" in next Octoraro Loop)

MIKE BERKEIHISER IS JUBILANT!



Simply put – Mike is jubilant with the prospects of opening another season at Camp Horseshoe.

He states: "I simply could not be happier than I am right now with the group of people we will have working at Camp (Horseshoe) this summer!" All but three of last year's Department Directors will be returning. We have been able to promote some of last year's staff and bring back the likes of Craig Cohen as the Head Quarters Director and Jon DeVirgillio as the COPE Director.

Furthermore, Berk comments: "You might get tired of hearing me say it, but we are extremely fortunate again this summer to have a Staff that is nothing short of amazing. I am excited about the summer and (personally) can't wait to get there."

Berk comments that last year there was a concern about the number of Scouts we had signed up for the summer because there were 12 campsites open for the summer. The good news this year is that we currently have only two sites available during the summer.

Editor - Horseshoe continues to provide some of the best Scouting programs and leaders in the country!

JIM MONTICH CHIMES IN ON CAMP WARE SUMMER PLANS

The 2007 Camp Ware season starts off with the 18th Annual Special Needs Camporee on June 22 to 24th. It is a fun packed weekend for our challenged campers and the volunteers that make the weekend happen.

Our first full week of camp will be the Science and Radio Camp for Boy Scouts. This year's theme is "CSI Camp Ware" and will offer Crime Prevention, Chemistry, Computers, Aviation, Composite Materials, Fingerprinting, Radio, and Electronics merit badges. We will accept 150 applicants for Science Camp and 12 applicants for Radio Camp.

Meridith Barret, the new Program Director, and her talented team have been busy preparing for this summer. The theme of the Cub camp this summer is "Island Adventure".

Boy Scout program will introduce a new program for older Scouts that will take them exploring the Reservation. It will encompass backpacking, cooking, orienteering, overnight camping and other exciting activities.



Our Cub Scout program consists of one family camping weekend on July 30 to August 1st and two Parents Pal weekends on July 7-8 and July 14-15. This year the Parent Pal weekends will include planned activities during Saturday afternoon in addition to the open program areas. For longer camping experiences, there will be six four day/three night sessions beginning on July 18th. The program has been enhanced to make Cub camping more exciting for the Scouts and their leaders.

Finally, to celebrate Camp Ware's 50th Anniversary, the camp staff in conjunction with the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association will host the Annual HSRAA Reunion Picnic at Camp Ware on Sunday, July 15th. The Handicraft area, rifle range, BB gun range, shot gun range, archery range and the pool will be open for family enjoyment in the afternoon followed by a great picnic dinner. There will be a short HSRAA business meeting after dinner.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp Ware this summer!

OUR HIGHLIGHTED PERSONALITY .... DAVID MELLINGER, M.D.

Vacation to our Camp Doctor, Dave Mellinger, is spending his time at Camp Horseshoe's Morrison Health Lodge tending to our camper and staff health needs. Actually, his Scouting roots are in our Council where he has served on both Camp Horseshoe and Camp John H.Ware, 3rd staffs. His lifetime service to Scouting is remarkable.

He grew up in the Coatesville area where he was a Cub Scout in Pack 38. Dave then joined Troop 38 and later transferred to Troop 74 where he became an Eagle Scout.

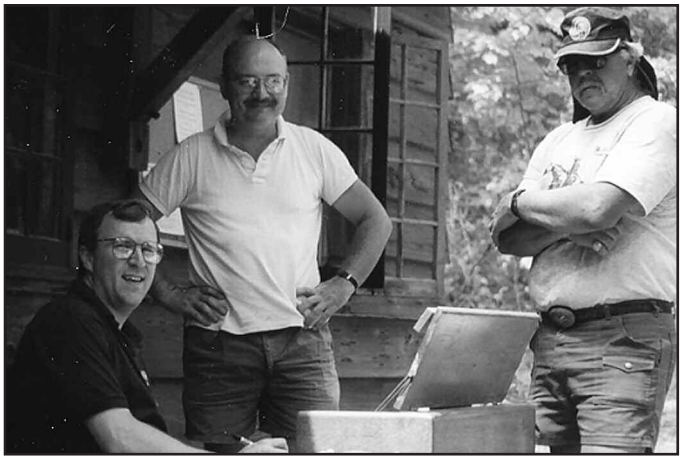
As a Scout he attended the Philmont Scout Ranch twice. In 1981 he went as an ASM to the National Jamboree.

Dave attended Swarthmore College and while there served as an ASM with a Swarthmore Troop for 4 years (1980-1984); then, as an ASM in Richmond, VA for three years (1984-1987). He started a medical Explorer Post and led it for 4 years in Charlottesville, VA 1987-1991.

He joined the staff at Camp Jubilee in 1981 as Archery Director. n 1982 he was Program Director and 1983-88 was the Camp Director. He has been at Camp Horseshoe in the Health Lodge since 1997.

In terms of stories, Dave relates that he had the privilege of working at Ware during some exciting years. While there, Sloan Lodge was dedicated, the Rifle Range was built, the Dining Hall was built, and the Pavilion was built. Ware had the first Computer camp in the country as well. I was also there when the camp's name changed to John H. Ware, 3rd.

He goes on… "Some of my fondest memories and best friends resulted because of my affiliation with the camp. I am grateful that my current job has allowed me to return a few weeks each summer - one of the highlights of my year."



Dave at organ with Joe Eagan and Moose Winsch

Currently, Dave's medical work is that of Associate Director, Chief Physician

Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri for Student Health Services.

A salute and thank you, Dave, for your continuing devotion to Scouting and the Horseshoe Scout Reservation!

OFFICERS OF HSRAA

Chairman……**Mark Hammond**
ViceChairman……**Richard T. Bensing**
Secretary…… **Donald Tyson**
Treasurer……...**Eric R.Lorgus**
Editors..**JB Rettew, Joe Bradley, Ellie Rettew**

How "bout joining HSRAA?

You've probably spent some time at Camp Horseshoe or Camp Ware. Whether you've gone to summer camp, winter camp, or perhaps for training, somehow, some way, you got the "dust in your moccasins".

You know that these camps provide an invaluable service to the youth of Chester

County Council and its many out-of-council youth partners.

"Camp Horseshoe has introduced me to an incredible array of people - many who have become lifelong friends. I have learned leadership, responsibility, and many of the skills I now use as a working adult."

The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association (HSRAA) offers a different way to give back.



What is the goal of HSRAA? To put it simply, the goal of the Alumni Association is to improve the aesthetics of camp, make it more visually appealing and "user friendly". The gateways into the camps are an example of this goal in action. The parade field improvement project at Camp Horseshoe is the Alumni Association's most recent project with many more opportunities for improvements to come in the near future.

Finally, the other goal of the Alumni Association is to connect those people who have spent time on the Reservation. You share a common bond with these people: a love for a camp that has meant so much to you and to boys all around this area. Through membership mailings like the "Octoraro Loop" we hope to not only inform you of the happenings in the camp, but also what is happening with its people. It is, after all, the people that have made camp what it is today.

So, please consider membership into the Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association. For a modest membership fee, members will receive the tri-annual newsletter, "The Octoraro Loop" as well as a HSRAA window sticker.

For further information about joining, you can go "on line" to the HSRAA website at: www.hsraa.org. You can register on line with us.



New Program Director Meredith Barret with 2001 staff



Ware pool with Dale Mast and Kelly



Camp Horseshoe 2006 addition of new Trading Post

REGISTRATION FORM: Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association - send to:
Att: HSRAA % Chester County Council, BSA, 504 S. Concord Rd., West Chester, PA 19382

Name: _____ **Email Add:** _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIPcode: _____ **Telephone(Home)**_____

Occupation: _____ _____**Telephone (Bus.)**_____

Year of Birth: 19_____

I have camped at (please check)**:**____**Camp Horseshoe;**____**Camp John H. Ware, III (Jubilee);** ____**Both.**

Camper Year(s) Date(s): _____

Camp Staff Year(s) Date(s): _____**Position:** _____

_____Please send me further information about The Horseshoe Scout Reservation Alumni Association

The following Camp Horseshoe/Camp Ware alumni* may be interested in the HSRAA:

Name	**Address**
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

***We especially need names/addresses of people not currently registered with Council or Lodge 22 OA.**

(Tear off above and send)

THE OCTORARO LOOP
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