

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SEPTEMBER, 2009 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS -- At the August meeting Clarence, W2PGS, operator of the W9RCA.ORG web site, announced the W9RCA.COM domain name was expected to be available soon. If possible, for a reasonable cost, Clarence will try and get the .COM domain for the Club. The web site would be configured such that either address would work. K9RU reported on the special event stations run by the Speedway W9IMS club and the W9RCA special event for which QSL cards are expected to arrive soon. Dave, N9KZJ, gave an update on the USS Indianapolis radio room being assembled at the Indiana War Memorial Museum. Information about the project and photographs can be found at <http://www.ussindyradio.org/iwmca35exhibit.htm>. The Indianapolis Radio Club will have their September meeting at the museum. All are welcome to attend; please note the starting time and location below:

IRC 2009 Sept Meeting, September 11, 2009, 5 PM to 9 PM local time.

Location: Indiana War Memorial Museum, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis IN.
(That is between Meridian & Penn. and Michigan & Vermont streets.)

Parking: Free after 5:30 PM on the streets around the Monument Museum (before that parking meters need a quarter per 20 min).

Building entrance: Use the north side center doors.

Meeting room: The old "Patton Room" now the "Adm. Spruce Room" on the Main floor, east end, adjacent to the USS Indy radio room.

Building usage: The War Memorial Museum will be open for IRC members and their friends to view from 5pm till 7 pm. Come early! The USS INDY Radio room exhibit will remain open before & after the IRC Meeting.

Courtesy Call: Please thank the IWM staff during our visit for their generosity & hospitality.



INDIANAPOLIS VE TESTING SCHEDULE -- Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory. Walk-ins are accepted.

SPONSOR: Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)

LOCATION: Indianapolis Training Center (ITC), 2820 N. Meridian Street.

TIME: All testing starts at 9:00 AM

CONTACTS: Gale Wuollet (317-849-8449), <mailto:indy33windy@comcast.net> or Dovid Ofstein (317-908-5125) doctoro57@yahoo.com

September 5, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)
October 3, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)
November 7, 2009	liaison is Dovid Ofstein (N9APE)
December 5, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Sept 11	Indianapolis Radio Club at the Indiana War Memorial - Note time and location above.
Sept 12-13	Worked All Europe Contest Phone
Sept 12-15	ARRL September VHF Contest
Sept 26	Greenfield Hamfest No fees, no prizes, just a free flea market!
Sept 26-27	CQ World Wide RTTY Contest
Oct 4	Hoosier Hills Ham Club Hamfest, Bedford, IN
Oct 24-25	CQ World Wide Phone Contest
Nov 14-15	Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, Fort Wayne, IN

ARRL PRESIDENT HARRISON PRESENTS LEAGUE'S VIEWS ON DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS TO SAFETY ADVOCACY GROUP

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council (NSC) <http://www.nsc.org/>, highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "on a mission" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture" http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx.

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation to the letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads. "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone

communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times. See the Policy Statement on the ARRL Web site: <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>.

"The ARRL acknowledges numerous and increasing instances of state legislative proposals (and occasionally municipal ordinance proposals) to curb the use of cellular telephones while operating motor vehicles, ranging from prohibitions on hand-held telephones to prohibitions on all forms of electronic devices," the Policy Statement maintains. "These statutory proposals would supplement the more generalized motor vehicle code requirements that exist in various forms in virtually all States, which require operators of motor vehicles to pay full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle while driving. ARRL understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, and it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles."

Saying that the League understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, "it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles. Given the necessity of unrestricted mobile Amateur Radio communications in order for the benefits of Amateur Radio to the public to continue to be realized," the policy statement reads, "the ARRL urges state and municipal legislators considering restrictions on mobile cellular telephone operation to (I) narrowly define the class of devices included in the regulation so that the class includes only full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment; or alternatively (II) specifically identify licensed Amateur Radio operation as an excluded service."

"The ARRL is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention," the Policy Statement asserts. "Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

ARRL RESPONDS TO FCC'S PROPOSED ALLOCATION FOR MEDICAL DEVICES IN 70 CM BAND

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on behalf of the ARRL, filed comments http://www.arrl.org/news/files/MannFoundationDocket_0936Comments08_11_09.pdf on August 11 regarding a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 09-36, issued by the FCC in March 2009 http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf. In the NPRM, the FCC proposed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices -- called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators -- would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). These devices would be used on the 70 cm band on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

Researchers with the Alfred Mann Foundation -- a leading medical research organization located in Santa Clarita, California <http://www.aemf.org/>-- have developed a wireless medical micro-power network to tie together tiny devices implanted in victims of paralysis, creating an artificial nervous system to restore sensation, mobility, and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. "The Mann Foundation argues that the frequency range just above 400 MHz is optimum for their application, which requires no more than 1 mW of RF spread across about 5 MHz of bandwidth," ARRL Chief

Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote in "It Seems to Us," published in the June 2009 issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/06/01/10784/> "However, recognizing the presence of a variety of incumbent radio services in that range, specifically including the amateur service, they have proposed four channels for flexibility in avoiding localized interference. Two of the four channels are 426-432 and 438-444 MHz; the other two are above and below the 420-450 MHz band." In its comments to the FCC regarding the NPRM, the ARRL said it believes that the choice of frequency bands for MMNs as proposed is "unfortunate and unnecessary" and that "the WMTS [Wireless Medical Telemetry Service] offers a far more suitable solution than does the 413-457 MHz band for MMNs."

The ARRL asserts in its comments that due to redundant interference rejection design, the devices developed by the Alfred Mann Foundation "appear to have some reasonable prospect of avoiding the disastrous consequences of RF interference to implanted MMNs." The ARRL stressed, however, that the FCC should not permit the marketing of MMNs or any similar device in the 420-450 MHz band: "(1) unless and until thorough RF interference susceptibility testing is conducted on the AMF devices relative to high power Amateur Radio equipment; (2) at parameters other than those inherent in the Mann system, which incorporates notably redundant interference rejection design characteristics; and (3) without very specific patient notifications and labeling of the body-worn MCUs [Master Control Units] and other portable components which provide firm assurance that the devices will not malfunction in the presence of RF fields from authorized radio services in the same bands."

The ARRL did acknowledge that it thought the Commission to be correct when it stated in the NPRM that "given the low transmitter power and duty cycle limits that would typically be used by either the implanted MMN device or the external MCU, we expect that the risk of interference from MMNs to incumbent operations in these frequency bands would be negligibly small." The ARRL pointed out, however, that no testing has been done to verify this conclusion and "such testing should be concluded and the results analyzed before this anticipatory conclusion can be relied upon."

In its comments, the ARRL made note of the fact that there is Part 90 spectrum above 450 MHz available for low-power biomedical telemetry, but "the Alfred Mann Foundation argues that bands between 450 and 470 MHz are unsuitable due to the fact that the band is 'congested and populated with commercial, high-power transmitters that could preclude reliable operation of lower-power, wireless medical implant devices.' This, the ARRL said, "is a very worrisome contention, and not the argument that should be made by the proponent of a new service that is secondary to other incumbent licensees. ARRL contends that if the 450-470 MHz band hosts services that are incompatible with reliable operation of MMNs, then the 420-450 MHz band, and especially the segment proposed for MMNs at 438-444 MHz is equally incompatible with MMNs."

Pointing out that Amateur Radio television transmitters and repeaters and FM voice repeater input and outputs operate in this segment in particular, "the potential for interference to MMNs is on the same order, or worse, than would be the case if MMNs were to operate in the Part 90 biomedical telemetry band between 450 and 470 MHz," the ARRL told the FCC. "In the segment 426-432 MHz, amateur television stations transmit on a wide bandwidth basis. Amateur Radio stations are permitted to operate at power levels up to 1500 W PEP output, and the RF environment at 420-450 MHz, with primary government radiolocation facilities and highpower amateur facilities is no more conducive to reliable MMN operation than would be the 450-470 MHz band."

The ARRL also voiced concerns that nowhere in the NPRM does it mention what the allocation status of MMNs would be relative to the Amateur Radio Service. Though the Alfred Mann Foundation has proposed that MMNs would be secondary to incumbent licensed operations in the subject bands, the Amateur Service is presently secondary to government radiolocation in this band; this represents a cooperative sharing arrangement that is satisfactory to both government agencies and the Amateur Service, the League contends.

"While it is presumed that the proposal is for MMNs to be secondary to both government radiolocation and to the Amateur Service (as opposed to Amateur stations and MMNs being co-secondary) this is

not clear from the NPRM," the ARRL maintained. "Because the interference susceptibility of MMN devices generally is not known, it would be improper to create a co-secondary allocation for MMNs anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band at this time. The Amateur Service has a practical inability to protect patients wearing RF susceptible MMNs from interference from ongoing amateur operations in the 420-450 MHz band, and therefore all MMN operation is going to have to be conditioned on the ability to withstand and operate in the presence of such high-power signals, and thus subordinate in allocation status to the Amateur Service. Unless this interference rejection capability is demonstrated by MMN proponents in advance, the devices should not be allowed to operate anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band."

Imlay and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with the Alfred Mann Foundation in February 2009, but Imlay said that so far, they have not responded to the ARRL's request to "cooperate in a firm statement that their devices would not malfunction in the presence of nearby RF signals from Amateur Radio stations. Failing that, these comments reflect our continuing concern about the effect on implant patients from unpredictably close Amateur Radio station operations. Other radio services affected, both above and below the 430-450 MHz band, are taking similar positions." –ARRL Letter

FCC TO UTILITIES: DON'T LOOK TO HAMS TO PAY FOR YOUR TESTING

In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the FCC has told a Pennsylvania utility that the utility is responsible for paying for http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09_08_07_5108.pdf. At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company (DLC) <http://www.duquesnelight.com/>. The company has made repeated attempts over the years to reduce the interference none of which has fixed the problem permanently.

Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable." She spelled out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically:

47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation
http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.5.pdf; 47
CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators
http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.13.pdf, and
47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements
http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.15.pdf.

"Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and DLC has had ample time to locate the instances of interference and make the necessary repairs," Smith told the utility, "you are directed to respond to [me] within 60 days of receipt of this letter, detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the remaining instances of interference that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, DLC will be required to provide [me] with a status update every two weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter."

ARRL Lab Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG, was pleased with Smith's decision, and said that amateurs should not be made to pay fees to the utilities to test for harmful interference by the same utilities. "It is not the responsibility of an Amateur Radio operator to track down and get rid of power line noise -- that's the utilities' job. I am pleased with the precedent that Laura Smith and the FCC have set here. Now maybe more utilities will take power line noise interference more seriously in the future." –ARRL Letter

AMATEUR RADIO STATION WX4NHC FEATURED IN NATIONAL COMMERCIAL

The Amateur Radio Station, WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.wx4nhc.org/> is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work. Listen to the spot here:

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRICANE_60_PREPAREDNESS_MIX.MP3.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL.

"With this new spot, we are helping to showcase the important contributions made by the Miami ham radio operators," said Duracell's Bob Jacobs. "These heroic teams are working to save the lives of others. When storms strike, the radio operators are donating their time to make sure communications stay intact, facing intense pressures and dangerous conditions to those in need. We're proud that our batteries can help power these life-saving efforts." –ARRL Letter

FCC ISSUES CITATION TO WASHINGTON COMPANY FOR SELLING, IMPORTING UNAUTHORIZED RF DEVICES

On July 28, the FCC issued a Citation to The Spy Store <http://www.thespystore.com/> for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1697A1.pdf. According to the Commission, these devices were in violation of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended and the Commission's Rules, as well as United States Customs and Border Patrol regulations.

On February 13, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau sent Spy Store a Letter of Inquiry, initiating an investigation. The FCC wanted to know if the Washington State company was marketing an unauthorized radio frequency device, specifically, the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer. According to the Citation, the FCC observed that the device was marketed on the retailer's Web site on September 4, 2008. The device jams signals emitted by a GPS transmitter, disabling a receiver from finding the location.

Spy Store responded to the Letter of Inquiry on March 2, telling the FCC that they began selling the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer on or about July 31, 2007; they have sold 69 units. In its reply, the company told the FCC that they began importing the devices beginning in 2007, with subsequent deliveries continuing into 2008, for a total of 90 units delivered. Spy Store told the FCC that "the importation of GPS-JM2 was discontinued once they became aware that the units were unlawful in the USA."

Even though Spy Store imported GPS-JM2 GPS Jammers on five different occasions, they did not file any FCC Form 740s for the imported units; before radio frequency devices may be imported to the United States, an FCC Form 740 (or the electronic equivalent) must be filed with the United States Customs and Border Patrol. The company admitted to the Commission that the device was not certified in accordance with FCC Rules, but stated that the Chinese supplier advised them that "it was

lawful to offer this unit for sale and as such, took no further efforts to determine if the device complied with the Rules."

The FCC noted that Spy Store explained that they "would not have offered, marketed or sold the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer had they known it was an unlawful device." Spy Store also told the Commission that they no longer offer or market any other jamming devices and have ceased all marketing and sales of the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer and have disposed all of the remaining units.

The FCC said "it appears that Spy Store violated Section 302(b) of the Act and Sections 2.803 and 15.205(a) of the Rules by marketing in the United States a radio frequency device not eligible for certification. It also appears that Spy Store violated Section 2.1203 of the Rules by importing the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer without making the required import declaration."

Spy Store was warned that "if, after receipt of this citation, you violate the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner described herein, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." The company was given 30 days to respond to the Citation either through a personal interview at the Commission's Field Office nearest to their place of business or a written statement. Spy Store was advised that any response should specify the actions that they are taking to ensure that they do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency jamming devices in the future. –ARRL Letter

MFJ ACQUIRES CUSHCRAFT

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/> announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies <http://www.lairdtech.com/> effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue. The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line - - 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services. –ARRL Letter

FCC VANITY CALL SIGN FEES TO INCREASE SEPTEMBER 10

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the "Federal Register" <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19104.pdf>, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees; these

fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates. For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>. – ARRL Letter

SHORTS

FCC BLOGS, TWITTERS - On Tuesday, August 18, the Federal Communication jumped on the technological bandwagon and began "Twittering." Twitter <http://twitter.com> allows text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers; to date, the FCC's Twitter page has almost 1900 followers. The FCC has also started a blog called Blogband <http://blog.broadband.gov/>. According to Chairman Julius Genachowski (who made the first post), "Blogband is part of the FCC's commitment to an open and participatory process. Blogband will keep people up-to-date about the work the FCC is doing and the progress we're making. But we want it to be a two-way conversation." Readers may leave comments after each post, but comments will be monitored during normal business hours and will be reviewed as "speedily as possible" before posting. "As this blog demonstrates, the Internet is changing and expanding the way Americans communicate, providing them with unparalleled access to information." Genachowski wrote. "So visit Blogband often to keep up with the latest news and -- more importantly -- get involved." The FCC submitting a formal comment in the record of a specific Commission proceeding." Find the FCC's Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/fccdotgov>.

W9RCA SPECIAL EVENT QSL CARD –



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