

Ring of the Rise

June 2011



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Hello all, I can't believe this year is half gone already. No doubt that time certainly does fly. It's definitely going to be a big water year once the run off starts in earnest. The Kern will be roaring but even with the high flows the fish will still be there. As Guy has said on the forum you have to fish the edges to find fish. They don't like being in the high and fast water anymore than we do. A lot of big fish have been showing recently in spite of the higher water.

It has been a strange spring so far and the temperatures have been all over the charts, hot one week then a cold snap. Of course this has been delaying the major run off with the colder temperatures in the higher elevations.

The Kids Academy was moved from May because of the snow pack but is all set to go the weekend of June 4th. It promises to be the best one yet. We have many more club members this year volunteering to lend a hand and we are very thankful to all of them. The generosity of our members is overwhelming sometimes, from monetary donations to flies, fly boxes and other gear to keep the Kids Academy going. This year the youngsters will again walk away with a new fly rod combo, fully stocked fly boxes from our members, fishing vests and probably a few extra pounds courtesy of the camp cooks. This event just gets better and better each year and I can't thank Shane enough for organizing and coordinating everything. It is no easy task. Next year I want to participate and have my grandsons attend. They all have fly rods, are learning to tie and have been practicing their casting. Thank all you folks who are involved this year. There are too many to name individually. Our sport will live on with those young people and with you sharing your knowledge and love of fly fishing they will have memories that will last a lifetime. I hope all these new fly fishers come to the Rendezvous in September and take part in the youth division.

As you noticed in the last issue, we have two new contributors to the newsletter. Rob Buhler (clouserfreak) and his brother Ryan (ryan). Their first articles were outstanding and we look forward to many more. Rob will be doing the "Fly of the Month" section and his first tutorial was on the clouser minnow. Ever wonder where Rob came up with his forum name? Now you know. He loves pulling streamers and always gets into huge fish. His brother, Ryan, also a streamer fanatic did the "Tips and Techniques" segment on putting those streamers to work for you. Like his brother, Ryan has yanked some big fish with streamers also. Thank you both for stepping up and pitching in. It

takes some pressure off Shane and Pete. Hope we can fish together again soon guys!!

Our very own Allen Bell (*Raider*) with some help from Shane Goslin (*fishinXJ*) will be our speakers for the June meeting. They will be talking about their fishing adventures in Colorado last year. I'm sure it will be informative as well as entertaining. Hopefully I will be at the June meeting.

Once again I want to thank all you members for everything you do for our club. Every one of you brings something to the table. I've been in other organizations but never one that has the camaraderie of our club.

Good fishin' to all of you,

Rill

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello anglers, this is a <u>fly fishing report</u> for the week of 6-3-11 written on Friday 6-3-11.

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern The upper river is up to 3100 cfs... Some of the biggest fish I've ever seen come out of the upper Kern have come out the last 2 weeks. Water temps are 50 degrees around 1pm. There are some big fish being caught up and down the upper river but finding spots to fish is tough with the higher water.

Fish bright flies and a little bigger than usual so the trout can see the flies you are fishing in this off color water. Craneflies are back and fishing the larva with Hares ear imitations is getting the job done. Other flies are Squirrel nymphs size 12 and BH Royal Flush size 12. Also try caddis larvae (Bottom Rollers) size 14-18. Great attractor flies are the Kern Kandy size 10 or the BH Lifter size 8. Most of the fish are focusing on stoneflies and Baetis patterns. Some other attractor patterns that are working well right now are Tungsten Sunkist, Frenchy's, Rainbow Czech Nymphs, Salvation Nymphs and Prince Nymphs size 12-18. Black Stoneflies are emerging today.

Great tip: Fish the edges. When rivers come up, fish will be found near the banks and in eddies. Fish bigger, flashy flies with heavier tippet 4x or 3x. Also, fish sinking lines or tips

and get those streamers near the bottom. Pink Streamers!!!!

<u>The 4 mile wild trout section</u> Open year round - Fishing is a little tough up here. <u>Catch and Release - barbless</u> hooks only!!

<u>Lake Isabella</u> This is the place to be fly fishing right now. Fish are stacking up in the in the mouths of both rivers and the few creeks coming in. Big fish too!!! Bass are moving into the shallows in 4ft-6ft of water. Carp are making their

<u>Lower Kern</u> The lower river is not fishing great. The lower river is 4000+cfs (above average <u>cubic feet</u> per <u>second</u> for fishing) and the fishing is not great. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is poor above Erskine creek.

Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern Open

South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North Open



Conservation Report: by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

Kern River Rainbow Project Update

The Edison Trust committee held its semiannual public meeting in April.

The grant for the well drilling expired in January so the SSFF and the DFG both presented formal requests asking for an extension. We asked for a year and the trust committee granted two years. For the actual project to get rolling though the DFG is still waiting for the attorneys to agree upon the legal language and terms in the land lease between the county and state. You have to love the efficiency of our local and state governments!

On the good news front, the hatchery folks are hopeful it will happen any day. They are moving ahead with improvements to the hatchery including building seventeen foot high nets around the raceways to keep birds out and running new plumbing into the buildings for the baby KRR. Also they may be getting a large grant to line the seventy

year old cement walls in the raceways. The trust manager, Kern Community Foundation, has turned the trust around and it's making money again. It's been a few bad years so this is great news.

The DFG biologists have finished a draft updating the 1995 Upper Kern Basin Management Plan which will be released soon. The new plan takes the focus off Golden Trout and puts it entirely on the Kern River Rainbow. It can no longer be called a management plan but they'll come up with something fancy. All in all, pieces are coming together and great changes for the Kern's native trout are on the way.....someday. Stay tuned.

Shane R. Goslin

Outings Report: by Cris Miller (Dances with Bears)

Little Kern - June 25th & 26th

Heritage Backpacking Outing

This will be a FIRST for several of us to catch tiny Kern goldens. And my third heritage trout in less than two months (oops!).

Get your backpacking gear together and your reel lubed up because we're taking it to a river of our namesake! I hear Sasquatch might be going which makes my stomach growl just thinking about a backcountry feast!

I know of three folks going along with yours truly, so we already have a good group for you to join.

This will involve a hike that is comparable to the Forks. It's about a 4.5 mile sojourn into the Great and Mighty Heritage Homeland. Just so you know, I'm not a speed hiker, I like to take it slow and steady with plenty of short breaks along the way so all can enjoy. For those of you who like a faster pace... I'll see you when I get there.

Time to <u>'HIT THE TRAIL COWBOYS!'</u> you heard the girl on the GTW video! Let's get to steppin!!!!!

I know what you are thinking sportsfans... I look into my crystal ball and see the wheels a turning ... 'can I handle it?'... 'Will the flows be absolutely perfect?'... 'Will the wife let me?'... 'Is Mr. Bears destined for yet another fantastic outing in, through, and beyond the unknown'... 'Can I afford a weekend of soul cleansing, rod tug-a-lugging, river sleeping, black bear dancing, campfire singing, backcountry feasting, good ole time of fellowship and fishing with my favorite fly club?'

Cris

Make sure to contact Cris if you are interested in attending this outing. You can follow the thread in the Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club section of the Forum under the heading "Tiny Kern Outing 6/25-26 (Heritage)" or through the following link;

http://www.kernriverflyfishing.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1307498660

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

Ok We are going to try something new. Don't worry; we will still have the Rod Building Tip of the Month. Let's give this a go.... <u>pictures</u>. I want pictures of your custom builds with a short write up about the picture. With all the folks that have gone thru the SSFFC Rod Building Class, there have to be a ton of custom builds among us. Custom thread work, handle, feather inlays, reel seat or insert? It doesn't matter if you took the class or not. Shoot, it doesn't even matter if it's a fancy or advanced technique. It's all about the fun of building a custom rod. Come on, show em off. Send your art work to: <u>p_emmel5@hotmail.com</u>



Here, I'll start it off. This is my first attempt at machining my own seat hardware. Wedding band hardware and Choke Cherry insert. I turned the insert and then mortised it to accept the reel. I used aluminum to start with and gave her a good buffing on the polishing wheel followed by 6 coats of hand rubbed Polyurethane.

Pete

Also, remember that SSFFC club members receive a 15% discount at Acid Rod. When you make your next rod building purchases please make sure to give Mark Griffin (Mark Griffin) a call at Acid Rod @ 909-394-7486 or stop by his shop at 910 N. Cataract Ave, San Dimas, CA and let him or Colleen know you're a member of SSFFC. - Garv

Check out the following link to see what Mark has to offer -

http://www.acidrod.com/



Club Meeting: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

The May general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, June 11th at 7:00 PM at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce building. There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM prior to the general meeting and all directors and chairpersons are encouraged to attend.

This meetings presenter will be our very own Allen Bell (Raider). This past SSFFC Fly Fishermen of the Year will be speaking about a 2010 trip he took with Shane Goslin (fishinXJ).



Fishing Adventures in Colorado

Allen will share details about fishing the Frying Pan, Roaring Fork, and Missouri rivers with Shane. He will share what they learned and how to do it on a budget.

This is really one of those you won't want to miss.





The July presenter will be another of our own – Outings Chair Cris Miller (*Dances with Bears*). Topic to be announced.

Our August presenter will be Zino Nakasuji, Chiaki's cousin, who will be sharing his adventures of **Bonefish Fishing in Hawaii**.



SSFFC Member Profile: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)



The Buhler Family - Rob, Ryan & Savannah

Fishing for me started well before I can remember and I'm sure that it was the same for my older brothers too, one of which has turned out to be my most frequent and comfortable fishing partner. Some of my first memories are following my father with my two brothers in the cool, foggy mornings chasing pheasant in the fields and ranches of Idaho and fishing the Middle Fork of the Boise River, often staying overnight to camp with the whole family. The fishing that we did on the Middle Fork was not technical, nor were we very conservation minded, but it sure was a special kind of fun for three young boys.



It wasn't long after this day that our family moved several times landing eventually in Southern Orange County when I was six years old. For various reasons fishing for my brothers and I became a distant yet warm memory with my only fishing over the next twenty years coming at a local lake a handful of times with a childhood buddy. I must admit though that there was a strong natural yearning to fish every time that I traveled and passed a river or lake.

At twenty-seven, I planned a week long vacation to visit my oldest brother Rick's house in King's Beach, Ca. on the north shore of Lake Tahoe and then several days exploring Sequoia National Park on bicycle. On one afternoon, Rick took his daughter Elizabeth and I on a hike of the Little Truckee River bringing along a couple of fishing rods. Rick soon had me attaching that old, familiar worm onto a hook and tossing it into the Little Truckee (there were no special regs at this time). Although I had no luck with the worm, it brought back a flood of memories and yearnings for future adventure. Next, I was given a fly and bubble setup that I actually got a strike on when retrieving my bubble back upstream, stirring my interest further. When arriving at SNP I was disappointed yet understanding to learn that they did not allow bicycling on trails. This twist of fate had me hiking trails instead of biking them. While returning to the trailhead from a Tokapah Falls hike. I decided to rock hop down the Marble fork of the Kaweah River to avoid the relentless National Park visitor traffic and spooked an uncountable number of brilliantly beautiful Brook Trout. I was now craving that fishing rod that was in my hands only days earlier.

Yet another twist of fate occurred when I had returned from this vacation to find that Ryan had purchased Ronnie Kovach's book, Trout Fishing in California. The very next weekend I was exploring creeks on the eastern slope of the Sierra mountain range armed with a new rod and some salmon eggs. Having a fantastic time, the next year was filled with regular visits to the Sierra's and Angeles National Forest with family and friends that fished with spinning gear soon teaching us that artificial lures fished properly would catch the wild fish in the creeks in addition to the stocked fish. The first transition in conservation was made as we soon discovered that a freezer full of unused fish was not a positive action. The natural evolution to barbless was now complete with the desire to release most of the fish that we caught as unharmed as possible. While shopping for lures, Ryan and I became attracted to and began collecting these fascinating flies that were displayed next to the Sonic Rooster Tails and Thomas Bouyants that I loved so.

Our first flies that we used were with spinning gear, either dapping delicately on mountain creeks or adding some split to buggers on larger and deeper waters.



Ryan was the first to investigate a fly rod with a request for a Christmas present and was granted his wish by Santa himself less than two years after we picked up fishing again as adults and this happened to be the same year that his incredible daughter Savannah was born. We fished as often as possible for the next few years from our lovely L.A. locals to the Eastern Sierra's bringing Savannah along on most of the adventures. Savannah caught her first Golden Trout at the age of two (with a little help from her mother) and was a graduate of the first SSFFC Kids Academy in 2008. Ryan and I quickly took up tying after beginning fly fishing and have been fascinated with the intimacies of entomology and the art of tying and fishing, continuing up the learning curve ever since.



In 2007 we became members of the SSFFC and have enjoyed four very memorable Rendezvous', several scheduled club outings, nymphing and casting classes by Guy Jeans, a rod building class with talented teacher and rodsmith Chiaki Harami, but most importantly a welcoming from most SSFFC members that we have experienced only a handful of times in our lives.

Rob Buhler

What a great Family Profile. It has been quite some time since someone to stepped up to the plate and I am thankful that Rob, Ryan and Savannah agreed to share their story. Who's next? - Gary

Library Report: by Ryan Spanel (Flyn Ryan)

There will be no report this month.





RALPH CUTTER'S E/C CADDIS

With the long, warm days of summer quickly approaching, all creek, river and hatches are in full bloom. Caddisflies are extremely abundant in the Sierra's, second only to the midge.

The E/C Caddis, originated by Truckee, Ca. legend Ralph Cutter, has turned into one of the most effective and popular flies in the Sierra's. He developed the fly while noticing that the trout were taking crippled emergers (adult winged caddis stuck in their pupal shuck during the emergence from pupa to adult). He noted that unlike mayflies, which may spend minutes drifting on the surface to dry, caddisflies become airborne, sometimes instantly after breaking through the surface film. The exception to this is the so called crippled caddis that cannot free itself from its pupal shuck making themselves easily available with even the largest trout ready to capitalize. After this Ralph created the E/C Caddis (Emergent/Cripple Caddis), a pattern that closely simulates the real thing and is easy to tie and fish.

The tail of Z-lon and lighter abdomen dubbing represent the rear of the adult still tuck in the pupal casing, with the head, legs, and wing having already emerged. I use this pattern not only solo during hatches, I will tie it 18" behind a Stimulator and fish as an attractor, often bringing fish to the surface that are not rising. It is natural enough that it will raise even the spookiest of fish and will pass for a spent caddis and even mayflies adding to its attractiveness. Ralph ties several variations in color and size to cover most caddis in the Sierra's. We will be tying the Olive Brown/Caddis Green version.

Recipe:

Hook: Dry Fly size 12-20

Thread: Olive 6/0

Shuck: Amber Z-lon Yarn

Abdomen: Olive Brown Haretron

Thorax: Caddis Green Haretron

Hackle: Dun

Wing: Elk Hair

Substitute materials that you have available if necessary. Antron yarn can be subbed for Z-lon and you can use other dubbings, hackle colors (grizzly, brown, and ginger) and even Deer Hair for the wing.

Tying Instructions:

DEBARB YOUR HOOK BEFORE PLACING IN VISE. Place hook in vise and attach thread at the 2/3 mark on the hook shank. Prepare a section of Z-lon yarn secure to the top of the shank with a couple gathering wraps. Wrap Z-lon to the rear of the hook pulling slightly upwards with your left hand

securing yarn to the top of the shank. Stop your wraps at the barb and trim the butt ends of the yarn to 2/3 the length of the body (trim some fibers shorter than others providing a natural tapered appearance).



Select a small amount of Olive Brown Haretron and apply to the thread starting with a thin layer, adding more as necessary. Wrap the Olive Brown dubbing forward to the 2/3 mark on the hook forming the abdomen. Don't worry about stray Antron and rabbit fibers. These are a good thing!



To soften the transition from the abdomen to the thorax I dub a small amount of the thorax color onto the thread and place a sparse amount of the abdomen dubbing on top of this. Wrap the dubbing forward a couple of tight turns.



Apply a small amount of Caddis Green dubbing to the thread, wrap a thin thorax leaving room for more dubbing after tying in the parachute hackle. Stop your wraps before the eye leaving plenty of space to finish the fly.



Select an appropriate size rooster saddle or neck (cape) hackle. Prepare by removing barbs from a small portion of the stem leaving a clean tie in area. Attach with concave side facing upward stopping thread toward the rear of the thorax.



Apply a small amount of Caddis Green dubbing to the thread and wrap over hackle tie in area and back toward the rear of the thorax leaving thread hanging for the wing tie in.



Clean and stack an amount of Elk Hair slightly smaller than the amount used for an equivalent sized Elk Hair Caddis. Measure the wing slightly longer than the body and tie in to the top of the shank using two gathering wraps and several tightening wraps. Trim the butts of the Elk Hair as shown and move thread over the hook but under and just behind the wing and hackle so that the thread hangs on the opposite side of the hook. Wrap the hackle clockwise 2-3 times around the base of the wing and head (butts), making each wrap below the previous one (don't worry if the wing stands upright like a mayfly, this provides a trigger for the trout and makes a more durable fly). While holding the hackle tip downward in your left hand, wrap thread

clockwise around the base of the wing and head, but under the wraps of hackle securing the stem. After three tight wraps, bring thread from the opposite side under the fly and up behind the eye taking a couple of securing wraps at the head. Whip finish or tie three half hitches and add head cement. (See Craven's Two Minute Parachute for more detail http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_XZIX0mau0&feature=related)



Finished fly.



Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



Caddis Time

Caddisflies are in the order of Tricoptera, Trico-Hair; ptera-Wing. There are over 900 species of caddisflies in the U.S. and Canada. Sizes range from 3mm for some micro caddis to 40mm for the Great Orange Sedge. Caddisflies are second in abundance to only Diptera (midges).

Caddis have complete metamorphosis, egg to larva to pupa to adult. This cycle usually requiring one year to complete. Gary Borger in his book "Naturals" notes some species have two broods a year, while others have a two year life cycle. Many caddis roam freely, some with cases some without. In general, caddis found in slow moving or still waters build their cases out of vegetable matter. While ones in faster moving water build cases out of sand and fine gravel. Uncased caddis are rarely found in still waters but are common in most Sierra streams.



With over 900 species in the U.S. and Canada, trying to understand each one and have flies that represent each stage, larva, pupa and adult would be, to say the least, overwhelming. Luckily for us fly fishers that fish in the Sierras there are only several dozen in our streams and lakes. Out of those dozen only a few are important.

Now here's where you can go all out and embrace the entomology side of fly fishing. If that's the case for you, a good place to start is with Gary Lafontaine's book "Caddisflies" or Ernie Schwiebert"s book "Nymph's vol.2 Caddisflies, Stoneflies and other Species." Luckily for us who don't want to go that far, most caddis in the Sierras can be imitated with a handful of patterns.

Most larva's' can be imitated with both a Peeking Caddis, Rockworm in green or brown and the good old Pheasant Tail in size 12-18.



Pupa imitations are Lafontaine's Sparkle Pupa and Mercer's Z Wing Caddis in green, brown and black and every fly fisher should have some E/C Caddis in size 12-20. (All you need to do is follow Rob's tutorial above).



These patterns will cover 80% or so of your caddis needs in the Sierras. There are also some micro caddis that go down to size 26 and smaller. Some simple soft hackles in olive and black will work in size 18-26.

On the larger side is the fall or October Caddis. From Sept. thru Nov. it's useful to have a few Buckskin Larva size 6-10 on 3x long hooks. For the pupa some Tangerine Dreams in size 8,3x long hooks. For the adult a few orange Stimulators size 6-8. There are a ton of other patterns that also work and I say try them all! The more flies the better but that's the fly junkie in me talking.

Another excellent book and the one I would recommend the most is Jim Schollmeyer's "Hatch Guide for Western Streams." It has detailed photographs of each stage of life cycle for all the major insects in the streams of the west. Each photo has a brief description and three imitations for each stage of life. It's also pocket sized so you can bring it streamside and match the bugs you collect to the picture to identify them.

Here are a few tips for fishing during caddis season:

Caddis are active and agile swimmers. We get taught about a drag free drift being the best way to fish, but with caddis try imparting some motion into your drifts with nymphs and let them swing up at the end of your drift. With dry flies try a drag free drift, but if you don't get any takes try skittering or skating it for a few inches then letting it drift. A lot of takes happen when you stop the skating and it starts to drift.

When small caddis are on the water I have a hard time seeing them. I take a size 10 or 12 Royal Elk Hair Caddis and tie on a size 20 E/C Caddis 18 inches of the bend of the bigger hook. Then you can see your bigger fly and if you see any takes around it, set the hook.

Remember to keep your lines clean and I recommend using a dry fly floatant. Frogs Fanny is a good product. It will help keep your dry fly floating high for easy skating.

Caddis season is a great time to be on the water. It's also a great time to introduce the kids, spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends and anyone else to the sport of fly fishing.

Next month I will talk about helping get someone started. So put a smile on your face and go catch some fish.



Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

As I was reviewing and putting the finishing touches on this newsletter I was pleasantly reminded of the depth of talent and commitment to preserving and promoting the fly fishing sport by members of our club.

From the Kids Academy which just completed as another amazing success to the ongoing efforts with the Kern River Rainbow Project to yet another Heritage Trout outing in the works, we have quite a bit going on in the realm of promoting this great sport and conserving our resources for future generations.

Additionally, with a presentation on fly fishing Colorado by one of our own, a challenge to post pictures and stories of personal rod builds, a terrific tutorial on a fly all of us should have in our fly boxes and some useful tips and techniques on fishing the always important caddis, we really showcase the tremendous knowledge base that is prevalent within our ranks.

Finally, we were all treated to a wonderful family story in the Buhler Family Member Profile post. Here we have two generations of fly fishers that I have no doubt will continue into the next. It shows the power of fly fishing to cement the family bond as well as the personal connection it provides to each of us with our natural world. We all have a story of what fly fishing is to us and how we got to this point in our journey. I really hope by reading the Buhler's story you will be inclined to share your story with the rest of us.

Another well known fact within our club is the level of patriotism that is displayed by members of our group through their current service overseas, by the past service of many in our ranks, when we gather for our events and on the pages of the Forum. With that in mind I thought I would finish up with a bit of history of Flag Day which takes place on June 14th.

National Flag Day

On June 14th, 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, a 19 year old teacher at Stony Hill School, Wisconsin, placed a 10 inch, 38 - star flag in a bottle on his desk then assigned essays on the flag and its significance. This observance commemorated Congresses adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. This observance was also the beginning of Cigrand's long years of fervent and devoted effort to bring about national recognition and observance of Flag Day. The crowning achievement of his life came at age fifty when President Wilson, on May 30, 1916, issued a proclamation calling for a nation wide observance of Flag Day. Then in 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating the 14th day of June every year as National Flag Day. On June 14th, 2004, the 108th U.S. Congress voted unanimously on H.R. 662 that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

As I am sure with many of you, I am proud that the Flag is prominently displayed on the front of my house and I send a blessing to all that have stood up for it and protected it in the past, present and future every time I look at it. I'm equally pleased that when I look around my neighborhood, especially next door at our own Steve Dobbins' (*TechGuy*) house, I see that same beautiful flag hanging for everyone to see and take equal pride in.



"Forever let it wave"

Tight Lines, Gary



Quotable Quotes

The whole inspiration of our life as a nation flows out from the waving folds of this banner.

~ Author Unknown ~

I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dream and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your heart. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making.

~ Franklin Knight Lane ~

SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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