



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

November 2012

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

The speaker for the November PART meeting will be Scott (K1OA) Ginsburg. He will be talking about ham radio awards such as WAS, DXCC, and more. This talk will be tailored to the relatively new HF operator, but will also serve as a good review for the more experienced hams.

At a recent PART Board of Directors meeting, we discussed the details of our upcoming Christmas Party, to be held instead of our regular monthly meeting. This year, we are planning a Yankee Swap and dinner at the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton. Many thanks to Hugh (N1QGE) for his efforts to plan and coordinate this event. I'm sure Hugh will have many more details to announce at the club meeting.

Many thanks to the Pumpkin Patrol volunteers! This year, in the town of Westford, Halloween was postponed for 4 days due to the storm. Alan (K1ALL) served a pumpkin patrol net control, which was held during the weekly PART Net. Thanks, Alan, for doing double duty. Thanks also to Alan (W1AHM) for leading this effort.

I recently had fun soldering my 2-band module for my Elecraft K1. I built the board for

15m and 80m. It took me about 3.5 hours to finish

the soldering and toroid winding. A couple of hours later, it was properly adjusted and on the air. I started with 80m QRP CW and made 3 or 4 contacts on my G5RV. Conditions were tough, with a lot of QRN and QSB. I haven't yet had a QSO on 15m, but hopefully will get one soon.

Linux users in the club will be happy to hear that the xlog logging software has a new owner. The original author spent several years on the xlog project, and then decided to find a new owner for the project. I volunteered and was chosen to keep the project going. Those of you who have logged for an operator at Field Day probably used the xlog software, which was designed for more casual operators. I am getting familiar with the software, which was written in C using GTK+. So far, I've added support for Cabrillo version 3, with a release coming in the next couple of weeks.

PART is always looking for speakers for our monthly meetings. If you hear of a good speaker, please let me know, and perhaps I can get them to speak at a future PART meeting. Many of the speakers we've had recently were the result of tips you sent to me.

Have a lot of fun, and 73!

*Next PART Meeting – Nov. 20th 7:30 PM-
@ the Westford Police Station
Speaker: Scott Ginsburg K1OA – Ham Radio
Awards*

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

November 20th, 2012

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

December 1st, 2012

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

December 18th, 2012

- PART Annual Holiday Dinner – Yangtze River, Littleton – 6 to 9 PM.

January 5st, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

January 15th, 2013

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

February 2nd, 2013

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$14/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

February 19th, 2013

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

Monthly PART Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Westford Police station
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 18-September '12 & 15-October '12 (As of 15-October '12)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$2,766.79	\$1,452.50	\$4,219.29
Income	\$15.00	\$68.39	\$83.39
Expenses	(\$106.98)	(\$0.00)	(\$106.98)
Net	(\$91.88)	\$68.39	(\$23.29)
New Balance	\$2,674.81	\$1,520.89	\$4,195.70

PART 2012 Membership as of 9-November '12

	Individuals (= New for 2012 (+ Renew for 2012)	Households (= New for 2012 (+ Renew for 2012)
Full (\$25)*	46 (= 15 + 31)	46 (= 15 + 31)
Senior (\$15)*	32 (= 6 + 26)	32 (= 6 + 26)
Family (\$30)	19 (= 4 + 15)	9 (= 2 + 7)
Student (\$15)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	2 (= 2 + 0)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Grand Total*	99 (= 27 + 73)	88 (= 24 + 64)

* Starred lines denotes changes since last report

* To pay dues *
PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015
-or-
Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Latest new PART members

WoTJP – Tim from Fitchburg

Ham Radio Repair - Available Options in New England

- *Jon McCombie (N1ILZ)*

A while back I queried the PART-L email reflector for recommendations for person or shop to repair my Kenwood TS-450S/AT. As always, the good members of PART came through with many suggestions (big thanks to Rick, KB1NXL; Alan, W1AHM; David, N1MNX; Rich, AB1HD; and Ken, KB1RYO). Club members might be interested in an update on what I found.

One person suggested I call Beltronics. Unfortunately for us hams, though the company is still around, they are completely out of the ham radio repair business.

One person asked the HRO guys at the Boxboro booth if they could recommend a local repair shop for Yaesu rigs. They knew of none.

One person suggested Jim Fowler, KA1SU. Some research shows that he does business as Quimby Mountain Radio. Google points you to <http://www.qmradio.com/about.htm> -- however, qmradio.com points to a generic page saying "property of KA1SU" and little more. I'm not sure if Jim is QRV for repairs.

Another person suggested Mike, N1EQ, in Maine (<http://www.n1eq.com>). Mike repairs only Icom and Kenwood rigs (fine for me, since I have a Kenwood). In a word, Mike is fantastic. I give him my strongest recommendation with no hesitation or reservation.

Mike responded to my initial email within one day. He proved very knowledgeable about my rig, and based on my description of the problem, knew exactly where to look (in this case, a blown electrolytic capacitor). His rates are more than fair: he charges for his actual working time, but not "head-scratching time," research time, or even time for an extended burn-in test. [With my agreement, Mike kept the rig an extra day to more fully test and make sure his fix really fixed my problem. It did.] If you need your ham rig repaired, please consider using Mike, N1EQ. Note: if you do, please take a moment to review the policies on his website. For example, he only accepts PayPal for payment; he has a very specific list of rigs he works on; he only uses UPS for shipping. I had no problem with these policies, but YMMV. And if your rig isn't on his supported list (e.g. my other radio is a Yaesu), you'll have to keep looking.

If you have had a good experience recently with getting a ham rig repaired, please share it with the PART list, either on the email reflector or in PARTicles!
10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>





Members and a spouse / guest are invited to:
The PART winter holiday Dinner
Tuesday December 18 2012
Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:01pm
Buffet Dinner from 7:00 – 7:59 pm
Gift Swap from 8:00 pm to 9:14 pm

Yangtze River Restaurant

<http://www.yangtzeriverlitleton.com/>

584 King Street (Route 110) Littleton, MA 01460 Phone: (978) 486-0500



Yes this is the third Tuesday of the month. This dinner party takes the place of our regular December club meeting.

\$20.00 per person Cash at the door for buffet - Cash Bar

To participate in the gift swap:

Please bring 1 Yankee Swap <http://www.yankeeswap.com/> gift per person. Swap gifts should be “useful” new items priced under \$19.99. Ham specific gifts should be marked as such.

NOTE: Space is limited and Advance reservations are needed... so we can give the restaurant a headcount. Please reply with (number of persons attending) by or before December 11 2012.

Reply to: Hugh Maguire N1QGE via E-Mail To: hulin127@verizon.net

Have a new QSO you'd like to share? Send them to the PARTicles editor and we'll publish them here!

Jon, N1ILZ worked N1ZZZ/MM using PSK31 on 10m. N1ZZZ was on a 137' long freighter ship in the North Pacific Ocean, underway from San Francisco to Singapore. At the time of the QSO, N1ZZZ was near longitude 178 degrees, very near the International Date Line.

Ham Fleas/Events

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2012

12, 13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
 14 Oct Queens NY HoSARC @HoS Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A
 20 Oct Longueuil PQ CRAR-SdeM \$7@9 +\$10/T@6 Guy VE2GGY 450 679 2318 R+
 21 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
 27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
 28 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A
 2 Nov Feeding Hills MA HCRA Auction @CongCh @6:30PM Jim KK1W 413 237 4666
 3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422 F
 3 Nov Londonderry NH IRS @Lions \$3@8 S@6 Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 F+
 1 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

2013

16 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc \$5@9 \$20/T@7 Timothy KA1OS 508 919 6136 T+
 2 Mar Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinCib Mary N1TOY 413 222 1990 +
 1 June Hermon ME PSARA @HS \$5@8 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 +
 15 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch \$5@8 \$15/T Vinnie W1VJA 203 987 2108 +

Repeater Nets

146.955 Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled on the 955 repeater.

- Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM Sunday Night PART Net – every
- Sector 1C Emergency Communications Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday). Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

442.450 D-Star Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled.

- Sunday 8:00 PM [Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM [New England Amateur D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 010C

NOTE: The Port B node (442.450) is connected to [REF010C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. The Port C node (145.330) is connected to [REF050C](#) Mon – Fri from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. Users can LISTEN ONLY to D-Star Reflector 10C by linking to this URL: <http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=5031>

On the Net

Recently, Fred-AB1OC and Anita-AB1QB, talked about their station at home at one of your club meetings. They have started telling their “story” on their good-looking blog. We had a request from some PART members to post some of their station information... but we think it is best to get the information right from the SOURCE, so here is the link to their blog! You should be able to click on the link if you are opening with Adobe Reader.

<http://stationproject.wordpress.com>

The screenshot shows a WordPress blog post. On the left is a sidebar with the title 'OUR HAM STATION' and a search bar. The main content area features the post title 'APRS Station Part 1 – Station Radio and Software' dated November 14, 2012, with a 5-star rating. The central image shows a Kenwood radio with an APRS display and a computer monitor showing a map. The right sidebar lists 'TOP POSTS & PAGES' and 'RECENT POSTS'.

**Happy Thanksgiving
everyone!**



The "other" PART Breakfast

One of our fellow PART'ers got these candid shots of breakfast at the Owl Diner on the 14th of November. Now, the questions are...

What did Dick do to his arm? Why does Terry have his hands folded? Is Pastor Steve saying morning grace? Two Charles's, tell us it isn't possible!



What happens here, stays here is the moto at the Owl!



Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$14 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The full breakfast is $\$10.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \14.00 (rounded up slightly). This price is unchanged. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (new price)
Full breakfast: \$14.00 (same price)
Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



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Robert Schmeichel
2011

ARRL News

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national association for amateur radio, connecting hams around the U.S. with news, information and resources. URL: <http://www.arrl.org>



Dayton Hamvention Announces DX Theme for 2013

November 15, 2012 - Throughout its 62 years, the **Dayton Hamvention®** has showcased the best that Amateur Radio has to offer. Each year, a specific theme -- such as Amateur Radio clubs, global friendship or the advent of digital modes -- spotlights one of the many facets of the Amateur Radio Service. And when Hamvention opens on May 17, 2013, at Hara Arena, the 2013 theme *DX Hamvention* will reflect an important part...

FCC Denies ARRL Petition to Deny ReconRobotics Licenses, But Limits Devices to 100 kHz Bandwidth



November 15, 2012 - On November 14, the **FCC issued an Order on Reconsideration** dismissing a **March 2010 Petition for Reconsideration** filed by the ARRL that asked the Commission to deny pending Public Safety Pool license applications associated with the **ReconRobotics Video and Audio Surveillance**

System; however, in doing so, the FCC made it clear that the devices may not exceed 100 kHz of bandwidth. The Recon Scout ...

Ten Meters Opens Big to WØ Land



time.

November 14, 2012 - The autumnal fall equinox in the northern hemisphere always brings exciting propagation. From September 19-30, 2012 along the Front Range of Colorado, we especially enjoyed an exceptional 10 meter opening. Over 130 different DXCC countries, from all continents, were spotted from our area stations during this



[Digital Edition of December QST Now Available](#)

November 14, 2012 - The digital version of the December *QST* is **now available** to ARRL members. The digital version includes many features not available in the print version, such as:

- A video overview of the Elecraft KX3 HF/6 meter QRP transceiver.
- Extra Pacificon convention photos -- including a profile of NASA Astronaut Lee Morin, KF5DDB.
- An audio excerpt from the Pacificon banquet speech by ARRL Chief Executive Of...



[Be a Star! Enter the Third Annual ARRL Video Contest](#)

November 13, 2012 - If you've ever wanted a way to show the world how exciting Amateur Radio can be, here's your chance: The ARRL is sponsoring its **Third Annual Video Contest!** Here's a chance to put that video camera to use: Shoot a ham radio-related video and send it our way. If your video takes first, second or third place, we'll post it on the ARRL website for everyone to see. We're looking for a few good video...



[Ho Chi Minh City Hosts IARU Region 3 Conference](#)

November 12, 2012 - Officials from 16 **IARU** Member Societies in Region 3 attended the IARU **Region 3** 15th Triennial Conference. Hosted by the Vietnam Amateur Radio Club (**VARC**), the conference took place November 5-9 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Delegates from 16 IARU Member Societies -- **ARRL** (USA), **ARSI** (India), **BDR**A (Brunei Darussalam), **CRSA** (China), **CTARL** (Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League), **HARTS** (Hong Kong), **J...**



[The K7RA Solar Update](#)

November 09, 2012 - Solar activity retreated again this week, with the average daily sunspot numbers declining 8.7 points to 49.7, while the average daily solar flux was down nearly 20 points to 97.2. Sunspot numbers for November 1-7 were 48, 34, 35, 46, 47, 61 and 77, with a mean of 49.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 98.4, 96.5, 93.3, 95, 96.6, 98.7 and 101.7, with a mean of 97.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 1...



[Surfin': Eye Candy Radios](#)

Friday, November 09, 2012 - By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin' looks at radios that are very pleasing to the eye.

Tom Kipgen builds designer radios. You may ask, "What's a designer radio?" It's a radio that not only works well, but looks good. A picture is worth a thousand words, so I direct your attention to **Tom's Designer Radios website** where you can view photos of Tom's designs (representing ten...



[ARRL Atlantic Division Presents "Virtual" Convention](#)

November 09, 2012 - The Atlantic Division Leadership is turning the traditional convention model on its head! This year -- through the use of multimedia -- the Division will **host its convention on the Internet** on Saturday, November 10. ARRL President (and former Atlantic Division Director) Kay Craigie N3KN, will be the keynote speaker at the 2012 Atlantic Division Convention.

“We will be doing the convention as an...



[ARRL Executive Committee Examines Regulatory Matters, Organizational Issues and More at September Meeting](#)

November 08, 2012 - The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) held its second 2012 meeting Saturday, September 29 in Denver, Colorado. The EC is responsible for administering the League's affairs in between Board meetings. It consists of the President (Kay Craigie, N3KN), five Directors elected annually by the Board, and -- without vote -- the First Vice President (Rick Roderick, K5UR) and Chief Executive Officer (David S...

NOD - The End of the World is Coming! December 20 - 22nd

That's right Amateur Radio Operators. Better get all your fun in before Dec 21st. After Doomsday, all bets are off. You'll have three chances to work NOD. Dec. 20th, the day before. Dec. 21st, we'll be on the air as destruction rains down on us. Dec. 22nd. Well, that's a little iffy right now.

We'll be on the air on 10-through 80 meters at various times as power is available and antennas stay up. Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance to work NOD. QSL with SASE via KK5W . . . If we make it!

Call for operators for NoD

Doomsday is almost here! And it is not too late for you to help with the celebration. We need volunteers to get NoD on the air. If you are willing to operate NoD from your home station for one hour or more on any of the three days, please send an e-mail to [NOD.doomsday \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:NOD.doomsday@gmail.com). Let me know what band and mode and time period(s) you selected.

You can help celebrate Doomsday, the end of the world by signing up to operate with the special call sign, NoD on one or more of the three days of the official Doomsday Celebration.

December 20th, Pre-Doomsday Celebration

December 21st, The real deal or

December 22nd, If we are still here. Plans for December 22nd are a little iffy right now.

You won't have to leave the comfort and safety of your personal bomb shelter and it will be a timely test of your Doomsday communications. Remember, it just might be your last QSO.

We designed a unique QSL for Doomsday, you can see it on our the Doomsday website at <http://www.nowzerodays.com/qsl.html>

NoD-Now Zero Days

Special Event Station for Doomsday!

The End of the World!

Contact Us On Dec. 21, 2012

It might be your last 73.

www.nowzerodays.com

[NOD.Doomsday \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com)

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quiet times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting data. If you hear any type of interference, please report the following info to "**repeater**" at "**wb1gof.org**":



- Time: When did the event happen?
- Observing location: Where were you?
- Frequency: Input only (146.355 MHz)
- What you heard: Voices, tones, kerchunking or whatever.
- Signal strength: Either by ear (noisy, quiet or full quiet) or S meter
- Radio: To get an idea of the reporter's radio situation.

* Most important - what direction: How did you determine direction? This is the most essential piece of information. Even if it's an estimate as in "Roughly east" or "from the Northeast" it's useful. NEVER EVER reply or direct any thing to the sick person causing the interference. Because some of us have answered this person, he knows we are aware of him and that is what keeps him doing it. Also since you are communicating with a non IDing station you are operating just as illegally as he is. YOU ARE BROADCASTING! NEVER TALK ABOUT INTERFERENCE on air. NEVER

If you are interested in assisting in helping us identify the sources of interference, contact Terry-KA8SCP.

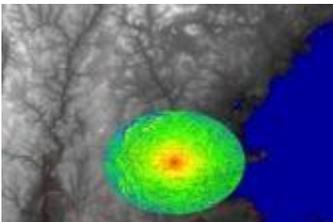
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly EmComm drills are the normal events.

So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe weather develops in our area, the folks from Taunton-WX1BOX may interrupt a QSO and ask anyone on frequency what may be happening weather wise. The BOX operator will probably ask for specific information, hail, wind damage, property damage from lightning or wind, etc. Please give him the information he needs or tell him that you've not heard of any such activity. You don't need to tell him it is sunny in Nashua!

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will significant events that may affect life and property. This is where EmComm activity may step in. Usually an NCS will interrupt a QSO and announce the situation and ask for a QSO to cease or to be "aware" of the possibility of priority calls/traffic. Please make sure you leave breaks between transmissions so stations with traffic can get in between QSOs. If there is enough traffic, it may be necessary for your existing/interrupted QSO QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



Repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Complete info on the site can be found at this [URL](#).

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including mugs and shirts. You can get information how you can obtain your PART-ware at the monthly club meetings.

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: There is a new PART badge available if you'd like to order one. Price for badge is \$15 which includes shipping and handling.



EmComm

Emergency Communications – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford

- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.



Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via EmComm nets and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact the EmComm Net Control Stations on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.

PARTicles © 2012, a publication of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

This month's editor: Terry Stader – KA8SCP

PART official mailing address is:
PART, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886

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