

Club Newsletter

June 2015

Welcome to all,

Before we get into it, I'd like to thank Jason Stratford who contributed so much to this quarterly edition: a trio of excellent articles and also some marvellous photographs from our trip to Uncle Billys.

Also thanks again to Bob Knott for his next splendid instalment of our club history. Great work from Bob which is sure to be of enormous interest to all (again).

And thanks also to Tom who is a bottomless well of crackin' funnies.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

Kicking off this edition we have, of course, Bob's next history lesson. Followed by a report from myself on our recent trip to Uncle Billy's. Then we have a gear review of the *Cabelas CGR* glass rod and a feature on small stream fishing from Jason. A funny bit from Tom. A review of Gin Clear's latest flick, *Back Country: North Island*, from myself. And finally Jason's entry into the imminent club fly tying comp.

Yes, this edition is a bit of a Jammo and Stratto show but you can end this reign of tyranny, folks, by contributing some articles to the next edition of the newsletter!

JULY CLUB TRIP - CLARRIE HALL DAM 12 JULY 2015

Unfortunately our scheduled Bribie Island trip for June was a non-starter due to the threat of crap weather. So we now look towards Clarrie Hall Dam on 12 July. Yes, we had pencilled in the Tweed River for July but by presidential decree we have foregone that option in favour Clarrie Hall and who can argue with that?

Gates formally open at 7am (but, in reality, often earlier). Meet at Crams Farm. More info <u>here</u>.

2015 FLY TYING COMPETITION

It's that time of the year again folks so get tying! This year we're looking for one surface trout fly and one native or saltwater surface fly.

To kick things off, Jason (on account of living in the far, far away land of Tamworth) has added his submission to this edition of the newsletter and I think you'll agree this will be the fly to beat.

IMPORTANT DATES

8 July 2015 Club Meeting Fly Tying Competition submissions

12 July 2015 Clarrie Hall Dam Trip

18-19 July 2015 Lure and Fly Expo

25-26 July 2015 Annual Club Weekend

12 August 2015 Annual General Meeting Fly Tying Competition judgement day

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Fly Tying: Competition Entry......17 There are two trophies up for grabs: intermediate and master.

Entrant flies need to be submitted at the next club meeting on 8/7/15 and the winners will be announced at the AGM on 12/8/15. On the subject of which.....

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 AUGUST 2015

Yes, I know we're all excited about this one. It's time to clear the decks and elect a team of movers 'n' shakers to take us into the new year. Alex has already emailed out the committee nomination forms so if you think you have what it takes, or don't but want to give it a crack anyway, fill out the form and enter the fray. Positions for President, Secretary and Treasurer are up for grabs. Oh, and I suppose Vice President is too.

LURE AND FLY EXPO 18-19 JULY 2015 – IPSWICH SHOWGROUNDS

As in previous years, we will have a club presence at the Lure and Fly Expo at Ipswich Showgrounds. As before, we'd like volunteers to "man" the stand and tie flies in the tying competition. We're also looking for photos that we can display at our stand which demonstrate the sport of fly fishing to the thousands of adoring fans who will be passing our way. If you have suitable pictures, please bring them along to the next meeting – they will be returned to you after the show. Many thanks to Blommy for putting all this together.

More info <u>here</u>.

CLUB WEEKEND 25-26 JULY 2015

Our annual club weekend will begin at 3pm on Saturday with some fly tying and casting followed by a presentation from Duncan from Fishhead.

The weekend will continue on Sunday from 9am until late afternoon with more tying/casting.

Food will be provided both days and Duncan will have tackle and tying materials available to inspect and purchase.

As usual, the venue will be Currumbin Community Special School, 5 Hammersford Drv, Currumbin Waters (thanks Kylie!). This is an open event so spread the word. Please let us know if you are coming (and if you know any non-members coming) for catering purposes.

See you at the next meeting on 8/7/15, folks!

Stu Jamieson Vice President

** STOP PRESS **

The dates for the RISE Fly Fishing Film Festival have just been released. The Brisbane show is once again at the Eldorado Cinema at Indooroopilly on 20 August 2015. The feature presentation this year will be the follow up to Gin Clear's *Back Country - North Island*, the rather creatively titled *Back Country – South Island*. Dates for other locations and ticket sales may be found <u>here</u>.

THE HISTORY OF THE S.E. QLD. FLYFISHERS CLUB INC.

By Bob Knott

Part 2: The Saga Continues......

The year 2000 was a year of changes for the SEQ Flyfishers; we began to question the direction we wanted the club to go. Submissions by Warwick Northcott and Mark Miller suggested we look beyond our local fishing trips and focus on the community as well. Glenn Court suggested a seminar which would be open to the public for a fee.

It was decided to hold a "Day in the Park" for the Leukaemia Foundation - Make a Wish, at Winders Park on Currumbin Creek. This was held on the 12th of November and we entertained 20 young Leukaemia sufferers with fishing lessons and boat trips. Des Charles, Peter Pakula and "Phipsey" were there and the event was covered by channel 9.

Our first meeting at the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club was held on 14 November, 2000. Only 13 members were present but we had guests, so the word was getting around!

Our newly elected President, Wayne Beggs was noticeable by his absence so the meeting was opened by Vice President, Tom Boylan. It was announced that our website was up and running and members were encouraged to contribute to keep it going. The fishing calendar for the following year was nutted out and we were up and running!

In the following months our club became more defined, with regular casting days and fly tying sessions scheduled. We had a great trip to Borumba Dam and applied to the Council for permission to use the facilities at Pizzey Park for casting days. We received permission by the next May.

About this time there arose some controversy as to our club emblem. The stumbling block was that although we wanted a fly as our emblem, we couldn't agree on the fly to use. We decided to put it to a vote, so Tom Boylan (who draws very well) came up with sketches of the different flies that were proposed. I seem to remember that there were five flies proposed; four of them were roughly drawn in black and white while the one that Tom has decided was best was beautifully presented in vivid colour! Guess which one was voted in.

In April of 2001 we were informed that the renovations to Gecko House were completed and we could move back in. This was put to a vote of the members and it was decided to stay at Mermaid Beach.

About this time a new club honour was conceived, "THE RUSSELL COIT AWARD", which was to be bestowed upon members reported for doing dopey stuff. There was no pecuniary benefit attached to the award, but dumb stunts were to be noted and recorded.

The first member who had the honour to achieve Russell Coitdom was Mario, who qualified by launching his boat well before he reached the water!

Our 2001 AGM was held in September and the following committee was voted in:

President:	Tom Boylan
Vice President:	Niels Jensen
Secretary:	Mark Hosking
Treasurer:	Mark Miller
Activities Officer:	Mike Halls
Publicity Officer:	Bob Knott
Cast Master:	John Foy

In July of 2003 we held our first open to the public event, a seminar held over three days, the 11th, 12th and 13th of July, at Bond University. We had booths set up in large marquees fitted with trestle tables and backboards for the display of products. Although this was not a live-in event, it took some organising. We had flyers available in most of the tackle shops and got some publicity in the Gold Coast Sun and on the radio We were ably assisted by "Harro" and Gavin Platz, of Fly 'n Tie. Both have been great supporters of our club from the beginning.

The seminar went off without a hitch with good support from all members involved. We felt it proved we could pitch in and work together to accomplish anything! This first event gave us the confidence and experience to stage more elaborate conventions in the future.

We felt we needed to do more to fulfill our club objectives and to this end we decided to develop a Junior Coaching program. To start with we needed to accumulate some beginners' fly tackle and tying equipment so we approached the Gold Coast City Council for a grant. Much to our surprise (or maybe not) we were given a grant to purchase a dozen rods, reels and tying vices. Tom had already approached Miami High School and we volunteered to teach fly fishing to about 24 year 11 students per term.

We started in 2005. Each class had one simple lesson in fly tying and knots, while the other class was learning casting on the school oval, then they switched places the following week, and finally a fishing day where we put it all together on the water, usually at Lakewoods. Not many fish were caught but the kids had a great time. One problem we had almost from the start was to find enough members who could spare a few hours during school times. Fortunately a few of us had reached the age of retirement so we had some hours to spare.

Our efforts were very well received and we continued for several years until finally it became impossible to staff the lessons and we reluctantly discontinued our teaching efforts.



Casting on the oval



Lakewoods

Of course I have not mentioned that during this time we did a lot of fishing together! We developed club competitions of various types, some successful some not. We had the Fish of the Month Comp, Angler of the Year Comp, Fly Tyer of the Year Comp. But competitions or not we just enjoyed fishing together. We had local outings and outings which took us and our boats to other areas to catch what was going.

We had outings at Borumba Dam, Hervey Bay, Inskip Point, Uncle Billy's, The Tweed River and Bribie Island to name but a few. Some of our members travelled to Darwin to participate in the Saltwater Challenge several years in a row.

It was in June, 2005 that we announced we would hold a three day, live-in convention at Camp Bornhoffen in the Gold Coast hinterland. It would be held from Friday, October 28th through to Sunday the 30th. This would be the start of putting our club right out there. But as John Foy, Australian Champion Flycaster, and long time member of our club, and sometimes philosopher asked, "Who are we trying to impress?"

More to come in the next newsletter...

TRIP REPORT: UNCLE BILLY'S

MAY 2015 By Stu Jamieson



With winter bearing down on us it must be time for an Uncle Billy's trip! In an effort to avoid the bitter cold which can plague the New England region of NSW in the cooler months, we collectively (and by "collectively" I mean "Tom") decided we should go a little earlier this year. So it was that we planned to hit Sue and Bill's farm in mid May for a nice, quiet, warm, relaxing weekend. And it would have been a relaxing weekend were it not for all the darned fish we caught!



Brian takes one for the team.

The trip almost got off to a false start as Sue was completely booked out for May and it was looking like we may have to defer our trip to a frigid June visit after all. But a late cancellation opened a window of opportunity and Tom's bones were saved. And when Tom's happy, happiness doth reign in the club *and the Lord didst smile and give us fine weather. And it was good.*

It was very good indeed, actually. In fact the weather was so blisteringly mild (I swear the mercury hit 15°) that Jon was forced to while away the sunshiny day in his float tube just to keep cool. By way of comparison, Jason and I had spent the previous night at Milani Trout Cottages, just down the road near Guyra, and it was absolutely frigid! We awoke to heavily frosted vehicles and water frozen in the pipes!

We had no fish problems at Milani, however; a recent downpour had flushed the river and left it full off chocolate milk so the fish were nonexistent aside from some tiny little perchy looking things. We had a go at them anyway but not even these tiddlers could be enticed into biting. So we de-iced the cars and left the River Milo for another spot entirely.....but that's a story for Jason to tell!

Meanwhile back at Uncle Billy's on the following day, Jon is lounging in his float tube soaking up the searing 15 degree heat, suffering the inconvenience of catching stacks of fish when all he really wanted was to relax and stay cool. But, hey, shit happens, eh? He even resorted to donning his winter shorts and walking the banks but still the fish persisted in antagonising his flies. Changing flies didn't help either - dragon fly and damsel nymphs, spiders, klinkhammers and parachute adams's - one after the other, they all got nailed. The man got no peace at all! There goes the relaxing weekend!



Yet another of the cursed beasts.

Vince reckoned he held the secret, stacking the odds in favour of a peaceful sojourn by bringing only 3 flies. But the fish had his number and despite being presented with a limited buffet (in boring, brown, unappetising colours, no less) they ate them all the same!



Cache boxes - Lando "Crash or crash through" Vince "Mr Austerity"

Tony theorised that flies made of the hair of his dog would give him peace - no self-respecting fish would eat that, surely? Wrong! They gobbled those with gusto an' all, thus issuing a stern warning to all to never bring your pets here - these voracious fish clearly have an appetite for pooch!





Don't let this cute little guy fool you, that fish will have your dog!

Not even my own mediocre angling abilities could save my flies from being engulfed. I was ensnared by 9 fish over the day or so I was there. Having one of the lowest fish counts of the weekend, I feel I got off lightly.



Yep, we all suffered.

The most successful weekend was had by Glenda and Tom, who figured out that the best way to have a relaxing, peaceful time was to keep your line out of the water altogether. I guess the rest of us are just slow learners.

In hindsight it was probably wise that Tom stayed far from the water's edge; the specific gravity of a belly full of Vince's Turkish coffee would have ensured that, had he slipped into the water, he would never have surfaced again. However Vince, determined to make the most of the marvellous lakeside conditions, was unperturbed despite this clear threat to his personal safety.



And what do we have here.....oh, Christ, it's another fish!

But all the Piscean pestering of the weekend couldn't dampen the mood of the nights, which were furnished with great food, great company and Tom's Tales[™].

The delectable degustation of the weekend was kicked off on Friday night with Brian's kebabs and cauliflower soup followed by Glenda's glorious spag bog on Saturday night, and Lando's bacon, eggs and hash browns on following breakfasts. And all of this was punctuated by Ez's legendary delicacies comprising chocolates, cheeses, cold meats and spiced sausages. Indeed the quantity and quality of the food made lunches entirely redundant - a point to remember for future trips.

On balance it was a most excellent weekend. Not even the volume of pesky fish caught could spoil the social tranquility and degustational qualities of the weekend.

Score: A worthy 5 Kriegers.

GEAR REVIEW: CABELAS CGR 359-3 FLY ROD

By Jason Stratford



I've been wanting to get a short (sub 7') lightweight fly rod to fish some tight quarters places where sub 20-25cm fish are 'the norm'.

Doing some research on the net it seemed that many who fish similar conditions / fish sizes were suggesting that fibreglass rods actually out-perform graphite in these situations as they can 'self load' (minimum fly line out of the tip to load the rod during short casts) AND are less susceptible to high sticking mistakes (more flexible material) when fish take you into weird rod angles running under trees, branches, through your legs etc.

Now there are plenty of people with much more experience than I who could make valid arguments about rod materials etc but instead, I would prefer to stay clearly in the 'right tool for the job / fit for purpose' type commentary. This includes price as a consideration (of course).

So the end decision was to look for a fibreglass rod at the higher end of the 'twig' range - a 3 weight.

Having cast a custom build EPIC glass rod (4 weight 7'6") I loved the colour (this one was translucent white) and feel...but...nothing available in the 3 weight nor in the sub 7' range. Got to say I wasnt keen of the price either.(around \$600 AUD as a DIY kit landed in Australia - what is this...IKEA fly fishing???)

So the next candidate - the Redington Butterstick. These rods seem to have a love' em / hate 'em following and I will say I was moving towards the love 'em side after the first few casts with both a 2 weight and 3 weight. Price was also less likely to upset the 'Ministry of Finance' (my wife) at around \$300 AUD landed here.

The final candidate was the Echo glass rod. This was a hard one to track down for a 'test cast' and I was limited to a 4 weight. A nice action but its hard to make a call when you are comparing rods of different weights. These were around \$270 AUD delivered in AUS.

But what other options were there ...?

Some net surfing turned up the Eagle Claw glass rod...bargain basement price of \$60 delivered in AUS but really - most reviews about it talked about price and little about performance...worth a gamble? Probably not.

Another option that kept popping up was the Cabelas CGR (Classic Glass Rod). There were plenty of reviews on the rod and most were very favourable. OK - so what are these worth? \$129 USD retail for a 5'9" 3 weight (3 piece)...but at the time were on special for \$99 USD. With a dodgy exchange rate and rip off delivery - \$170 AUD landed. What the hell...order placed...credit card 'smoked' again!

After an 'interesting' exchange with Cabelas...the rod arrived a little over a week later. After a quick quality check, I had a reel fitted to the slide ring reel seat and strung up the Barrio small stream line I use on my 9' three weight, then tied up a 6'6" leader and 'fluff' and headed outside.

The first thing that struck me was just how easy and predictable the casting action was with say 4' of line outside the tip of the rod it was pretty easy to lay the leader out (around 10' total distance) consistently. Casts in the 15 - 25' range were effortless and with a little casting stroke 'timing' adjustment...I was able to achieve quite accurate fly placement particularly in sub 20' range (something that is more difficult with a 9' rod for sure!).

The rod performs well out to around 40' with the Barrio small stream line. Beyond that you are working a little more and accuracy suffers. This is probably more to do with the Barrio taper (think rio outbound short for a twig) than the rod. I have a DT line coming so will be interested to see the difference there as well.

The rod really is a pleasure to cast and I found myself restringing the rod and going back outside for 'a quick cast' several times a day over the next few days.

I have now had the chance to cast the rod on water and have been equally impressed. The first fish on the rod came over the weekend - a 60cm carp (Yep...not the target species for which it was purchased but the rod actually handled a fish of that size a hell of a lot better than expected!).

VERDICT: On the whole - this is a really well built rod, that casts nicely and is rather good value compared to what else is in the market. Being glass, the action wont suit some...but if you do like to 'feel' the rod working...glass is where it's at - especially for these small rods!

THE **BIG** ATTRACTION OF SMALL STREAMS...

By Jason Stratford

When a group of fishermen get together, whether it be for a social gathering or for an actual fishing experience, there's always a common discussion thread that seems to arise. One which I have really started to question of late.

Yep, at some point your fishing dialogues will gravitate toward things that are "BIG". Big fish, big flies, big casts, big travels, big dollar gear, big numbers of fish landed AND way too frequently...big male appendages.

(I have it on good authority that women fisher folk DO talk about 'big male appendages'... just not as 'blokey' blokes might think. Women are more likely to say something like 'my husband was being a big d#ck about it')

Anyways, so what is this fixation we seem to have, that the value or importance of anything, particularly that related to fishing, always suggests that 'BIG is BETTER'? When I hear a fishing buddy start talking 'BIG'...I tend to find myself now thinking quite unapologetically ..."yeah...BIG DEAL!!!"

This 'new' vision has come about after discovering small stream fly fishing. The type of fly fishing that involves small rods, small reels and often small numbers of small fish caught using small...no wait...actually...tiny tippets and minuscule flies!

The particular small stream that has been such a significant factor in this change of view is itself something quite special...and in so many ways.

Firstly, just getting there involves a several kilometre hike to gain access. Rest assured, I am not a fitness junkie that lives for ultra-exertion before something can be considered 'fun'. Quite the opposite in fact.

This place is nothing like your average 'drive to the river, set up rod and start casting' spot we have all frequented at some point. The hike becomes like some weird equivalent of 'foreplay'. Yep, on the walk, you find yourself thinking so much about what is ahead of you, to absolute distraction where nothing else around you matters.

I remember my first time heading in...focusing hard on the type of fly to start out using, with all sorts of options flashing round in my head. "A stimulator? A nymph under dry? A wet? That's it - the 'ménage a midge'!?!?" That decision was reached just as I was jerked back into reality after having nearly stepped on a brown snake!

Then, as you get closer, you begin to hear the sounds of that small stream. Your anticipation level rises to a point where all that matters is getting there. Your walking pace increases, driven by pumping legs and a now single focus. "I'm nearly there...the stream... the stream".

It's nearly too much to bear, just at the last second, as you get that first glimpse of the prize. This pristine thing lying just in front of you and ready for the taking.

That's about when you remember..."do I have protection? Are the waders in the backpack or are they still on the bonnet of the car???" A quick reach around to feel the pack....we're good...ahhh such relief!!!

Actually, on arrival, the first thing you notice is the stunning beauty of what you are surrounded by and the realisation that you have this place to yourself. Though it's only with experience that you gain enough self-control, to slow down and savour the moments.



These small streams are exquisite and so not the sort of place you would want to share with others. That said...the last time I was there was with a good mate. Me, him and that beautiful small stream made for the perfect threesome.



Not that the small stream was 'easy'...in fact far from it. On that day we tread lightly, placed casts ever so gently, and methodically caressed our way upstream, exploring all likely spots. We saw fish but managed only one hook-up. A small wild gem that was all too quickly lost.



Thinking about that escape while typing these ramblings has resulted in another small distraction, to check the weather forecast for the coming few days, just in case there is a small possibility of a return to that small stream which has turned my fly fishing passion, and understanding of what's really valuable in life, entirely on its head.

So the next time a fishing colleague starts to talk BIG...it will become an opportunity to think about the BIG attraction of that small stream!

My buddy will see a blissful smiling face looking back at him and think it's an amazed reaction to his BIG story. But that dumb smile is just the uncontrolled response that comes whenever I reflect on having a bend in my small stream rod and the thought of the next 'happy ending'!



A chap went into a shop and asked for "fush 'n' chups".

The shop man said, "you're a Kiwi aren't you? Fush 'n' chups, fush 'n' chups why don't you learn to speak properly? I'm sick of you people; piss off outta my shop!"

The man was hurt and angry so had six months of elocution lessons then returned to the shop.

In rounded tones he said, "may I please have some fish and chips?" The shop man said, "you're a Kiwi aren't you?"

The chap then asked, "how could you possibly know that?"

The shop man replied, "because this is a hardware shop"

Submitted by Tom Boylan

FILM REVIEW: BACK COUNTRY - NORTH ISLAND

By Stu Jamieson



Gin Clear's prior *Planet Fly Fish* trilogy (*Hatch/Predator/Leviathan*) were nature films showcasing the behaviour of various species around the world. Their first series of films, the Source trilogy, examined the essence of trout angling in some of the great fisheries of the world - Tasmania, New Zealand and Iceland. The steady increase in the quality of photography and story telling is apparent insofar as their last trilogy set the high water mark for others to follow. So where to go now?

Gin Clear's next film, *Back Country - North Island*, seeks to personalise the fishing experience by examining what fly fishing means to all of us on an intimate level. The film follows an eclectic bunch of guys-next-door from all walks of life who show us what fly fishing means to them, how it centres them amidst the stresses of the now. Specifically, it's the small back country streams, the isolation, the serenity which results from the occasional divorcing of one's self from the bustle of everyday life which is the focus of this film. Unlike the bulk of fishing cinema, *Back Country - North Island* is not about the big fish (though the fish caught here certainly wouldn't embarrass anyone), it's about the beauty of the experience - it's about the soul food.

Given the range of backgrounds of the subjects (photographer, retailer, parts distributor, fishing guide, office worker) there's someone here that we can all relate to, if not all of them. Just like ourselves (perhaps), and regardless of their diverse backgrounds, they're all chasing the same things: escapism, beauty in nature, inner peace.

As we've come to expect from Gin Clear, the storytelling is compelling and the photography is superb. Which makes it all the more puzzling that there's still no Blu-ray release of these films - this is surely overdue. The spectacular video footage shot by Gin Clear would be well served by an HD Blu-ray release. Given the cinematic quality of the video equipment employed by the film makers, the source material would presumably be sufficient for this purpose. We live in hope.

While less academically informative on the whole than the previous *Planet Fly Fish* trilogy, *Back Country - North Island's* showcase of the escapism that flyfishing provides, and the stunning locations our pursuit guides us to, is a worthy cause.

FLY TYING: SEQFF FLY TYING COMPETITION ENTRY (2015)

By Jason Stratford

The back story ...

At some point we have all come across flies and materials that have names which are shortened to just an acronym. The BMS fly, the CDC material are both great examples.

When an acronym becomes more commonly known than the actual name, then it really speaks volumes of the acceptance of the fly (or the material) within the fly fishing and tying community.

So in that light, here is the unveiling of the fly that will become known as...

"the ENC"

The ENC is the product of several years of studying tying books, trawling the internet and speaking with some of the most accomplished fishermen and fly tying aficionados of modern times.

Those efforts sought to overcome a view that fly tying had become all too complicated and far too specific. The world was missing a true 'all purpose' fishing fly.

As it will be seen, the ENC can be tied as a size 24 micro dry for small stream grayling. Yet it will be equally as successfully when tied as a 10/0 and fished deep for pelagics.

Actual hook choices are somewhat incidental, wide gape, long shank, heavy or fine wire... they can all be used with the ENC.

It is a simple tie, a pattern that is both sparse and heavy at the same time, with materials, which are themselves collectively natural and synthetic.

Probably of most importance is that for the ENC, colour is not important. This is because the ENC is a technicolour wonder with no single luminous colour dominating any other!!!

In saying all of this, the ENC is without doubt the most visually appealing yet entirely 'fishable' fly to emerge since...well...fly fishing came into existence!

Sure, you may find the rare 'nay sayer' that does not appreciate the ENC and what it represents – but these are merely poorly educated individuals who have not yet reached the upper echelons of fly fishing and would be best served by giving away their so far fruitless efforts in this sport.

In short - the ENC will be recognised as the epitome of fly design – to those who know!

May I therefore present...in all its beauty and fish attracting glory... "the ENC".



A stunning example of 'the ENC'!

As the judges will by now be wondering...it is prudent to confirm what the acronym actually stands for?

No particular fishing reference...I just named the ENC after a favourite narrative of years passed called...'the Emperor's New Clothes'

Rather fitting wouldn't you agree?

*****CLUB SPONSERS******







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