



THE SPORTSMAN

"Conservation is Our Aim"

SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION,

P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,
N4K5P3

www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/

Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Volume 35 No. 8

October, 2013



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

First Thursday of each month, October to June,
September exception -> second Thursday

Thursday

October, 3, 7:30 pm

AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

THE CLUB HOUSE is: on the
Lincoln Park Road,
in the township of Georgian Bluffs, or
{082535 Side Road 6}, or
{217567 Concession 3 Side road,
behind Gord Maher Centre}

Presidents Message

This past month a number of us worked on putting together our club application for the OFAH Derlyn Valley Memorial Award for the top conservation club in Zone H. Reviewing all the projects we did from September 2012 to September 2013 truly shows what our club does for conservation. A list of 35 projects from toad boxes to the ten days of the Salmon Spectacular encompasses some 6,000 volunteer hours. It is a tribute to our members that we have won this award many times over.

I took the opportunity to use the reopened high power range in early September.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that have agreed to be Range Safety Officers.

There were four of us shooting that afternoon under the direction of RSO Tim Lahey and as far as I am concerned it was one of my better shooting experiences. We still have some things to work out but we are headed in the right direction.

The range committee has worked so hard at developing the proper range facilities and safety procedures that I think we just might become the bench mark for all shooting ranges.

Before the archery deer season I like to use the permanent tree stand located in our walking trail archery range, another asset of our club. Along with practising on the 3D targets that have been put up for the fall I can at least feel that I have done what I can to ensure a clean kill and ethical hunt. Now if I can stop eating peanut butter sandwiches in my tree stand I may even see a deer.

With hunting season upon us it is good to remember that even as individuals our attitudes and actions regarding hunting can reflect on all of us. A recurring concern has been the remains left or dumped off along convenient trails and interior roads on multi use recreational areas like county forests or conservation lands. Garbage bags of bird carcasses, guts and animal body parts are not the kind of things we want hikers, dog walkers or families out for a thanksgiving day walk in the woods to come across. If you do see this during your outings lets please move it away and out of site. **Thanks Mike Prevost**

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Mike Prevost
1st Vice President: Fred Geberdt
2nd Vice President:
Bill Douglas
Recording Secretary:
Scott Grimoldby
Past President: Dennis Wiseman
Treasurer: Murray Smart
Correspondence Secretary:
: Geoff Ford

Directors:
Brian Clements, Terry Faulkner,
John Ford, Wayne Gallagher ,
Chris Geberdt, Jim Hastie,
Al Hillis, Doug Murdoch
Ron Robb,

Newsletter: Dave Skelton
Webmaster: Bruce Farrell
Membership: John Ford
Key Keeper: John Ford

Please inform John Ford if your address, phone number, or, email changes!

September 12, 2013

Prize Winners

4 pack LED flashlights	Stan Mclean
Pocket light flashlight	Sam Richardson
Gulp saltwater	Doug Flood
9 X 12 tarp	Pieter Van Zyl
Folding knife & toolset	Keith Lawrence
Cuisinart knife	Pieter Van Zyl
Gloves	Dave Hartrick
Flash light	Dave Skelton
Saw	Jack Doherty
4 1/2" folding knife	Fred Geberdt
Scissor set	Walt Edworthy
Hammer	Larry Fisher

Red tag - \$50.00 gift
Certificate Watsons Tackle Doug Flood

Congratulations to all, Brian Clements

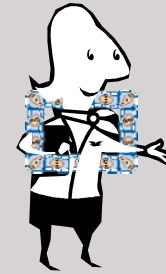
Volunteers - Thank you -

The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association would not function, if it were not for its many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helps with our fund raising ticket sales, shooting range improvements, fish hatchery maintenance, wildlife projects, the Salmon Derby and the many other things that keeps our club going.

The SSA Executive



Disclaimer:



The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always reflect the policies or opinions of the SSA.

Reproduction of any SSA material in this document is encouraged by any paid up member of the SSA.

Range Report

Good Job, Well Done!



The Club Executives, Range Committee Members, and Shooting Sports members in general would all like to give our sincerest thanks to those volunteers that gave up their time and Sundays to help make the safety modifications to our 100 Yard Range. Your hard work (and I do mean Hard Work) and dedication was very much appreciated. Without your help we would not have been able to get this Range open in time for the fall Hunting Season rush. You all did such a great job we got the range approved via pictures and a write-up on an E-mail , without the normal site inspection.

Thanks Again from Bill Douglas, Al Hillis

An **Application Form** may be obtained by using the link below.

http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/2013-SSA-Membership_form.pdf

Just fill in the form, and mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter, c/o **John Ford.**

Thank You! **By Chris Geberdt**

Wow! Summer is gone and fall is fast approaching. I want to take this opportunity and thank the many volunteers who helped with our never ending list of events this past summer. Just to list a few, May 24th Wal-Mart BBQ, Home Depot BBQ, Canadian Tire BBQ, Hottest Yard Sale Under the Sun, selling tickets at Retail Stores, Range work parties, Trap Shoots, Cowboy Shoots, Club Bulletin, Membership, Archery, Wildlife Committee, Club House Rentals, Pitch-In, Earth day, Tall Ships, Property maintenance, cutting grass, planting trees, stream projects, Stocking fish, working at the fish hatchery, OFAH Conservation Dinner, Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular Gourmet Breakfast, Media Day, Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular, over 20 outdoor and cottage shows and the Owen Sound Fall Fair Gates. This is just a drop in the bucket of what our organization does each year. We couldn't do the work and fundraising without the many volunteers in our organization. Hats off to everyone that helped this past year and Thank You! Yes, I can honestly say I am proud to be a Sydenham Sportsmen Member and cannot thank you enough for your hard work and accomplishments we have achieved this year.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to everyone that did their part! Big or small it all helps!

Yours In Conservation, **Chris Geberdt**



A Revised New Member Application Form

As part of the last newsletter, I reported that the SSA Executive had decided that all 2014 application form had to include a sponsor who was an existing club member. Since that time, members have asked how a new member who is new to our area could become a member. The Directors have recently decided that now new members must have either **a sponsor or a reference from a previous shooting/conservation club.** When the New Member Application forms are printed that additional option will be included.



Early Bird Membership Renewals---J Ford

The 2014 Early Bird Memberships renewals will go on sale at the October 3 general meeting. As usual, if you renew in October you will get 4 chances at our prizes to be drawn at the January meeting. While the prizes haven't be determined yet, I'm sure they will be just as good as 2013. Our 2014 buttons will be available later. This year we are asking that each member take a couple of minutes to fill out the membership renewal form so that your profile of interests can be updated. I will have extra copies available at the meetings. Some of our records are quite old and many of you may have changed your interests over the years. The membership fees remain the same as last year and you are able to pay with debit, credit card, cheque or cash.. Please find the renewal form printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

FLETCHER SPORTS

It's The REEL Thing

- Rod & Reel Repairs • Parts & Service
 - Retail Sporting Goods
- LORNE & HAZEL FLETCHER
Tel: (519) 371-8587
Fax: (519) 371-2096

R.R. #5, Owen Sound #6 Hwy & Ledgerock Road
Ontario N4K 5N7 6 kms. North of Springmount



Photo by Mike Prevost

**Our new and improved
High Power Range**

*Thanks to those submitting
material for this newsletter.*

*Anyone with articles for this
Newsletter should get them to me by
the 20th (or sooner) of the
preceding month.*

*Dave Skelton 519-376-9554
dskel@golden.net*

For more SSA Pictures:

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/photoalbum/index.php>
<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/index.php>

Connect to the SSA website!

or
then click PHOTOS (left side)

S S A Renewal Form for 2014

(to be completed by 2013 members only)

We need you to take a few minutes to help us update our records. If you have a rural address, Canada Post requires your fire number and road as well as your rural route.

Memberships are based on the Calendar Year (January until December).

Please use reverse for additional names, ages etc. for family memberships. Membership Fees for 2014 are:

- FAMILY (Adult, Spouse, Children)-\$ 125.00
- ADULT (Individual).....\$100.00
- SENIOR CITIZEN(Age 60 & over)..\$85.00
- SPOUSE: additional \$25.00
- Please circle the appropriate membership above.
- STUDENT (Age under 21 if in full time study; (no magazine)...\$40.00)
- JUNIOR (12 and under; no magazine)..\$35.00
- PROPERTY GATE KEY: \$5.00 (without last year's key); \$4.00 (with the return of last year's key)
- (Magazine available for Juniors & Students for an extra \$8.00)

Note: If you have a computer with internet access and wish to receive your newsletter electronically, you will receive your newsletter in colour, receive email blasts of information and save both the club and the newsletter chair considerable cost and effort. Please include your up-to-date email address below and place a checkmark here.

NAME: _____ \ **TELEPHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ (Juniors and Students only)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wildlife Advisory Committee ___ | Derby Committee---- | Fishery Advisory Committee__ |
| Public Relations Booth _____ | Shotgun Shooting _____ | Hatchery _____ |
| Tree Planting _____ | Social Activities _____ | Derby Weigh In _____ |
| Board of Directors _____ | Fishing _____ | I D P A Shooting _____ |
| Derby Fish Fries _____ | Trap Shooting _____ | Skeet Shooting _____ |
| Sporting Clays Shooting _____ | Cowboy Action Shooting _____ | Handguns _____ |
| Black Powder _____ | Boat Draw Ticket Sales _____ | Archery _____ |
| Property Care _____ | Wildlife Enhancement _____ | Stream Work _____ |
| Fish stocking _____ | Hunting _____ | Junior Activities _____ |
| High Power Shooting _____ | Earth Day _____ | Fall Fair Gates _____ |
| Computer _____ | Other Interests (List Below) _____ | Expertise (List Below) _____ |
| Retired _____ | Have ATT _____ | Telephone Committee _____ |

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND VIABLE ASSOCIATION, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. Please indicate which of the above activities are of special interest to you. This information is used in planning work parties, committees, etc.

If you would like to purchase your renewal by credit card, please enter the number and expiry date below.

\ **Credit card number:** _____

Expiry date: _____

Security code as it appears on the back of the Crediy Card: _____



100 yd Range

The following is the scheduled times that the 100 yd Range will be open for the next three weeks, for your convenience we have also left a copy of this schedule posted in both the 100 yd range and the Hand gun range.

Sun. Sept 22/13 - 1 pm to 4 pm & 4 pm to 7 pm., Mon. Sept. 23/13 - 9 am to 12 pm., Tues. Sept. 24/13 - 1 pm to 4 pm., Wed. Sept.25/13 - 1 pm to 4 pm., Thurs. Sept. 2/13 - 4 pm to 7 pm., Fri. Sept 27/13 - 9 am to 12 pm., Sat. Sept. 28/13 - 1 pm to 4 pm.

Sun. Sept. 29/13 - 1 pm. to 4 pm., Mon. Sept. 30/13 - 1 pm to 4 pm., Tues. Oct. 1/13 – 10 am to 1 pm., Wed. Oct. 2 – 9 am. to 12 pm. & 1 pm to 4 pm., Thurs. Oct 3/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Fri. Oct 4th – 1 pm to 4 pm., Sat. Oct.5/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm.

Sun. Oct. 6/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Mon. Oct. 7/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Tues. Oct. 8/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Wed. Oct. 9/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Thurs. Oct 10/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm., Fri. Oct.11/13 – 1 pm to 4 pm.,

Sorry we couldn't get it on the website yet, but it will be in the near future.

Bill Douglas



Autumn Thunder - September 14th, 2013

Most of the beeves made it to Dodge and the cardsharps an' owlhoots are all bound for Yuma or sent to Boot Hill.

Thirty three shooters enjoyed incredible weather, a brand new cowboy action range, new targets and props at the inaugural Autumn Thunder. Lots of movement both by the shooters and in the targets with the return of the Texas Star and the new Runnin' Owlhoot!

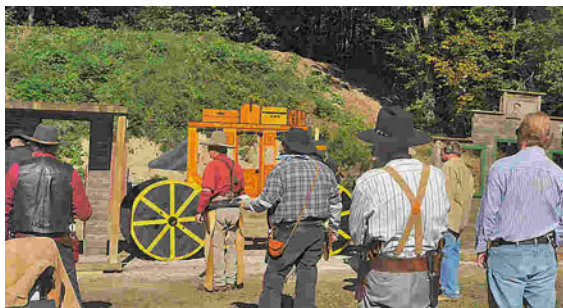
Great to see both familiar faces and many new shooters. Really nice to see Swallow Fork shooting with us again! Regular or first time visitor, thanks to all that moseyed up to SSA to partake in the unique Twin County Bounty Hunter interpretation of cowboy action shooting.

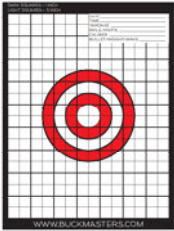
See yu' down the trail! Shoot safe, shoot often. TCBH



Mark McKinley from Wellsley with his 16.05 lb top (lake) trout

Photo by Mike Prevost





This is a notice for all members who did not attend the last General Meeting on Sept. 12/13 or don't have an E-mail address listed with the Club. We now have permission from the CFO's office to re-open the 100 Yard Range as of Sept. 14th, after making all the necessary Safety corrections listed in their inspection report. However, as was mentioned in the September news letter this Range can only be open when there is a qualified Range Safety Officer present. The stipulation "While this range is in use a Range Safety Officer must be on duty at all times" is now a component of our Shooting Range Approval document which we must follow to the letter.

We have started issuing a schedule for the remaining weeks and months of 2013 and are now up to the middle of October. We have been using last years usage by day and time plus the Moose and Deer hunting seasons as a guide to keep the range open during those busier time periods. Within the next few months the schedule will always be available on our website under the "Shooting" section with the rest of the Shot Gun Ranges.

Using this range with a RSO present at all times will be a new experience for some shooters and old hat for other, but a necessary one. It will not be the same as it was, since the RSO will be directing and insuring all range rules and procedures are followed. Couple that with the fact we can only use the range when there is and approved RSO on duty will be a change for all of us, but one that has many benefits for all members, guests, and neighbours. Remember if we have one more incident of any kind on this range it will most likely be closed permanently.

We are currently working on programs to train more Range Safety Officers, and other things to get this range open on a more regular basis, so please bear with us while we work all the kinks out of the procedures and schedules for this Range.

Bill Douglas, Al Hillis



Gun Course

It was with much regret that I had to cancel the Non Restricted P A L course scheduled for October 25 Through 27. I simply did not have enough students registered to make it viable for the Club.

In future ALL P A L courses will be announced in the Newsletter 3 months in advance HOWEVER, there MUST be a MINIMUM of FIVE STUDENTS REGISTERED by TWO WEEKS BEFORE the start date or the course WILL BE CANCELLED. This will apply to both Non Reticted and Restricted Courses.

The Restricted Course slated for September 28 went ahead as planned as there were enough students. Congratulations to the Graduates. The Restricted Course SCHEDULED for October 19 will be the last for this year. There will be no more untill after the snow leaves in the spring.

Anyone interested can contact me by Phone at 519-534-0827. DO NOT TRY to e-mail me as I get on a computer about once every three to four weeks. Once again if I do not have Five Students or more the October course WILL be cancelled. It's up to you the members to fill the courses.

Bob McKay

Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure

Helen Keller

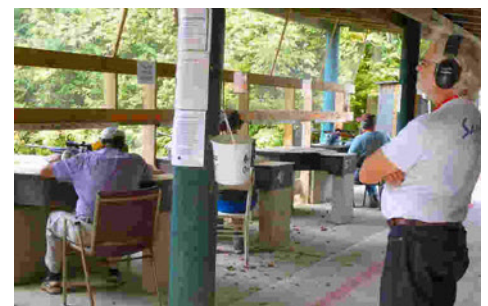


Photo by Mike Prevost

Tim Lahey, acting RSO supervises a scheduled high power range shoot.





Handgun
Stew Wallace



It's still summer (any day without snow is, by default, summer) and the handgun range is being well used and maintained in good shape by our members, Dan and Mark. Thanks to you both.

One job that the more mobile of us can do to help out, is to keep the sand raked up to, and into, the wooden boxes that were built into the berms. They work well and were well received by the CFO, but they do require maintenance to remain effective. Not difficult, just takes a few minutes with the rake to keep it all in good shape. A good opportunity for our newer members to get involved and build up brownie points for when your ATT's need renewing !

While on the subject of ATT renewals, keep in mind that renewals are still taking approximately four weeks to be processed (by the CFO) so give me five weeks notice of needing an ATT renewed.

A couple of reminders for safe range use:

- a) NO high guns. Keep the muzzle of the gun always below the top of the target frames.
- b) If you aren't hitting the target consistently on slow fire, DON'T go on to rapid fire. Your proficiency gets worse, creates bad habits and more collateral damage to the target holders. Mark and Dan don't need any more unnecessary work.
- c) Dud ammunition must not be put into the garbage barrels , or the ammo. pails provided for empty brass. Please take them home and disable them properly before disposal.

Cowboy Action Shooting is still in full swing and the new (to us) Defensive Pistol course still has a lot of interest, both due in large part to the enthusiasm of Peter R. and Kat. and to the merry band of shootists that participate. I'm certain that the participation in the handgun sports is at it's highest level in the clubs' history.....and, we do it safely. We are indeed the cream of society modest too.

Since September 15th, all ranges have a new protocol for signing in a guest shooter. In addition to signing the guest book, a guest, on the first visit, must also complete and sign a Liability Waiver. This only needs to be done once and is good for all three visits (the maximum number of visits a guest is allowed before being expected to join the club).

The donation box system is working well and should allow us to keep providing targets for your use and some extra funds for range maintenance. A Loonie or two per visit is making this possible. Thanks to all who are contributing.

A mantra in motor racing is ..' smooth first, fast second '.....applies equally well to handgun shooting. If all of your shots are not on the target...slow down !

Shoot safe, and remember muzzle control.

Stew. Wallace, Handgun Chair (for now).





Steve Bussey of Owen Sound with his 26.24 lb derby winning salmon

Photo by Mike Prevost



Photo by Mike Prevost

Chris Geberdt presents a Sportspal canoe to Rhonda McMahon of Kingston as the prize for entering the last fish at the 2013 Salmon Spectacular weigh station. Over 1500 fish were entered.

Quesnel Family Says Thanks Larry Still Missing:

On the morning of July 2nd, well known outdoorsman, Larry Quesnel was last seen trolling along the west shore of Owen Sound Bay. His empty boat was subsequently discovered on the bay's east shore near Rainbow Beach. Since that time, the Quesnel family and search and rescue teams and others have spent countless hours searching the shoreline and waters of the bay for any sign of Larry's remains. To date, he has not been recovered.

During this year's Salmon Spectacular, the SS Committee prepared and distributed an information brochure titled:

An Important Notice to all Salmon Spectacular Anglers .. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ... Local Angler ...LARRYQUESNEL ...Still Missing. The notice included some background on Larry and the various emergency phone numbers to call, should remains be found. With so many anglers and eyes on the water, it was felt the Salmon Spectacular may have been the last and best chance for locating Larry.

Over the past 3 months, several SSA members have aided in the search for Larry. For this effort and for alerting Salmon Spectacular anglers with an information, awareness notice, the Quesnel family extends a most sincere Thank You.

The SSA Executive also wishes to acknowledge the help of club members who responded and searched for Larry over the past few months. This been a most difficult time for the Quesnel family and all those who had the opportunity of enjoying his company, his wit, his stories and his humour, during his time in our community. He was a character who truly lived and breathed the outdoors.



Deluxe Cedar Bird Feeder - constructed at the Gord Maher work shop by Dave Hartrick and Bob Hunt. These feeders are scooped up as soon as they are built.

Photo by Mike Prevost

□ Another Banner Year for Stream Projects *Arnie Clark*

“There's just not enough hours in the day or enough days in the week to accomplish what we'd like to do on our local streams,” said SSA member, Rob LeGrand, while recently raking and grooming spawning beds for brown trout on the upper Sydenham River.

No truer words were spoken. So much to do ... so little time to accomplish the best laid plans. Even though the calendar always seems to be our enemy, much was again accomplished this past season by the SSA on the upper Sydenham River, Schultz's Creek (a cold-water trib. of the Sydenham) and Kilsyth Creek.

Truckloads of boulders hauled to the upper Sydenham, were strategically set in place by a high-hoe to help increase stream flow and provide trout habitat. Gabion stone was also placed to create an in-stream “shoal,” again to enhance stream-flow and provide habitat for aquatic insects, crustaceans and juvenile trout. At one location, more gabion stone was applied to narrow the stream corridor. Brown trout spawning sites were also groomed. For the first time, club members planted red oaks on the upper Sydenham to hopefully develop into stream-side shade trees and a future food source for such wildlife as whitetail deer and wild turkey.

Schultz's Creek, a prime cold-water tributary to the Sydenham, continues to be on the receiving end of SSA volunteer work. This creek is a great stretch of trout nursery water supplied by a continuous flow from a groundwater spring source. This past summer, sections of the stream were deepened and channelled with rock placement. In addition, a variety of fruit bearing wildlife shrubs were planted to help compliment the extensive tree and shrub stream-side planting already carried out by club members over the past two years.

The work on Kilsyth Creek continues to resonate throughout the community. Cooperating landowners, neighbours and passer-bys have all commented on the quality of the stewardship effort on Kilsyth Creek. For example, this past fall, thereek corridor on two more separate farms were fenced off from horse and pony access. Restricted crossings/watering sites were included in the project. This leaves one more livestock farm to be fenced in 2014. Chub McComb and his staff at Black Sheep Fencing, certainly deserve a conservation medal for the quality of this fencing effort.

In all, this massive project has included the fencing of three significant spring ponds which feed the creek, and the creek corridor as it traverses five individual farms. This past spring, the Conservation Authority joined the project, completing extensive cedar tree planting on the McConnell farm. Stream-side plantings were also carried out by club members and MNR Rangers at the spring sources and in downstream waters. Field stone were also placed along the stream to help narrow the watercourse. Clean river-bottom gravel was also added at one location to create a new trout spawning site.

A Tip of the Conservation Cap is in order to the MNR Stewardship Rangers who spent two full days ... the two hottest days of this summer, with SSA members on this stream conservation project. During those two 90 F. plus degree days, the Rangers and SSA members managed to consume four cases of water and a case of pop. A whopping 8 bags were used to keep the drinks cool.

We would like to acknowledge the landowners who have embraced the Kilsyth Creek project and have allowed this stewardship initiative to continue. Special thanks to Keith and Ab McConnell, Guy Barfoot, Dr. Peter Kotzeff, Stephen Logan, Jodie Beattie (Dream Chaser Equestrian Centre) and Vern Mudford.

Cost of the Kilsyth Creek project to date, is now at approximately \$51,000. Funding for this project would not have been possible without some very generous partners. Contributors have included the SSA, the former CFWIP program, Grey County Forest Stewardship Network, the Agricultural Alternative Land Use Service Program, the Federal ECO Action Fund and the W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, members of the McConnell family will gather at the creek, specifically at spring no. 1, where a plaque will be unveiled commemorating the Kilsyth Creek project and restoration of the spring site, in memory of Irene McConnell who tragically passed away March 3, 2012. SSA members involved in the project, will be attending this special dedication.

To the SSA members who have dedicated countless hours of volunteer time and their personal equipment to the upper Sydenham River and Kilsyth Creek stewardship projects, congratulations for a job well done.



**Chub McComb & staff of Black Sheep
Fencing install fencing & a farm
machinery crossing on
Kilsyth Creek (Sept. 2013)**