

2007 RUSHFORD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Greetings from your newsletter editor, Jim Pomeroy ('60). If there is something about yourself or your class that you'd like to include in next year's newsletter, send a note to the Rushford Alumni Association (Box 1, Rushford, NY 14777 – Attn: Newsletter Editor), or send me an email at rushfordalumni@gmail.com. If you send me an email of any kind, please type "Rushford Alumni" in the subject box.

If you have received this newsletter by postal mail and there is an "X" in front of your name, **it means you need to tell us THIS YEAR that you want to continue to receive future alumni correspondence.** Our purpose here is **NOT** to get you to send us money. It is to find out who truly wants to continue receiving correspondence. Those with this "X" can easily remain on our list by either sending me an email (rushfordalumni@gmail.com) this year, **OR** by sending a note in postal mail. Of course if you do make a banquet reservation and/or send dues or a donation, this is as good as saying "*keep me on the list.*"

Beginning this year computer users can also view the newsletter on the Cuba-Rushford Central School website. Go to www.crcs.wnyric.org --- click on "*About CRCs*" at the top of the page, on "*Alumni*" in the drop-down box that appears, and then on "*Rushford Alumni*" in the next drop-down box. On the introductory page for Rushford Alumni, click onto the *newsletter*.

Those receiving this newsletter by email or viewing it on the CRCs website should still use postal mail to make banquet reservations and/or to send donations (Rushford Alumni Association, Box 1, Rushford, NY 14777).

Thanks to Susan Clark Holmes ('66, Francis Owens Gilbert ('45), Peggy Metcalf Armstrong ('76), Ruth Smith Metcalf ('56), Julie Metcalf Walter ('80), Orpha Clark Brooks ('62), and Audrey Pomeroy Wolfer ('78) and her daughter Lacey for helping stuff envelopes for the mailing that was done in 2006. Over 800 pieces of mail were put together and sent.

About 170 people attended the 2006 banquet. Following social hour, **Stan Luce ('48) and Dan Metcalf ('56)** did an Abbott and Costello routine with computers as grist for humor. Dan then gave the invocation. A buffet dinner was put on and supervised by **Kevin ('74) and Dawn Pascell ('77) Taylor**. **President Peggy Metcalf Armstrong** conducted a business meeting during which the assembled alumni voted to increase the amount of the 2007 Albro Scholarship award from \$500 to \$1,000. In the Treasurer's report, it was reported that alumni had donated \$1,849 to the scholarship fund in 2006; **\$500** of this amount came from a donor who graduated from RCS in the 1950's but who wished to remain anonymous. (The Association had a total of \$4,754 in its scholarship fund after awarding the scholarship for 2006.) A number of alumni were very generous this year in making donations to the general fund which is used for expenses associated with printing and mailing the newsletter and banquet notice. General funds are also necessary for auxiliary banquet expenses (i.e., decorations, refreshments and snacks for social hour, free meals for alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago, a gift for those providing musical entertainment, compensation to the school janitor for setting up and taking down tables and chairs). Francis Owens Gilbert ('45) presented the 2006-07 slate of officers: Peggy Metcalf Armstrong, Susan Clark Holmes, and Orpha Clark Holland will remain in their present positions as president, vice-president, and secretary respectively. **Bernice Owens Armison ('90) replaces Audrey Pomeroy Wolfer as Treasurer.** Of the classes honored (those whose graduation years ended with a "6" or a "1"), the **Class of 1956** had the most members present (9). The alumnus who traveled the furthest to Rushford was **Tom Hubbard ('73)**, a California resident. The oldest alumnus at the banquet was **Vivian Gordon Marsh ('28)** of Williamsville, NY (*sadly, this would be the last one she would attend*). **Emily Tullar**, a 2006 Cuba-Rushford Central School graduate and daughter of **Dan Tullar ('80) and Lori Furniss Tullar ('79)**, received the 2006 Albro Scholarship award of \$500. Emily is enrolled in Houghton College and plans to pursue a career in Art. This was the sixth consecutive scholarship given by the Association which has now awarded almost \$4,500 since 2001. Honorees of the evening were **Francis Owens Gilbert** and **Betsy Hubbard** along with appreciation for alumni who have given military service. The children of both Fran and Betsy provide excellent examples of such service. Fran, wife of Reed Gilbert, moved from Washington, D.C. to Rushford in 1942 and graduated from RCS in 1945. Later she became a secretary at RCS (*she has many stories she can tell about alumni, teachers, and school staff*). An update of her family appears later in this newsletter. The former Betsy McVey graduated from Cuba Central School, married Milt Hubbard in 1953, and, beginning in 1960, taught school at RCS (various grades: K, 2, 3, 4) for 31 years. She retired in 1990. (*Betsy's sister, Elaine Smith, was librarian at RCS for a period of time too.*) Banquet attendees invited Betsy to be an official member of our alumni family. An update on her and Milt's children also appears later in the newsletter. Finally, **Lucinda Durkee ('70)** and husband Clark Parry (their dot-com address on the internet is AlleghenyMountainDulcimers) entertained us with some very easy-to-listen-to music having a folk bent. With Wilda Williams at the piano, the singing of the RCS alma mater concluded the banquet.

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'28 – Vivian Gordon Marsh of Williamsville, NY died January 2, 2007. Until then she was the oldest living alumnus in our database.

'36 – Harriet Balcom Davis of Tempe, Arizona completed writing a historical novel in 1999 that has been discovered by many people locally. "*Susan, Pioneer Woman*" tells about the life of Harriet's great, great grandmother, Susan Bush Burr, who was a pioneer in the settlement of the Genesee Valley in the Caneadea area.

'39 – Orie Clark of Lake Almanor, California wrote us in 2006: "I'd certainly like to be at the banquet but it is just a long way from California to Rushford—maybe one of these years. Lil and I are doing quite well -- acceptable health, which we are thankful for. Still enjoy the 'High Country' --- fishing golf, etc. Thanks to all."

'39 – Bonalyn Blom Slocum of Clearwater Florida died in November of 2006. Many will remember "Bonnie" as a member of the RCS cafeteria staff. She was employed in that capacity for well over 30 years.

'39 – Anita Lyman Durkee, last residing in Westfield, NY, died in November of 2006.

'39 – Virginia Waite Miller of Huntington Beach, California is fortunate to have husband Leigh as her caregiver. Leigh wrote us in 2006 that Virginia was about the same as a year ago and that she enjoyed the newsletter, which Leigh read to her. On September 1, 2006 they celebrated 61 years of marriage.

- '40 – **Lloyd Dunning**, formerly of Franklinville, NY, died in November of 2006. He was married to alumnus, Elsie Taylor ('42).
- '41 – **Isabel Lyman** of Rushford died in February 2007.
- '41 and '45 – **Reed and Francis Owens Gilbert** of Rushford, NY provided us in 2006 with the following update on their children, all RCS grads: **Bob ('65)** lives in Cornelius, North Carolina; he is a senior consultant in the banking business for Vitex Corporation. **Gary ('67)**, a retired Colonel in the US Army, lives in Potomac, Maryland; he works for the University of Pittsburgh as Chief of Knowledge Engineering Group, US Army Medical Research and Materials Command. **Dan ('70)**, also a retired Army Colonel, lives in Cocoa Beach, Florida and is now the program director for Aegis Technologies, a military software company. **Bill ('72)** married **Cindy Russell ('73)** and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado; he is an agronomist working as the manager of Garst Seed Company's western states territory. **Laurie Gilbert Alden ('77)** lives in Albany, Oregon and is a healthcare worker. (Note: The Rushford Scholarship Association has been giving annually a \$200 scholarship to a Rushford area high school graduate in memory of **Jeff Gilbert ('81)**. *Editor*)
- '42 – **Robert Riley** and wife Pat of Tucson, Arizona (*many will remember Pat as our school nurse for a number of years*) wrote us in 2006 that they sent a check for the scholarship fund and included an additional amount to help us with postage. Pat read the newsletter to Bob (*Bob can no longer see well. Editor*). "... our thoughts will be there with you all at the banquet".
- '42 – **Mary Sprague Williams** of Leesburg, Florida wrote us that although she could not attend the banquet, the newsletter is really appreciated. "You are doing a great job keeping in touch with past graduates."
- '43 – **Ruth Stone Sorber** and husband Marshall have moved from North Carolina to Dalton, PA where a son lives nearby.
- '46 – **Maralu Edwards Whitt** of Hancock, NY died in November of 2006. (*The Class of 1946 had only six graduates but they have been a hardy group. Maralu appears to be the first of her class to pass on.*)
- '48 – **Phyllis Edwards Nelson** of St. Petersburg, Florida died in April 2006.
- '50 – **Class of 1950** celebrated their 56th year reunion on July 22, 2006 at the home of Don and Pauline **James King** in Allentown, NY. Attending were Janet and **Jack Finch**, Marilyn and **Art Kellogg**, Pat and **Eldyn Davies**, Norm and **Irene Blom Francis**, Dick and **Betty Scott Klein**, **Keith Slocum**, **Duane Luce**, and **Jess Westfall** and some guests.
- '51 – **Betty Clark Covert** of Zephyrhills, Florida wrote us in 2006 that she appreciates the newsletter. She fell at work in January 2006 and broke her left kneecap. Her goal for being back to work was September 2006.
- '51 – **Karene Falsion Green** of Warsaw, NY wrote us in 2006 that she really appreciates the newsletter and that her class would celebrate their fifty-fifth year since graduation by meeting at the Turfside Restaurant on September 2, 2006.
- '51 – **Ethel Drummond Morse** of Tebbetts, Missouri writes: "I enjoy the newsletter ...it's almost my only touch with Rushford."
- '52 – **Dorothy Davies Kofahl** of Orlando, FL writes that she and husband **Duane ('49)** look forward to the newsletter. Year 2007 will mark the 55th since she graduated. "We aren't getting any younger but are so glad there are still alumni banquets. We have come up north the latter part of July for doctor appointments so will see what can work out for 2007."
- '59 – **Sandra Albro Munson** of Medford Lakes, New Jersey wrote us in 2006: "So happy they honored Lois Bruce last year (*the 2005 banquet*). I couldn't attend because of a family wedding. I have a wonderful excuse for not being there (*for the 2006 banquet*) as my daughter Joy is expecting her first baby (*and Sandy's first grandchild*) around Labor Day..." (*Sandy's grandchild, a girl, was born September 14th. Sandy recently corrected my misperception about what the initials "W.W." in her father's name stood for. Nope, one of them is NOT William; W.W. stands for Willet Welles. Editor*)
- '59 – **Donalee Baker Price** of Torrance, California wrote us in 2006 that she is still working for The Salvation Army, over 15 years now (*Donalee is employed as the executive secretary to the Chief Secretary of The Salvation Army's Western Territory, headquartered at Long Beach, CA*). She says she is planning on retiring in a couple of years and maybe getting back to Rushford in 2009 for the 50th year reunion of her class. Her daughter Deborah, son-in-law Wayne, and grandson Larry live in Rancho Palos Verdes. Donalee's favorite volunteer activity is working in the box office at the "world famous" Jazz Bakery in Culver City on Wednesday nights.
- '59 – **Sharon Flynn Wilson** of NYC wrote us in 2006: "Thank you so much for the great newsletter, invitation, announcements, etc. I want to voice my opinion regarding dues and information. 1) I think the dues should be raised to \$6.00 per year. 2) I think there should be a website created."
- '60 – **Ruth Kellogg Gutierrez** of Saratoga Springs, NY wrote us the following in 2006: "This summer, our horse, Prideland, had two wins in Saratoga Springs so we were in the Winners' Circle twice. I am now teaching at the University at Albany - School Boards and Community-School Relations. I enjoy this part-time work and it keeps me involved with school leadership. Carlos and I leave in October (2006) for a trip to Ireland so we look forward to a new travel experience. "
- '60 – **Haran Schoming** of Gilroy, California wrote us in 2006: "I look back with many fond memories of my two years at Rushford and wish I could make it back to another reunion in the near future. I have decided to continue running my insurance agency rather than retiring at the end of this year as I had previously planned. ...the addition of a very able assistant ...will enable me to "semi-retire" and begin taking some of those trips I've promised my wife."
- '61 – **Class of 1961** gathered at Moonwinks in August 2006. Present were George and **Carol Ferris Warner**, Paul and **Barbara**

Morris Appleby, Bill and **Pat Ours Hanson**, **JoAnne Corbett Kish**, **Dick Napier**, and Ron and **Betty Connors Wende**. (Note: If anyone knows where to contact class members **Scott English** and/or **Paul Smith**, contact Carol or this newsletter editor.)

'61 – **Ted Seifert** died in Florida in 2006.

'62 – **Donald Moyer** of Getzville, NY passed away suddenly in July of 2005. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sophie, as well as a son and a daughter and five grandchildren.

'62 – **Arthur Kendall Neal** of Frisco, Texas wrote us in 2006 that he looks forward with great expectation to year 2007 when he and his wife will attend the 45-year class reunion of (quote) “the greatest class to come out of RCS.” (Please be kind and indulgent toward Ken when you see him....extreme statements are typical of Texans. Editor)

'63 – **William (Bill) Bailey** of DeLand, Florida wrote us in 2006 that he hopes to attend a future banquet. “All is well with me; best wishes to everyone. Love Florida but still miss Rushford Lake. Sorry to hear about Dean Clark passing away --- he was my school bus driver. ...Thanks for the update.”

'64 – **Class of 1964** got together for a potluck picnic September 3, 2006 at the home of **Suzy Durkee Roblee** and **Bill Roblee ('57)** in Farmersville Station. Other members of the Class of '64 present were **John S. Babbitt**, **Sue Russell Breazeale**, **Karen Randolph**, **Janice Covert Smith**, **Jane Davies Marrone**, **Jody MacCall Brown**, and **Jim Francis**. The class plans on getting together again next year.

'64 – **Karen Randolph** reports in 2006 that she completed her education and passed the test for Nursing Home Administrator. “I am working now in Allegany as the Administrator (Waters of Allegany). Please encourage all to continue to learn no matter how old they are. It is exciting and gratifying.”

'65 – **Tom Baker** of Nyack, NY provided the following update at the editor's request: Tom served in the Army infantry in Viet Nam, was hit by a mine and sent home; went to Rochester Institute of Technology for a couple of bachelors degrees (Business and Social Work); has been working for The Salvation Army the last 13 years where he now is Director of Human Resources for the Eastern Region of the USA. “It is a wonderful organization and I am truly blessed to be where I am at this point in my life.” Tom is very proud of his daughter, Amanda, a second year student at the University of Toronto and a graduate of Stuyvesant High School in NYC.

'65 -- **Lawanna Van Name Digiralamo** of Jamestown, NY wrote us in 2006 that “it has been a good year health and work-wise. Vic got another new knee in March and all went well. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in July. Rev. Denny was able to come.” (Rev. Jacob Denny was former pastor at the Rushford United Methodist Church.)

'67 – **Donald Mountain** of Portville, NY died in April of 2007.

'68 – **Jeanette Weaver Cyphers** of Norton, Ohio wrote us in 2006: “Thanks for sending the newsletter...I love to hear about everyone. My school days at Rushford mean a lot to me and it's great to keep in touch. Since my mother (Thelma Weaver) passed away in May 2005, I sense an even greater desire to remember my roots. Thanks again.”

'70 – **Class of 1970** held its first reunion, 36 years after graduating, at Chanderson's Restaurant in Delevan, NY on August 19, 2006. Eleven of the original 27 class members attended: **Corrine Austin Deering**, **Craig Austin**, **Lucinda Durkee**, **Dan Gilbert**, **Darlene Gross Taylor**, **Dan King**, **Joe Kozak**, **Beverly Randolph McVay**, **Trenna Napier Robinson**, **Jean Raimondi Lalomia**, and **Cyrus Rathbun**. Included in memorabilia was the Class of 1969's last will and testament, which handed down a variety of thoughts and items to the Class of 1970. Cyrus Rathbun of Houston, Texas traveled the furthest distance to attend. Classmates received a keepsake booklet containing pictures and information collected for the reunion.

'70 – **Sherry Fuller Barton** of West Palm Beach, Florida wrote us in 2006: “School starts for us August 9th so I will be unable to attend the banquet. I am beginning my 10th year at Lake Worth Community High School. I am currently a math teacher and math coach. I also work as a trainer-workshop leader and curriculum writer for the District.” (Congratulations Sherry for being nominated four times for 'Who's Who Among American Teachers'. Editor)

'70 – **Beverly Randolph McVay** of Freedom, NY received an AAS degree in Journalism in '72 at Morrisville and married Ed McVay in '79. Son Andrew (Andy) was born in '81 with spina bifida and hydrocephalus—he died in 2005 from heart disease. Daughter Amanda Rose was born in '87; she is attending SUNY Fredonia and is on track to be a French teacher. Husband Ed works at Polymer Conversions in Orchard Park. Beverly graduated in 2006 from Genesee Community College-Arcade with an AAS degree in Human Services and is now employed by Suburban Adult Services Incorporated as a Medical Service Coordinator.

'71 -- **Nancy Barr Marzolf** says “hi” from North Carolina where she is loving the weather. She and her husband moved there in 2006--- also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Write to her at 3005 Pearson Farm Drive, Brown Summit, NC 27214.

'72 – **Dale and Sara (Sally) Riley Taylor** of Centennial, Colorado wrote us in 2006: “We are the parents of two wonderful daughters. The eldest is married and has given us beautiful grandchildren (1 boy and 1 girl). Our youngest daughter will be a Senior at the University of Arizona. We are all planning to come back to Rushford in 2008. Hope to see as many people as possible from the past then. Thanks for all you do.”

'73 to '82 – **Hubbard**. Betsy Hubbard (see notes earlier about the 2006 Alumni Banquet) provided us with the following information about her children, all of them RCS grads. **Tom ('73)** spent 21 years in the Marines; he lives in Twentynine Palms, California and teaches radar and electronics at the local Marine base; he and wife Billie have one daughter and three sons, two of the

latter being in the armed services. **Dave ('75)** spent four years in the Marines and 16 years in the Air Force; he now lives in McEnna, Washington and works for the city of Tacoma; he and wife Heidi have one son. **Jim ('76)** lives in Bliss, NY and works in Arcade for Taylor-Pohlman Industries, a manufacturer of aluminum castings; he and wife Julie have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren (*Jim also gets credit for being the one offspring his parents don't have to travel so far to see*). **Bob ('77)** was in the Marines four years and then worked at Blue Seal in Arcade before moving to northern Florida where he now works for Home Depot; he has one daughter. **Meredith ('82)**, after graduating from Tompkins-Cortland Community College in Travel and Tourism, has spent 15 years in the Air Force (at the time this information was submitted, she was stationed in England).

'76 – **Class of 1976** celebrated their 30-year reunion the weekend of July 22, 2006 with events open to other RCS alumni. Saturday evening at the Conservation Club included a live band and a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the Michael and Rick Ashcraft Memorial Scholarship. On Sunday there was a chicken BBQ at the Rushford Town Park, along with volleyball, golf toss, softball, and prize raffles to help cover expenses. Some of the 1976 alumni in attendance were: **Jodie Barber Burns, Bob Damon, Eric Finch, Dale Green, John McElheny, Lynn Pomeroy, Doug Smith, Terri Westfall Osburn, and Deborah Walden Carnahan.** Some of the alumni from other classes included **Albert Thorington ('73), Grayson Cole ('74), Chuck and Connie Wixon ('74), Joe Hackett ('74), Lori Burr Andrews ('75), Dan Simons ('75), Warren Hawley ('77), Chris Burr ('79), Mike Walden ('79), Ken Bliss ('80), Bob Tomlinson ('81), Jackie Luce Borden ('81), Scott Dembinski ('82) and Ruth Burr Dembinski ('86), Cheryl Fenner Ploetz ('83), and Gillian Barber ('86).** (*This list is not complete and Jodie Barber Burns apologizes if your name is not here. If anyone would like to contact Jodie regarding a donation to the Ashcraft scholarship fund, or to coordinate another multi-year reunion, please contact her at dburns6597@aol.com, or by phone at 585-392-5727. She also has a few t-shirts and lots of tiger stripe wrist bands left.*)

'81 – **Evelyn Owens Alessi** of Belfast, NY provided us with this update in 2006: "My husband Mark and I have four children. Two of them are now attending college. Luke, is attending Rochester Institute of Technology; Drew, is a student at the University of Rochester. A third son, Noah, will graduate from high school in 2007 and plans to attend Houghton College, majoring in music. That will leave us with only our daughter, Lacy, at home. I have taught for 17 years at Belfast Central School; 13 years in the elementary grades and the past four years in Middle/High school English. My e-mail address is ealessi@belf.wnyric.org. I'd love to hear from old friends."

'81 – **Donalyn Davis Rybicki** told us in 2006 that she is the owner/stylist of *Just Your Style Hair Salon* on Windfall Road in Olean; she and husband Ray have two daughters. Donalyn passed along some information about some of her classmates: **Roger Ames** lives in Perry, NY; he and wife Lori have two children. **Ruth Ames Lubanski** lives in York, NY where husband Don who works for the Livingston County Sheriff's Department; they have two children. **Colleen Biber** lives in Naples, FL and works in Child Protection Services. **Kris Cobb Close** lives in Delevan, NY and works in debt collection; she and husband Joe have three grandchildren. **Dean Gaus** lives in Gilbert, Arizona; he is married and has two children. **Dean Hawley** lives in Maryville, Tennessee; he and wife Pam have eleven children (eight adopted) and one grandson. **Laurie Holmes** lives in Olean and has three children. **Rose Lawrence** lives in Fillmore, NY and works for Wellcare Human Resources of Olean; she has two daughters. **Jackie Luce Borden** lives in Rushford and works at the Rushford Corner Mart; she and husband Tom have three boys. **Andy Ploetz** lives near Rushford and is employed at Blue Seal in Arcade; he has three daughters. **Bob Pomeroy** continues the excavating business started by his father in Rushford; he has three sons and one daughter. **Bob Tomlinson** lives in Belfast, NY; he and wife Ann have three children. Donalyn asked that three deceased classmates be mentioned: **David Cheverette, Andy Gayford, and Jeff Gilbert.**

'82 – **Kimberly Worthington Ball** of Smethport, PA wrote us in 2006 that she has two girls, age 21 and 17 and, after getting her undergraduate degree at University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and her master's degree at Gannon University, she is currently teaching first grade. Her husband, Tom, is County Controller and has a private tax/investment business.

'83 – **Jacqueline Potter Rich** of Lorain, Ohio provided the following update in 2006. She married Tom Rich of Fillmore in 1998. They have two children, Alaina (age 12) and Dalton (age 8). Husband Tom works for the Federal Aviation Administration. Jackie is currently a stay-at-home mom with two Associate's Degrees. She encourages others to contribute to the newsletter.

'85 – **Tyler Cobb** of Covington, Louisiana wrote us in 2006 that he and wife Amy (**Amy Honeck Cobb – '89**) live on the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain just north of New Orleans. "We were very fortunate when hurricane Katrina blew into town in August '05 that we sustained only minor damage to our home. ...Rushford is never far from our minds as most of our families and friends continue to reside in the area. We typically travel home twice per year for visits and we enjoy it immensely."

'85 – **Ray Merriam** is living in North Chili, NY (near Rochester) and is employed as a software designer and developer for the Xerox Corporation. He earned a bachelor's degree from Roberts Wesleyan College. Ray and his wife Annette, a native of Belfast, NY, have two daughters now in their late teens, Susan and Krystine.

Note: You can reserve a copy of Rushford's bi-centennial book, *The Spirit of Rushford, Vol. II*, by sending a check to the **Rushford Historical Society (P.O. Box 33, Rushford, NY 14777)**. Price until August 15, 2007 is \$20; after that, it's \$25. Books should be available at the banquet. If you need to have the book mailed to you when it's ready, please include an additional \$5 for packaging and postage. Do NOT include payment for the book with your banquet reservations—please deal directly with the Historical Society.

Any alumnus traveling in Alaska in the near future, will find the following helpful. The rest of you can regard it just plain interesting. "Alaska's Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen this summer to take extra precautions and be observant. They advise outdoor enthusiasts to wear bells on their clothing and to carry pepper spray. This is to be done in conjunction with watching out for fresh signs of bear activity and learning the difference between the excrement of black bears versus that of grizzly bears. Here's the difference: black bear excrement is smaller and typically contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. By comparison, grizzly bear excrement is not only larger but has little bells in it and smells like pepper spray." ; -) (JKP: 6/19/2007)