



# On The Fly

## The Prez Sez *by Ken Hofmeister*



### ONCE UPON A TIME . . .

Once upon a time this man said: "I'm working too much and playing too little." His wise son presented him with a new toy and told him to play more and work less. The man, not being a dummy, said: "OK, I'll quit work and play with this new fly rod toy you've given me." The man thought he knew how to cast this long rod and tie those pretty flies that would catch lots of fish. *Wrong!*

But the man did go to the Suncoast Fly Fishers meetings and find some new playmates who did know how to have fun with those long rods. They taught him how to cast, tie flies and catch fish. He was having fun . . . for awhile. Then his new friends said he needed lighter rods for bluegill and heavier rods for tarpon along with slightly lighter rods for Oscar and much lighter rods for brook trout. So he started to get a few more of those toys.

"Oh," his playmates said, "You need different reels for those rods." And then they added that to really have fun, the man would need all sorts of lines that would float or sink or do something in between. So the man started collecting reels and lines. His Suncoast Fly Fishing friends told him he could purchase all of these things at bargain prices at the annual January circus where a clown auctioned off things you didn't need to impress fish you couldn't catch for money you didn't have.

Of course he could wade onto the playground; but, wouldn't it be nice to paddle a small kayak that would stalk snook with stealth? So he won a kayak at the SFF Pig Roast and saved a lot of money. But his wife needed one of those pretty kayaks also. Why not? Those kayak toys have a support industry as well. Paddles, jackets, bags, lights, rod holders, anchors, whistles, were also needed. His playmates from Suncoast Fly Fishers invited him to a new playground—the Everglades. Of course, gators would swamp kayaks and devour fly fishers. So the man needed a canoe to fish there. Think paddles, personal flotation devices, and trolling motors with battery and chargers.

"At least I can still fish from my Wellcraft with the bow rail," the man said. His new friends said, "Yes, you could . . . but to really have fun, you need a boat built for fly fishing." So he waited until his wife was out of state to purchase a new Scout bay boat complete with trolling motor and mount.

"Well," said the man, "I'll save a lot of money by tying my own flies." As usual, he was wrong again. It would have been cheaper to use bills as fly tying material! Remember that this calls for a vise and a new set of tools along with lots and lots of materials, eyes, hooks, thread, bobbins, and countless books. Materials cost so much the man even stole a polyester duster from his granddaughter to tie flies.

Those Suncoast Fly Fishers said he'd be having more fun if he read books and magazines about new toys and especially about new playgrounds. Some mentioned exotic playgrounds in other countries while others talked American adventures. Of course, to really have fun in a new playground you'd need a guide wouldn't you?

By now, the man was catching fish and having fun . . . until he realized that he needed more room to warehouse his toys. So he converted what used to be an office into a playroom and turned a former closet for file cabinets into a fly tying bench and storage area.

Where would he put all those long rods and waders and tackle boxes? What about the batteries, and jackets and hats? The solution was to remodel an area and build a sixteen foot closet to hold nothing but fishing stuff. Now the man was really happy . . . until his wife said: "You're playing too much and working too little." "What you need do is to go to work again." The man responded with a one-liner that is the moral of this story. "Work is for people who do not know how to fish!"

. . . . . *Ken*

### SFF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 15 - Annual bring what you have auction
- Jan 24- Casting Clinic with Pat Damico
- March - Pig Roast
- May - Boy Scout Merit Badge College

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## **OUTINGS -REVIEWS & PREVIEWS by *Richard Oldenski***



### **January Outing - January 17, 2009 - Pinellas Point**

**December Outing**— The December outing was an event worthy of the memory of Don Coleman. We invited the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club and the Mangrove Coast Club to join us. We had a great time and a lot of fish were caught. Ken Doty caught an oversized ladyfish. The first redfish caught at an outing this year was reeled in by Art Tassoni. On a sad note, Alan Sewell was admitted to the hospital and could not cook his infamous chili. Mark and Marianne Hays, however, provided a delicious chili, which was surpassed only by Marianne's reading of The Great Texas Chili Cook-off. Was it hot?!! Thanks to everyone from all three clubs who provided baked goods, snacks and appetizers for the buffet table. It was a feast! We shared food, friendship, laughs and our memories of Don Coleman. You should have been there!

**January Outing**— When cold, January winds are blowing out of the North, one of the best places to fish are the flats south of St. Petersburg at Pinellas Point.

Protected from the North wind, these flats usually hold trout, redfish, flounder and ladyfish at this time of the year. Waders can access these flats from several of the "Pink Streets" or from Bay Vista Park at the eastern end of Pinellas Point Drive. Boats and kayaks

can launch from Bay Vista or Maximo Parks. Start fishing whenever you can get there, but don't miss lunch at Noon at Bay Vista Park. Maps and the signup sheet will be at the January meeting.

Recommended Flies for the January outing and Newsletter Reference for Instructions:

Clouser Deep Minnow -	Jan. 2007 p.6
Ada Potato -	May 2008 p.9
Grass Shrimp -	Aug. 2008 p.8
Jiggy by Don Coleman	Dec. 2007 p.7

### **Future Outing Previews:**

February 2009 - Fort Desoto

March 2009 - Snook haven

### **Fishing Tournament -**

Snook - Tom Trukenbrod - 30 inches

Trout - Mark Hays - 20 inches

Redfish - Art Tassoni - TBA

Sunfish - Don Manning - 10½ inches

Bass - Don Manning - 14½ inches

Open Catogory - Tiger Vertregt - 26½ inch gar

## ***JANUARY MEETING ~ SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS ANNUAL AUCTION***

**JANUARY 15, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

**WALTER FULLER PARK**

**MEMBERS DONATE AUCTION ITEMS**

**EVERY ITEM GOES TO HIGHEST BIDDER**

**YOUR TRASH IS SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE**

**CASH OR CHECKS ACCEPTED**

**PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT CLUB ACTIVITIES**

## **NOTICE ~ NOTICE ~ NOTICE ~ NOTICE ~ NOTICE ~ NOTICE**

**We have been informed that our regular parking lot located in front of our meeting room in Walter Fuller Park is being renovated and is temporarily closed to parking. This renovation is scheduled to be a three month project. The Park manager has suggested that we park in the tennis court/swimming pool lot just a short distance to the east of our regular parking lot. There is also a smaller parking area just past the pool parking lot and closer to the meeting room.**

# SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS INFORMATION

## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

### *Our Aims and Purpose*

*The Suncoast Fly Fishers are dedicated to sharing their total fly fishing experiences and to developing interest in fly fishing in both fresh and saltwater. We shall promote and teach both fly fishing and related subjects of fly tying, rod building, fly casting and knot tying.. Through collaboration, fellowship, conservation and sportsmanship, we will help members become more skilled, have more fun and be more productive in the sport. Suncoast Fly Fishers support the conservation of natural resources, boating safety and fishing regulations.*

## BENEFITS OF SUNCOAST FLY FISHER MEMBERSHIP

- Monthly membership meetings with outstanding local speakers on fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, marine conservation and exotic fishing trips worldwide.
- Free fly casting, fly tying & knot tying instructions.
- Monthly club outings in local fresh and saltwater locales topped off with top notch lunches and story telling of the day's catch.
- Joint outings with other clubs in Florida.
- Monthly electronic newsletters with local fishing and club activity information plus fly tying instruction sheets and color photos.
- A professional website with fishing reports, links, club activity photos etc.
- Club hats and shirts.
- Annual award winning Pig Roast with first class auction.
- Charter club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
- Make new friends and find a fishing buddy for your next fishing adventure.

## Suncoast Fly Fishers, Your Board Of Directors Working For You

Activities are at the heart of any successful organization. SFF's BOD has instituted the following Standing Committees to help us maintain a high level of activities that have proven to be popular with the membership and some new ones to fill a need as expressed through membership surveys. These committees are generally chaired by board members but you do not have to be a board member to fill that position. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any of these committees, please speak to any director.

Committees are as follows:

- Casting Skills - Pat Damico
- FFF Liaison - Pat Damico
- Fly Tying - Alan Sewell
- Membership - Pat Damico & Joe Dail
- Newsletter - Paul Sequira
- Outings - Richard Oldenski & Mark Hays
- Publicity - Roger Blanton
- Programs - BOD
- Project Healing Waters - Terry Kirkpatrick
- Raffles - John Rodgers & Tom Hummel
- Webmaster - Tom Anderson



"Never trust a man who doesn't fish"  
(Teddy Roosevelt)

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# Suncoast Fly Fishers Activities and Information

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## Casting Clinic: January 24, 2009

Our very popular casting clinic for all Suncoast Fly fishers will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the turn around at the end of East Beach, Ft. DeSoto park. Everyone from first timers as well as experienced fly casters are welcome. The relaxed non threatening environment has had most of our members as repeat participants. Bring your favorite fly rod and enjoy one of our club's benefits. If your club and FFF dues are up to date, there is no charge.

A signup sheet will be available at the January meeting. Others planning to attend should call me so we are properly prepared. If you need equipment, contact me at 727-360-6466.

Pat Damico, FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor



## SFF Annual Bring What You Have Auction

SFF's ever popular Bring What You Have (or want to get rid of) to the auction at the January 15th meeting. Auctioneering will be ably handled by the dynamic duo of Ken Hofmeister and John Zientarski so get ready for another raucous evening of fun and games as they auction off all those items no longer needed or wanted by you, but just the thing for some other member who has been looking for just that special item. This is your chance to help support the club's treasury and have a great time with lots of laughs and good fellowship. So, bring all that no longer needed stuff (fishing or otherwise) and be ready to collect some new (to you at least) stuff and support your club. ....PS

## SFF Club Hats & Shirts

The saga of the 2009 edition of the club shirts and hats continues. We have them in our possession and they will be available to you at the FEBRUARY 19, 2009 meeting. As stated in last month's newsletter, since we have the auction going at the January meeting, we will not be able to handle the shirts/hat sales and auction item sales at the same time. With shipping and tax the costs work out to be:

Caps - \$7.00 ~ Short sleeve shirts - \$40 ~ Long sleeve shirts - \$45

Please have the exact cash amount or personal check. ....PS

### FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

#### DUES NOTICES *by Joe Dail*

Club members are beginning to receive dues renewal notices from the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Such dues should be paid directly to FFF, and you should NOT wait until Club dues are renewed in September. Since FFF memberships expire 12 months after they started, and all Club memberships expire at the same time (in September), the dues periods for the two organizations do not coincide, and it was decided that it would be simpler for the Club's volunteer treasurer, and that there would be less room for error, if members deal directly with FFF with respect to FFF dues. Accordingly, the Club collects FFF dues only from new members, which gives the Club credits toward incentive fly rods awarded by FFF to charter clubs for obtaining new members.

### LOCAL FISHING GUIDES

Capt. Frank Bourgeois Offshore Hernando Cty 352-666-6234  
Capt. Pat Damico, Tampa Bay 727-360-6466  
Capt. Rick Grasset, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Tampa Bay 941-923-7799  
Capt. Pete Greenan, Boca Grande and The Everglades 941-923-6095  
Capt. Mike Homer, Tampa Bay 727-418-5005  
Capt. Ray Markham Sarasota and Tampa Bay 941-723-2655  
Capt. Wayne Simmons Tampa Bay Area 727-204-4188  
Capt. Steve Soult, Nature Coast Area 352-686-0853

# Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership & Renewal Form

## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS 2009 DUES NOTICE

Now's the time—if you haven't paid your 2009 dues, print and complete the SFF membership renewal form below. Personal checks made out to Suncoast Fly Fishers, Inc. are acceptable. Bring your checks and renewal form to the February meeting or mail it in to the address on the form.

### Suncoast Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address\* \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\* (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information is shown on the Membership List which is distributed to members only and is not used for commercial purposes. If you do not desire this information disclosed to members, please so indicate. The monthly newsletter, "On The Fly," is distributed electronically. If you do not provide an e-mail address, you will receive an abbreviated printed version via U.S. Mail.

**Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF) membership categories (select one):**

\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership 1 year  \$15 (*September 2008-09*)

\_\_\_\_ Family Membership 1 year (includes Member, Spouse and children under 18)  \$25

\_\_\_\_ Business Membership 1 year (includes monthly business card newsletter ad)  \$100

**Total amount due \$**\_\_\_\_\_. Please make check payable to Suncoast Fly Fishers and bring it along with completed application to next meeting or mail to:

Suncoast Fly Fishers, P.O.

Attn: Tom Gadacz, Treasurer

Box 40821, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821.

Amount received \$\_\_\_\_\_. Date received \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_. SFF Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

## Read The Water For Fishing Success *By Capt. Pat Damico*

We all believe that ten percent of the fishermen catch ninety percent of the fish. Let's think about why this happens. You can have the best lure or bait, the finest equipment, great casting ability and tactile sensation, but if your presentation is not in front of fish, failure will result. If every cast you made on your last outing was in a quarry's strike zone, a banner day would have been the reward of your effort. Was it? What percentage of the time was your bait where there were fish? If all other factors are correct and a fish was not there to pick up your offering, you would have had a very poor day of fishing.



Don Coleman with a fine redfish.  
Photo—Paul Sequeira

Successful freshwater trout fishermen learn how to look at a stream and determine where fish would be holding. In front of, or behind a rock, where the obstruction breaks the current and creates a resting zone where little energy is wasted and food washes into easy reach is one example. Undercut banks are another, where the overhang protects the trout from predators and the deeper water insures security.

When you plan an excursion to your favorite inshore fishing area, do you have a good idea of where most fish will be concentrated? Seasonal migration is a factor, water temperature, and bait location for the time of the year are also important. We will concentrate on what is under the water's surface where we plan to fish. A freshwater lake where the depth rarely varies is best probed with a good depth finder. Next to an outboard motor, this could be your best equipment investment. Structure that holds fish, usually attracted by the presence of food can be located in deeper water. A GPS or marker buoy can be used to pinpoint a spot that has fish holding potential. Saltwater affected by tides will make this easier.

I often hear fisherman say, "I only fish here when there is a lot of water." They are fishing a tidal peak, usually the last of the incoming or beginning of the outgoing. Some fish may be close to the mangrove shorelines and casting to this structure will be productive. How did the fish get there, and how do they leave as water depth varies? Many of the places I enjoy fishing are most productive in the cooler weather. Since I prefer fly fishing, I don't have to worry about floating grass to foul hooks, most other anglers have put their boats and gear away and are pursuing other interests, Jet skiers are gone, water is clear and sighting fish in shallow water is easier, there isn't as

much bait around and fish are easier to catch with artificials, and if you like to sleep in, afternoons are best because the water on the flats has warmed considerably from the sun's rays. Winter also has some of the most extreme tides. Why not take advantage of shallow water?

Have you ever visited your favorite fishing area when the tide was at it's lowest? I'm not suggesting running all over the place up on plane waiting for the first obstruction to damage your boat and possibly the passengers. Go there and stay in the deeper water going slowly and be a keen observer.

Look for differences in the flats that will act as fish holding structure or migratory routes. A video camera or a

plane 35 mm camera will be helpful. You will be surprised at what some of your productive spots may reveal. One of the mangrove shorelines I like to fish has a deep channel adjacent to the trees as well as several points created by oysters jutting out from land. The adjacent flat has a large isolated oyster bar a hundred feet or so from the shoreline. The isolated bar is very productive at higher tides as I feel reds hold there on their way to the shoreline. Prop scars or small channels will provide security as redfish move to the shoreline in search of food, and will be especially productive if they connect two or more pieces of structure. A deeper area at low tide may be filled with fish waiting to migrate, as water gets deeper. This could be a real "honey hole."

Look for structure adjacent to deeper water. A shoreline that has a lot of fish holding potential will be best if close to a channel. At lower tides this deeper water will hold fish leaving or getting ready to invade the shallows. Mentally think of an approach to this area to fish it effectively without disturbing the fish. I often observe boats approaching a good spot only to throw an anchor overboard, bang hatch lids, create a major disturbance that sends fish scurrying and then after a few minutes of unproductive fishing, reverse the process as they speed to their next hot spot. The presence of birds feeding on the exposed flat will indicate the presence of the same food fish will eat.

Successful fishing is a mental game. The time you spend developing a plan will be a good investment. Don't be in such a hurry to make your first cast. As your observation skills increase, you will get closer to being one of the fabled ten percent.

Capt. Pat Damico  
St. Pete Beach  
Email: [flyguy@captpat.com](mailto:flyguy@captpat.com)  
Web Site: <http://captpat.com/>

# Fly Tying Bench—Springer’s Crystal Shrimp *by Al Pitcher*

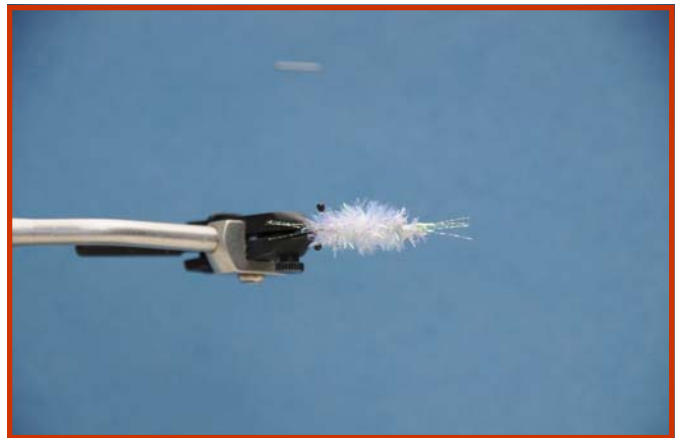
Original Designed by: Tom Springer, Pensacola, FL

Although there are several flies that bear the name “crystal shrimp,” this variation by Tom Springer of Pensacola, FL is not only very simple to tie, but has proven to be the most effective of the shrimp patterns. It is a killer under the lights for snook and the trout love it. Before Don Manning has a chance to ask the question “can you add a little weight to it,” the answer is definitely yes. Although Tom Springer’s Crystal Shrimp is tied with no additional weight, I have added the use of .010 lead wire; your choice. Tom’s pattern does not have a weed guard, but I have added one since I believe it will fish better in the grass. Also, I made the eyes a little longer than the 1/4” Tom recommended; this allows them to be more prominent. I tied this pattern at the Tampa Boat Show and received a great deal of interest; primarily because it is simple to tie and it looks inviting.

## Materials:

- Hook: Mustad 3407 size #2 to #6
- Thread: Danville’s Flat Waxed Nylon or equivalent in white or pearl
- Body: Medium Pearl Chenille
- Shellback: Krystal Flash; Gray Ghost/Pearl
- Antennas: Krystal Flash; Gray Ghost/Pearl
- Eyes: Approximately 3/4” to 1” section of 80# monofilament burnt at each end, crimped in the center, and colored black with a Sharpie permanent marker.
- Weight: Lead wire; .010
- Weed Guard: 80# monofilament
- Glue: Head cement and Zap-a-Gap CA+

*Tying instructions continued on page 8*



Springer’s Crystal Shrimp: tied and photographed by Al Pitcher

## Fly Tying Bench— Springer's Crystal Shrimp *continued*

### Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Starting at the hook eye, lay down a base of thread back to the hook bend and then back towards the eye until half way between the barb and the hook point.

Step 2: Tie in mono eyes using figure-eight-wraps. Add a drop of Zap-a-Gap on the figure-eight-wrap.

Step 3: Tie in several strands of Krystal Flash about 3" long at the rear of the hook with about 1/2" to 1" of strands going past the bend of the hook.



Springer's Crystal Shrimp: tied & photographed by Al Pitcher

Step 4: Double back the remainder of the Krystal Flash towards the rear of the hook and tie it down so that it points away from the hook eye.

Step 5: Tie in the Crystal Chenille over where the Krystal Flash is tied in then bring the thread back to about 1/2" of the end of the hook eye.

Step 6: Wrap in the desired amount of .010 lead wire; bring the thread forward to the hook eye to secure the lead wire. Add a drop of Zap-a-Gap to the lead wire and thread.

Step 7: Tie in a weed guard under the hook eye using 80# monofilament so that it is about 1/16" from the hook point.

Step 8: Make one wrap of the chenille in front of the mono eyes; then proceed to wrap the chenille behind the eyes toward the hook eye. That first wrap helps to separate the eyes outward. For a good body, always make the wraps tight against each other.

Step 9: Tie off the chenille at the hook eye.

Step 10: Take the long strands of Krystal Flash that we doubled back and now extend them over the top of the chenille and tie in at the hook eye. Some of the flash will extend over the hook eye. Trim so that the fibers extend about 1/4" to 1/8" past the hook eye. This will create the shrimp tail.

Step 11: Whip finish and apply head cement.



## Don Coleman Invitational ~ December 20, 2008

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Members of the Suncoast Fly Fishers, Tampa Fly Fishing Club and The Mangrove Coast Fly Fishing Club enjoyed some fine fishing, excellent chili and many other goodies and shared memories of our much missed friend and fly fisherman Don Coleman.



## SUNCOAST FLY FISHERS

### Club Officers

President: Ken Hofmeister 727-521-1637

Vice President: John Zientarski 727-391-1480

Secretary: Joe Dail

Treasurer: Tom Gadacz

### Board of Directors

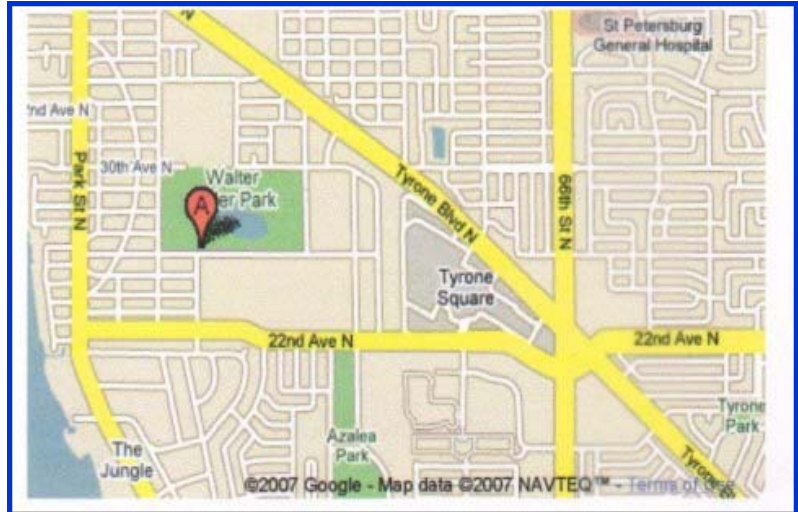
Roger Blanton - Pat Damico

Mark Hays - Richard Oldenski

John Rodgers—Alan Sewell - Paul Sequira

“On the Fly” is the monthly newsletter of the Suncoast Fly Fishers (SFF), a not-for-profit organization offering fly fishing and fly tying instruction to members and visitors. Club membership includes newsletter subscription. Send e-mail submissions to the editor, Paul Sequira

[psequira@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:psequira@tampabay.rr.com)



**Next Club Meeting: January 15, 2009**

**Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Outdoor Activities**

**7:00-8:30 Meeting & Program**

**Location: Walter Fuller Park**

**7891 26 Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710**

**Program: SFF's Annual Bring What You Have Auction with  
auctioneering duo Hofmeister and Zientarski**

***VISIT OUR WEBSITE***

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

***Suncoast Fly Fishers***

**P.O. BOX 40821**

**St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0821**