

*The*

# SCAM

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Presenting:  
Our New ExComm!



Sam Kirschten  
Suzanne Leichtling  
Helen Lee Moore  
George Patterson  
Joseph Smith

*Mensa is an international society in which the sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standardized intelligence tests. If you know anyone who is interested in joining Mensa, or learning more about us, please have the person contact any of our officers listed on Page Two of every issue.*

The  
**SCAM**  
page coast reg mensa

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**July  
Birthday Greetings!!**



- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 -- John Redmond      | 20-- Jeffrey Barbour  |
| 02 -- Milo Zonka        | 20 -- Betty Valentine |
| 05 -- Bob Tuck          | 24 -- Sandra Hense    |
| 07 -- Dan Morgan        | 28 - William Anderson |
| 08 -- Helen Lee Moore   | 28 - Thomas Wheat     |
| 09 -- Michael Zielenski | 31 - Greer Maeder     |
| 13 - Dale Irwin         |                       |

**Welcome!!**



To SCAM  
and Mensa:

*Patricia Caporale*

Welcome  
Back:

*Christopher Rawlins*

**Editor's Note:**

The SCAM belongs to the members of Space Coast Area Mensa. Accordingly, we welcome all material submitted for publication in The SCAM. The material may be on just about any subject. Controversial opinions or subjects are encouraged, as are rebuttals to any opinions published herein. The Editor retains the right to edit or reject any material, but will not exercise such prerogative to limit opinions or discussion of any topic.

All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. **All** submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears above.

**Report of the  
SCAM NomECom:**

**EXCOMM ELECTION  
RESULTS**

**T**he results of the 2004-2005 SCAM ExComm election are as follows:

A total of 19 ballots were cast. One ballot was declared invalid. The following were elected to the 2004-2005 ExComm are:

Sam Kirschten  
Helen Lee Moore  
Joseph Smith  
George Patterson  
Suzanne Leichtling

**Annual Report  
of the Audit  
Committee**

**T**o the Scam Membership and ExComm:  
The Audit Committee has examined the records and documentation of the financial transactions of Space Coast Area Mensa for the period from May 1, 2003 through April 30,

2004.

Examination of all journals, receipts, bank statements and Treasurer's Reports revealed no discrepancies.

**The account balances were as follows:**

Scholarship	\$ 756.14
General Fund CD	3,083.87
RG Fund Account	915.71
USPS Drawing Account	451.65
General Fund Account	1,135.96

Additionally, the Audit Committee commends Helen Lee Moore for her diligence and meticulous records.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Francesca S. Hinson , 05/27/04

/s/ George Patterson, 05/27/04

/s/ Robert J. Johnson, 05/27/04



## ***We Get Mail!***



*Editor's note: Below are two letters from our loyal readers, members of SCAM. Do you have an opinion about something you read here? Let's hear from you.*

Dear Editor:

Proof of the accuracy and of his premise in his column about "left" out news was clearly demonstrated in the article which immediately followed in the June SCAM, purporting to show a side-by-side comparison of the same two individuals discussed in J.T. Moran's column.

I am disappointed in SCAM and I offer congratulations to J. T. for a thoughtful piece.

Sincerely,  
W. Stanford Smith

Dear Editor:

I would like to acknowledge Helen Lee Moore's kind words in the previous edition of the SCAM, and note that without her encouragement and patient instruction, I would not have been able to become certified as a Mensa proctor.

Of course, we all have so much to thank Helen for. In the 13 years I have been part of this organization, I can't think of any time when Helen was not serving on the executive committee, editing the SCAM, or leading a subcommittee.

Groups such as ours thrive because of dynamic and dedicated individuals like Helen Lee Moore.

—Henry V. Rhodes

***URGENT!***

***Joseph Smith,  
Chairman,  
SCAM RG Com-  
mittee***

**F**ellow SCAM Members, if you are like me, and sometimes just skim through the newsletter, then jump to the last paragraph to get to the main message of this article. Otherwise read on.

We have reached a point in the preparations for our Regional Gathering (RG), coming up in October, where we must determine if our available resources and committee staffing are adequate to put on an event that meets the level of excellence that has been the trademark of all of SCAM's previous RG's.

In order to plan, prepare and run an RG that is up to our standards (and our guest's), our experience shows that we need a quantity of 16 individuals, specifically committed to an assigned task at least three months prior to that event.

Some of these assignments require activity prior to the event (planning, scheduling, supply pickup...etc.) and others require attendance at the event and readiness to work.

Some examples of these assignments are:

- Chairperson
- Assistant Chairperson
- Hotel Liaison
- Goody Bag Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Registrar
- Registration, Sign-in Table (quantity 2 each Friday Night, Saturday Morning)
- Games Coordinator
- Scholarship Fundraising
- Hospitality Supervisor
- Hospitality Assistant (we need 6 person/days of help here – 2 people a day for 3 days – all day and late Friday and Saturday)
- Programs Coordinator
- Costume Pageant Coordinator
- Treasurer
- “Go-Fer”, Runner, Standby Helper on all three days of the event (we need 6 person/days of help here – 2 people a day for 3 days – all day and late Friday and Saturday))

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

As can be seen by the list above, the amount of work and the level of commitment to present a successful RG are quite daunting when looked at from the perspective that currently we have only 7 firm commitments from members. This will only continue to get worse for us as we move forward. Situations will arise where after having taken care of our assignments we find ourselves faced with other tasks not originally assigned to us and because of our commitment to the project, are compelled to take on more and more work. This leads to extreme anxiety and frustration and often ends in the people who have worked the hardest and are most deserving of having an enjoyable time being hurt and left feeling miserable. To avoid this, the RG committee has voted to make one final offer to the membership..

The next ExComm meeting will be held at the home of Helen Lee Moore on July 6 at 6 p.m. If we do not have, in attendance at the July 6 meeting, 6 additional volunteers prepared to accept specific assignments in support of the RG, we will vote to cancel it for this year. We are very distressed at this prospect, both for the financial loss for the non-refundable deposit with the hotel, and for the overall disappointment of those who were looking forward to the RG, but we cannot afford to find ourselves in a situation where we would have to compromise SCAM's long running standard and reputation of putting on one of the finest RG's in the entire country. We are requiring attendance at the meeting, because we need to be sure of the level of commitment of our volunteers and figure a couple hours of your time will suffice in showing us that you are ready to join us in putting on an RG we can all be proud of. If there is anything you would like to discuss with me regarding this subject, please feel free to call me in the evenings at (321) 259-4966, or e-mail me at [jsmith@arachnaweb.com](mailto:jsmith@arachnaweb.com).

Thank you all, in advance, for everything !!

Joseph M. Smith  
SCAM RG Committee Chairman



**A FELLOW  
MENSAN IN  
NEED**

**By**

**Mike Moakley**

**T**his installment is a departure from my usual political commentary. It is not “writer’s block”, nor is it because there is nothing in the political arena to write about. Be assured neither is the case. As vitally important as I believe politics to be, especially in a Presidential election such as this one, there are those rare occasions when something comes to light that is far more important than even politics. I believe this to be one of those occasions. Please read on.

The topic this month concerns a fellow Mensan. Shortly after last month’s SCAM went to the printer’s, I learned from a fellow editor the horrifying experience this individual is coping with. At this point, let me introduce you to Dr. Robert Strippy, a retired history professor. Bob, 70 and in poor health, is a long-time member of Thomas Jefferson Mensa, located in Virginia. Bob has been LocSec and was Editor of the *Sally Hemings Memorial Newsletter*. Bob is currently incarcerated in the Augusta County Jail awaiting the outcome of his case. This is how the case starts:

*“In August 2002, Bob was enjoying the sunset at one of the Blue Ridge Parkway overlooks when he was attacked by a younger man wielding a cudgel. While being beaten about the head and hands as he tried to start his vehicle and get away, he remembered that his friend, Erin, had left her (legal) handgun in a gun-box under the seat of the vehicle. He managed to get the gun out to scare the assailant away, but the man got even madder and more hysterical, threatened to kill Bob with the gun, and grabbed for it. When the attacker yanked on the gun, it went off, wounding him, and Bob was able to get away. Bob immediately reported all this to the authorities, and, the next morning, was seen by his doctor at UVa (University of Virginia Hospital) to document his injuries. (1)”*

The matter now gets worse:

*“Unfortunately, the authorities in Augusta County chose to believe the unsubstantiated story told by the attacker (a previously convicted felon), who maintained that Bob had shot him for refusing a sexual solicitation. Unable to afford a private attorney, Bob had to rely on the Public Defender’s office for representation when the trial was held this past August (a year later). At that trial, a number of things went against Bob...one of the most important of which was that the medical records that would validate Bob’s testimony were not subpoenaed in time to arrive for the trial, and the judge refused to grant a delay until they could arrive. As a result of these problems with his defense, a jury convicted Bob of “malicious wounding” and “felonious use of a gun during a felony (malicious wounding)” and recommended a ten year sentence (a virtual death-sentence for one in Bob’s poor physical health). (1)”*

Further complicating matters is Bob’s health, and how his condition is being handled while in custody:

*“That is certainly not good news for Bob, who in that 8 months had suffered 15 trips to the Emergency Room, and whose health has deteriorated markedly as a result of his incarceration in the Augusta County Jail. Also unfortunately, being transferred to a state facility while the appeal process is underway will probably cause him to die even sooner.*

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

*He was transferred without any indication of even having any medical history much less any records of his actual condition. The Virginia Department of Corrections blindly maintains that they don't need anything other than what their own "professional" medical staff can discover about any inmate. So far, they have denied him several of the medications that he had been on previously, telling him that they were too expensive to provide. They won't even let him have his nitroglycerin spray for the severe angina he gets from the flight of stairs he must climb for every meal and every medical check. (2)"*

Although this only scratches the surface, I believe you get the picture. So, why am I writing about this? First, as you can see in Bob's case, Mensans are certainly not exempt from miscarriages of justice or from mistreatment in jail. One must wonder why the trial judge refused to wait for the medical evidence that was crucial to Bob's defense. One must also wonder why we still permit the kind of treatment Bob experiences at the hands of the Department of Corrections.

Secondly, members of Thomas Jefferson Mensa (TJM) are coming to Bob's aid. They believe in him. There is a defense fund for Bob's appeal. TJM members are appealing to us for any help we can give, whether it be contributions to the defense fund or simply writing Bob a letter to help him maintain his sanity. I can only hope Bob will live long enough to see his name cleared. If you wish to help Bob, or wish to know more about his case, you may go to the website: [www.savebobstrippy.org](http://www.savebobstrippy.org), or you may contact Didi Pancake directly via e-mail: [didip@mindspring.com](mailto:didip@mindspring.com) to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Thirdly, although I do believe Bob is innocent of the criminal charges against him, this is NOT about his innocence or guilt. It is about a fair trial where both sides can present all the relevant evidence in the matter. It is also about fair and humane treatment of prisoners, especially those who are elderly and seriously ill.

While I support the effort to help Bob Strippy, I cannot, on behalf of The SCAM or Mensa, solicit any aid; I am personally appealing to you, and encourage you to consider the issue. I can only ask that you let your conscience be your guide.

#### Reference Sources:

1. TJM Member Needs Help, Didi Pancake, undated.
2. Update on TJM Member Bob Strippy, Didi Pancake, May 2004.





**...AND NOW A  
WORD FROM OUR  
REGISTRAR...**

***J.T. Moran,  
SCAM RG Registrar***

**F**riends, if you have been reading the SCAM then you should already be aware of two things: The first thing is that on October 22, 23 and 24 we are putting on our RG. We do this every other year for two financial reasons: to fund this newsletter and any other financial outlay for group business, and to fund (via auction) the SCAM scholarship.

The second thing you should be aware of is that we may not be putting on the RG. For reasons already discussed in the newsletter some of the RG Committee officers may be unable to do their jobs.

RG Chair Joe Smith will be in school for his Master's degree, and his classes will be on Saturday and Sunday.

My participation is problematical. My job location has changed, and along with that relocation came a change in days off. I have requested the RG weekend off but I have not yet received any decision to my request. If it is refused it means that, while I will still be able to fulfill my duties up until the RG, I will not be able to attend or run the registration tables at the RG.

**WE NEED HELP!!!**

The result of the last committee meeting was a decision to put out this call for help. If that help is not forthcoming in the form of at least 6 members attending the next RG committee meeting (after the next ExComm meeting – see the minutes for time and place) and committing to helping with the gathering, then the RG committee will disband and advise the ExComm officially that the 2004 SCAM Regional Gathering has been cancelled. This action will also involve the forfeiture of some monies already paid to the hotel.

It is up to you whether or not SCAM holds its party in the finest Hospitality Suite in the Southeast. But for the magic to continue, six of you must be present at the next meeting. A phone call is not enough.

Your presence is requested.



Phone: (407) 631-3548 FAX: (407) 690-2295

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## ***The Alchemist:***

### ***LOW EXPENSE RATIOS***



***Al Thomas***

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***al@mutualfund***

***magic.com***

**B**one of the big advertising kicks today from mutual funds is to tell how low their expense ratio is and that you will make a great deal more money if you buy and hold with them. Partly true, but that is not the whole story.

What is the expense ratio? It is all their overhead including but not limited to all the managers and other employees salaries, rent, computers, utilities, travel (the fund manager says he has to visit a company in Florida in the winter to see how it is doing), advisory services, telephone, etc., etc, etc. Oops, and don't forget the manager's bonus whether he makes money for you or not. If the fund has one billion (yes, that's a B) that means they can spend \$10,000,000 on expenses and no one will complain because it is a tiny 1%.

At some point expenses just about stop going up as you don't need very many more people to manage the paper work for a billion than you do for 250 million. The fund manager's duties remain the same just the size of the orders he places changes. Actually as a fund grows in size its expenses should automatically come down as a percent of assets, but you will find that is not the case for many funds. They keep sticking it to their investors who don't have any idea how egregious this is.

The larger the fund family the lower should be their expenses per fund as they can outsource from the fund to a central billing and customer service desk. Vanguard Funds has more than 100 individual funds in its family and they brag on how low is their expense ratio. It should be as they have more than Billion spread out over those funds. They keep their expenses low and at only 1/2% they can charge about 360 million to offset their overhead.

Many funds run very high expenses. This is especially true for new and smaller funds, but as they take in more money they can spread their expenses and lower their ratios. One of the recent criticisms of funds is they have been making extra charges labeled 12B-1 that are supposed to be expressly for promotion to bring in new customers. Unfortunately, some (not all) of the fund managers have been pocketing this. If this does bring in new money then the expense ratio should fall and again in many cases it has not.

Investors expect fund managers to be honest. When large sums of money are at stake it seems to bring out the worst. That real nice fund manager turns into a hungry wolf and the investor becomes one of the 3 little pigs that did not escape.

*Copyright 2004 Albert W. Thomas. All rights reserved. Author of "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" [www.mutualfundmagic.com](http://www.mutualfundmagic.com) comments to [al@mutualfundmagic.com](mailto:al@mutualfundmagic.com)*

## Deb's Corner

**I** missed you all last month. I just had to write and tell you about a new group that I found, where recycling is not only helpful, but also kind of fun.

Those of you who have all kinds of useful things that you don't need or want anymore, things you just don't want to send to the dump, but would like to see come to a good use.....here is your chance.....FREE.

Also, if you are looking for something that you really need or would like to have, this is the place for you.....FREE.

**[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)**

I also wanted you to know that the Melbourne Public Library is having their "Summer Reading" program. For the young readers, the library and Space Coast Area Transit are providing free transportation. To ride free, you must be under 18 and able to show your library card. For the "Read to Ride" program call 635-7826.

The "Friends of the Library" is sponsoring all kinds of free programs and performances such as Grecia's Ballet, Kingdom Animalia, and Mr. Science, to name just a few.

Cathy Stanton will be at the library on July 16 at 2 p.m. to talk about the history of the women's suffrage movement and her famous relative Elizabeth Cady Stanton. If you are interested in any of these events please call Kevan Vance at 952-4514.

Thank you for visiting my corner. See you at the library!

*deb*

**Mark Your Calendar!**



**Katherine Cochrane**  
**Katherine@cd-info.com**

**A**nother month, another job! It's a logical thing to do, as we'll see in a moment, but I really didn't expect to take on the SCAM website as well as the Calendar Coordinator's function! But that's what is happening. Clara asked me to do it, and since I'd been sending her things for the site, and making suggestions, and since she's becoming overwhelmed

with her *real* job and impending scholastic pursuits, and since I do web hosting as one of my professional activities, what could I say but, "yes, I'll do it." I did make one request, and that was to let me move the site to my own server, where I have both familiarity and a good collection of optimized tools available to make the most productive use of my efforts. By the time you read this, the domain will probably have been transferred, and some changes will start to become apparent to those who use the Web site.

One of the changes has already been implemented on the old tripod.com site – the electronic version of our calendar is now available from the menu on the home page. To return to the site you will need to use your browser's "Back" button for now, but as redesign is implemented there will be a navigation menu for that page as well. Stay tuned.

Other calendar news includes a new deadline for submitting changes and additions to the calendar. Please have those to me not later than the 8th of each month, to appear in the following month's newsletter. You may actually send me event information at any time, and I'll add it to the online calendar right away, so for the most up-to-date view of our activities, see the Web site.

Cheers,  
Kat



**COME ONE - COME ALL TO THE 2004 SCAM OCTOBER MASQUERADE RG ON THE BEACH IN BEAUTIFUL INDIALANTIC FLORIDA**

It's that time again to dust off that old mask and polish up your favorite costume props and get ready for another fun-filled, never know what to expect, not your ordinary, RG.

Once again, our favorite hotel on the beach, The Holiday Inn, Oceanfront, has rolled out the red carpet for us . They have renovated our favorite Penthouse and are getting everything ready to ensure that the weekend will be one long remembered.



Standard Room Rates are \$70.00 a night for our RG'ers. Oceanfront Rooms are \$93.00 a night for the same number as some Suites available for \$100.00 a night. Rates thru 10/08. Call 405-4329. Group

The Hotel will be serving and a Sunday \$40 and tax.

**THIS EVENT COULD BE CANCELLED**  
**DETAILS ON PAGES 6 & 7...**

thru 08/31/04, \$45.00 from and \$55.00 at the door. Day rates will be always, registration fees will be cheerfully refunded.

**October 22, 23, 24 SCAM October Masquerade RG  
AT the Holiday Inn, Oceanfront Resort**

2605 N. Highway A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903  
(321) 777-4100 or (800) 465-4329

**Make Checks Payable to : Space Coast Area Mensa**

J.T. Moran, Registrar  
P.O. Box 457  
Sharps, FL

(321) 632-0854

# July 2004 Calendar of SCAM Events

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

*S*-Smoking; *NS*- No *Smoking*; *SS*-Separate Smoking Area; *P*-Pets in the home; *NP*-No Pets present; *BYO* -Bring Your Own: *\_Snacks, \_Drinks, \_Everything.*

## Regular Events

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble: Monday, the 5th & 19th.**

6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 2nd, 14th & 28th.**

Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at House of Joe: Wednesday, the 7th & 21st.**

1220 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne

Spend the evening with friends playing games, drinking gourmet coffee, and devouring sweet treats, and perhaps even reading a bit. It's free (except for any purchases), no pets, and outside smoking.

**C.A.B.A.G.E. North Host: Karen Freiberg                      459-9432**

**C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Trish Thornton                      729-6989**

<b>6th Tuesday</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Free</b>	<b>ExComm Meeting NS/NP</b>
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The Executive Committee of the group meets to conduct its monthly business. All members are welcome to attend, to volunteer, and to see how things are done. This month's meeting will be held at the the home of Helen Lee Moore, *5320 N. US 1, Hardeeville.*

<b>Helen Lee Moore</b>	<b>632-1831</b>	<b><i>moorehelenlee@cs.com</i></b>
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<b>7th Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. Coffee/Meal Cost</b>	<b>Coffee, Etc. at the House of Joe NS/NP</b>
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Let's get together for some coffee, sandwiches, bagels, and a lot of books to borrow or trade. Bring your favorite game! Featured is a free Wi-Fi hotspot for those with laptops and a wireless Internet card. They also have a guitar handy for those so inclined. **The House of Joe** is located at **1220 W. New Haven Ave.** (across from Toys-R-Us) in **Melbourne**. See you there. NOTE: This activity is now our **C.A.B.A.G.E. South.**

<b>8th</b>	<b>Calendar Deadline</b>
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If you would like to place an event on our calendar, please notify Katherine no later than today.

***Katherine@cd-info.com***

<b>10th</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
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All newsletter submissions must be to Mike no later than today.

[moakleymj@bellsouth.net](mailto:moakleymj@bellsouth.net)

**10th** 12:30 p.m.  
**Saturday** \$30.00

**Mensa Testing**  
**NS**

Send a relative or friend whom you think would be a good addition to SCAM! Location: Cape Canaveral Hospital Resource Center, 12:30pm.

**Helen Lee Moore** 632-1831

[moorehelenlee@cs.com](mailto:moorehelenlee@cs.com)

**17th** Various Show Times  
**Saturday** \$1.00 plus popcorn

**Roxy Cheep Flix**  
**NS**

Please call Rita before 12 Noon for movie selections and times. You can have movies and afford the popcorn, too. Good event for families. Several shows from which to choose.

**Rita Johnson-Aronna** 676-5999

[patrita@workdnet.att.net](mailto:patrita@workdnet.att.net)

**18th** 11:00 a.m.  
**Sunday** Meal cost

**Brunch with Jim**  
**NS/NP**

We'll join Jim for his monthly Sunday brunch at the *Colossus Restaurant* at 380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne. You must be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you may not be seated with us: we can't save any seats for latecomers.

**Jim Trammell** 242-8985

**24th** 1:00 p.m.  
**Saturday** \$3.00

**What are you Reading?**  
**NS**

Come join our book discussion group. Bring one or two books you are currently reading to share your opinions of them, good OR bad. RSVP, call for address and directions.

**Katherine Cochrane** 432-9703

[katherine@cd-info.com](mailto:katherine@cd-info.com)

**31st** 6:00 p.m.  
**Saturday** Meal Cost

**S.N.O.R.T.**  
**SS/NP**

Wasabi! Join us at our best-attended monthly event and sample some great Japanese fare; take a break from the mundane for some sushi, teriyaki, and tempura. *Miyako's* is located at 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne.

# Pow-Owl CaMp

August 20-22 at Buffalo Gap Camp  
(off Rt. 50, west of Winchester, VA)

Only \$165 until May 28<sup>th</sup>,  
then \$185 to 7/19, \$205 to 8/13  
\$50 deposit (non-ref); balance by 7/19  
Kids 13-17 @75%, 6-12 @50%, <6 free

Includes pleasant cabin space (private room extra),  
tasty meals/snacks from Fri. dinner to Sun. lunch,  
and all the fun you can handle!

This delightful new annual event is kinda like a mini summer camp for Mensans and friends/family of all ages. (Yes, including children by popular demand—there will be a cluster of family cabins.) The place is wonderful and the food is excellent. Planned activities include a variety of RG-like programs, a dance sampler series making use of the fine floor, and traditional camp stuff like swimming and singing/s'mores around the campfire. Cabins will be set aside for games, a book swap, and the children's clubhouse. All we need is YOU! For more info, contact event sponsor Jenny Foster: [pinc@xecu.net](mailto:pinc@xecu.net) or 301-371-4312 (email preferred).



**The Gourmet's  
Guide:**

**ANTOINE'S**

by

**Art Belefant**

©2004

To many people New Orleans is the best eating town in the U. S. That is a moot point, but the Crescent City is no doubt one of the best. Aside from the expected Cajun and Creole cuisine, there is a plethora of French restaurants and a smattering of restaurants that specialize in other cuisines. Two of the best French restaurants, Arnaud's and Antoine's, are particularly upscale, until recently requiring jackets for the men for the evening meal, an unusual requirement in a town that calls itself the Big Easy. About one year ago Arnaud's decided to rescind the jacket and tie requirement for men. So goes elegance in the U. S.

Antoine's is especially interesting. It claims to be the oldest restaurant in New Orleans having been founded over 160 years ago in 1840 by Antoine Alciatore. His descendants, the fifth generation, still own and run the restaurant.

As with several other old restaurants, such as the Columbia in Ybor City, the restaurant began with one dining room and expanded over the years by adding room after room as necessitated by the restaurant's popularity. Today there are 15 dining rooms, the smallest accepting only two and the largest with a capacity of 300. Many of the rooms of various sizes are suitable for private parties and conventions.

The main dining room, named the "Original", is the one that you enter from the street. It is a square room with a high ceiling. It has about 20 tables covered with white table cloths. The cloth napkins are also plain white. The room is plain, but not stark. The walls are generally undecorated except for a group of family portraits over the counter. It has a feeling of old-fashioned restrained elegance befitting the era of the restaurant's founding.

The walls of some of the other rooms are covered with mementos, such as photographs of famous people who dined in the restaurant. I spotted a picture of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Another room has framed menus from the earliest times to the present. Still another has a *melange* of souvenirs. A waiter pointed out the beret that Groucho Marx wore on a European tour.

The waiters in the main dining room, I counted 16, which makes a ratio of about one waiter for two tables, a high ratio that was reflected in the high-quality but not over-bearing service. Also most of the waiters were middle-aged men indicating that they were professionals who had probably been with the restaurant for many years.

There is a vast wine cellar that can be observed through a glass panel. Outside of the wine cellar is a collection of hundreds of bottles of liquors and brandies on display, some of which appear to be ancient.

Eating in Antoine's is not inexpensive, certainly not by Brevard County standards. The menu is an impressive affair of eight pages. One page is devoted to appetizers with things like four ways of preparing oysters, two forms of snails, five preparations of shrimp, and three crawfish items.

Rita and I started our meal with American caviar. It was served in

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the traditional style with toast points, chopped onion, and chopped hard-boiled egg (see my article of January 1996, "Caviar" for my opinion of serving chicken eggs with fish eggs). This was my first acquaintance with American caviar. The eggs were tiny and black, much smaller than the Beluga, Ossetra, and Sevruga from the Caspian Sea. However, the flavor was excellent. This caviar came from California. With sturgeon a world-wide fish found in most of the great rivers, and caviar being such an expensive delicacy, it is surprising that more caviar is not produced outside of the Caspian sea. For a detailed discussion of the history of caviar including American caviar I recommend Inga Saffron's book *Caviar*.

We followed this with Vichyssoise, the cold potato soup. This too was excellent, although the accompanying bread, served hot, although very good, was a bit too dense and the crust not as crisp as I have had in France or even in the Columbia restaurant.

There were pages of fish, eggs, entrees, sauces, vegetables, salads, cheeses, desserts, and coffees.

For the main course, Rita had lobster Thermidor, lobster meat in a cheese sauce. I had *riz de veau* (sweetbreads). They were offered *a la financiere* (in a sherry wine sauce), but I had mine prepared by frying them in butter along with sliced mushrooms. Sweetbreads have a delicate flavor so it is best not to put a heavy sauce over them. A half a lemon was supplied with the sweetbreads which was just enough of a seasoning for them. The sweetbreads were somewhat dry, but still very flavorful.

For dessert Rita had flan, caramel custard, and I had chocolate mousse. Here the mousse was flavored with rum, a happy combination.

We finished the meal with New Orleans coffee (with chicory).



***A View  
from the Right:  
Information "Left"  
Out of the News ,  
Part Two***  
by  
***J.T. Moran***  
*(morwood@cfl.rr.com)*

**L**ast month I wrote about the sins of omission perpetrated daily by the Left and their sycophants of the so-called mainstream media. This month I will again touch on that practice as well as how it leads to sins of commission. Without doubt, the most publicized news item of the past 6 weeks has been the "tortures" of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse. Daily we are treated with pictures and commentary, both on television and in the newspapers, of the "horrors" inflicted upon the poor Iraqi citizens detained by our

troops. And make no mistake, that is the way the Left has been portraying it. The senators on the left side of the aisle have gone so far as to state that "Saddam Hussein's torture chambers have reopened under new management – US management!", as well as calling for the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld because of it. Why no outrage? Well maybe because the Media approves of Sen. Kennedy's statement. For example, Keith Olberman of MSNBC stated on-air on May 7: "Given tonight's new charges, perhaps Saddam's rape rooms were not closed after all."

Well, we know why they are doing it, at least. To the Left, literally ANYTHING that can be done to lessen President Bush's re-election is considered front-page major news and is treated with the same hoopla that the invention of a water-burning automobile engine would be. The media righteously defends this with the old saw of "the people have a right to know". Unfortunately, that only seems to apply to what the Left feels the people should know.

We have been seeing the abuse photos and heard the Dan Rathers of the media reporting on the humiliating mistreatment of the Iraqi terrorist prisoners by American MPs. In fact, he reports it with a fair amount of obvious zest and relish. But that is all that has happened to the prisoners – humiliation. No one has been shot, had body parts detached, or been otherwise physically harmed, although I did see one report that one prisoner had been bitten by a K-9. And apparently, a large part of the "abuse" was that it was often inflicted by female MPs. Women in positions of authority are not only anathema to a fundamentalist Muslim, it is blasphemy. Strangely, though, I did not hear any demands from the Left for the removal of all military women from the Iraqi forces.

Something for the indignant left to consider: the "abuse" and "humiliation" that these terrorists have undergone is little different than that of a fraternity hazing. And the reported physical abuses sound strangely like the psychological treatment our military personnel have undergone to prepare them in case of capture during war. And for good reason – they are proven methods for obtaining information

But while we have been inundated for weeks with the "people's right"

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to see Abu Ghraib, the same media spent all of two days on the brutal beheading of Nick Berg. It was front page for one day. Why the difference in treatment? Nick Berg got little coverage, and no video was shown of the act. As Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia asked, "Why is it that there's more indignation over a photo of a prisoner with underwear on his head than over the video of a young American with no head at all?"

There is only one reason: because Berg's murder only proves that we really ARE at war with terrorists, and that doesn't do anything to damage President Bush. That is also the same reason the media is adamant about not showing the collapse of the Twin Towers anymore, and were among the loudest critics of the President's use of a 2-second shot in a campaign ad.

And the same idiots crying "torture" and "abuse" at the Administration and the military have actively suppressed the truth of real torture under Saddam. A video of scenes more suitable for Dante's *Inferno* or a Hollywood slasher film was brought to the attention of the Media by the news director of Al Hurra, a satellite channel reaching 22 Arab countries. Mouafac Harb told the Post that he obtained the new torture video on Monday, May 17 and deemed the images both authentic and newsworthy.

The Washington Post admitted on May 21 that it was in possession of some of the gruesome torture images - but did not publish them in a report on the video buried on Page A21. Instead, Post editors decided to front-page stale images of Abu Ghraib abuse.

"The [Hussein torture] video reached news outlets," the paper explained, "as senior spokesmen for the Bush administration began to express frustration that the treatment of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. troops had overshadowed well-documented human rights horrors of the Hussein era."

In the video (not yet broadcast by any U.S. media outlet), Hussein torture victims are shown being flogged and having fingers chopped off. One detainee is filmed as he is thrown from a roof, another is beheaded by a sword-wielding member of Saddam's elite Fedayeen unit.

According to the Post, the video of the beheading shows a man placing the severed head on the victim's prone body. Another scene shows a man's tongue being cut out.

Yet more gruesome images from the media-suppressed video include scenes of Kurdish detainees being castrated and babies being gassed to death.

Speaking of being gassed – did you note the strong coverage by the media of the terrorists' attempt to use a shell containing one gallon of Sarin against our troops in Iraq? No? Well, that's understandable. The unclassified October 2002 *National Intelligence Estimate* stated that Iraq "has begun renewed production of ... sarin" and other chemical weapons, and estimated that Saddam Hussein had between **100 and 500 metric tons** of chemi-

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cal agents. Oh, just for your consideration: one tanker truck of the size you see every day delivering gasoline can contain between 8,000 and 10,000 gallons. Which equals about **40 tons**. If it carried Sarin that would be enough to kill about a half a BILLION people. Now try to find just one container that size buried in an area the size of California. So the discovery and attempted use of enough chemical agent to kill 60 THOUSAND people doesn't merit much attention. It's not really a lot of a weapon of mass destruction. The "abuse" of the people trying to use that shell is far more newsworthy... at least in the minds of the media.

Now, ask yourself this question: Where is there any equivalence between photographing a naked male prisoner with panties on his head, and actually flogging, dismembering, and beheading him?

Also ask yourself why the media so adamantly refuse to show any footage of the fall of the World Trade Center, of the Americans jumping to their deaths rather than burning. Why no repetitive reviews of the video of the gloating bin Ladin and the celebrating Arabs after the towers fell?

If the Media were consistent, there could be only one answer: they do not want to remind America that we are at war. They do not want America united against a common foe. And they most definitely do not want America united under the leadership of George W. Bush. So they do their best to broadcast to America, and the rest of the world, every single thing they can come up with to downplay the successes for Bush and the War in Iraq, and to divide the support for both at home and abroad. And by so doing, they knowingly accept their sin of commission: they give comfort to the enemy and encourage them to continue to attack our troops, our allies, and our interests. Because the terrorists know that, no matter what they do, if the results hurt the image and re-election chances of President Bush, they will get more play time with the media than the capture of Saddam, or the attacks of 9/11, or the discovery of weapons of mass destruction ever did, or ever will.

Remember, after 9/11 many prominent media types refused to display patriotic symbols. For example, ABC News brass issued orders forbidding reporters to wear lapel pin American flags or other patriotic insignia. They claimed it was "in an effort to protect their credibility as objective sources" because "it could be perceived that we're just mouthpieces for the U.S. government".

Sure. They are afraid of being perceived as biased.

They shouldn't fear that.

Everyone KNOWS they are.



**From the  
Horse's Mouth:**



**by  
Mike Moakley,  
SCAM Editor  
(moakleymj@  
bellsouth.net)**

**J**ust a short note this month. I'd like to extend my congratulations to the members of our new Ex-Comm. At the same time, I am grateful for the support I've been given as I continue as your Editor for another year.

A couple of items are in order here. First, beginning this issue, the Calendar deadline is the 8th; please make a note of it. The deadline for all other newsletter submissions remains the 10th of the month.

Second, did you know that the Space Coast Area Mensa offers a scholarship each year? It is funded, in part, by the proceeds from our RGs. You have (or will) read elsewhere in this issue about the state of our planned RG. 'Nuff said?

**Our World, Our  
View,**

**By**

**George Patterson**

**T**he second session of the above titled event went every bit as well as the first, although with a somewhat different format. The first meeting featured two speakers, each making an orderly and uninterrupted presentation of their views on various topics. I have previously written approvingly of this format. This time we had only one primary speaker, myself, talking on the announced topics,

"Why I am a Liberal", and, "Why I Shouldn't Be." This allowed us to continue, in a slightly schizophrenic fashion with the plural title, "Our World, etc."

When I started preparing my material I tried to envision myself moving between two podiums, like the comedian who does the left-brain, right-brain routine. But this really only works for comedians. The actual presentation was a somewhat rambling discourse on my upbringing, home, church, schools, intellectual tenor of the times, and all that. Along the way I came to see myself as a liberal thinker (small l), but not necessarily on the Liberal or Democratic side of all political issues. Unfortunately, this makes me a Mugwump.

Unlike the first meeting, questions, comments and amplifications were encouraged and forthcoming. The result was a lively discussion, lasting about two hours, of which, my material constituted about half. All present expressed the feeling that this open approach worked very nicely. I hope we can have a session on the August calendar. Of course, we need a host and one or more presenters. I don't feel there is a need for a pair of speakers in some sort of opposition, just a couple of people explaining how and why they feel about this and that. Any speaker should be able to request an interactive presentation, or one straight through (uninterrupted) with discussion at the end.

Let's keep this event going as a regular bi-monthly date.

**A View... From  
Somewhere Else**

**“CRAZIER THAN  
THE COWS”**

by  
**Hank Rhodes**  
©2004

The author's conservative friends tend to extol the virtues of the private sector and “market forces” as solutions for the economic problems that confront our society. To which this author responds...with a hearty “Amen!” After all, in a democratic-capitalistic system, it is the innovator developing new products and services who makes the greatest contribution to increased employment opportunities, and to building the wealth of the community. Indeed, the innovator should be constrained only by his or her own conscience, and by the laws that are established by the people's representatives for the public interest.

Unfortunately, in economic policy, as in so many other areas, the modern conservative movement fails to match words with deeds.

Let's take the curious case of Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC. As the name suggests, Creekstone Farms is a small beef producing and processing company that specializes in premium products both for the domestic market and abroad, especially Japan, where American beef is highly valued. They operate a packing plant in Arkansas City, Kansas, that directly employs approximately 800 people. It should be noted that due to other plant closings in the vicinity, Arkansas City is located in a depressed area, and the positive economic impact of a viable employer resonates throughout the community.

Unfortunately, after an incident of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or “mad cow disease”) occurred in the United States in late 2003, the Japanese government prohibited the importation of American beef. In Japan, 100% of domestically-produced beef is tested for BSE, and the Japanese government now insists that 100% of imported beef must likewise be tested.

Creekstone Farms took a novel approach to this threat to their business. *At its own expense*, Creekstone has established a laboratory at its Arkansas City facility, hired specialists, trained its workers, and procured the test equipment in order to conduct 100% testing for BSE. (Interestingly enough, the test materials are manufactured in the USA, but are used in Japan and France.)

Additionally, Creekstone is interested in marketing BSE-tested beef in the United States.

The next chapter in this story should be whether Creekstone's \$500,000 gamble pays off, and they are able to reenter a key market for an American industry. Wrong! The Bush Administration's Department of Agriculture has actually prohibited Creekstone from conducting testing above the minimum requirements. The rationale was a phrase we hear often when conservatives need an excuse to do nothing about a problem,

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as in this case, when the Department of Agriculture claimed the added testing “is not scientifically justified.”

Even though no tax money is being spent, and Creekstone Farms has actually incurred substantial business risk, the Bush Administration is preventing an American company from marketing its products.

So far, Creekstone Farms has had to lay off about 50 workers, and is losing approximately \$100,000 per week.

It is important to note here that no one involved is pushing for 100% testing of domestic beef for BSE. Also, this story does not address the broader issue that the current system of random poke-scratch-and-sniff inspections may not be the best our government can do in protecting the food supply in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

What is at stake here is that an American company is willing to accept the expense of a half million dollars going above and beyond the minimum government requirements in order to gain a competitive advantage, and is being prohibited from doing so by an agency of the government. This appears to be a typical “craziness-inside-Washington” story that conservatives are so fond of relating to advance their philosophy of laissez faire government. The truth is that it is a conservative regime responsible here, and the story actually has logic, albeit twisted logic.

Instead of protecting us, the Department of Agriculture under Bush seems to be primarily concerned with protecting big agriculture from any pressure to upgrade its standards of inspection, either from competition by other producers who go beyond the minimum requirements, or from the threat of more stringent regulations in the future should scientific knowledge ever justify such measures. We have a case of a small company attempting to profit by investing in process improvements and delivering a superior product. In contrast, a cartel of big corporations is pursuing a short-sighted strategy of minimizing all costs and refusing to invest in improvements. The big corporations, who never miss an opportunity to complain about the government, are manipulating that same government to crush their competition.

***Which business model represents the American way?***

The attitude exhibited by the Bush Administration also serves to stifle any scientific inquiry into the adequacy of existing safety measures or potential improvements in inspection, so that there will always be a “need for more information.”

Our President, who “trusts the people, not government,” apparently doesn’t trust the people to make an informed choice about the food they consume. Our President, who blames “the bureaucracy” at every opportunity, is quite willing to turn employees of the Executive Branch into the handmaidens of big corporations (who make big campaign contribu-

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tions, and tend to open a revolving door to out-of-work politicians).

One wonders if the cows are really the ones we should be watching for crazy behavior.

**Sources:**

“USDA Blocks Private Beef Testing,” *Florida Today* April 19, 2004 p.1C  
“Local Biz with a Big Beef” posted on [www.kansas.com/mld/business](http://www.kansas.com/mld/business) on April 28, 2004  
“Creekstone Farms to Challenge USDA’s Decision to Decline Private BSE Testing” and “Response to USDA” posted on [www.creekstonefarmspremiumbeef.com](http://www.creekstonefarmspremiumbeef.com)



***The Incident  
at Ataturk International***

by

***Vivek Sharma***

**J**anuary 2003: I am at Ataturk international airport with a few hours to kill while waiting for my Turkish Airlines flight to Budapest. Its blowing cold outside, and I can see some snow drifting around the neatly lined up Turkish Airline Airplanes. The Red painted planes contrast vividly against the white background. Having spent the last three days exploring the magnificent and historic city of Istanbul, I am headed back to Hungary to meet up with up with my girlfriend.

Istanbul doesn’t usually get too cold but the last couple of days were unusually wintry. In an effort to keep my body warm, I freely partook of all the local beverages and concoctions. The bulgur wheat based Boza, the tongue scorching Sahlep bought off hand from a street peddler in the Grand Bazaar, and of course the ubiquitous Apple tea. But at this point, while sitting in the exceptionally clean and modern terminal, one particular alcoholic libation keeps coming back to mind. Raki, of course! The robust Turkish cousin to the Greek Ouzo, and the French Pastis. I can’t shake the sweet anise flavored drink off of my mind. So at this point I decide to wander through one of the well-stocked duty free shops to pick up a bottle of Raki, to take home with me as a well deserved and tasted (and



tested) souvenir of Istanbul. A favorite of the Ottomans, it is also called the Lion's drink, because you have to be strong like one, to drink it.

I sling my backpack on, and amble into one of the larger chic looking duty-free shops. The shelves are teeming with liquors from all over the world, and since I have plenty of time to kill, I lazily "research" my way down all the aisles. It is getting to be about lunchtime and my stomach is feeling a bit peckish. (This is a nifty little word I suavely picked up while traveling in UK).

As I come around the corner of the Chocolate aisle, I see a sample table staring me straight in the face. And on it, is laying a huge bar of some of the most delectable looking chocolate I have ever seen! My legs hurry up the pace, and I head straight towards the table.

Luckily there is only one other person trying a sample at the table, so I make straight for a big piece of the dark goody. This other person is seemingly hogging the whole table, and I give him a dirty look that says, move out of the way, leave some for others. I break a large piece and pop it into my mouth.

This foreign looking guy is staring at me, and I think to myself, what a rude peasant. But then again, the savvy traveler that I am, I realize that body languages are different in different parts of the world, so I just give him a cursory nod and chomp away.

Ummm..., this is some really good stuff, I think to myself, and my mouth aches for another piece. But unlike this schmuck, I am a civilized and cultured person form the United States of America, so I restrain myself. I casually saunter off towards a stack of iridescent Raki bottles, and begin to decide which one to buy.

A couple of minutes later, I happen to look up towards the sample table and to my horror realize what I had just done! The nice gentleman picked up his chocolate bar, paid for it, and walked out of the store!

Note. The author recently backpacked through Europe for six months. On the way he repeatedly had experiences that devastated his self-image of being a savvy traveler.





## **FROM THE TREASURER:**

### **THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF SPACE COAST AREA MENSA**

#### **Scholarship Savings Account**

Beginning Balance		753.31
Income	2.83	
Expenses	0	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>756.14</b>

#### **General Fund Certificate of Deposit**

Beginning Balance		3072.35
Income	13.40	
Expenses	0	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>3085.75</b>

#### **USPS Drawing Account**

Beginning Balance		269.73
Deposits	500.00	
Withdrawals	377.72	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>392.01</b>

#### **General Fund Checking Account**

Beginning Balance		1707.27
Income	1006.98	
Expenses	1729.79	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>984.46</b>

#### **RG Checking Account**

Beginning Balance		90.71
Income	1025.00	
Expenses	200.00	
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>915.71</b>

The Savings Account and Certificate of Deposit are interest bearing accounts. Physical property is accounted for.



## ***Minutes of the***



## ***ExComm Meeting***

The ExComm met at the Texas BBQ Pit, June 1, 2004. Call to Order 7:22 pm by LocSec Clara Woodall-Moran.

Members present: Clara Woodall-Moran, Sam Kirschten, Joe Smith, and Helen Lee Moore. Rita Johnson-Aronna was unable to attend.

Welcome guests: Fran Hinson, JT Moran, George Patterson, and Doug Starke.

Minutes for May 4, 2004, approved as published.

Move Joe Smith, second Helen Lee Moore, unanimous vote.

### **Officer reports:**

Treasurer (Helen Lee Moore): Distributed May 31, 2004 report.

Membership (Joe Smith): Lapsed members; deferred to successor Ex-Comm.

Testing (Helen Lee Moore): No candidates were tested in May 2004.

Audit Committee (Fran Hinson): Met May 27 with Helen Lee Moore.

The financial affairs have been well conducted and money accounted for; no discrepancy was found. Treasurer is complimented for the condition of the books and clarity of the records.

LocSec (Clara Woodall-Moran): Thank you and compliments to the Ex-Comm.

LocSec Clara Woodall-Moran moved to adjourn for the successor Ex-Comm to organize, seconded by Joe Smith, unanimous vote. Adjourned 7:29 PM.

### **The successor ExComm members organized the ExComm.**

Call to Order 7:30 pm by LocSec Sam Kirschten.

Helen Lee Moore continues as Treasurer. Joe Smith continues as Member-at-large. Suzanne Leichtling is on as Assistant LocSec. George Patterson is aboard as Recording Secretary.

SCAM appointees are doing good work and are reappointed, especially Michael Moakley, The SCAM editor. Standing rules and customary procedures continue.

New business: though LocSec pointed out SCAM loses a little bit on each member (dues returned by National are less than our costs to provide The SCAM), ExComm will pay for Joe Smith to mail a renewal invitation to each lapsing member.

The Regional Gathering (RG) committee will meet after the ExComm adjourns.

Adjourned 7:50 pm moved Joe Smith, second Helen Lee Moore, unanimous vote. Next scheduled ExComm meeting is at Helen Lee Moore on Tuesday July 6, 2004, 6 pm.

