

The

SCAM

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25th Anniversary Issue



SCAM “Back in Business” RG
October 24-26, 2008

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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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 on Page 2.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

This is the moment we have all been waiting for. Later this month, we will at long last be holding our “Back in Business” RG. The last SCAM RG was held in 2002 (RGs are normally biennial events).

Our 2004 RG had to be cancelled due to hurricane damage to its scheduled location. The 2006 RG never materialized due to lack of volunteers. In contrast, this year’s RG promises to be the best ever – why not be a part of it?

As I was preparing this issue, I learned of the passing of one of our long-time members, *Joyce Megginson Kircher*. While I did not personally know her, she would often submit letters for publication in *The SCAM*. She will be missed.

As I wrote last month in this column, there has been some controversy over one aspect of the SCAM Publications Policy—whether pen names can be used instead of the author’s real name in SCAM submissions. The current policy does allow this. My interpretation is that such is allowable unless it is official SCAM or Mensa business.

As Editor, it is evident I am far from perfect. In last month’s issue, “The George” Lebovitz’s reply to Art Belefant’s prior letter was published. While the substance of the reply was reasonable enough, there were some rather condescending statements that I should have edited out (It could have been done without unduly damaging the main message). While it would be tempting to

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Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

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blame “The George”, I choose not to. It would not be proper. As I make all the editorial decisions, the blame properly rests with me. Accordingly, my sincerest apologies to both Mr. Belefant and Mr. Lebovitz; also to you, the readers of *The SCAM*.

Concerning the issue of using a *nom de plume*, at this time, I consider this matter to be closed.

FROM THE RG HOSPITALITY CHAIR*Joseph Smith*

Hello Everyone,

Are you ready for our triumphant return to RG Hosting? Then get ready for the Space Coast Area Mensa “**We’re Back**” Regional Gathering. Everyone involved so far has done a fantastic job preparing and God willin’ and the creeks don’t rise and the winds don’t blow, we’re all going have a weekend to remember.

As your humble Hospitality Host, I have to ask for a little help. Apart from keeping the ongoing snacks and drinks flowing, I will be serving a Friday meal, a Saturday breakfast and a Saturday lunch. If you are willing to help setup, cleanup, tend drinks or just be on the stand-by to run across the street to Winn Dixie to get the inevitably forgotten item, I would appreciate if you would please give me a call at 266-2310.

I am looking forward to seeing you all and having a great weekend together.

*Joe Smith
Hospital Chairperson
SCAM “We’re Back” RG*

Part Nine: NÜRNBERG (Continued):

I am not aware if any good resulted as a consequence of this communication but it was heartening to see our thoughts recorded in this manner. For a while we felt an expectation that a march of this nature might become a reality.

Life in this camp never reached the level of being humdrum. We were happy to see that some of the sergeants that were shot down with us were moved into this camp. It appeared that many of the POW camps in Germany were converging on Nurnburg as a central point. The Russians were moving in from the east and the Allies from the north and west. These reunions lent a feeling of excitement that the end of the war was fast approaching. A pilot, I believe his name was Brown, wandered into our barracks one morning. He was an acquaintance of Ted Goller. They had gone through one phase of pilot training together. Brown had been shot down and managed to evade capture. He was under the control of the 'French underground' awaiting the necessary connections to be able to return to England. He was enjoying a rather pleasant life in Paris as a guest of the French while waiting. As the American Army drew closer to Paris, the Germans were packing and making preparations to leave. The day before they abandoned Paris, Brown was picked up by the German Security Police. Brown was in civilian clothes and had no evidence of being an American flyer so he was hustled off to Buchenwald, a concentration camp near Weimar in central Germany. He was held there for a number of months until they could establish his true identity.

When Brown was moved to our Stalag Luft he had been in Buchenwald for a couple of months. That was long enough to produce the look of starvation that was typical of many long term prisoners held in concentration camps. From what he described we assumed that he was subjected to all the discomforts we were suffering in Nürnberg. Cold, hunger, squalid filthy barracks and some abuse from the guards were his daily routine. He described the simple pleasure he enjoyed when the sun shone. He could lie on a large rock and enjoy the warmth of the sun. He was happy to be in this camp with us. He did not mention any brutal treatment or discrimination against any particular group. He felt that all were treated impartially.

The German news broadcasts into our compound kept us informed of the progress the Allies were making. Hitler's speeches to

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the people carried the message that they must never give up. New weapons were in the mill and that soon Germany will turn the tide and be victorious. He spoke of one secret weapon that in retrospect we believe that must have been the development of an atomic bomb.

It could not have been the V-2 bombs that he was promising because these were already in use. Their effectiveness was minimal. In the progress of the war the destruction they wrought made no appreciable difference. They knocked out a few buildings in England but compared to the destruction the British and American bombers caused German industry, the V-2s were not much more than a nuisance.

It would have been a different situation if he had been able to come up with an atomic bomb and could deliver it to knock out London completely as we did to Hiroshima and Nagasaki later in the war. Hitler didn't mention atomic warfare. At that time we were not cognizant of the concept. He spoke to his people in the strongest terms that very soon this nightmare would be over and Germany would dictate the terms of the peace treaty.

We felt that many Germans were tired of the war and would welcome anything that would bring it to an end. In 1944 while we were still in Sagan an attempt on the life of Hitler failed. Some of his most trusted officers plotted to assassinate him by placing a bomb in the room where he was to meet with his advisors. It failed and thus failed to end the war at that time. I think that more than one of the plotters faced the firing squad.

Hitler had a charismatic personality of overpowering forcefulness. He knew how to appeal to people's base instincts and made use of their fears and insecurities. He could do that, however, only because they were willing to be led, even though his program was one of hatred and violence. His impact was wholly destructive, and nothing of what he instituted and built survived.

I guess in a way he was a madman but he was a pretty well organized guy with enough skills to keep control of his armed forces and for the most part was able to control the civilian population.

**Andreas Dorpalen, "Hitler, Adolph," Microsoft (R) Encarta. copyright (c) 1994 Microsoft Corp. Copyright (c) 1994 Funk & Wagnalls Corp.*

...To be continued in next month's issue.

Shall We Dance?

This year's National SCRABBLE® Championship was held in nearby Orlando, Florida. One can access information about the players from the National SCRABBLE® Association's website. Of an estimated 582 participants, approximately 348 listed hobbies in their brief biographies; of these, about six made reference to dancing. I also remember a local player whose passion for the SCRABBLE® cross-word game was seemingly supplanted by an enthusiasm for dancing. It is with her in mind that I compose this month's column.

Some nouns in *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4) are defined as "a [or an] _____ dance" where the blank is filled with a geographic proper adjective: BOLERO, JOTA, and ZAPATEO (Spanish); CAPOEIRA, LAMBADA, and MAXIXE (Brazilian); CARIOCA (South American); CZARDAS (Hungarian); FADING (Irish); GAVOT and LANCIERS (French); HABANERA (Cuban); HORA (Israeli); HULA (Hawaiian); LEGONG (Balinese); and MAZURKA (Polish). Sometimes an additional modifier is used: BOURREE (old French), FANDANGO (lively Spanish), KAZACHOK (Russian folk), KOLO (European folk), LANDLER (slow Austrian), MORRIS (English folk), SARABAND (stately Spanish), and SARDANA (Spanish folk). There are similar definitions with no reference to the location of a dance's origin or popularity: BEGUINE, GALLIARD, GIGUE, JUBA, LINDY, REDOWA, and RIGADOON (lively); CHACONNE (ancient); COOCH (sinuous); COTILLON (ballroom); COURANTE (old, lively); GALOPADE (lively round); GERMAN (elaborate); HOEDOWN (square); MERENGUE (ballroom); MINUET and PAVAN (slow, stately); and NONDANCE (unrhythmic). PROM, being defined as "a formal dance," also fits this pattern, but it refers to a gathering at which dancing is performed rather than the act of dancing itself. COTILLON (an alternate spelling of COTILLION, which at nine letters is too long to be defined in OSPD4) and HOEDOWN can also refer to a gathering, as does SHINDIG, "an elaborate dance or party," which *almost* fits the pattern. Attention should also be paid to CANCAN, "a dance marked by high kicking."

In some cases, a dance is defined parenthetically within another definition. The definition given for JIGGISH is "suitable for a jig (a lively dance)." FOXTROT is defined as "to dance the fox trot (a dance for couples)" and CONGA is defined as "to perform a conga (Latin

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome Back to SCAM:

John Hall

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>1st</i>	James Staal	<i>12th</i>	Sabrina Miller
<i>4th</i>	Robert Barber	<i>17th</i>	Rudolph Hardick
<i>8th</i>	Christopher Buccieri	<i>27th</i>	Maximo Salinas
<i>8th</i>	Rex Repich	<i>30th</i>	Chris Muir
<i>9th</i>	Philip Devlin	<i>31st</i>	Colette Zahm

Note: If your birthday is not listed, and you want it to be, please let us know.

ANNOUNCING A NEW SIG!

C# Java C#

Join the Computer Science SIG. Any Computer Science topics from work or school are welcome. To join email Michael Zielinski at mikez23@aol.com or compscisig@yahoogroups.com.



SCAM Calendar of Events for October 2008

1st - Wednesday 7:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. Please note the change in the meeting time.

Contact: George, 777-3721, for details.

October 24th—26th

SCAM "BACK IN BUSINESS" RG

This is the event we've all been waiting for...

The 2008 SCAM "Back in Business" RG

After six long years of waiting,
the Space Coast Area Mensa is proud to present a
special Halloween themed RG scheduled for the
weekend of October 24-26th, 2008 in
Cocoa Beach, Florida

Costume Party!!

To be held Saturday Oct 25th
Prizes awarded for most creative costumes.
Games, programs, and of course, our famous hospitality suites!

We will also be celebrating SCAM's 25th Anniversary.

Don't miss it!!

25th - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1411 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: George Patterson, 777-3721.

I spent about forty years as an independent voter with Democratic tendencies. I liked Reagan, didn't mind Bush Sr., and had kind of a root for the underdog attitude towards Gerald Ford. But more often, I leaned towards the Democrats.

Back in the age of innocence, I believed Kennedy was the Second Coming. He represented the idealism of the youth (hippie?) movement and was going to change the world. Little did we know then that he was just as flawed as all the others were. Ah well.

I've lived through 11 presidents so far and voted in the elections of 9 of them. In retrospect, I believe the last (maybe the *only*) good president we've had was Truman. Since then, about the best that can be said for the bunch of them is that they didn't screw things up too badly (present administration excepted).

Thus disillusioned did I happen upon the Libertarian Party just over a year ago. Liked what I saw. Joined up. Registered Libertarian. Contributed money to a political party for the first time ever in over 40 years.

So, when people ask me: "You gonna vote for Obama or McCain?" I tell them I'm not voting for either of them; I'm a Libertarian and I'm voting for Bob Barr.

They proceed to tell me I'm wasting my vote if I vote for... what's his name? Bob Barr? Then the fun begins.

"You see (I'm into my spiel now), it's actually you who are wasting your vote," I tell them. "There's basically no difference between Obama and McCain despite all the rhetoric and spin we're exposed to. The Democrats and the Republicans are just the left and right hand pockets of Big Business's suit and regardless of which one wins, nothing will change except for the relentless growth in the size of our federal government and its expanding intrusion into our private lives.

"There's a sign over the National Archives in Washington DC.: *'The Past is Prolog'* which essentially means that our future is based upon our history. Looking back over the past, with all that has changed, really very little has changed politically. Depending on which team is in the White House and has a majority in Congress, the sweeping changes promised in the campaigns generally manifest themselves as minor fluctuations in our taxes and either the addition

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or removal of some insignificant social program.

“The Democrats hate the Republicans and vice versa. Each side blames the other for all the country’s ills while claiming credit for anything that may accidentally go right. And the overwhelming effort of all the professional politicians in Washington is directed towards one and only one goal: to get re-elected. Whatever it takes, whatever needs to be said, whoever needs to be sold out, cheated, lied to, bribed, coerced, shamed, or scandalized. No holds barred. Just get the job done.

“So, when you vote for either Obama *or* McCain, you’re basically saying that you’re completely happy with the way things are and don’t want to see anything really improve. Essentially, *your* vote is wasted since it ensures that the status will remain quo. I, on the other hand, believe that this great country is capable of being safer, healthier, and more prosperous and that’s exactly why I’m voting Libertarian.”

This is where I usually get the slack-jawed look of incredulity and have to wait patiently while my erstwhile debate opponent sputters for a while.

Leaping into the deafening silence, I continue: “Look, we both know that Bob Barr, the Libertarian candidate for President, doesn’t stand the proverbial frozen ice ball’s chance in Hades to actually get elected this year. But just imagine if he were to capture even 10% of the popular vote, or maybe even more. The established two parties would be forced to take notice and the great-unwashed masses might realize that there really is an alternative; that they’re not constrained to voting for only Frick or Frack. ‘Hey, what’s this Libertarian stuff all about anyways,’ they might just ask?”

“Good question. And the answers are simple:

- End corporate welfare and government waste
- Deliver world class education
- Defend America against foreign threats
- Keep Americans safe from crime
- Protect the environment
- Come to sense on the “War on Drugs”
- Ensure retirement security

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As you read this, I'm sure this topic will be classified as Old News. Yet, mere days before I wrote this column, Republican presidential nominee John McCain had just announced his running mate, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. It seems Governor Palin was chosen in order to win the votes of the Christian Right.

Well, no sooner than it took to commit the Palin name to our memory drives, news broke that her 17-year-old unmarried daughter, Bristol was five months pregnant. McCain, commenting on this news, stated he was aware of the pregnancy, but declared that the issue is a private family matter. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama stated that the issue of Bristol's pregnancy was "off limits" to his campaign.

While I understand – and sympathize with – McCain and admire Obama for resisting the temptation to take the low road, I must say that I only partially agree with them. I do strongly believe one's family life is one's private business. Yet, I believe there is an object lesson here.

One obvious point is that pushing "abstinence" as effective contraception does not work. Moreover, I'm sure Sarah Palin, who has evidently bought into the "Judeo-Christian ethic" would not want to see her daughter suffering the Old Testament-prescribed punishment of being stoned to death for fornication. Admittedly, neither would I.

More importantly, since we're on the subject of "values", one concept that comes to mind is the Golden Rule, "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*" Since, understandably, the Palins wish to have their privacy respected, perhaps all American families should be accorded the same privilege – even when our activities do not square with anyone's notion of "values".

Finally, one other maxim comes to mind: "*People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.*"

Campaign 2008 is now on the home stretch. As I write this, much public attention seems to be focused on the “Palin Effect”. Surely, one realizes there is much more to this year’s election than Sarah Palin. Of course, there is the actual *presidential* election – but most of us already knew that. Yet, is there not still more? Certainly, I would say so.

One such campaign that needs far more attention than is afforded is the race for U. S. House of Representatives, specifically the seat for Florida’s District 15 (which covers much of the geographic area of *The SCAM*). This seat is currently held by Republican Dave Weldon, who is finishing his seventh term. Although there are no term limits, Rep. Weldon opted not to seek an eighth term.

During his tenure, Dave Weldon has consistently proven that his views and policies are virtual duplicates of those of our current President Bush. In view of the fact Weldon is not seeking reelection, he has endorsed *State Senator Bill Posey* as his successor.

Bill Posey has been in the state legislature since 1994. His views have not been much different from Weldon’s or Bush’s. His list of supporters is a virtual *Who’s Who* from the Bush cult: *Rep. Tom Feeney, Sen. Mike Haridopolos, Gov. Mike Huckabee*, just to name a few. Some organizations that back Posey: *Associated Industries of Florida, Business Industry Political Action Committee, Florida Right to Life, Space Coast Association of Realtors*. His top campaign contributors have consistently been financial institutions and the insurance industry. We can see what kind of effect these organizations and their political employees (our elected officials) have had on us as Floridians – one needs only to look back over the last few years (*e.g., foreclosures, doubling of homeowners’ premiums*).

The Democrat in the race is *Dr. Steven Blythe*. In his campaign, he has pledged not to take corporate or PAC contributions. More importantly, he realizes that for most of us, the past few years have not been good ones. Even better, he is a man of ideas. These are just a few examples of what he wants to accomplish as our Representative:

1. Launch a massive program to repair our infrastructure, including old bridges and leaky school roofs.
2. Have several large block grants to help build light-rail systems in some of our most heavily-traveled corridors. This would create thousands of jobs, preserve our envi-

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- ronment, and conserve our energy resources.
3. Create incentives and tax breaks to encourage a massive transition to solar and alternative energy wherever practical.
 4. Guarantee no American will have to go without health-care.

In my opinion, we need a House of Representatives filled with people like Steve Blythe, people who will once again get this country moving in a positive direction that will benefit *all* its citizens, not just the wealthy and powerful few. While the outcome of this year's presidential election is critical for this country, the race for Florida's Congressional District 15 is no less so. We hear much in the ever-present campaign ads about "change"; now is the time for us to vote for *real* change.

WASTED VOTE

Continued.

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- Lift Americans out of poverty
- Make healthcare safe and affordable
- Reduce American's tax burden

"The best part is that these goals can actually be achieved once we institute a policy of common sense and a genuine interest in the good of the country instead of the political pandering we've endured for so long.

"The way I see it, every vote that does *not* go to either the Republicans or the Democrats is one that counts. And the change will come one vote at a time. Not with your wasted vote, but with mine."

Okay, I'm off the soapbox now. However, I really encourage everyone to just take a few minutes to go to <http://www.lp.org/platform> (if you're reading this in hard copy, you can stop trying to click on the link now) and read the National Platform of the Libertarian Party. It's not very long, maybe a ten-minute read, and it's not couched in politspeak, just plain talk. It just might change your mind about wasting your vote.

The george

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American dance).” In other definitions, it appears that a specific dance is referred to implicitly. FRUG is defined as “to perform a type of vigorous dance”; MAMBO, RUMBA, and WALTZ are defined as “to perform a ballroom dance”; POLKA is defined as “to perform a lively dance”; SAMBA is defined as “to perform a Brazilian dance”; and TANGO is defined as “to perform a Latin-American dance.”

Other verbs with “dance” in the definition are GAVOTTE (to dance a gavot), BOOGIE (to dance to rock music), CHASSE (to perform a dance movement), DISCO (to dance at a discotheque), GLISSADE (to perform a gliding dance step), and HOOFF (to dance). DANCE itself is defined as “to move rhythmically to music.”

But what kind of music? OSPD4 seems to offer little choice. BANDA is defined as “a style of Mexican dance music,” CONJUNTO is defined as “a style of dance music along the Mexican border,” RAGTIME is defined as “a style of American dance music,” and ZOUK is defined as “a dance music of the French West Indies.” Perhaps someone with sharper eyes or more patience can find other appropriate entries.

Of course, it is not necessary to know the definition of a word in order to play it during a game. It would be more to the point to become familiar with words that are likely to come up on a player’s rack. A fresh bag of tiles contains twelve Es, nine As, nine Is, eight Os, six Ns, six Rs, six Ts, four Ds, four Ls, four Ss, four Us, and three Gs, as well as two blanks; there are only one or two of each remaining letter. Therefore, one should be prepared to play DANSEUR (a male ballet dancer), LINDIES (plural of LINDY), or TANGOED (past tense of TANGO) when the opportunity arises; a player scores a fifty-point bonus for using all seven tiles. If DANSEUR will not fit, it may be helpful to know that ASUNDER can be formed from the same letters.

Would anyone purchase a game based on the slogan “Let your fingers do the dancing”? Probably not. Well, I tried.

Next month: Repetition

The lengthy quote in this month's column is from last month's column by RVC8 John Recht, who is the head of the Governance Project. He is asking for input from you the member. Please read what he has to say and contact him if you have ideas and feedback for and about the Governance Project.

“Last month I spoke about the Governance Project that the American Mensa Committee (AMC) has undertaken with the help of Tecker Consultants. The next major step in this process will take place in November at the AMC’s annual planning meeting. At that time the AMC will have the chance to make substantial, ongoing changes in the way it operates, beginning with the development of a solid strategic plan. This plan will help better define authority and responsibility of the AMC, officers, committees and staff, as well as set tangible goals and the measurements for success.

Critical to the success of this plan will be for the AMC to choose goals that will be important to the ongoing growth and development of American Mensa. As the AMC spends proportionately more of its time making decisions that are more strategic in nature, it will correspondingly find less on its plate that pertains to the development of rules and procedures. Increasingly, authority will be delegated to staff and committees to follow up with what needs to be done in the organization.

What are the goals that will be important to American Mensa? Between now and November the AMC members will be discussing their ideas about what the goals should be and how the current list of short-term and long-term goals should be revised. What would help us tremendously at this time would be to have interested members weigh in with their ideas and feedback about the Governance Project and the strategic planning process now underway, as well as specific goals that they believe would be of benefit to the society. If you would like to participate, please send your ideas to me at rvc8@us.mensa.org, and keep an eye on the American Mensa Web site for information about the process as it develops.”

Hope to see you at the RG in Cocoa Beach later this month.

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10

3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, FL 32812

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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of Terry Valek on Sunday, September 7, 2008. Called to order at 10:47 a.m. by LocSec George Patterson. Members present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Joe Smith, Karen Freiberg, and Bud Long. Welcome Guests: Doug Starke and Barbara Nottingham (Mrs. P.) Minutes for the August 6, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the September 2008 SCAM.

Reports:

Treasurer: Bud handed out the August Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$5444.91, which included \$2550.00 in the RG fund. Bud noted that the RG fund was now up to \$3200.00

RG: Bud reported that registrations were continuing to come in. He later remarked that he thought the number was up to 70. Joe Smith said that food prep was progressing smoothly. Mark and Suzanne Leichtling were known to be getting set up to handle registration. NASA is expecting to supply a speaker. Additional suggestions for program events continued to come in. A general discussion regarding goodie bags, name tags, costume prizes, and the like ensued.

Audit Committee: Joe Smith reported that an audit of the treasurer's books had been concluded successfully and no anomalies had appeared. He complimented Bud on the clearness and organization of his records. A report should appear in the current or subsequent SCAM.

There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic (321-777-3721) on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm. (Note change to a later time than usual.) The ExComm meeting will be followed by an RG Committee meeting