

The

# SCAM

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## Name That RG!

This coming year,

# 2010

SCAM will be hosting its  
Semiannual RG.

Yet, we still need to come up with a  
name.

The best we have so far:

*“We Don’t Need No Stinkin’ Name  
RG”*

Come on, we can do better than that!  
Come up with a *good* name, and be  
sure to let an ExComm member know.

For contact info, see Page Two.



# SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



Website: [www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org)

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)

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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

**W**ell, it's that time of year I'm sure all of us are waiting for: The advent of the Great Turkey. As you no doubt have gleaned from the cover, we at SCAM are once again planning for our upcoming RG.

One of the first tasks, of course, is to come up with a name for the event. This is so, because the name will more or less set the theme for the RG. This is where *you* come in. The first offering, "*We Don't Need No Stinkin' Name RG*", I believe, underscores the true need for your input.

If we at SCAM do wish to go with a "no-name" theme, two of my suggestions are "*Namely Nameless RG*" or "*RG Anonymous*" (We could have someone—or everyone willing to do so—dressed as Oprah if we use the latter suggestion). However, there is no reason we must stick to a "no-name" theme, so you are limited only by your imagination. If you do come up with a suggested name for our RG, contact our RG Committee Chair, Joseph Smith (info on Page 2).

On yet another front, you may notice our Calendar of Events is rather light this month. While I do not know for certain, I believe as the month progresses, more events might be added. If you are not already on the SCAM e-mail notification list, now might be a good time to join. There is no charge for this, and we would love to have you. To join, e-mail George Patterson and say anything to the effect, "I wanna join!" He'll do the rest.

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**The SCAM sells classified ad space.** SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

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

**L**ast month I mentioned a number of online (Internet) features that we were going to try and implement. We have started. A number of us have joined **Facebook** with the intention, among other things, of participating in group discussions, or postings, in a group called, as you might expect, Space Coast Area Mensa.

I also stumbled across a group called Mensa Genx which I have not looked at further. There are probably many Mensan groups scattered about under various names. How to participate? Go to **Facebook**, sign up and look for the group. There are tutorials on the Facebook site. I don't know my way around Facebook yet so I can't be more helpful, but maybe in a month or so I will be up to speed, and the group will have some useful discussions going.

I am suggesting that a lively discussion could develop around the projected name for our 2010 RG. Why Facebook? It works better than slinging emails back and forth with a large cc list and a number of different topics of discussion. Meanwhile, I am trying to obtain more email addresses of interested people and "interestable" people. If you didn't tell Mensa your email and telephone number, or you told them to withhold them from publication, I wish you would re-think that decision.

To change your info go to the national website - <http://www.us.mensa.org> - log in and change your personal data. Your user ID is your Mensa membership number. If you haven't been there before you will need to establish your own password, and while info regarding that came with your membership card, you probably don't have it anymore and will need to call the national office at 817-607-0060 ext. 5005.

We expect to start one or more blogs about SCAM affairs, but no progress on that front as of yet. There are undoubtedly any number of members running their own blogs not related to Mensa affairs. They might make themselves known to us all by joining the Facebook group. Expect the situation to be a bit chaotic for a while as we try to figure out the best way to do these things.

*More next month.*

**W**hen I was the restaurant reviewer for the Tokyo Asahi Evening News I had a policy of never to write a bad review of a restaurant. The reasons were two-fold. First, for whatever slight influence I might have on the dining habits of the expatriates in Japan, I didn't feel that it was proper for me to diminish someone's attempts to make a living. As there were so many restaurants in which I enjoyed the cooking that it was never necessary for me to write uncomplimentarily, I just wouldn't write about that restaurant. And secondarily, I could be wrong. Which brings me to the point of this article.

MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) is an Italian company that operates cruise ships in the Mediterranean and has recently moved into the U. S. market out of Ft. Lauderdale. Four years ago, when they were relatively new here, Rita and I traveled on their *Opera*, a brand new glass and chrome delight. Last year in December, Rita and I decided on another cruise and MSC's *Lirica* was available. Because of the wonderful experience that we had on the *Opera* we decided to try it. It was a disaster, especially the food.

So, why am I writing this review, my first negative dining review that I have written? It is because, in four years, MSC has come down from the heights of culinary delights, where I would have placed them in the top tier of restaurants to a level so low that I feel it is necessary to warn people of their cuisine.

The food and service was vastly inferior to that on the *Opera* several years ago. On the *Opera*, meals followed the pattern of a fine Italian restaurant. On the *Lirica*, it did not. A comparison of the courses listed on the menus (*see next page*) will show the difference.

The lunch and dinner menus on the *Opera* consisted of nine courses. The *Lirica* lunch and dinner menus have only six courses. Was this done to economize? There was never a question if a patron ordered more than one dish from each course, such as two appetizers or for that matter, two entrees. Was the intention of minimizing the number of courses in the expectation that most diners would order only one item from each course, or perhaps skipping a course and thereby reducing the amount of food served and the waiter's and busboy's workload thus allowing fewer servers to serve more people? I did notice that our waiter on the *Lirica* covered more tables than on the *Opera* and that there was little busboy service,

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the waiter performed most functions.

<u>Lunch</u>	<u>The Opera:</u>	<u>The Lirica:</u>
	Juices	Appetizers and
	Appetizers	Salad
	Salads	Soups
	Soups	Platters and
	Pasta & Risotto	Sandwich
	Main Courses	Main Courses
	Vegetables	Cheeses
	Cheeses	Desserts & Fruit
	Desserts	
 <u>Dinner</u>	Appetizers	Appetizers
	Salad	Soups
	Soups	Salad
	Pasta & Risotto	Pasta & Risotto
	Main Courses	Main Courses
	Vegetables	Desserts & Fruit
	Cheeses	
	Desserts	
	Bread of the Day	

On the *Lirica* there were fewer Italian dishes offered and of those offered were a cheaper selection. For example, no Osso Bucco.

Although the pastas were good, the variety was limited. Instead of a different pasta at each meal, spaghetti was served several times for lunch. The pastas and the Italian dishes seem to have been selected to satisfy an unsophisticated American clientele, for example the pastas were those that are common in the U. S. and one lunch main course was “American meatball sandwich”. Not every dinner menu had an Italian dish for the main course.

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<u>Lunch</u> (No separate pasta course)	<u>Dinner</u> (Pasta course)
No Pasta (4 times)	Penne
Penne as a Main Course	Fusilli
Spaghetti as a Main Course (2 times)	Fettuccini
Gnocchi (not a pasta)	Rigatoni
Cannelloni	None (one time)

**I** would like to know when, and by whom, it was decided that The News should consist of disasters, catastrophes, crimes, perversions, deceptions, tragedies, conflicts, accidents, diseases, and other depressing subjects?

It seems to me that The News was/is intended to inform; to impart useful information to assist us in the conduct of our lives. Rather, it seems that The News only gives us a perspective on everything that is wrong with this world and little, if anything, on how to correct it.

Ago, before the age of instantaneous communication, the news was – understandably – local. Without the means to disseminate over large areas in a timely manner, The News was constrained to report on what was happening in the immediate vicinity.

In small towns and rural areas, The News probably consisted of who had been elected to the town council, the birthing of a new foal over to Farmer Ned's, the church's bake sale, congratulations to Millie Frobisher's son on making first trombone in the school band, and other events with which the locals would probably be familiar since pert near everyone knew everyone else.

I'm sure that in the larger cities, since crime was more prevalent, there was some reporting of the local miscreants; however, The News, once again, would be centered on items of interest such as an iron skillet sale, paving of a thoroughfare, or the ubiquitous church bake sale.

We just didn't have the infrastructure or technology to communicate far-off events with any alacrity. By the time significant happenings filtered down to the local level, they were old news. And remember, the news media early on was either word of mouth or via the hometown paper.

The first radio news program wasn't broadcast until August 31, 1920 by station 8MK in Detroit, Michigan. And it wasn't until January, 1922, in Chicago, that the *Daily Tribune* began cooperating with Westinghouse station KYW to provide regularly scheduled news reports for the first time. It was only in the 1930's that consistent and professional news coverage became a reality. Technological improvements made coast-to-coast broadcasts easier to do and even news from overseas was reaching audiences in a timely manner. However,

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as of March, 1934, radio stations were permitted only two newscasts, one in the morning and one in the evening, as a result of the agreement (fortunately, short-lived) coming out of the “Press-Radio-War.”

Everything changed in December of 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. It was during the war years that the amount of news being broadcast increased dramatically. In 1940, the networks aired about 2,400 hours of news. By 1942, it was over 4,600 hours, and by 1944, it was over 5,500 hours. By the 1950’s, radio had regular newscasts, hosted by the newly coined term “anchor.”

The first regularly scheduled television news broadcast was in 1940 and, until CBS Evening News expanded the Huntley-Brinkley Report to 30 minutes in 1963, news broadcasts (both radio and television) were only 15 minutes long. There were no in-depth reports, lengthy commentaries, or analysis. There simply wasn’t enough time to fit it in. In the words of Dragnet’s Sergeant Joe Friday: “Just the facts, ma’am.” (n.b., Jack Webb never uttered the phrase in that form, his character, Joe Friday, usually said “All we want are the facts, ma’am.” It was satirist Stan Freberg’s spoof of the Friday character on his 1953 comedy album, *St. George and the Dragonet*, that popularized the phrase that eventually entered into common usage.)

But try as I might, no matter how hard I researched (i.e., Googled), I just couldn’t determine when it was that The News went through its paradigm shift. When it was short and sweet, The News was pertinent. It was events of import and interest. But somewhere along the line, it evolved into the depressing, oppressive, dispiriting form that we all seem to accept as status quo today. Why is that, I wonder?

I don’t, for the life of me, understand why I can’t ever read, hear, or see the good news. I know it’s out there. Most of the stuff most of us experience most of the time (with the exception of work, of course) is good! Most people are good. But we never hear about any of the good stuff.

Believe it or not, I’d rather hear about Firemen Fred rescuing Fluff Muffin out of the ol’ oak tree than in-depth coverage of Larry Lechmeister’s arrest for exposing himself to a bunch of six-year old girls on the school playground. Tell me about the kid that ran twelve blocks to return the wallet that fell out of Granny Melrose’s purse instead of the guy that molested the three-legged llama.

Look, I’m just as compassionate as the next guy (maybe more so;

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the guy next to me ain't all that compassionate). But how does hearing about a train wreck in Zimbabwe enrich my life or make me a better person? I feel the tragedy of the recent tsunami victims in Upolu, Samoa, but there's not much I can do to alleviate the consequences of the disaster. However, if you tell me about the hungry folks right here in Brevard, then I at least have the opportunity to do something about it.

It's not that I don't care; I do. But I'm better served finding out about things that affect me rather than things that I am helpless to change. Or, at least tell me things that will make me feel better, not stuff that makes me want to stick my head in the oven and turn on the gas.

I'm willing to bet that there are other folks out there who feel the same way I do. I'm sure there are many people (maybe even 3) who want to open their windows and yell: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!" We want the good stuff!

I wonder what would happen if an enterprising newspaper or a forward thinking TV network initiated a policy of reporting some of the good things that happen in this world? In fact, they far outnumber

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<b>MSC LIRICA</b>
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The same bread was served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner - a hard, but not crisp, roll. "Italian" bread was not served.

After every lunch and dinner on the *Lirica* a cheese plate was offered. However it was the same cheese plate each time, slices of the same three bland cheeses, none of which were the well known and flavorful Italian cheeses.

Instead of an all Italian crew, meal service on the *Lirica* was performed by third-world county nationals, mostly Indonesian, who appeared to be not fully trained.

I recommend that before booking a cruise, even if you had cruised on that ship or cruise line before and were completely satisfied, that you check on what changes have been made to the amenities, especially the food and service.

## SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2009

**4th - Wednesday 5:30 PM**

### EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Patterson in Indialantic.

**Contact:** *George, 777-3721, for details.*

**27th - Saturday 6:00 PM**

### SNORT

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, 777-3721.*

### Calendar Updates

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit [spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org) and click on "Calendar". Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or [George3141@cfl.rr.com](mailto:George3141@cfl.rr.com).

### Your Event Here!

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Do you have a great idea for that perfect event? Do you have the urge, even the *desire* to socialize with other Mensans, but simply do not want to use the extra gasoline? *Why not host that event in your own home?* If this sounds good to you, contact our Calendar Coordinator today. You'll be glad you did. *Info on Page Two.*

### Of CABBAGES and Coffee: (Our Regular Events)

**C.A.B.A.G.E.:** *Every Monday at Books-A-Million, Merritt Square Mall 6 p.m.* Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

**SCRABBLE:** *Every Tues. at Books-A-Million, Post Commons, Melbourne, at 12 noon.*

**GO!:** *Every Sunday at Books-A-Million, Post Commons, Melbourne.* Host: *George Lebovitz, 259-3070, [rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com)*

## Membership Notes for November 2009

### *WELCOME TO SCAM*

Joseph Carrier

### *WELCOME BACK!*

Boyd Smart

### *NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS*

<i>6th</i>	William McClure Jr.	<i>20th</i>	Dean Zentner
<i>10th</i>	LuAnne Johnson	<i>21st</i>	John England
<i>11th</i>	Allan Torsney	<i>24th</i>	Mailys Suncic
<i>11th</i>	Jane Saubert	<i>25th</i>	David Williams
<i>14th</i>	William Harris III	<i>26th</i>	Harry Falconer
<i>17th</i>	William Calderon		
<i>18th</i>	Joseph Mueck		
<i>19th</i>	Harold Long		

### *The "Fine Print" for Calendar 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 **S**Smoking Area; **P**-Pets in the home; **NP**-No **P**ets present; **BYO**-Bring Your Own: **\_S**nacks, **\_D**rinks, **\_E**verything.

**T**his month, it's back to my usual tale. Once again, I've been awakened from my usual nap by yet another episode of the Queen of All Things Feminine. On this occasion, actress Mackenzie Phillips from the 1980s sitcom *"One Day at a Time"* is the featured guest, there to tell her story to the typical gossip-hungry audience. The target audience is certainly not disappointed, as Mac tells the "biggest" family secret of all: As a young adult, she had a ten-year affair with none other than dear old Dad (John Phillips of *"The Mamas and the Papas"*) who is, conveniently, now deceased.

That revelation out of the way, Mac's story is that of the typical recovering addict. She had tried a variety of illegal drugs over the years beginning at about age 11. She speaks of her struggles with her resulting addictions and her valiant quest, as she is now "in recovery." Thus, the world is introduced to yet one more in the continuing parade of folk heroes who have suffered the depths of their addictions and, being "in recovery", have kicked their habits and are struggling to maintain a clean life.

Let me first comment that I truly believe it is commendable for those, like Mackenzie Philips here, who made the wrong choices leading to alcohol or drug addiction to be able to turn their lives around and then go on to maintain an addiction-free existence. I also believe that a society, such as ours, that prides itself in being "Christian", should devote its resources toward rehabilitating such people instead of making matters worse by its current War on Drugs. Certainly, I commend Mac for her rehabilitation efforts and successes and hope for her continued success.

Yet, there is something wrong with this picture. Why do we see such people as heroes? Why do we place them on a pedestal? What about those who managed to make the correct choices - are they chopped liver? It seems to me that, at best, we are indifferent to those who managed to avoid the Big Three (tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs) throughout their lives. In fact, some among us have come to despise them, as they do not "understand" the struggles addicts must continually face.

What many of us seem to ignore that, while addiction is a real problem where help is badly needed—and should be provided, to begin partaking of any of the Big Three was at some point a voluntary activity. One could just have easily decided not to light up the first

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cigarette, or not to have that first drink, or not to try that first joint. If my memory of my youth serves me correctly, the major difficulty in deciding not to do those things was peer pressure, pure and simple. If one chose not to try one or more of the Big Three, disapproval from these peers would be swift and certain. At best, one would be “not cool”, not willing to be one of “us”.

Perhaps, this is the reason why we worship the recovering addict. These are the people who conformed as expected, but managed to emerge intact, despite the years of personal agony caused by those decisions to be part of the “in” group. We do not like the ones who made the wise decisions because, in doing so, they often became social outcasts. Of course, it is even worse when some among these people have the audacity not to care that their decisions made them outcasts. We just don’t like anyone who is too different, do we?

As for our addicts, both active and recovering, they need our compassion. They need our help. They deserve our respect. But, sorry to say, their addiction neither makes them heroes nor entitles any of them to be placed upon a pedestal.

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## ***Inside the Pocket Protector***

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Another way to check on any calendar updates is to visit our website and click “Calendar”.

The fact that our calendar is, indeed, light means an opportunity beckons. If you ever had that idea for that perfect event that we somehow seem to fail to have, one remedy is for you to host the event. If you are interested, please contact our Calendar Coordinator, Doug Starke.

Finally, don’t forget *The SCAM*. We can always use contributions for these pages. One suggestion I heard from an ExComm member is to include a puzzle page. If you have a puzzle you want published, send it my way. A word of warning here, please be sure there are no copyright issues.

My contact info, like everyone else’s, is (you guessed it) on Page Two.

### *Money Well Spent...*

**R**ecently, I had occasion to watch the evening Mickey Mouse newscast on Channel 9, whereupon I heard the latest in a series of criticisms of public agencies whenever an agency has the temerity to spend tax money for a project that might actually help people. In this case, the story is about a recently completed library in Deltona built at a cost of some \$11 million to Volusia County.

Of course, the usual question was asked: Were the Volusia County taxpayers getting their money's worth in committing that sort of money for a library? The Library Director answered that question succinctly by pointing out the traffic amounting to more than 1000 patrons daily. The library is surrounded by 3 public schools and has many unique features that are unquestionably assets to the community.

In justifying the expense incurred, Volusia County Council Member Pat Northey summed it up best: "We serve families and sometimes those young families don't have the resources to go buy books at Barnes and Noble." I remember in my youth spending many a summer vacation in my local public library literally taking in the great wealth of information that might not have otherwise available to me.

Today's libraries are even better. No longer known strictly for books and periodicals, our public libraries offer so much more. For example, several years ago, my first experience with the Internet was at the Melbourne Public Library. Our public libraries also serve as venues for some much-needed skills training, especially for those who, unfortunately, are currently out of work. I could go on, but you get the picture. For more info on what is offered by our library system, you can visit their website, [brev.org](http://brev.org).

Then there is the question of the \$11 million that Volusia County spent. Who got that money? Undoubtedly some went to construction workers who built the library. Some went to architects and engineers who designed the project and oversaw the construction. How many families were able to be removed from public assistance because of the resultant jobs? How much money did the local Wal-Mart take in as a result? How many pizzas or subs were purchased directly as a result of the \$11 million expense some tax-

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payers are griping about (and benefiting from)? How many vehicles were purchased from local dealers?

The normal estimate is that for every dollar spent in the community, the return is about \$2.40. If this is the case here, it seems that Volusia County as a whole came out ahead by about \$15.4 million (\$26.4 million, less the \$11 million spent). So, why the griping? It seems to me that it is because it serves the less fortunate as well as the conservative element. I don't suppose there would be as much objection over an \$11 million golf course enhancement - or a sports arena, would there?

### ***Finally...A Democrat With Guts!***

**O**ver the last several months, one of the big political debates has been on the topic of health care reform. It seems opponents of any sort of reform has been launching a vast misinformation campaign intended to dupe and scare the public away from any meaningful measures to reform our obviously broken health care system. Reform proponents (most of them are Democrats) have mostly responded by initially introducing compromise measures. Then, when the conservative factions start screaming "*Socialism!*", these cowards then introduce compromises on the initial compromises. Needless to say, I've looked upon the whole handling of the health care issue with pure disgust.

However, there is, in this cloud, a silver lining. I do not know if this will get the health care reform movement on the right track. But, nonetheless, it is refreshing to hear from a Democrat who actually displays some guts. Yes, about a week before I write these words, at last, some political courage in the person of a freshman legislator Alan Grayson (Florida, 8<sup>th</sup> District).

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Grayson addressed the floor of the House of Representatives. He stated the Republicans have a very simple health care plan: "*Don't get sick. If you do get sick...Die quickly!*" The Republicans, for their part, immediately demanded an apology of Grayson.

It seems Grayson quickly accommodated the Republicans with this apology: "*I apologize to the dead and their families that we haven't voted sooner to end this holocaust in America.*" The Republican reaction to this seemed somewhat less than enthusiastic. Andy Sere, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee stated, "*This is an unstable man who has*

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come unhinged.” Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) has drafted a “resolution of disapproval” saying Grayson’s conduct was “*a breach of decorum and degraded the integrity and proceedings of the House.*”

Interestingly, so far, I have not heard any claims that Grayson’s statements were untrue.

For my part, I applaud Congressman Grayson for saying those things that needed to be said. What’s more encouraging is that Grayson is showing no signs of backing down. As for the Republicans, I do note they were absolutely right on one point. Last year, in their attempt to retain Ric Keller’s seat by running derogatory ads against then-opponent Alan Grayson, stated of Grayson; “*He’s not one of us.*” How true...and how refreshing!

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*My Summer Vacation:*

**THE NEWS**

*Continued*

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ber the bad. Would it be possible that they might be able to carve out some idiosyncratic subculture of the population that actually wants to hear this kind of stuff? Would it be possible that maybe *a lot* of people would prefer to hear some positive news for a change? Would it be possible that maybe the bleak, disastrous outlook so many of us now feel might actually be mollified by an influx of optimistic communiqués? Would it spoil some vast, eternal plan (sorry, just saw Topol in “Fiddler” in Orlando) if we were to hear about some of the good things that are happening in the world?

*The George*

**One of the most glorious of Eggs was omitted from the discussion:**

**T**he BIG GREEN EGG (BGE), a modern version of an ancient cooking device from Asia. This space-age ceramic cooking vessel has a huge following and we fans refer to ourselves as "*EggHeads*".

Those of us that have Eggsamined the alternatives in old-school cooking (over a fire) and opted for a BGE, find there is nothing else that compares with the Eggsperience of using one.

They use only natural lump charcoal and require only a sheet or two of a local newspaper to get a good fire in 10 minutes (a proper use for an otherwise useless item these days). Lighter fluid is PROHIBITED and not needed anyway.

Airflow controls at the top and bottom allows superb temperature control to keep the Egg down at smoking temperatures (*225F to 275F*) and it is very effective at trapping all that yummy smoke (when smoking woods are added) and it is a perfect roaster/baker for more traditional meals. I cook our family turkey on it every Thanksgiving and the results are spectacular.

It is virtually a "set it and forget it" cooker and I typically will just let it go all night long on a single load of charcoal when smoking meats.

Opening the vents up all the way rapidly provides SEARING HOT (the thermometer pegs at 750) temperatures for a wonderful grilling Eggsperience.

The BGE is also very fuel-efficient. The lid seals nearly airtight and smothers the coals when you're done, allowing reuse of the coals over and over. The ceramic vessel is extremely efficient and holds the heat in.

There is an EggHead forum on the internet (<http://www.eggheadforum.com/>) where we share recipes, Eggstravagent nest designs for our Eggs, and there are *EggFests* all around the country where we meet with other EggHeads and enjoy good food and good company. An annual *Eggtoberfest* is held in Georgia every year as well.

*Sean Freeman*  
*Indialantic*

**O**ne of our members has expressed an interest in putting together a Southeast USA Regional Gathering, comparable to 'Weem. For those not familiar with 'Weem, every year Chicago has its regional gathering the weekend nearest Halloween, and it's a Halloween-themed party. It has been enormously successful, with Mensans flying in from all over the country to attend.

Since only about half the local groups in Florida have their own regional gatherings, perhaps there could be a Southeast U.S. regional gathering centered around a theme, like Halloween, that could be turned into a national event. Perhaps we could join forces with Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas. It could either be a cruise, or just a land-based RG that moves throughout the Southeast US from one place to another (perhaps "*Spring Break for Mensans*").

I'd like to ask all members of Region 10 to contact me and let me know what you think of the idea. Is it something you would attend? Is it something you would be willing to help with? Do you have a preference as between a cruise or a land-based RG patterned after spring break? Same questions for the local Ex-Comms.

I'm off to Dallas to attend an AMC meeting the weekend of October 23; we will, among other things, be discussing long-term planning and financial issues. Your ideas are always welcome, and there will be a full report in my column next month.

Until then,

*Mel Dahl, RVC-10*

**The ExComm did not meet last month.**

**T**he ExComm, recognizing the current work load to be virtually non-existent, failed to schedule a meeting for October. For those curious, the Bylaws specify meetings at least quarterly, so we are well within bounds.

After deciding to pass on the October meeting, an item did arise, namely that a few people have expressed dislike of our proposed name for the 2010 RG, i.e., *"The We Don't Need No Stinkin' Fancy Name RG."* Now this is more a matter for the RG committee to consider, and I only mention it here because it was made public at the September ExComm meeting.

Some consideration was given to the question as to whether this was in any way demeaning to any particular group (Mexicans) and it was decided that the phrase on which it is based, a movie line known, for reasons unknown, to almost every Mensan, had little to do with any particular group - it was just a line that has caught on with the public, and Mensans in particular. But while we're focusing on "particular", I should point out that the particular objection did not seem to be based on a sense of political incorrectness, but rather on the simple notion that the name sounded sort of "low class", probably because of the poor grammar.

Well, I hope that while I'm off on vacation, the issue gets resolved (if it is an issue) and the few ruffled feathers get smoothed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 5:30 pm, at my (George Patterson's) house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic. (321-777-3721)

George Patterson

*LocSec*