

The

SCAM

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Volume 29, No. 9

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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

Some months back (I do not remember how long), as Editor, I made a decision to eliminate the “centerfold calendar” wherein the center two pages was a calendar layout. Such calendars serve as a good quick reference when there are numerous monthly events to consider attending. Such has not been the case with SCAM for quite some time. With that in mind, I believed the pages would be better used for other items sent for publication.

Recently, however, the ExComm, in their quest to improve member participation, has expressed renewed interest in what is going on inside *The SCAM*. In reviewing the past two months’ minutes, one ExComm suggestion has been to restore the centerfold. So, I pose the question to the membership: drop me an e-mail and tell me what you think.

At some point last year, I mentioned that it would be nice if some member (or members) would contribute some artwork for the cover of *The SCAM*. Thus far, I had one taker. Barbara Hendry had contributed what later had become the January cover. You may have not known this, as I neglected to give Barbara the proper attribution for her work.

For my oversight, I would like to apologize to Barbara and assure all that it is the policy of The SCAM to give credit where it is due. Be assured your work will receive proper attribution.

I do have another oversight to report. Last month’s issue had an article from Karen Freiberg, our SIGHT Coordinator entitled “A Host’s

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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.

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Tale". The article made reference to a form from National to be filled out by those who would like to become a SIGHT host. The form was to also be in last month's issue (but it was not). Oops...sorry, Karen! The SIGHT Host form is an insert in this month's issue.

A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Barbara Hendry

The just-received SCAM publication suggests "we need to find ways to persuade members to contribute..." to the magazine. Well...

For several years some time ago, I created covers for the SCAM magazine. This year, I sent you my favorite, my drawing of a snowflake, which you did publish for the January issue. I received neither an attribution nor thanks.

Does this suggest any "way to persuade members to contribute"?

Barbara Hendry

(Editor's Note: To answer your question, in a word, no. I apologize for my oversight, it will not be repeated. I do appreciate your contribution.)

At one time, a font referred to the tray of a full alphabet and numbers in one style of individual lead type for printing. A different tray of a different style or size was considered to be a different font. Now, a font is considered to be one style of letters and numbers and includes the variations of that style, such as size, weight, condensed, and upright or italic.

With the advent of computers and word processing programs, writers have thousands of fonts available for their use. The number of fonts available differs for each word processing program and in purchased programs. Greensheet, for example, has 2,000 fonts. Fonts can be categorized in several ways. A simple classification is serif, sans-serif or gothic, black letter or gothic, script, and fantastic. Grotesque or fantastic fonts are everything else. Note the conflicting meanings for gothic type faces. Sans-serif is an unadorned typeface with uniform line weight throughout. Black letter is an angular, heavily decorated type face, sometimes called Old English. Script emulates hand writing.

Serif fonts have a short line at the beginning and end of a stroke of each letter. Sans-serif fonts, by definition, do not. The stroke is usually weighted. Serif fonts are the ones usually seen in books, magazines, and long documents. Sans-serif fonts are usually seen in posters, advertisements, packages, computer displays, and short documents.

Sans-serif fonts are sometimes preferred by writers, as they appear cleaner, more modern, and technical than serif fonts. Actually, sans-serif fonts predated serif fonts. In text, serif fonts are generally more readable than sans-serif fonts. One reason for this is that the letters in a word in a sans-serif, proportionally spaced font are so often cramped, particularly in their condensed forms, that on quick reading letters like l, I, i, and the number 1 can be misread, and combinations like *in* can be misunderstood as *m*. There is one major exception to this rule. In computer displays, such as email and web pages, sans-serif is often preferred. Because the screen is made up of pixels, the size and number of pixels is a function of the display screen. In some cases, the serif may not cover a complete pixel or it may cover a fraction more than a pixel. The image of the letter, especially in the smaller sizes, may then become muddled.

As an author, I sometimes have the option of choosing the font that will be used for my works. Magazines generally do not give me that choice. The editor of the magazine usually selects one font that will be used for the entire magazine except for advertisements, covers, and headings. That is to

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achieve consistency in appearance throughout. In the case of SCAM, our editor is now using a sans-serif font, Calibri. Previously, he used Century Schoolbook, a serif font. A common serif font used by newspapers, magazines, and authors is Times New Roman.

For emails, I usually use Ariel, a sans-serif font. It is a common font found on most word processing programs thus it easily translates to the recipient's screen. This also obtains when I submit magazine articles by email. The editor then has the option of converting to the font that he prefers.

For books, where I can control the font, I use a serif font, 12 pt. Book Antiqua from WordPerfect. There are many serif fonts from which I could have chosen. Book Antiqua is a light font designed for books and has an old-fashioned feel, which I like, as I am old-fashioned too.

In composing articles, such as this one, and books I use Courier New. This font looks like typewriting, an unweighted serif font. For me the significant characteristic of the font is that it is not proportionally spaced, that is, each letter and punctuation point takes the same amount of space as the others. That makes for easier proof reading, especially in punctuation and spacing between words. After completing the draft and proof reading, I convert the text to Book Antiqua for publication.

GOT HOBBY?

- Are you 8-14 years old?
- Are you in a gifted program at school or a member of Mensa or otherwise identified as gifted?
- Have you had a hobby for at least a year?

If so, you're invited to a special event where you can share your hobby and do fun hobby-related activities.

Debi Carruth, a doctoral student at Florida State University, is researching gifted kids' hobbies. She'll be conducting activities as part of her research, but although it's schoolwork for her, it'll be fun for everybody. Privacy and confidentiality will be protected as much as possible.

Please contact Debi for details or to receive a participants' packet.

850-273-2183

dcarruth@mailier.fsu.edu

This study has been approved by the Florida State University Institutional Review Board and the Mensa Research Review Board.

No sooner did we replace Joe Smith with Dennis Logan on the ExComm than we find ourselves in need of another replacement. Bud Long, our treasurer, finds that the demands of his real job have increased to the point where he can't give us the attention we deserve and would like to be replaced. He will continue on until we get through the annual audit, but hopes someone else can pick up the reins at that point. Do we have any volunteers? (See ExComm minutes) I expect that we will have to beat the bushes to find a replacement, but it would be nice if one would step forward. This person does not have to become treasurer. Someone else on the ExComm can take that job, but it would be nice to have a full contingent of five in place. And while on the subject of volunteers, I might mention that we need to find an RG committee and a chairperson sometime before the end of the year, for our 2012 RG. My how time flies. We just closed the books of the 2010 RG.

We had a nice event when "Hoot Like an Owl" attracted eight or nine folks to a couple of hours of drinks and appetizers at the Melbourne Hooter's. I received two inquiries as to whether this was an all male gathering. It was not. Barbara and I enjoyed it roundly. And as you might expect, I received one admonition to the effect that many consider Hooter's to be exploitive of women and we should consider an alternate venue. I shall reflect on this matter for a few months while consulting wiser heads than mine.

I have been campaigning for months to get people to volunteer their email addresses so we could communicate with them from time to time using this novel and convenient device. We now find that an effective approach is to personally contact them by phone and ask for the info. Those contacted so far have been happy to oblige. We now have addresses for 130 of our 210 odd members. My goal is 200. There will be some holdouts.

Now if I am to give up haranguing on one topic I need another and that will be - we need more contributions from the membership to the SCAM newsletter. Some new contributors have shown up, but we need more. Humor, and topical essays should fill the bill, as well as anything else you might have in mind. To encourage participation, as an example of what can be done I have provided a couple of verse tidbits as a goad to others to do better. (See elsewhere in this issue) We are also considering adding a puzzle feature of some sort, and resurrecting the graphic calendar. But more on that in the future.

Really - join the ExComm and see the world (from an ExComm point of view).

**THIS PAGE
RESERVED**

JUST FOR YOU!

***SEND US YOUR ARTICLE TODAY!
DETAILS ON PAGE THREE.***

Good words, insidious and ubiquitous. I haven't quite decided which is more apropos. According to Dictionary.com:

in·sid·i·ous

[in-sid-ee-uhs] –adjective

1. intended to entrap or beguile: an insidious plan.
2. stealthily treacherous or deceitful: an insidious enemy.
3. operating or proceeding in an inconspicuous or seemingly harmless way but actually with grave effect: an insidious disease.

u·biq·ui·tous

[yoo-bik-wi-tuhs] –adjective

existing or being everywhere, especially at the same time; omnipresent: ubiquitous fog; ubiquitous little ants.

I refer, of course, to the self own. Not just any self own, mind you, but the latest incarnation, known as the smart phone.

I had a perfectly good self own. But it wasn't a smart phone. It was more a clever phone. It could text and surf the web (which you might actually be able to read if you had microscope-capable eyes) and had a nice solitaire game I played and – oh yeah – even let you make and receive phone calls. But it wasn't really a "smart" phone. You had to push buttons and pick options from a list instead of tap-tap-tapping and swiping the screen hither and yon.

Now, all three of my femchildren had iPhones and would persistently enjoin my lovely wife and me to upgrade and get with the modern world. We were on a month-to-month basis with our carrier, having fulfilled our initial obligation long ago, and were slowly giving in to the pressure. Welp, eventually we succumbed and made the paradigm shift (gack, I hate that term!), buying brang, spanking new iPhone 4's; a new chic white one for my lovely wife, a sleek black one for me.

That's when the insidiousness and ubiquitousness began.

You folks know exactly what I'm talking about, right? I mean... you go to the store or the movies or the gas station and every teen, twenty or thirty-something (sometimes, even forty and fifty-something) is constantly tappeta-tappeta swipe-swipe-swiping his/her smart phone. Sometimes they even talk on them. But mostly it's just tappeta-tappeta swipe-swipe-swipe. Mad-

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“Humpty Dumpty is Already Cracked!”

And he hasn't hit ground yet. Humpty (*funny name*) made this last jump all the way from 6500 up to about 12,900 and now has made another jump down to 10,600. Where will he jump next?

All the experts know. Well, each expert thinks he knows and is willing to tell you. Some say the next jump will be past the previous high and others say he (Humpty) is going to fall immediately to a newer low point.

We, and I mean all us 401K people, can live with this small crack down to 10,600, but if the fall continues to 6500 there will only be scrambled eggs.

Our government says they are going to take care of us. They want to make the U.S. more like Europe. Does that mean we will have riots because their government is giving them less and less?

Our original Constitution was (*and I hope still is*) based on the idea man can rule himself. Most of the world governments are based on the idea that governments must tell its people what to do and when to do it.

Our Humpty Dumpty stock market seems to be saying that central government is not such a great idea. Each U.S. citizen is allowed “opportunity”. Some choose not to exercise their ability. And that is OK. His choice, not the government's.

The one solution to getting Humpty up is to find him a job. Those in Washington either are too dumb or don't want America to be the successful place it has been for 200 years.

Why does everyone in the world want to come here and not to some European or Asian country?

When men are allowed to start their own business and to profit from their own labor it instills pride and creates wealth for the nation. He should not have to give half of his labor to someone who has not earned it.

Allowing men to keep what they earn is what gives Humpty Dumpty the strength to jump to new heights.

Putting lead weights called taxes in Humpty's pockets keeps him from jumping higher. Another is restrictive clothing called regulations. The more of these the central government puts on him the greater the chance of scrambled eggs.

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Well, **submission deadline passed** again so if you aren't reading this I apologize for my poor time management skills.

Nine people showed up for the August First Friday at Hooter's Mensa Special Interest Group meeting! Nine! One more and we are in double digits! The First Friday of September, which was probably yesterday, we'll be there, hope you were, too. We're already getting perks like substitutions on beer specials. A few more attendees and the inducements could become phenomenal; maybe even a hat to raffle off.

Additionally, negotiations begin soon for a regular "Beat the Mensans" trivia night at Hooter's. So far our only offer for compensation comes in the form of chicken parts but we're holding out for a beverage or two. Considering alternate venues poses an opportunity for creating competition. Of course, Hooter's receives preferential consideration based on our history.

"So what went on at the meeting?" you must be asking yourself by now. Imagine nine Mensans assembled together with plentiful liquid enlightenment and fueled by food that would land you in jail if you fed it to a pit bull.

I arrived with my beloved step-son, and even more beloved designated driver, Jonathan, 28, right on time for the first time in quite some time. Note: previously acknowledged poor time management skills. We chose a table that could easily be combined with others in the event as many people actually arrived as had said they might. My muscles, tensed from anticipation of a record turnout, responded well to the first serving from the "Beer Bucket Special" recommended by our lovely server Talana. Frequent Hooter's of Melbourne customers, as well as those who pay patronage as frequently as their wives permit, remember Talana as the fifth-place Central Florida East, Way East, Division Hooter's Bikini contest winner. A spectacle I

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The U.S. is the only place where the original idea was that man can govern himself. The less central control the better for the people. This is a proven fact as history has shown. Let's help Humpty up....

.... unless you want to change it?

SCAM Calendar of Events for September 2011

2nd - Friday 5:30 PM

“HOOT LIKE AN OWL”

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

8th - Thursday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

17th - Saturday 6:00 PM

LIQUOR DAY (OBSERVED)

Join us at Wynn and Suzanne's home in Titusville. Present your favorite alcoholic beverage. Chat and sample. Share the lore. Light snacks and coffee provided. No kitty.

Contact: *Wynn Rostek (cell), 626-3670.*

24th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at the Miyako Restaurant, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

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

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 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.

Of CABAGEs 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*

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

Membership Notes for September 2011

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Clifton Chandler
Dorene Taylor

WELCOME TO SCAM

William Hartman

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Christian Pelaez	12th	Janet Mueck
2nd	George Patterson	13th	Eric Swiechowski
7th	Leah Simpson	17th	Michael Fuller
10th	R. Kent Buchanan	26th	James Scutti
10th	Douglas Dieruff	30th	William Corey

MENSA TESTING

Sept. 17 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. Testing next month Oct. 15.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mensatest@cfl.rr.com, for details.

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

A couple of weeks ago, I received a chain e-mail entitled “Congressional Reform Act of 2011”. It is essentially a list of suggestions which, if implemented would presumably “fix Congress”. I get e-mails like this fairly often, usually from conservative colleagues. What makes this rather unique is the sender is someone who I know to be a fellow liberal.

A few example of the suggestions contained therein include:

- No Tenure / No Pension. A Congressman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they are out of office.
- Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security. All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any other purpose.
- Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.
- All contracts with past and present Congressmen are void effective 1/1/12. The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen. Congressmen made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, so ours should serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

The closing statement: “THIS IS HOW YOU FIX CONGRESS!!!!!!”

Really? If these, and the other, suggestions contained therein, would Congress then be fixed?

For example, what’s with “tenure”? As far back as I can remember, senators serve 6-year terms, congressmen serve two year terms. To get the job, they must be elected, to keep the job, they must be elected again. Who decides whether they keep their jobs? We do. Somehow, this does not seem like “tenure” to me. Do our Congressmen not represent us? Vote them out. If they keep being reelected, who keeps doing it? Look in the mirror.

Then there is the issue of the Congressional pay raise. A nice emotional issue, the employee gets to determine how much he gets paid. Outrageous! Only it’s not quite that easy. To become law, the President’s signature is needed. Perhaps we were caught napping in class when the concept of checks and balances was covered? I have a question here. How will limiting

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the pay and benefits for elected officials make them more responsive to our needs? In fact, the opposite may be true. For starters, most of our elected officials do not need to live off their official paychecks (which, given that they have to maintain two residences, one in Washington and one at their home state/district, are woefully inadequate). The wealth these people already have may, depending on its source, create a conflict of interest.

I could go on, but there is a much larger question. What would we actually accomplish? Show them “who’s the boss?” Good for our egos perhaps, but how will this help our country? If we really want to fix Congress, our time and energy would be better spent attacking these conflicts of interest. One example is a lifetime ban on former Congressmen and Senators from lobbying any elected official.

To do that might cost us a bit more in the short run. Our Congress may need to offer real raises to cover all reasonable expenses (including living expenses) of our elected officials. Former elected officials may need better pensions, since we would be forbidding them from other, more lucrative, sources of income. However, I am convinced we would all be better—and cheaper—off.

My Summer Vacation:

INSIDIOUS OR UBIQUITOUS?

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dening! What the hell could they possibly be so perpetually engrossed in doing with all the tappeta-tappeta swipe-swipe-swipe?

Well, folks, I’ll tell you what they’re doing. They’re engaged in the paradigm shift from reality to the electronic world. I know this because I’ve become infected as well. I tappeta-tappeta swipe-swipe-swipe with the best of them now, much to my great dismay, but with the inability of the drug addict to do otherwise.

Oh, I resisted at first. Just a few apps (of which there are seemingly bazillions, with more coming out each day): a couple-three games, Pandora for some music personalized to my taste, a nifty cigar database for my stogies. But mainly I just used it as a phone (what a concept!) and did a little texting with my femchildren. All very conservative and reasonable.

“But dad, why don’t you put your email on your phone?” they ask. Nope. Not gonna do it. No possible justification for needing to read email on the go; it’s there on my computer whenever I want to check it. Nothing is so

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immediate that I have to have it instantaneously. “Oh, c’mon, just try it. You can always take it off if you don’t like it or need it.” Okay, okay just stop bugging me. I set up my email. I was right. Nothing is sufficiently urgent to require my away-from-the-computer reply, especially considering that my fat fingers can never hit the right letters on the damn Lilliputian virtual keyboard anyway.

But then everything changed. I was in the process of opening a business (*might just rant about that in a coming article*) and the simple reality was that without the damn smart phone and its messaging and email capability and instantaneous information, it would have taken me eleven times as long to jump through all the hoops that confront the new business owner in this modern world. I turned into a smart phone whirling dervish, multitasking from locations both near and remote, even opting to use the phone when my computer was at hand. It was just so damn convenient and capable and portable and instant.

And so, I became hooked. Now, like rest of my fellow smart phone addicts, I become extremely agitated if I’m more than a few feet away from my phone. If the charge falls below 50%, I get panicky because I know I have to plug it into its charger which means that it is immobile and can’t be constantly within reach. I’ve become Pavlovianly responsive to all the dings, beeps, clangs, and buzzes that indicate I’ve got new email, a text, a new move in Words Free or Hanging with Friends, or (*dare I even say it?*) updated information from Facebook!

I know some of you out there are resisting, bah-humbugging and not even turning on that self own that you got “*just for emergencies.*” But just you wait. The tsunami is coming. You will be swept up in it. It is insidious and ubiquitous and there is no avoiding it. The paradigm shift is coming after you and there will be no place to hide when everyone around you can just tappeta-tappeta swipe-swipe-swipe and know everything there is to know about you.

In the words of the Borg: “*Resistance is few-tile. You will be assimilated.*”

The George

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shall not soon forget nor be allowed to attend. Miracles happen, though.

Speaking of miracles, a fortuitous misunderstanding resulted in Tarena bringing me a “Big Daddy” beer (32 ounces in a single mug) in addition to “Beer Bucket Special” (five bottles of beer in a bucket with ice). Had I understood the concept behind the “Beer Bucket Special” included sharing the bottles among friends, the addition of the “Big Daddy” may not have caused me to feel that in fact I finally reached an over-achiever status. Hair splitters might argue a more accurate description would be over-indulger status. As it turns out, I ordered several more of the bottles of beer later once the bucket ran out so the over-achiever/over-indulger thing becomes a moot point. In my defense, not that I particularly feel compelled to present one, the manager informed me the additional beers would be at the “Beer Bucket Special” price. In economic times such as these, does prudence allow a reasonable person to pass up a bargain of such astounding proportion? How much more compelling must it be to a drunken old fool?

Other members started to arrive one by one, except in the case of couples who arrived in twos. George Patterson accompanied by his exceptionally genteel wife Barbara blessed us for the first time. George serves, of course, as the Space Coast Area Mensa Local Secretary. Barbara couldn't have been more uncomfortable, though gracious, judging from her eyes. I spent ten-years in the Navy and a few more traipsing around the world after that. Fun evenings, such as this, were rare but not uncommon. Uncommon might not be the correct term. The point being, I don't believe Barbara's life experience included access to establishments such as Hooter's. I'm sure she thanks some higher power for that every day and/or night. Barbara did admit to having been employed at the Walgreen's next door though never having previously succumbed to the allure that is Hooter's of Melbourne even for lunch. Personally, I am very grateful for their attendance.

My old buddy, Gary showed up, as he does faithfully. Gary joined me one Friday months ago. Before that the meetings revealed the dark reality of a man who likes to let loose once in a while. The first few meetings I attended alone. The meetings were short and after the first

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number of items needed to be addressed in the next few months. They are: continued pursuit of phone numbers and email addresses of members, finalizing the Bylaws revisions, the member survey, the 2012 RG, and improvement of the social calendar.

Treasurer: The July treasurer's report was not available.

Testing: The report on July testing was not available.

There was no new business or old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12. The next meeting will be at Karen Freiberg's house at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL, 32955, on **Thursday**, September 8, 2011 at 6:00 pm. It will be followed, hopefully, by an Audit committee meeting.

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groups that are more spread out and, in looking at the calendars for those groups, I can see that someone living at one end of the local group area very well might not be able to conveniently attend anything offered by local groups.

So, I am asking two things. First, if you are a locsec/member of a local ex-com, please look at your calendar to see if all areas of your local group have events and, if not, please try to find someone willing to organize one.

Second, if you are a member who would like to attend local events but there is nothing near where you live, please consider organizing something yourself. I'm sure your local newsletter will be happy to give you space, and you can get email addresses for members in your area by going to the membership directory on our national Web site. If you need logistical assistance, talk to your locsec or talk to me. Let's see if we can broaden the areas that have local events.

Mel Dahl

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meeting I stopped displaying the Mensa Logo. Then one afternoon Gary called to let me know he would be attending.

I swelled with pride at the knowledge another Mensan shared my interest in meeting where we can discuss great things unrecognized as Mensa members no matter how much we try to advertise the fact. The servers have no idea what it is and didn't believe we were actually members when told. Apparently their line of work attracts a lot of pretenders, probably not so many Mensa pretenders but many others, without doubt. Besides, people rarely believe I passed the Mensa exam. I believe George Patterson has petitioned National Headquarters to include DNA tests with the written exams.

As joyous as Gary's announcement made me it made my adult children equally as relieved. No longer would they have to sit and endure my chicanery, they could just come pick me up and make their apologies when I called. Actually the call always included a thoughtful Hooter's girl (I believe they accept that as a non-patronizing term) holding my keys in her delicate, though powerful, fingers.

The time is getting away from me friends. Show up at the next meeting and you can find out more about me than you ever wanted to know. Who else was there? Was a good time had by all?

In addition to my great friend Gary and Barbara and George and Jonathan, many folks I hope to become great friends with stopped by, including Kip, Pancho, Shawn (or Sean) and his lovely wife JoAnn. We formed quite an eclectic group of really nice people. One of the servers equated us to the bar scene in the first Star Wars movie. Your humble recorder excepted, many very intelligent people were counted among the throng. An interesting conversation could be engaged in with anyone at the table at a moment's notice. Unable to speak for all I can only confess having a wonderful time.

Hope to see you again soon.

As a regular reader of *The SCAM*, I could not help but notice that, for a while now, we have a First Friday SIG that meets monthly at the Melbourne Hooter's restaurant whose tagline is "*More than a mouthful*". Dennis Logan, the SIG coordinator, on occasion, provided us minutes of the First Friday event.

In the interest of full disclosure and for the sake of fairness, I was inside the Melbourne Hooters many times—while it was still a Hardee's! I have not been inside that building since it became a Hooters nor have I ever visited any other Hooters.

When the Melbourne Hooters first opened, I was working part time at a gas station further down Babcock Street. On occasion, a "Hooters Girl" stopped by to fuel up or buy a pack of cigarettes. In each case, the girl was in costume, a rather skimpy outfit with the Hooters tagline designed to accent her physical attributes while, at the same time, was not too revealing.

Some time afterward, I learned of a lawsuit where a man sued for sex discrimination for not being offered a server's job. He lost, as Hooters "sells sex" rather than operating as a regular restaurant.

After doing some Internet research, I learned that some feminist groups are objecting to Hooters business model alleging that Hooters exploits women by "selling sex" by using their servers as sex objects.

This is where my comments come in. I disagree with the feminists. To be sure, Hooters does use female sexuality to attract their customers. But who is really exploited? Consider that many restaurants and bars (even those *not* of the Hooters variety), the female servers know that the higher the hemline and the lower the neckline, the higher the tips. Yet these establishments do not sell sex. They sell sex appeal.

What's the difference, you may ask. For starters, we know what sex is. Selling sex outright amounts to prostitution. In less obvious terms, most non-business male/female relationships, sex, when provided by the woman, must be "earned" by the man to whom she bestows that particular pleasure.

Sex appeal is a different matter. To fully appreciate this dynamic, imagine a nerdy teenage boy who is approached by some attractive girl. She makes sure he notices her charms and may engage in somewhat suggestive behavior, just enough so he gets excited and nervous. Of course, nothing ever materializes (or ever will). In my day, teen boys had a name for this phenomenon. In the business world, it is called sex appeal. This is what Hooters sells. Who is exploited? Is it really the woman? I think not.

In an attempt to encourage contributions from our readership, I offer the following a sample which I am sure many of you can better. Not what I would really call poetry, or even light verse, I believe the proper descriptor would be doggerel (*trivial, poorly constructed verse, usually of a burlesque or comic form*). I have set the bar low. If you can do better you are publishable. A few light contributions and who knows, we might work our way up to something quite decent.

I started on a series based on various figures of speech or literary devices to assist my understanding of these items. Below find three examples. If you would like to pursue this particular vein I might suggest simile, alliteration, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, or perhaps zeugma.

Apostrophe

Oh thou object, place, or thing !
 Oh thou dead or absent person !
 Oh thou idea or notion !
 Were it not for you there would be,
 No such thing as Apostrophe.

Chiasmus

She went to Paris, to Brussels he went.
 This phrase shows us all
 How the sentence is bent
 To obtain the effect
 That is known in the trade
 As Chiasmus,
 A figure invertedly made.

Antipodes

Comparing the JOADS
 To Colossus of Rhodes.
 'Tis antipodes.
 But rather than these,
 A storm to a breeze:
 Antipodes.

Mensa has just completed the most extensive survey it has ever taken of its members to determine member satisfaction and ask people what they want out of Mensa. In February 2010, surveys were mailed to 10,000 members (or about 17% of our 58,000 members). 1,379 people (14% of those surveyed, 2.3% of our total membership) responded. Since the responses were self-selected by those who chose to return the survey it is not truly a random sample. Nevertheless, it is the largest survey taken of our membership to date. The results were published in the June 2011 Report of the Local Group Services & Funding Task Force, chaired by Robin Crawford. This document is available on-line at Mensa's Web site, <http://www.us.mensa.org>

The survey contained predictable questions: Why did you join Mensa, and what were you hoping to get out of it, and did you get out of it what you were hoping to get out of it. The answers were mostly what one would intuitively have expected even without taking a survey. Previous surveys had given us the wholly unsurprising information that the more actively one participates in Mensa activities, the more likely one is to be happy with one's Mensa membership, and also that the biggest worry for local group leaders is the lack of volunteers. And if that's all the information that this latest survey had given us I'd probably file it away instead of devoting a column to it.

The thing that makes this survey particularly valuable, in my opinion, is the fact that every one of the 1,379 people who responded were given an open-ended question: What service(s) do you want from your local group that is not listed on this survey? And the recurring answer, over and over again, was: I live too far away from any activities; I wish I could get to local activities but they are an hour, two hours, three hours away from me.

In other words, we have a significant chunk of members who would like to attend local group events (and we know from earlier surveys that participation in local group events leads to increased satisfaction with Mensa membership) but live far enough away from the centers of their local groups to make it feasible for them to do so. The key to their satisfaction with Mensa membership is to make it easier for them to attend local group events.

In Florida, we have several local groups that are fairly tightly compacted and finding an event nearby should not be a problem. We also have other

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Minutes of the August ExComm Meeting.

The pre-meeting: A number of items were discussed preceding the business meeting. Firstly, the audit is still in limbo as Bud is extremely busy on his real job and hasn't been able to find the time to get the material together for review. It is not considered a problem. We will get around to it some one of these days. If we were transitioning from one treasurer to another a timely audit would be more in order.

Some remarks were passed on the redesign of the national website. We should ask in our upcoming survey if our members have ever visited it. It was reported that we have made some progress in obtaining email addresses for members, by calling them on the phone and asking for same. Not sure how to deal with members who have withheld both email and phone number from national.

George reported that he had a report from national describing a recent survey of the membership which revealed that most people felt a major problem was a lack of volunteers. George said that his take on the matter was that the main problem was a lack of events, and a lack of attendance, especially new faces, when we do have events. The problem of volunteers will raise its head in the next few months as we start to contemplate the 2012 RG, which should have an RG chairperson in place sometime before Thanksgiving. The last RG was handled very nicely with a very small staff of volunteers, but we should not make that a tradition.

Some discussion was had on handling the upcoming member survey. A reasonably comprehensive questionnaire has been established and the main concern now is how to administer the survey and how to handle the results.

The Business Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg on Wednesday, August 3, 2011. Called to order at 7:08 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Karen Freiberg, and Dennis Logan. Bud Long was unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None

Minutes for the July 6, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the August 2011 SCAM.

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George reported that there were no pressing matters, but a

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