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SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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(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

As the new year begins, I believe I have a bit of good news for you. It looks like later this year we will actually have an RG. Until recently, it appeared that this RG might go by the wayside due to lack of interest. In the past month, two members had volunteered to help. But, even with this bit of welcome news, things were looking pretty grim.

Then, on December 7th, a miracle happened. Our ExComm conducted its routine monthly meeting. One of the items of concern? You guessed it...the RG. I'll spare you the gory details, as you can turn to the back cover and read the minutes for yourself. From my own perusal of the minutes, I have found, I believe, that 5 more members have volunteered to put on the RG—The ExComm itself!

So, once again, SCAM has been saved from impending doom. Now I have a question: Can this continue? Our ExComm has been around awhile (good thing there are no term limits here). Our newsletter has been under the same management for 8 years; you are reading my 99th issue. So, it seems like we are doing a terrific job. Even so, the call is out for volunteers. We now need three (3) willing souls.

In a few months, we will be electing yet another ExComm. The first step in any ExComm campaign is nomination of candidates. The NomECom is given the task to find and twist the arms of fellow SCAM members to launch a hotly-contested campaign to be elected to the next ExComm. How many are needed on the NomECom? You guessed it: Three. Will YOU be one of them?

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.

It seems obvious that before the taming of fire that humans ate all their food uncooked just as all other animals do. With the advent of cooking, there became a great split in how humans prepared their food for eating. For the most part, much of vegetable material, plus fungi, are still eaten raw. Leaves, such as lettuce, cabbage, celery, herbs, and spices are commonly eaten raw as are many fruits, nuts, seeds, and roots. The exceptions are those vegetables that are poisonous when uncooked but safe when cooked such as cashews, or are unpalatable if not cooked such as the grains, potatoes, and acorns. There are many poisonous vegetables whether cooked or raw. These include rhubarb leaves, oleander leaves, and some mushrooms and, of course, are not eaten raw or cooked. The eating of raw vegetables in contemporary cultures is culturally accepted in Western societies.

Raw animal matter is far less commonly eaten than vegetable matter in Western society, although it is more common in some other cultures. The eating of raw oysters and clams have been popular for many years in the U.S. and Europe. More recently, the increased familiarity of Americans with other country's foods has brought us *Carpaccio*, thinly sliced beef, which was first served in Italy around 1950, is now just becoming familiar in restaurants in the U.S.

Steak Tartare, according to one story, was first served in French restaurants early in the 20th century. What is now generally known as "steak tartare" was then called *steak à l'Americaine*. Steak tartare was a variation on that dish. The 1921 edition of Escoffier's *Le Guide Culinaire* defines it as steak à l'Americaine made without egg yolk, served with tartar sauce on the side. Why it was once called American style steak is not known, but in French cookery there are several dishes with the appellation of Americaine that have no resemblance to an American way of preparation. Perhaps, like us, who designate any unusual dish as French, the French return the honor by calling any unusual dish Americane. In any event, in Paris, in my favorite dining place, *Bistro du Papa*, it is a patty of raw chopped beef with chopped onions, capers, coarse salt, pepper, and a raw egg yolk on the side.

Although common in the U.S. several years ago, especially in German restaurants, it is now rarely seen or served, probably because of the fear of salmonella in the egg and other factors in the meat. On my last voyage on the *Queen Mary 2*, I asked for steak tartar for my evening meal. The head

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waiter told me that although they do serve steak tartar, it is not on the general menu. They serve it on special order because they have so many German passengers, however I must sign a waiver first.

Kibbeh is a well known dish, under several names, in the Middle East. It is sometimes served as chopped raw beef or lamb mixed with cooked wheat or rice and herbs.

Eggs were once eaten raw in beer and malteds but are not seen nowadays. Milk and cream are animal products that are eaten raw although pasteurization may be considered a form of cooking. Honey is another animal product.

Japanese *sushi* and *sashimi* are the epitome of raw foods. Not only is fish served raw, but also shrimp, octopus, squid, fish eggs, sea urchin, and even in southern Japan, chicken and beef. Not only is seafood eaten raw in Japan, but sometimes it is even eaten live. Grubs are also eaten in Africa and Asia.

If we take the word “raw” as meaning not cooked and the word “cooked” as meaning heated, there are several other categories of food preparation that fall between the two categories. Salted is one. Salting is a means of preservation and for flavoring. Some salted foods are eaten without cooking. In this category of vegetable matter are sauerkraut and pickles. Among animal matters there are caviar and gravlax. Souring of milk and cream by the addition of acid or enzymes gives us sour cream, yogurt, and buttermilk. Another form of food preparation that is not cooking is the cold smoking of salmon (lox) and some hams. The largest category of uncooked food preparation is the fermentation of cheeses, wines, and beers. 100-year-old eggs, which are prepared by burying raw eggs in sulfurous vents near volcanoes defies classification.

Let's end the suspense - THE RG IS ON. A poignant plea via email fetched us up a second volunteer, and bouyed by this small success, the entire ExComm signed on, and we now have an RG committee of seven (*read the Minutes*). That's about half the staff we will need, but enough of a start for us to get started. Some early decisions and guesses - the date will be the weekend either preceding or following Halloween, which falls on a Wednesday. With any luck, we can match up with the Cocoa Beach air show which was a big hit in 2010.

The venue will be the same as the last two RG's, the Comfort Inn in Cocoa Beach. We are open to suggestions (*submitted by email to the two Georges*) for a theme. My personal favorite, not yet well thought through, is a combination of *The RG at the End of the Universe*, as homage to the Douglas Adams' *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, and *The Last RG Ever*, with reference to the imminent demise of the Universe on December 21, 2012 and *The Return of Quetzalcoatl*. That should give us enough to chew on until the next RG committee meeting, following or coincident with the next ExComm meeting.

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, *The SCAM* is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

Here at **Acme Labs**, we're always thinking of ways to make your life easier, and the lives of your enemies more painful and somewhat shorter.

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Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery and note that all submissions will be judged on originality and creative use of foreign phrases.

The George

SCAM Calendar of Events for January 2012

4th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

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

6th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

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.*

28th - 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 in the Food Court**, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: **Every Saturday at Books-A-Million**, The Avenue, Viera. Hosted by
1 p.m. the **Space Coast Area GO Association.**
Host: *George Lebovitz, the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com*

Membership Notes for January 2012

WELCOME TO SCAM

Denise Jeffreys

Mark Zelios

JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

4th	Vito Jimenez	14th	Gary Tower
4th	Joseph Richardson	21st	Diane Mullinax
8th	Ramon Vicioso	28th	Jeffrey Lineweaver
10th	Dennis Logan	28th	Joseph Carrier
12th	Arleigh Sharpe	31st	Joanne Ricker Abowitt
14th	Barry Signorelli	31st	Dorene Taylor
14th	Lee McLamb		

MENSA TESTING

Jan. 21 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 will be on Feb.18.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mentsatest@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.

Throughout the 2010 campaign season and now, as we approach “Campaign 2012”, it is no secret that we are not living in the best of economic times. One of the pressing issues was, and is, what we should do about the persistent unemployment problem. Thus far, candidates from both major parties declare that we need to create more “private sector jobs” and place particular emphasis on inducing “small business” to create these jobs.

I believe these efforts are, at best, misguided. Anyone who has ever attempted to live on an income earned in the employ of a small business has undoubtedly needed to seek additional employment to supplement these earnings merely to subsist. Additionally, there is little job security. This is, in part, because the prospect of a small business surviving more than just a few years is bleak at best. One needs only to look around to see the abundance of empty retail space sporting the all-to-familiar “For Rent” signs. Much of this is due to their inability to compete with Wal-Mart and its clones.

In fact, the private sector, in general, has over the years not been exactly a haven for steady employment for a living wage. Wal-Mart, America’s largest private employer sets the standards for wages and working conditions. Its competitors follow suit; it’s either that or their businesses cannot survive. Yet, how many politicians, especially those with conservative agendas, heap praises (and tax breaks) on these employers as “contributing” to the economy?

The irony to this story is that most depending on public assistance (such as food stamps) are NOT those too lazy to work; rather they work day and night for minimum wage in the private sector. The few of us who are left in the middle class literally subsidize the payrolls of these benevolent private employers; we also subsidize these businesses by not insisting they pay their fair for the public services they use. It’s a “win-win” situation, unless you’re one of those stuck with the tab.

Meanwhile, for the last thirty years, our infrastructure has been literally crumbling around us. As public services are cut back in the name of austerity, the situation will only get worse. But, hey, it’s the free market, the panacea of all the tycoons and wannabes. Yet, something’s not working.

Perhaps we ought to rethink our values. Perhaps it’s time to revitalize our public sector. We can start with our “job creation” efforts.

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As we are seeing less and less of public services, undoubtedly due to the “invisible hand” of the marketplace, one can see only too well that free market solutions will not work this time. It is time to put public services back in the hands of the public sector. Just from an employment standpoint, the advantages are many. More public employees mean a larger middle class. It also means more taxpayers and fewer people in need of public assistance. We, as a society, already pay (perhaps “bribe” is a better term) private employers to employ people who, too often need government subsidies to make ends meet.

If we are going to spend our public treasury to employ people, would it not make better sense if they work for us? Another beneficiary would be the private sector itself. While by no means an expert in the business world, I have noted that businesses cannot thrive unless there are customers.

Moreover, public services are necessary for sustained business growth. A well-maintained and updated transportation system is essential for the rapid movement of goods. A high quality educational system not only makes for better workers, but allows the more ambitious among us to achieve greater financial success – this translates to more customers who can afford the goods and services offered by the private sector. These are just a few examples.

I have no illusion that a larger public sector will solve all our problems. However, unless we are serious about our public services, we will only continue in our decline. The real problem is that those who wield power in our current society are concerned with only immediate gratification and not with long term benefits that comes with a viable infrastructure. To ignore this aspect would be like building a fine mansion without a firm foundation.

The bad news is you have no steady income. The unemployment check is going to run out – or maybe it has. Unfortunately you still have to eat and need a place to sleep until things “get better”. For some strange reason the government wants you on welfare.

There are ads on the radio, TV and in the paper about going into business for yourself. You have heard, “Make \$5,000 a month from your kitchen table” and such ilk. There are a few who actually do that, but unless you have a huge list of people who know you it is not going to happen. It takes time to build that list.

You are going to need a high speed computer. The computer you can buy on installments and then hook up with a local Internet provider. You might already have this so you call one of those selling a home-based business. Shop around. See what each has to offer. EBay has a wonderful program for the person who wants to devote time to it.

If you are a newbie let me give you a clue that it will probably be a year before you start to make any money. Any business, and I don't care what it is, takes about 18 months to break even. Then you begin to make some money and in about 3 years you can have a nice income. How do I know this? Because I have started more than one business.

Go to the library. There are many books on starting a business. All will tell you to write a business plan. Yes, that is a good idea. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it will be a road map and guide.

See if you can find someone that has an Internet business. Most people will be glad to help as long as you are not going to be selling the same items. Actually that doesn't matter because the Internet is so big. On the Internet there are many places that will give you free business plans and advice. Free is the price you want.

Any online business that asks you to pay money up front should be abandoned. If they are getting a small commission on what you sell that should be all they charge. Don't fall for any MLM (multilevel marketing) that has an exclusive product. The Avon lady takes 3 to 5 years, (years), before she makes more than minimum wage.

Party deals are nice until you run out of friends. Be sure to do your due diligence with anyone. Get references from several people that are now in their program. If they won't give them they are not legitimate.

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It is going to take quite a while and concentration to make any home-based business a success. If you are concerned about your current financial situation it would be a good idea to start NOW.

<i>The Last Minute</i>

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personation of The Invisible Man, until he finally relented under the unbearable pressure of our massed gazes and consented to be counted in. With the semblance of a *real* RG committee forming, we began to discuss relevant issues pertaining to the conduct of the upcoming event. Like, when would we have it? End of October, yes, but Friday, the 26th *before* Halloween or Friday November 2nd *after* Halloween? The Friday before would be more conducive to attendees participating in some costume event, while the Friday after is closer to Election Day, which might engender livelier discussion topics.

RG discussion waned at this point and to re-energize the meeting, George P. informed us that he had started on the member directory (refer to last month's meeting minutes). He looked up half a dozen or so names on the national data base and was chagrined that no age data was maintained. He found it annoying not to know how old our members were and proposed that people report whatever age they would like to be known as if they were uncomfortable with revealing their actual chronological age. That seemed like a great idea to everyone and with that the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm. The next meeting was set at Wednesday, at Jan 4, 2012, at 6:00 pm, at Karen Freiberg's house, at 876 Buxmont Ct. in Rockledge.

January is a time for new beginnings, and I want to urge all local groups to do something: Make a special point of using social media -- Facebook, Twitter, Linkdin -- to publicize your group, and especially your events.

At the last AMC meeting, we passed a resolution urging local groups to use social media. The average age of new members is 31, which means that most new members use social media to get most of their social information. Thousands of people join Facebook every second -- not every day, but every second. In fact, for Gen X and all those younger, it is difficult to exaggerate the place social media has in keeping them informed and in touch with their friends.

It's hard for an old fossil like me to appreciate just how significant social media is. But the younger Mensans, and younger prospective Mensans: They get it.

Last year we published a study that found that the primary reason people don't renew their membership in Mensa was a lack of local group events. I have to wonder how many of those local groups actually had events and the members just didn't know about them. Maybe not, but it's at least something to wonder about as we work on member retention.

And, it isn't only the locsec and calendar editor who can put stuff online. Any member who knows about an event is welcome to tweet or like or otherwise publicize it. And if you don't know how to use social media, there are other Mensans who do and who will be delighted to show you.

I wish a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012 to all of you.

Minutes of the SCAM ExComm Meeting.

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg on Wednesday, December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), 2011. Called to order at 6:10 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members Present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: None.

Minutes for the November 9, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the December, 2011 SCAM.

Officer/Committee Reports: Hank Rhodes submitted his MENSA testing report indicating that 1 person was tested, 4 candidates were contacted for the first time, and 4 candidates for the 2nd or 3rd time. The next testing opportunity will be on January 21.

We need a NomElComm. George P. asked if we really need 3 people (*as our charter specifies*) since volunteers are scarce. Terry opined that since the charter says 3, then 3 it is. So, we kicked around some names for this “non job” -- the only actual responsibility being warm bodies present at the vote count, since no one really runs for the ExComm any more, replacements usually being appointed and installed by the sitting ExComm when members (who are often serving life terms) leave. Notwithstanding these obstacles, however, George P. valiantly volunteered to scrounge up 3 members who would be willing to show up for the Vote Counting Festival.

The RG! Volunteers needed elsewhere this year there will no RG be. A second volunteer has appeared: 17-year old Nick Caporicci has graciously offered his services. Unfortunately, two persons is insufficient an RG to organize and lacking additional altruistic members, the ExComm members took on somber faces at the prospect of not having an RG this year. It was at this point that some extraordinary force of nature (*alignment of the planets? alien mind interference? imbalanced brain chemistry?*) prompted me to blurt out that I would assume the onerous responsibility of becoming the RG chairperson, owing to the fact that both Terry and Karen had volunteered that they would be willing to assist on the committee, with the stipulation that they would not work the actual days of the RG. With a more robust contingent of RG-ers forming up, George P. threw his hat in the ring as a participant also. All eyes then turned to Dennis, who was doing his best im-

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