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# SCAM

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END:

Now only

111 days

left!

Are YOU prepared???



# ***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*

**I**t's September, and fall will soon be upon us...maybe. The kids (or grandkids) are back in school. Our new LocSec is unfolding plans for SCAM's future (See his column, "WAR Correspondence", next page). From that same column, it is evident he is looking for feedback.

Wynn sees a demographic shift in SCAM and says we may well have to change our ways to remain a viable local group. You may wish to pause now and read his column.

Now that you're back (*after thoroughly reading and re-reading Wynn's column*), I have a question for you: With the increased use of social media, what do you envision as the purpose of future issues of The SCAM? Since we have three more issues before the world comes to a grinding halt, I would like to dedicate some page space for your feedback to both Wynn's column and my question. That's my end of the deal.

Your end is to submit that feedback to me. As I've repeatedly said on these pages for nearly a decade, this is *your* SCAM. Yet, we do not know what you want unless you let us in on your secret. There's no time like the present...

Just a reminder, a bit more than a month from now, our RG to end all RGs is scheduled. Being this close to The End, this is one event you really do not want to miss.

**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.

**W**ell, September is upon us. Time for something different. This month we'll be hosting a kid-friendly games night. Games suitable for elementary through post doc will be available. (Actually several different games for different age groups. We haven't run across a game that works for the whole age range yet.)

The games night starts at 6 pm September 15<sup>th</sup> and will be held at our house located at 3456 Willis drive, Titusville FL. Snacks and refreshments provided, No kitty. Just come and have fun. If you need directions or additional information contact Wynn at home: 321 267-9391 or by cell: 321 626-3670.

One of the reasons I'm reaching out to the younger groups is that I perceive a serious greying of SCAM. It seems that we are about to enter a phase where we watch all the people that have always been members of SCAM drop off one by one.

Don't get me wrong, I was a member of CFM before SCAM was formed by splitting it off CFM. In the beginning it was a bunch of wild and crazy people who were a blast to hang out with. But really people, after several decades, we've all memorized each other's stories.

We need new blood. It is time to turn the reins over to a new generation.

The real problem is that the new generation may not be interested in SCAM or Mensa.

For us, the great thing about our local group was it gave us a chance to socialize with a bunch of our peers, and have a great time together. I don't think that aspect of Mensa or SCAM means as much to younger generations.

Today, young adults keep in touch with Facebook, They follow each other's lives on Twitter. They use Instagram to share photos of their lives. They are constantly texting each other. In short, they have very rich social lives, electronic social lives. That's not what we're used to, but that's what they do.

As far as hosting events, planning something besides a wedding a month or more in advance is pretty foreign to them. They are more spontaneous, messaging friends to set up an event an hour or two away. That's what Evites are for.

To keep SCAM alive, we need to change the way we do business.. Drastically. Hosting a couple of events isn't going to fix what's wrong.

What I'm asking everyone to do is to put on their thinking caps, (knock the bird's nest out of them and blow the dust off them first) and think of ways we could make SCAM membership worthwhile to more people.

Send your ideas to me at [wrostek@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wrostek@cfl.rr.com).

**S**ummer soups are cold soups. There are but six traditional cold soups in Western cuisine and none in eastern cooking. The cold broth that the Japanese dip cold soba into during summer is just that, a dipping sauce, not a soup. The traditional summer soups that I consider are **Borscht, Cucumber Soup, Gazpacho, Jellied Consommé, Schav, and Vichyssoise**. Although I consider these soups to be traditional, they could not have existed as cold soups more than a hundred years ago without the advent of modern refrigeration. The sweet, fruit flavored concoctions that are featured in contemporary recipe collections may be tasteful but are more liquid desserts served before the meal than a soup.

Three of the traditional soups Borscht, Cucumber Soup, and Schav, are of Eastern European origin. One, Jellied Consommé, is French. Gazpacho is Spanish. The last, Vichyssoise, in spite of its French name, is American.

There are two soups called **Borsht**. The hot version is different in many ways from the cold soup. It is Cold Borscht that we are examining here. Cold Borsht, being endemic to so many countries and ethnicities, is impossible to define except in the most general terms. Even the origin of the soup is disputable. No one recipe could cover all the variations available. Basically, cold Borsht is cooked beets that has been chilled. What is added to that is what make the regional differences. Sour cream, soured milk, kefir, or yoghurt is most often added. Sugar is a common ingredient as are chopped, hard-boiled eggs. Other vegetables, such as raw radishes or cucumbers can be used for garnishes. Dill or parsley is commonly sprinkled on top.

**Consommés** have been in use since the Middle Ages. Jellied Consommés could not have been made until the advent of commercial artificial refrigeration. Before then consommés were served hot. The making of a proper consommé is an arduous process consisting of the simmering together, over a long time, of bones and ground meat and a combination of carrots, celery, onions, tomatoes, and egg whites. A clarification process is then used to remove fat and solids. The meat generally is beef, veal, or poultry. The resulting broth is then reduced and chilled. The gelatin from the bones is what makes the consommé jell.

**Cucumber Soup** is of Polish origin. It is made of cucumbers and potatoes or rice.

**Gazpacho's** origins are in Spain and is the only soup made from totally uncooked ingredients. In my menu for a dinner for a summer meal that

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doesn't require turning on the stove to heat the kitchen, gazpacho is my chosen soup. Gazpacho, like every classical dish, has innumerable variations. The basic recipe consists of all raw ingredients; tomatoes, cucumbers, garlic, and salt. There is a white variation that omits tomatoes.

**Schav** is a soup made from water or broth, sorrel leaves, and salt. Other possible ingredients are egg yolks or whole eggs (hard boiled or scrambled), potatoes, carrots, parsley root, and rice. It can be served hot or cold, and is usually garnished with sour cream. It comes from Eastern European cuisines. Because of its commonness as a soup in Eastern European cuisines, it is often called "green borscht", as a cousin of the standard, reddish-purple Borscht soup.

Schav is characterized by its sour taste as a result of the oxalic acid present in sorrel. The sour taste may disappear when sour cream is added, as the oxalic acid reacts with calcium and casein.

**Vichyssoise** is a thick soup made of potatoes, onions, leeks, salt, cream, and chicken stock. Although named for a town in France, it was apparently invented by a French chef in New York and properly is not a traditional soup, not being mentioned before the advent of mechanical refrigeration.. The recipe is simple. Cook the vegetables and salt in the stock until the potatoes are soft. Chill. Process in a blender until it is smooth and creamy. The next step is the one that takes discretion. Add cream in the amount that you prefer and keep blending.

When I was living in Japan there were two elegant French restaurants in Tokyo. Each served Vichyssoise and I patronized both. The Vichyssoise was excellent in both restaurants and were quite similar given that the basic recipe was so simple. As the restaurants competed, each tried to outdo the other. First one restaurant would increase the amount of cream in its Vichyssoise. Then the other would follow and try to out do the other with more cream, back and forth. This went on for the five years that I was there until each was serving what was essentially a bowl of cream instead of Vichyssoise.

In making your own Vichyssoise, remember that despite its elegant name and usual ambiances, it is nothing more than a cold potato soup.

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**U**nder 40 and looking for comrades? **Check out GenY SIG!** We are open to members 18-36, and looking to pull together activities for Ms our age. Pretty sweet, right? Check us out on Facebook at '**Mensa GenY Space Coast!**'

**S**o, it's that time of year again when the signs sprout on every vacant patch of land bigger than a postage stamp, proclaiming the name of candidates for various and sundry offices in letters writ large, hoping that by seeing that name enough times, you will perform a zombie response at the polling place and cast your ballot in their favor. Similarly, the TV ads bombard us with reasons *not* to vote for the despicable opponent who will steal food from your children's mouths, sell your grandmother's heirlooms, and has a nasty haircut.

In other words, it's business as usual.

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard someone say "I'm not really that wild about [fill in name], but I just can't stand [fill in other name], so I'm actually voting against [fill in other name again]," I could retire and not have to write these crummy articles every month to make enough money to buy treats for the dog. Seems nobody is really satisfied with candidates any more, they're just picking the lesser of the evils. The one who will do the least harm.

Wouldn't it be nice if we had candidates who have the best interests of the country at heart despite the fact that it may not be the most popular position to take and that it may not endear them to the voters come next campaign. In fact, that's another big problem: The Professional Politician. Back when, the Founding Fathers never envisioned politics as a profession. Folks were supposed to leave their jobs as farmers or businessmen or whatever and serve their term(s) doing what was best for the country, then return to their jobs having fulfilled their obligation and duty to their country. But now... it's turned into an elite profession where not only are you exempt from the rules you make, but once elected, you're set for life! Especially if you can continue to get re-elected. And that, people, is exactly the goal of the professional politician: getting re-elected. He or she will do anything, say anything, promise anything, to anyone, at any time, if it will increase the chances getting re-elected. And that means lots of pork barrel. Making sure the folks back home get lots of handouts, freebies, and bennies. Even though they might not be warranted, necessary, or even beneficial. As long as it gives the appearance that our duly elected representative is scratching our collective backs. Of course, this is inevitably at the expense of someone else's back. And the other guy's representative is doing the same thing at the expense of our backs. And it goes 'round and 'round with everybody's back getting scratched but nothing getting accomplished.

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## SCAM Calendar of Events for September 2012

**5th - Wednesday 6:00 PM**

### EXCOMM MEETING

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

**7th - 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.*

**15th - Saturday 6:00 PM**

### GAMES NIGHT (FOR ALL AGES)

Wynn Rostek will host a Games Night at his home, 3456 Willis Drive, Titusville. See his column, Page 4, for more...No kitty.

Contact: *Wynn, 267-9391, for more details.*

**15th - Saturday 6:30 PM**

### DINNER AT DAVID'S

Join us at David's Restaurant, 2480 S Washington Ave (US1) in Titusville for just about any kind of dinner, ranging from steak to sushi.

Contact: *Mike Zielinski, 747-0097.*

**29th - 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.*

### 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](mailto:the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com)*

## Membership Notes for September 2012

### WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Donald Sheppard

### WELCOME BACK!

Peter Blythe

Benjamin Traina

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	George Patterson	15th	Ronald Riley
7th	Leah Simpson	17th	Michael Fuller
10th	R. Kent Buchanan	19th	Ralph McKee
12th	Robert Allen	22nd	Paul Siefert
12th	George Meier	27th	Harry Martin Jr.
12th	Janet Mueck	28th	Charles Satchwill
13th	Eric Swiechowksi		

### MENSA TESTING

**Sept. 15** 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 Oct. 20.

**Contact:** Hank Rhodes, [mensatest@cfl.rr.com](mailto: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.**

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So I came up with a hypothesis that I'd like to share with you: Government is not the solution; government is the *problem!* The more we turn to government to solve issues that we should be dealing with ourselves, the more freedom we relinquish and the more difficult it becomes to accomplish anything without Big Brother's seal of approval. More and more, government is seeking to direct the way we think, act, and feel. They are trying to legislate morality, beliefs, and well-being as if they actually know what's best for each and every one of us. Apparently, this is based on the concept that if a few people need something, obviously *everybody* needs it and the government must provide it. Whether most of us want it or not. That way, it's fair.

But the disturbing trend is that the more government tries to fix something, the more broken it seems to get. A classic example is, of course, Prohibition; we all know how well that worked out. A recent example would be the bailout of the mortgage lending industry; more good intentions gone bad. The list goes on and on, yet we never seem to learn the lesson that more government control and intervention usually complicates the problem rather than fixing it. We would be much better served by letting common sense, commerce, and free enterprise take care of these situations.

Okay, I know I'm ranting and all over the place, but just bear with me as I go through one example.

As long as there is a demand for something, someone is going to fill it, that's just common sense in the way our democratic system works. So let me hark back on a subject I've raised before: the so-called War on Drugs. No one will deny that use of what we term controlled substances is not good for you, so please be aware that I am not advocating the use of these substances. However, it is undeniable that whether we approve of them or not, there is a substantial demand for the product. Reputable statistics indicate that making this product illegal neither reduces the demand nor insulates non-users from their adverse effects. On the other hand, by legislating against it, we have incurred untold expense and forced the sale and distribution of the commodity into the hands of (by definition) the criminal element; a lose-lose proposition.

So what would be the effect of de-criminilizing drugs? Again, information from countries that have gone this route show that drug use does *not* increase, the expense of waging the losing battle against its use is saved, and that attendant violent activity formerly associated with the trade is dramati-

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cally reduced. This is an example of letting the marketplace successfully handle a situation rather than failing by trying to legislate it.

Folks, the plain truth is that we are over-governed. We've made life too complicated, too expensive, and too restricted. We've lost basic common sense to the reins of regulation.

And that's why, when you go to the polls this November, I'd like you to consider looking for candidates who represent *less* government. Although it is possible that your Democrat or Republican office-seeker might fit this bill, the likelihood is that your choice (if there is one) will be an Independent or a Libertarian. It's time to break the stranglehold of the two-party system and the restrictions that system places on each and every one of us. If there is no clear-cut choice, at least give some thought to the grassroots movement to oust incumbents and let some fresh blood try a new approach. Otherwise, it's just going to be business as usual.

Look, I used to be a flaming liberal Democrat tree-hugger. It took me more than 40 years to see the error of my ways. And it's not that the Democrats are the problem. Just like it's not the Republicans who are the problem. It's the Democrats *and* the Republicans that are the problem. So rather than just perpetuating the problem, it's time we actually started doing something about it.

Anyhow, FWIW, that's migh too sense.

## *The George*

### **A Mensan in the Workplace?**

**A**re 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*.

**N**ow that, for all intents and purposes, the Primaries are finally behind us, perhaps a few comments are in order. One of the issues brought forth by Obama supporters is Romney's tenure at Bain Capital. There has been ad after ad describing the misery imposed on a great many of the working class by the actions taken by Bain Capital, a company that Romney helped found.

Some believe that the Bain attack ads are unfair. After all, is Bain unique in its practices of taking over businesses and engaging in outsourcing and layoffs in order to extract a profit? We know Bain is not the only business to engage in these practices, and I am reasonably sure it is not the worst offender.

So what, then, is the big deal? According to his supporters, Romney's strong point is his business experience. The argument is that Romney's unquestionable business success qualifies him to become President, especially in this time of economic distress. After all, if, by his efforts through Bain Capital, he has turned around a number of failing businesses, he should be able as our next President to tackle our country's economic woes. Right?

The first point I will make is, that since the Romney campaign has made their candidate's business experience its centerpiece, it is certainly both proper and logical for the opposing campaign to use that same experience to attack Romney. Ironically, both parties agree that Romney's business experience should heavily influence the voter when choosing who will be President for the next four years.

The second, and more important, point is, does Romney's business experience really qualify him to be our next President? Essentially, is running a country the same as running a business? To answer this question, we need to ask two more.

1. What is the objective of a successful business? Profits, of course. Understandably, the owner(s) of the business want to make as much profit as possible. Profits is simply the total money the business takes in (revenue) minus the total expenses paid out to run the business. There are generally two ways to increase profits. One is to increase total revenue (for example, by increasing sales of the product or service); the other is to reduce expenses as much as possible. The latter is the current business model; it certainly has been the model Bain Capital has used in running its business. In general, the few benefit from the many.

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another election is held. I intend to support it, though you, the members, will have the final word. If the AMC approves the plan (and my preliminary nose counting is that the AMC most likely will), then it will be sent to the membership for a vote.

**From the Village Idiot:**

**BAIN...BANE?**

**Continued.**

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2. What is the objective of a successful country? Successful countries are run for the benefit of its citizens. The citizens, as a whole are reasonably prosperous. Effective provisions are available for those among us who cannot take care of themselves. The people who run the country are in their positions, not to profit from the citizens; rather they are there to serve them. Here, the many benefit from the few.

Running a country is NOT the same as running a business. Rather, it would seem the goals of their respective managements would be directly opposite of each other. In summation, Romney's campaign brings forward the very choice we as voters must make in the general election: Do we really want our country to be run like a business? Be careful what you wish for; you may get it.

BOOK FAIR  
**CALLING ALL  
AUTHORS**

The 2012 RG is having a book fair. Mensa authors will have the opportunity to display, discuss, and sell their books to other Mensans. The fair will be held on one day for about three to four hours in a room devoted to the fair. Authors of all genres are welcome; fiction, non-fiction, inspirational, poetry, photography, etc., commercially or self-published. This is your chance to meet your fellow writers.

Please contact me ([a.belefant@ieee.org](mailto:a.belefant@ieee.org)) for more information.

**I**t's September, so it must be time for another discussion about RVC replacement.

To bring everyone up to speed, once upon a time if an RVC did not complete a term, the rest of the AMC would fill the vacancy until the next regular election. About five years ago now, our counsel determined that this violated the law of New York, the state in which Mensa is incorporated. So, as of now, there is no way to fill a vacancy if an RVC dies, resigns, moves out of the region, or otherwise doesn't complete his or her term. If I were to be hit by a truck, Region 10 would simply not have voting representation on the AMC until the next regularly scheduled election. And while the last two terms have been relatively stable in terms of people not leaving, there have been several instances in which RVCs did leave early, including one region that lost two RVCs in a single term.

There have been three different attempts to amend the bylaws to provide for filling an RVC vacancy on the AMC. All three of them received majority support of the members, but none of them received the necessary two-thirds vote needed to amend the bylaws. These attempts included a change that would have had a special election in the affected region (which many felt was too expensive), and a change that would have had the locsecs in a region elect an RVC replacement (which was objected to on various grounds).

At our July meeting in Reno, the RVCs as a group discussed the matter among ourselves, and have agreed on a plan which is being submitted to the AMC at our September meeting. It's not perfect, but given that none of the other alternatives has succeeded, it will at least provide a temporary fix.

The proposal is that if there is an RVC vacancy, the other RVCs will sit down with a map and temporarily assign responsibility for the region to other RVCs. So, for example, if I were no longer in the picture, part of Florida might temporarily be assigned to Region 5 (Bob Cox) and part of it might be assigned to Region 6 (Roger Durham). Members who live in Florida would then have Bob or Roger as their voting representative on the AMC and would be able to contact Bob or Roger about anything of concern to them. Bob and Roger would have administrative responsibility for Region 10, just as I do now. And, at the next regular election, Region 10 would elect an RVC as it normally does, and would go back to having the same geographic boundaries it normally does.

Like I said, it's not perfect, but it has the benefit of allowing the members in the affected region to have someone to look to for regional leadership until

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**Minutes of the August SCAM ExComm Meeting**

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, called to order at 6:07 pm.

**Members Present:** Karen Freiberg, Wynn Rostek, Terry Valek, Dennis Logan and George Lebovitz.

**Guests:** Zanne Rostek (*as usual, waiting for the RG Committee meeting which was to follow*).

Short and sweet.

**Officer/Committee Reports** (details may be found in the footnotes):

Treasurer's report<sup>1</sup>.

Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email<sup>2</sup>.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm. and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

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1. General Fund: \$678.11, RG Fund: \$1,560.00, Reserve Fund: \$1,807.01, Total Assets: \$4,045.12.

2. Contacted 2 candidates for the first time, 9 candidates for the second or third time; tested 2. Next test session is August 18, 2012 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

*George*