

The

SCAM

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The RG to
END
All RGs
This Month

Featured Article:

Must you work to JUSTIFY your life??? (See Page 12).



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

Please don't tell me....It's October already and you have not yet registered for *SCAMFest*??? Could this be true? What is *SCAMFest*, you may ask? It is only the moment you've all been waiting for ... the RG to END all RGs.

However, all is not lost. As luck would have it, you can still register. The Comfort Inn in Cocoa Beach is still offering room discounts that might not always exist this close to the event. So, opportunity still knocks. There is still time. Honestly, do you REALLY want to miss out? With December 21st drawing ever nigh, this may not only be the best RG ever, it may also be the LAST one.

In other business, you may wish to read the LocSec column on the next page before returning to this message. I believe Wynn raises a very important question: Is the printed newsletter obsolete? It is hardly news that there are faster, more efficient ways to get the word out for an upcoming event that to rely on a monthly print publication such as this one. This is especially true if someone organizes an impromptu gathering.

The main reason for a local group newsletter' existence is to serve as a calendar of events and a record of a local group's official proceedings. Almost all of the other material is strictly optional. So, you may wish to drop a line to Wynn and let him know what *you* think. What do you expect from *The SCAM*? Could these expectations be fulfilled in a more effective manner? You be the judge.

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.

October is upon us. A few hardy (*or foolish*) souls are working hard to put on a Regional Gathering for SCAM. You may have noticed some mention of this event in a local publication. (*hint, hint*) While I understand that in today's high-pressure work environment not everyone has the freedom to take a weekend off and party in a local hotel, I am sure that many of you could swing doing Saturday at the RG. If you've never been to a Regional Gathering before please consider testing the waters by spending a day at an event right in your own back yard.

I am very surprised at the high response rate I've gotten when I've emailed individuals about events that we're hosting. Is the newsletter really that ineffective in getting the word out, or is it the personal invitation that makes the difference? Let me know your thoughts and feelings on the matter. It is a little more trouble to send individual invitations, but it is certainly worth the effort if that's what people prefer.

And speaking of what people prefer, now's your chance to suggest an event you'd like to see. Once the holiday crush is over, the calendar is open, so speak up and get your wish.

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) for more information.

Of all the kitchen utensils, knives may be the most important. They may also be the oldest. Knives were used by our ancient ancestors, made of flint, horn, or obsidian before metal was discovered. The use of knives is strictly human, even our closest tool-making animal relatives do not use knives.

What kitchen could exist without knives? Pots are not universally necessary. Foods can be eaten raw, cooked in ovens or on skewers, or pickled in vats. Utensils for eating may be superfluous. In many cultures food is eaten with only the hands. Measurements can be made by eye and feel rather than with scales and gauges. All the kitchen gadgets sold in gourmet stores could be dispensed with. Many are just specialized knives.

Knives are so indispensable that when professional cooks move from kitchen to kitchen they usually take only their favorite knife with them. And that knife is a chef's or cook's knife.

Any discussion of kitchen knives must begin with that ubiquitous instrument, the cook's knife. It is hard to imagine a kitchen anywhere in the western culture without a cook's knife, perhaps two or more, so that's where we will start.

What is a cook's knife? The basic knife is six to 14 inches long, 1-1/2 to three inches wide, and roughly triangular in shape. I have two cooks' knives, one 9-1/2 inches long and 1-3/4 inches wide. The knife was ten inches long when I bought it, but through years of use and sharpening and reshaping both the length and the width have been reduced. The other is 12 inches long and 2-1/4 inches wide. Two shapes predominate in the design of a cook's knife. Although both are basically triangular, both the top and the cutting edge are curved. The German pattern has a more rounded cutting edge than the French pattern.

Most knives sold in the U. S. are of the German pattern. The German pattern, because of its greater curvature, facilitates a rocking motion when cutting and chopping. The French pattern, usually thinner and lighter than the German pattern, is more easily and deftly manipulated and more suitable for slicing and other uses. In choosing a knife, it is best to first try both patterns, as one may be more suitable for your use than the



French knife

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other.

In addition to the length and pattern, a knife buyer should also look at the width. Knives of any length can be purchased in various widths. The wider the blade, the heavier the knife. A wider blade will give you more knuckle room under the handle. It is awkward and uncomfortable to use a cook's knife with insufficient knuckle room.

You will probably opt for a stainless steel knife although carbon steel knives are still available. When I purchased my knives, no self-respecting cook would use a stainless steel knife. Since then stainless steels for knives have improved so much that some very decent blades are made of stainless steel. Yet there still are some who insist upon carbon steel. Carbon steel will rust, pit, and discolor with use, particularly in this location near the ocean. There is no way carbon steel knife will polish up to look as bright as stainless steel, and it will require more maintenance. It must be wiped off after each use and a film of oil should be put on it before putting it away. However, if the appearance of the knife does not bother you, you may want to look into carbon steel. It does sharpen better than stainless steel. A razor sharpness literally can be achieved. When I sharpen mine, I test it by shaving the hair on the back of my hand.

I have both carbon steel and stainless steel knives. Most of my stainless steel knives are of the utility variety, they don't sharpen up very well, but for occasional use, I use them and throw them in the dishwasher. I also have a set of three Japanese stainless steel knives that can be sharpened adequately. For heavy duty use, I have two carbon steel knives, both of the French chef's style.



German knife

Under 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'**!

Ready for Fun to the Mth Degree? Join Ms from near and far at SCAM's biennial Regional Gathering Oct. 26-28 at the Comfort Inn and Suites Cocoa Beach.

SCAMFest includes speakers, games, media room, hospitality room, our famous Saturday night Costume Contest and Sunday awards brunch. But wait...there's more. Did we mention that *all* meals are included with your registration?

To register for the weekend, go to the SCAM RG website www.scam.us.mensa.org/rg/index.html or contact 'Zanne Rostek, RG Registrar, at 321-698-0675 or zanne3333@yahoo.com. Rooms are still available at the discounted rate.

If you can't spend the entire weekend with us on the beach, enjoy Saturday for only \$45 per person (payable at the RG). Call 'Zanne or or drop her an e-mail if you plan to join us for the day.

Check the Space Coast Area Mensa Facebook page for RG updates. See you there!

SCAM Calendar of Events for October 2012

3rd - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

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

5th - 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.*

26th - 28th 6:00 PM

SCAM RG

Join us at the SCAMFest RG to end all RGs at the Comfort Inn in Cocoa Beach. You may register online: www.scam.us.mensa.org/rg/index.html

Contact: *'Zanne, 698-0675, for more details.*

27th - 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.*

Your Event Here!

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

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

Of 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 October 2012

WELCOME TO SCAM

Sean Jodoin

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

James Conaway II

Kip Houghton

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	James Staal	17th	Rudolph Hardick
4th	Robert Barber	18th	Christopher Kalil
5th	Joshua Justice	19th	Dorota Woodbury
8th	Rex Repich	23rd	Barbara Byrnes
8th	Christopher Buccieri	27th	Maximo Salinas
9th	Philip Devlin	30th	Chris Muir
14th	Frank Tremaine	31st	Colette Zahm

MENSA TESTING

Oct. 20 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 Nov. 17.

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.

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Check the Space Coast Area Mensa Facebook page for RG updates. See you there!

In last month's SCAM you decried Romney's experience at Bain as being irrelevant to running this country. You state that the objective of a successful company is profits, which is true. You cannot deny that Bain was successful and ran it successfully for the benefit of the company, it made money. You ignore the fact that Romney also ran the 2002 Winter Olympics. Profit was not the objective of the Winter Olympics. You cannot deny that Romney ran the winter Olympics successfully for the benefit of the Olympics. Therefore the presumption is that Romney will run any endeavor for the success of that endeavor and its objectives.

You ask what are the objectives of a successful country. Our incumbent has had almost four years in charge of this country. During this period our national debt soared, there is an ongoing recession, our taxes increased, our health care system imploded, a law was passed that no congressman read, gasoline prices ballooned, inflation increased, government expenditures rose, banks failed, foreclosures went out of hand, bankruptcies were excessive, unemployment unchanged, bureaucracies and their regulations increased, the number of federal employees increased, our creditability overseas declined, and trust in the government is at an all-time low. Don't you think it is time to let a successful businessman head up this country rather than an obviously failed politician ?

Art Belefant

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*.

“Work isn’t to make money. You work to justify life.”

—Sign in front of a local church in Melbourne, seen by Author 9-3-12.

Nearly a month has come and gone since we celebrated Labor Day 2012. It was on that day that I noticed two signs on the Labor Day theme. One was in front of a local charter flight business, which read, *“Be productive, it’s Labor Day.”* Judging by numerous other messages displayed over time by that business, I concluded the sign was merely an attempt at humor. As such, I did not attach any significance to that message.

The other sign that I have quoted above, however, is quite a different story. This particular church, like countless other churches, often posts messages on its sign both to attract the reader’s attention and to inspire him or her in some way. It was evident to me the author of that message meant what he was saying. This brings forth the issue I have with his message.

Prior to discussing my issue, it would be appropriate to state the following. First, in the context of the church sign, *“work”* as used therein is employment-related, regardless of whether one is self-employed or is employed by someone else. Second, I understand and accept that, for most of us, work is a necessity of life. As such, this is not the issue here.

In the context of the sign, my dictionary defines *“work”* as: *“to perform work or fulfill duties regularly for wages or salary.”* Contrary to the first statement, then, *“work”* by its very definition IS to make money, rendering the first statement incorrect.

The same dictionary defines *“justify”* as: *“to show to have had a sufficient legal reason.”* Examining the church’s second statement, my question becomes: If I am not working, is my life not justified? Put another way, if I stop working, then I have no legal reason sufficient to keep living my life? If such is the case, would society have the right – *even the duty* – to end my life?

This brings to my mind two general classes of people. Please note I am only considering adults here. The first class consists of those who cannot work. It includes those who are physically and/or mentally disabled to the point they cannot perform any meaningful work. Does the author of that message suggest that we as a society should systematically eliminate such people? I sincerely hope not.

This brings us to the second class of people. In contrast to the first class,

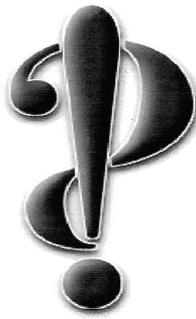
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volved changing our bylaws to conform to state law or to our actual practice; both passed with little discussion and no opposition. They will be on next year's ballot. The RVC replacement provision that I discussed in last month's column passed, though not without opposition.

Until next month.

Mel Dahl



From the Village Idiot:

WRONG MESSAGE

Continued.

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these are very fortunate souls indeed. They do not need to work, as they already have enough resources to take care of their life needs. One example might be an heir to a multimillionaire's estate. Somehow, I would find it difficult at best that our society would advocate ending such a person's life because he does not work. After all, an independently wealthy person may well be a major donor to a church such as the one with this sign. Moreover, the truth is, in our society we actually worship our wealthiest citizens.

So ... What is the true message on that sign?

Source for Definitions:

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Inc., 1989.

First of all, I want to congratulate the publication recognition program finalists; that is the awards program for outstanding local groups publications and Web sites. The winners will not be announced for another month, but Tampa Bay (*Ronan Heffernan, editor*) and Broward County (*Jason Knight, editor*) are award finalists for both their newsletters and their Web sites, and Tampa Bay is also a finalist for its calendar. So, congratulations to those two groups.

I have just returned from the September AMC meeting in Dallas. For those of you who have always wondered what we do at AMC meetings, here are the highlights of what we discussed:

We had a presentation about the LocSec leadership development session held at the Reno AG. Overall, it was a positive experience; the locsecs who attended said they considered it valuable. There was some discussion about expending it to include local group treasurers and possibly utilizing RVCs more. Some specific changes will be made to the program based on the experience in Reno and it will be continued.

We have a strategic plan in place for the long-term growth of American Mensa. Since it is a couple of years old, we went over it line by line to talk about what should be kept and what should be rewritten. Several sections of it are going to be re-written, either because it's not strategic, is duplicative of stuff that appears elsewhere, or is not a well-written statement of our vision and goals. There will be more on this at our meeting in December. It is available on our Web site if anyone wants to review it, or I can send a copy to anyone who is interested.

An evaluation that has been done on all of the services and programs that we offer, with an eye to determining which of them have outlived their usefulness, which are not needed, and which should be reconstructed. The national office will have specific recommendations to make at the December meeting.

We took up a motion to put on next year's election ballot a proposal to amend the bylaws so that there would be a way for members to recall RVCs; at the present time, there is no such provision and no way to remove an RVC for cause. There were AMC members on both sides of the issue with strong feelings about it. In the end, it received a majority of AMC votes but not the necessary 2/3 majority to put it on the ballot for the next election. I voted yes.

We then took up a couple of housekeeping provisions that mostly in-

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Minutes of the September SCAM ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 on Wednesday, September 5th, called to order at 6:05 pm.

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

Guests: Zanne Rostek and George Patterson.

The August minutes as published in the September, 2012 issue of the SCAM were approved.

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

*Treasurer's report*¹.

*Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email*².

Prior to the meeting, there was a good bit of informal chatting and exchange of paper (that's what we used to call hardcopy, young people) which continued on after the meeting was officially called to order.

Julie Clark, from national, provided a breakdown of support money to SCAM.

George P. mentioned that he still receives quite a bit of LocSec information that Wynn should be getting.

We all watched as Treasurer Dennis Logan wrote a check to George P. to reimburse him for a mailing.

Wynn reminded us that there will be a kid-friendly game event on September 11th, however by the time you read this, the event will have already happened, therefore it is noted only for completeness and accuracy.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 3rd^h, 2012, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm. and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

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1. General Fund: \$909.61, RG Fund: \$1,560.00, Reserve Fund: \$1,807.09, Total Assets: \$4,276.70.
 2. Contacted 5 candidates for the first time, 6 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session is September 15, 2012 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

George