

The

# SCAM

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Meet our NEW ExComm:

Karen Freiberg

George Lebovitz

Dennis Logan

Wynn Rostek

Terry Valek

Congratulations to All.



# ***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 is June, which marks the end of a hardly fought ExComm campaign and the beginning of yet another hurricane season. More significantly, however, is since my last column, I have received several e-mailed comments (one by snail mail, too) from some of our members. While the comments were favorable, I was not fishing for praise. Constructive criticism is equally welcome.

I would also note that last month's column was not intended as an exercise in self-pity on my part; rather it was to express my sentiments directed toward the apparent apathy that I find that we, as many other groups that rely on volunteers to survive, all too often experience.

However, in reading these comments, I find there is another perspective as well. At age 58, I do not feel as young and energetic as I once did. I believe most of you reading this can readily understand my perspective. Ironically, however, I find that, at my age, I am one of the *younger* members of SCAM.

The author of one of the comments I received lamented that he is unable to attend our functions due to his failing health. His only connection to our group is *The SCAM*. I am sure he is not alone. Moreover, I believe there are also some in our number who are caregivers for a loved one who is no longer able to care for him/herself. They, too, may find it virtually impossible to be active in our group.

Perhaps it is time that we reach out to our fellow SCAM members who find themselves in these circumstances. Given our demographics, it may be necessary for the vitality of our group. *Your thoughts?*

***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.

**T**his being my birth month and with my interest in science and mathematics, I thought it appropriate to mention a person whom I admire who was also born in June. He would have celebrated his '101' birthday this month.

Alan Turing was born June 23, 1912 in Paddington, London. He received a Ph.D. in logic and number theory while at Princeton, New Jersey and performed fundamental work in breaking the German U-Boat cryptographic code used by the machine named the "Enigma". He thereby helped the Allies win the battle for the Atlantic Ocean and probably saved the lives of countless numbers of sailors and soldiers. As a gifted mathematician, his contributions to the fields of neural nets, artificial intelligence (many have heard of the 'Turing Test'), computer and software design are well documented and told about in numerous science history books and biographies. No short essay could do justice to this remarkable mathematician and his work in the fields of math and computer science. A good book about his life and work is *Alan Turing: The Enigma*, by Andrew Hodges (1983).

Turing was arrested as a homosexual in 1954 and had his security clearance taken. He was subjected to injections by the British government that induced chemical castration to 'treat' him for his 'condition'. Probably as a result of this treatment and his psychological stress, he committed suicide by eating a cyanide-laced apple. As Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in September, 2009: "... a quiet brilliant mathematician...whose unique contribution helped to turn the tide of war.. horrifying that he was treated so inhumanely."

Speaking of Artificial Intelligence or A.I. (not the kind that currently exists in our Federal government), the Turing test of parlor questioning may be satisfied soon. *Wired* magazine had an article a few years back that quoted a cognitive scientist named Robert French who believed two revolutionary advances of information technology could help. The first is the ready availability of huge amounts of raw data. The second was the sophisticated techniques for collecting, organizing, and processing that data. Both have become very important realms of research and commercialization.

In the late 1980's the Turing test had been somewhat ignored as a research goal. It does survive in the annual Loebner prize\* for realistic chatbots. But the test did spawn the themes of modern cognition and A.I.: calculating probabilities and producing complex activity from the interaction of several simple processes. These helped form the basis of development of such creations as autonomous cars, Google searches, automated language translations, and the IBM Watson program of *Jeopardy*. These instances may appear limited in scope, but who can say where they may lead to in the future. With the improvements in

*(Continued on page 14)*

**M**any ethnic cuisines include soups with eggs in them. For Americans, the most recognizable is the egg-drop soup served in Chinese restaurants in America. The following is a recipe for that classic.

Chinese-American egg-drop soup:

**Ingredients**

- 4 cups chicken broth, divided
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg yolk

**Directions**

Mix 1 cup of chicken broth with the cornstarch until smooth. Stir the salt and chives into a saucepan with the rest of the chicken broth and bring to a rolling boil. In a small bowl, beat the eggs lightly. Dribble the beaten eggs a little at a time into the boiling broth mixture. The eggs will cook immediately. Once the eggs have been dropped, stir in the cornstarch mixture gradually until the soup is the desired consistency. The recipe is simple, and innumerable variations exist.

In addition to the ubiquitous Chinese-American egg-drop soup, there are these other soups using eggs.

**Chinese**

**Egg tong sui** - Cantonese

Essentially a sweet version of egg-drop soup. It is considered a more traditional and home-style dish in Hong Kong and China, since it is rarely, if ever, served at any restaurant.

**Corn crab soup** - Of southern Chinese origin. The soup is made with creamed corn with egg white and crab meat added.

**Austrian** - *Eierflockensuppe*

The traditional recipe is generally made for very young children or sick people. Scrambled eggs are mixed with flour and then poured into boiling soup in order to make small egg dumplings. Spices can be added to the egg-flour mixture according to taste.

**French** - *le Tourin*

A garlic soup made with egg whites which are drizzled into the soup.

*(Continued on page 7)*

**M**y wife and I had stopped at a McDonalds for a short rest and a cup of coffee. We had been riding our Harley in the Sunshine state while realizing and appreciating just how lucky we were to be out of the sleet and snow of Michigan.

We were dismounting when suddenly a sizeable gang of motorcycle riders entered the parking lot. Many were riding trikes and their faded colors (club vests) looked like---

“Holy stinkin’ Oldies Bat-lady, is that the Hells Angels? Let’s get out of here

before they start slinging lead.”

Hells Angels are some very, very bad dudes and I had heard that they would shoot someone just for laughs.

I shivered a bit remembering the first time, way back when, I had encountered Angels in San Francisco while waiting to board a ship. The very first thing one noticed was the smell; an overpowering feces and urine smell that was enough to cause an olfactory to close its doors permanently. They supposedly urinated on each other and were not allowed to change clothes for weeks, if at all. And, beer and dope money was not wasted on toilet paper.

As if the smell was not enough, they exhibited the most outrageous and disgusting behavior possible that was designed to shock ones nervous system like; sticking a wet finger into a light socket or seeing octogenarians still performing on poles in the Florida nightclubs. It took a clever mind to come up with new ways to shock and intimidate people and, there seemed to be no limit to what Sonny Barger, their leader, would do to exact fear, awe and disbelief in anyone within sight or smelling distance.

I didn’t want my dear wife to be exposed to this kind of madness and was ready to remount ---but wait,---what the?---

That doesn’t say Hells Angels, it says---‘Hall’s Bagels’.

*Phewww!* Not an outlaw motorcycle club but more likely a bowling team or a troupe of shuffleboard ringers looking for a likely target. And all of them---gray—no, no, white. After all, this is Barefoot Bay where the average age is in triple digits.

What an idiot I was to even think---

A man very slowly dismounted and even more slowly raised his arm as if to karate chop his companion’s arm completely off then, ever so slowly it fell back

*(Continued on page 7)*

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*(Continued from page 6)*

to his side. It seemed he was either kick starting his circulatory system or had completely forgotten why he had raised his arm in the first place.

I was thinking that if push came to shove that I might be able to take this old dude. Yeah! I was pretty sure but,--what if he's packing and what about the rest of the codgers? I inhaled and puffed out my chest to look as menacing as possible, just in case he looked my way. But no; he appeared to be in deep distress.

I exhaled with a comforting sigh of relief when suddenly that old familiar smell hit me.

Maybe they were Angels after all with a few years tacked on and different colors to hide their true identity. There was just no mistaking that smell. It was urine and it was strong.

I was sure I could outrun these codgers if necessary, even with my titanium knees and strict instructions to never run but, my cardio and osteo doctors had been woefully lacking when they designed my bionic body without bullet protection. They obviously never considered hot lead from an irate Angel's pistol.

I was ready to hit the start button and, not being any nosier than usual, I heard "D.O.—D.O."

*(Continued on page 8)*

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<b>THE GOURMET'S GUIDE</b>
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**Continued**

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*(Continued from page 5)*

**Greek - Avgo lemino**

This is the traditional Greek soup, almost as well known in the U. S. as Chinese egg-drop soup.

**Recipe:**

Mix lemon juice with beaten eggs before dropping it into chicken stock prepared with onions and celery.

**German - Buillion mit eier**

An egg is dropped unbeaten into a hot beef broth. The egg poaches on the way from the kitchen to the table.

**Italian - stracciatella**

Eggs are cracked open with the yolk and egg whites poured directly into a sugar sweetened boiling chicken stock without any pre-mixing. Parmesan cheese is then added.

*(Continued from page 7)*

Now what could that possibly mean? Did he mean 'O.D.'? Angels were notorious for doing and selling drugs. Were they just old druggies hooked on Vicadin, Simvastatin and Plavix? Had they only stopped for their daily fix?

They were very old and old folks do get confused.

Then, and I swear, I was not being particularly nosy, I heard "Depends".

It hit me like a one ton blivet dropped from a 65 foot high Banyan tree.

It was I who had been totally confused. I slammed my open palm into my forehead to re-orient my gray cells. How could I be such an idiot?

'O' was not overdose but 'overload'. I was quickly getting inured which meant, get out! Get out quick! It could be contagious.

This was Florida where 'feces and urine happens' and not always at appointed times but, if it was catching, I was not in a catchy mood.

I controlled a slight feeling of empathy that, under different circumstances, I might have expressed but now was no time to think of someone else's dis-functioning facilities.

We had other codgers to elbow and fight in Florida's mad, endless melees. There were bazaars, yard sales, porch sales and whole neighborhood sales just waiting and if we didn't hurry we could very well miss the bargains of the day.

I could envision an almost new Cuisinart shredder or a slightly used tee shirt with a witty saying just waiting for me but I must hurry.

So, out of the way you trike-riding, shuffleboard pushing, Angel look-alike codgers!

Florida had claimed me and it was time to ride into the wind, the gloriously warm Florida wind.

—TC



**B**aby steps, but progress is being made. George L. has agreed to become our group's Gifted Youth Coordinator. He is undergoing the background check and knows where to get the online training.

Being more of a leader than a boss, yesterday (May 4<sup>th</sup>) I filled out and submitted the background check form for national, and I took the online training.

I wanted the group to have two people that were vetted and trained to handle interactions with our young members.

It will be a few weeks before we have the results, but I don't foresee any problems. This is an area that has needed work for many years, and I am very thankful that George L. has stepped up to the plate.

The 18<sup>th</sup> of May, we will hold a vote count to see what the makeup of the ExComm is going to be. Thanks to all the members who took the time to vote.

And speaking of voting, have you voted in the national Mensa election? I used the online voting option this year, and it was quick and painless. Give it a try. All the information needed is in the election packet you received from national.

I also voted in the international Mensa election. This required filling out a paper ballot and recording a small amount of information on the envelope. While not as quick or easy as voting in the national election, it was still fairly simple.

I firmly believe that if you don't bother to vote, you really don't have any grounds for complaining about the state of Mensa. If you vote, you have every right to be quite vocal about any shortcomings you perceive. Be an active member, and vote in our elections.

**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'**!

# JUNE 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1  
GO!

2  
3  
C.A.B.A.G.E.  
8  
GO!



9  
10  
C.A.B.A.G.E.  
15  
GO!



16  
17  
C.A.B.A.G.E.  
22  
GO!



23  
24  
C.A.B.A.G.E.  
29  
GO!



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## SCAM Calendar of Events for June 2013

### 5th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

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

### MENSA TESTING

**June 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 July 20.

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

### 7th - Friday 5:30 PM

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.

### FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

### 29th - Saturday 5:45 PM

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at a soon-to-be announced venue. Our long-time location, Miyako's, is now out of business, so we are in the process of finding a new place.

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

### S.N.O.R.I.

### Calendar Updates

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit [spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org) and click on "Calendar".

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

### Of CABBAGES 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 the Space Coast Area GO Association.  
1 p.m. Host: George Lebovitz,  
[the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com](mailto:the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com)

## Membership Notes for June 2013

### *WELCOME TO SCAM*

Christopher Dodd

### *WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA*

Richard Carlton

### *IN MEMORIAM*

Greer Maeder

### *JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS*

<i>2nd</i>	Bill Emmons	<i>20th</i>	Thomas Moor
<i>3rd</i>	Stacy Strickland	<i>24th</i>	Sam Kirschten
<i>8th</i>	Robert Ruhge	<i>24th</i>	Christopher Moss
<i>17th</i>	Jane Williams	<i>26th</i>	Judith Wiksten
<i>17th</i>	Art Belefant	<i>26th</i>	Kenneth Morris



### ***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.**

Since "Time Immemorial", Space Coast Mensans have held a dining event entitled S.N.O.R.T. on the last Saturday of every month, at a Japanese restaurant, recently, Miyakos, now defunct. The acronym denotes Saturday Night of the Round Table, and as best my memory serves me, this has been explained to SCAM readers at least a half a dozen times over the last twenty or so years. So I'll be brief and not bother to check the details. It celebrated putting the newsletter to bed each month. The oldest newsletter in my collection, from 1997, shows Miyakos to be the place.

Now with the demise of Miyakos, we arrive a critical point in the evolution of this event. A core of regulars are interested in carrying on the last Saturday dining event, and for the time being, aiming for a Japanese, or at least Oriental style restaurant. The sushi habit has been implanted. Since Barbara and I are in this core I shall refer to the core as "we", and we have not yet hit on a new place to be a permanent home for SNORT. We would like to continue calling it SNORT, and I, with the task of emailing event reminders, and the frequent need to type S.N.O.R.T., think it is about time we dropped the periods in the name. As a pronounceable acronym, (*that being a redundancy*) the periods are unnecessary and unwanted (*by me*).

In April we dined at Hioki's, a Japanese restaurant about a mile south of Miyakos' old location, and were quite happy with it. We scheduled the May dinner for the same location. But as you may have noticed, this is the June issue of the newsletter and we don't yet know where we will be meeting in June. The May newsletter still designated Miyakos because we didn't know at press time where we would be in May and didn't tell our editor that Miyakos was out. We have not yet decided whether we want a fixed, permanent location or we want to try different places for a while.

This presents a problem of notification. If we don't decide on a location for the next meeting in time for the newsletter deadline we shall have to depend on the online calendar, which should have the correct information, and my email reminders. Perhaps we will redesignate the round table as a rotating table, a rambling table, or a roving table. If you have not received occasional email reminders of Mensa events, it is because you have withheld your email address from the national office and it does not appear in the monthly roster. If you want these reminders, let me know your email address. *Stay tuned for further developments...*

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both of Dr. French's two requirements for advancing A.I., we may be further along than we imagine.

As Mensa members, we are probably what they say 'cautiously optimistic'. Are large volumes of data to be the source of building a flexible and competent intelligence? I tend to think (*as some do*) that to be 'flexibly competent' while handling large amount of data requires that you have some sort of motivation and have curiosity and drives. Have an awareness as to your surrounding and appreciate what you know relates to everything else you are experiencing. Be able to sort out what is important to you and others. Some would say you could program that into A.I., but would it really be the same thing? Maybe not, since an A.I. may be a NEW type of intelligence that does not necessarily operate within the confines of what WE think intelligence should be and what is to be considered important. That probably ties back to the angst created by cult characters such as HAL, COLOSSUS, Terminator movies, and the real life 'Deep Blue' and 'Watson'.

I do think that if Alan Turing were alive today, he would be fascinated with how far we had come and would be anxious to get involved with the research himself. Of course, he may have some fear about just exactly where it might lead us as well. Especially if that sort of 'intelligence' decided that the human variety had not been very compassionate in its treatment towards its own kind or other life forms.

*\*The Loebner Prize is an annual competition in A.I. to find the chatbot considered by judges to be the most human-like. The format of the competition is based on the Turing test, A human judge conducts conversations, via a computer keyboard, with a computer program and with a human being. Based on the responses, the judges decide which is which during the competition and the judges rank each of their conversation partners from most human-like to least human-like (... guess somewhat like single women judge their blind dates on social networks....). The computer program with the highest average ranking wins the competition and is awarded a medal and a cash prize. The prize was created in 1990 by Dr. Hugh Loebner in collaboration with the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies in Massachusetts, in order to encourage advances in human-computer conversation.....an important topic in A.I.*

### **References:**

"Dusting off the Turing Test" by Robert M. French. *Science*, Vol. 336 No. 6088, April 13, 2012.

"Beyond Turing's Machines" by Andrew Hodges. *Science*, Vol. 336 No. 6088, April 13, 2012.

"Turing: we were inhumane" by Caroline Davies. *The Guardian*, September 10, 2009.

**I**t is a tool. Strip out the emotional factors. Go to basics.

Hunter's rifles are a method of food gathering. Birds, deer, snakes, whatever will fit in the pot. When a person is hungry a rat is good fare. These are the honest folks who feed their families.

The professional criminal uses a gun as a method of coercion. With it he obtains money, food, clothing, gold, whatever he can get. Most prefer not to use it.

The soldier is trained to kill the enemy. That's his job. He is there to protect the folks back home and cannot be emotional.

Then there are the crazies.

These range from serial killers, kids who want the thrill of watching someone die and worst of all the power mad dictators. The latter are the worst of all.

Dictators start as politicians that have a charisma with a false message. It sounds good, but when carefully analyzed it takes liberty from people and makes them serfs. In every case they need some kind of disaster to preach their false doctrine. Disarming the honest population is one of the first steps. Then they have all the guns. That is their power.

In the old West everyone had a gun. It was a necessary tool. We only hear about the few outlaws who made their living stealing from the unarmed.

The Los Angeles Times reported gun fatalities dropped 39% from 1993 to 2011. Non-gun fatalities were down 69%. In the non-fatal group less than 1% had a firearm for protection.

Each time there has been a new gun control law passed it has been abused by the ATF (*Alcohol and Firearm*) of the Federal Government. Congress passed a Safe Passage Bill that allows those with a firearm to pass from territory to territory (state to state) with a non-loaded gun in a separate part of the car. If there is no such compartment it must be in a locked container. They are allowed to stop for food and gas.

If guns killed people how come no one is killed at gun shows? It is the crazies that should not be allowed to have firearms, even knives. This is where the emphasis should be.

The U.S. Constitution wants us to have guns to protect us from the crazies in government. The 2nd Amendment is clear, "A well-regulated militia (the people) being the best security of a free state (*country*) the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

## SCAM Treasurer's Report

April 30,  
2013

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$706.65
Post Office Account	0.00
Reserve Fund	1607.67
RG Fund	533.24
<b><u>Total Funds Available:</u></b>	<b>\$2847.56</b>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	
Previous Balance	\$437.15
Mensa Funding	184.23
Service Fee	(25.00)
Service Fee Refunded	25.00
Printing	(164.73)
Transfer from RG	250.00
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b>\$706.65</b>
<b><u>RG Transactions</u></b>	
Previous Balance	\$830.74
Transfer to General	(250.00)
RG Expense	(47.50)
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b>\$533.24</b>
<b><u>Reserve Fund</u></b>	
Previous Balance	\$1607.60
Interest	0.07
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b>\$1607.67</b>



I've had this wonderful story to tell you, my faithful readers (*and I have this horrible sinking sensation that it is you two over there amongst the fallen palm fronds doing I-don't-want-to-know-what with that three-legged llama*), but I'm having a severe problem getting it out of my brian and down my fingers to the keyboard. Went to see the brian doctor and he told me I have a case of what's called writer's cramps where the neurons refuse to transmit data and, instead, go on coffee break. So I asked him what is the cure and he told me I needed a brian transplant.

Fortunately, I found this place on the internet, Brian Change Cheep, that guarantees that my new brian will be functioning perfectly after a brief break-in period of not less than 4 days and probably less than 17 years. Alls I have to do is book passage to Belek Turkmenskiy at the far eastern end of Turnkmenbashi Gulf, then arrange transport 687 miles to Turkmenabat, to the world famous

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**The Last Minute**

**Continued**

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*(Continued from page 19)*

do the mailouts. Saving \$200 annually is better than being spit in the eye by an enraged llama, so George P will investigate the matter further.

The vote count for election of members to the ExComm will take place on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 yadda, yadda, yadda at 6:00 pm. Knowing that this is hardly incentive for anyone to participate, note that there will also be a pot luck dinner!

Note to ExComm: We neglected to approve the April minutes. Not that anyone really cares...

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

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1. General Fund: \$706.65, RG Fund: \$533.24, Reserve Fund: \$1,607.67, Total Assets: \$2,847.56.

2. Contacted 4 candidates for the first time, 23 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session will be Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

**T**he time has come for all good things to come to an end, and that includes the privilege of having been your RVC for the past four years. Thank you for the trust you placed in me in allowing me to serve you. It has been a great experience. I've learned a lot; I've loved meeting members and attending events; and I've enjoyed being able to help people and groups with issues as they have arisen.

Overall, the region is in good shape, and I'm sure Thomas Thomas will make it even better. He has superb local group leaders to work with, and one thing I have learned is that it is local group leaders who truly make Mensa a great place for its members. An RVC can only do so much; it's the local leaders who determine whether members will keep coming back or not. And Region 10 has some of the finest leaders I've ever been privileged to work with.

If anyone needs anything that I can help with, please feel free to let me know, even after I leave office. I will look forward to seeing you at RGs and other local group events. Thanks, one and all, for all that you do.

*Mel Dahl*

**MY SUMMER VACATION*****Continued***

*(Continued from page 17)*

Tachmukhammet Brian Hospital and Llama Grooming Center.

My travel agent is trying to find me a freighter which will allow me to stay in one of the cargo containers for the crossing, then I can arrange the interior travel on one of the infrequent camel caravans that brave the dangerous passage through the Turan Lowland.

*Wish me luck!*

*The George*

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:14 pm.

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

**Guests:** George Patterson and Zanne Rostek.

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

**Treasurer's Report**<sup>1</sup>. The ExComm discussed and agreed to close the RG account (this is grammatically awkward, but I couldn't figure out a way to re-word it tersely which is now a moot point since this parenthetical comment is far longer than had I just taken the time to word the statement properly in the first place – oh well!) since it has a requirement to maintain a minimum \$500 balance to avoid a fee. It will be integrated into the General Fund.

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

After the Treasurer's report, George P interjected "Speaking of money..." and proceeded to tell us about "The Big Shot," a book he is reading about the cause of the market crash in 2007-2008. What this had to do with the SCAM treasury report, I have no idea.

The ExComm elections are coming! The ExComm elections are coming! Not that anyone really cares. Fortunately, there is a high probability that the sitting members will volunteer to sit again. Just because we're Mensans, doesn't mean we're smart.

The proposed new format for the calendar in the SCAM was discussed extensively with the consensus being that we didn't like it. (*Señor Editor: Please note that we love you dearly and appreciate your tireless, thankless efforts.*) Rather than relate the tedious discussion which ensued, suffice it to say that George P was tasked with contacting Meister Moakley and conveying our concerns and suggestions.

George L will become the official SCAM Gifted Youth Coordinator (GYC) by submitting a background check and taking a training course. In order to qualify to receive the Young Mensan report as well, LocSec Wynn Rostek (*who is looking much better these days*) will also complete this protocol.

George P got a tip from a USPS drone behind the counter at his local post office that there was a printer in Titusville who could save us the \$200 annual bulk mailing fee we pay for SCAM mailings by using his services and letting him

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