

The

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

Once again, as you read these words, we are about to begin yet another Hurricane Season. In the immediate future, I suppose, in addition to the endless ads for the “best deals” on all the cars (*especially the David Maus dealerships that always advertises “whatever it takes” - really?? Is it not time someone actually takes Mr. Maus, et.al. up on this offer?*), we will now hear endless ads on Hurricane Prepare-ED-Ness from the likes of Home Depot, Lowe’s and—of course—Wal-Mart.

Once again, for us here at SCAM, we will have yet another new ExComm. Since the Vote Count is not until May 31, the results will not be published until next month’s issue. However, we know one of the following statements to be true:

1. The NEW ExComm will have all of the same members as the outgoing ExComm.
2. The NEW ExComm will have one NEW member, and four of the five outgoing members will serve yet another term.

Whichever the case may be, we at *The SCAM* will be sure to report it to you. Perhaps next year we will have more candidates for an upcoming ExComm. However, that is up to you.

There is yet another issue for all of you to consider: this newsletter. If the new ExComm desires, I will be pleased to serve another year as your Editor. Yet, nothing lasts forever. I am seriously considering retirement after the 2014-2015 ExComm term expires. Please keep in mind that after that time, we will most likely need a new Editor.

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.

“Hey Pay-dro! Could you fix me up with some good hot chili? I came all the way from Meechigan just to set y’all straight. I’ve heard that y’all claim to know how to make some pretty good chili but I know that some of y’all are a bit on the windy side too. Know what I mean Pay-dro? Y’all still think Texas is the biggest state in the union and that G-dub is a military genius. And by the way Pay-dro: how about one of them there sair-vay-sos. Got a quarter if you can get that chili pronto, you know, on-do-lay. And be sure it is moo-ey cal-yentee. Got that, Pay-dro?”

San Antonio is such a beautiful city. The downtown area at night when it is cool and comfortable is hard to beat in that respect. The Alamo, the canals, the hotels, the restaurants, the boutiques, the river-walk, the theaters, the bars and the mall are all there, within walking distance, to provide for a very pleasant evening on the town. The locals are all proud to be Texans and ready to explain, to anyone who will listen, just why they take such extraordinary pride in their city and state.

Farewell San Antonio!

I’ll always have fond memories of at least one restaurant. *(I’ll remember that greasy spoon if I’m stupid enough to ever come back to this dump again. It was just my luck to run into the biggest jerk in town. Some people just can’t take a joke.)*

Their Texas style of cooking is special and should be enjoyed by everyone who makes the trip. *(Be sure to stay away from that idiot Pedro or whatever his name is. I think he poisoned me.)*

San Antonio and towns to the west in the Big Bend country are world famous for their chili. *(They call that crap chili? I think it’s Drano with beans. I’m still trying to figure out why the beans didn’t melt like my teeth.)*

Be forewarned though that chili in this part of the country might be a teeny bit spicier than what you’re used to having. *(Did I sit on a blowtorch or what? I’m afraid to use toilet paper for fear of spontaneous combustion.)*

The national chili cook-off, which is held in this area, has become an annual event and draws people, called chili-heads, from all over the world. *(Save your money and just drink a can of hydrochloric acid instead. I think my back door is off the hinges. It doesn’t want to close.)*

San Antonio, you will be missed. *Adios!*

“What am I, chopped liver?”

Perhaps that is the ultimate expression of social non-recognition or importance. It is said when one feels that the other speaker is ignoring your presence, opinion, or contribution. But what is chopped liver that engenders so much disdain? Chopped liver is a regional dish from Berlin and in Ashkenazi Jewish cuisine. It is made by sautéing chicken livers and onions in chicken fat, adding hard boiled eggs and salt and coarsely chopping the mixture. Served cold. That is the traditional recipe. Variations abound.

There are many theories of the origin of this expression. They fall into two categories. One is that chicken livers were removed from the chicken before it was cooked and had no value. It was discarded or fed to your dog. The other theory, and this is the one I think is right, is that chopped liver is usually served as an appetizer or a side dish as contrasted to the main course and therefore is much lower in value than the main course.

Be that as it may, chopped liver is a delicious dish. I would put chopped chicken liver high on my gourmet's list. There are other chopped livers.

Just as chopped (chicken) liver is the nadir of supposed culinary delights, another chopped liver is the zenith. That position is held by *paté de foie gras* (paste of fat liver). By French law and American custom, only the livers of ducks or geese can be considered *foie gras*. *Foie gras* is made by force feeding a duck or goose, a technique forbidden in California and several other places. A force fed duck's or goose's liver is approximately 45% fat.

Other chopped liver dishes exist. There are liver dumplings (*Leberknödel*), a traditional dish of Germany and Austria. It is usually made with beef liver although pork liver may be used. It is usually served in a heavy beef broth.

Also from Germany is *Leberwurst* (liverwurst or liver sausage). It is a sau-sage eaten in large parts of Europe and the U. S. There are many varieties, especially regional versions. In the U. S. it is usually pork liver in a spreadable form. One of these variations is *Braunschweiger*. Liverwurst is almost pure pork liver whereas *Braunschweiger* may be almost half other meats.

Livers, whether chopped or in any other form, are not much appreciated in the U. S. In restaurants calf or beef liver is generally served in the low end country-style diners or in the very high end steak houses. It is not found in the mid-range restaurants that most Americans go to. *Pâté de foie gras* is found in only the highest of the high end restaurant, but not in California. Chopped liver may be found in some delicatessens. Liverwurst can be found in my home.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

Apr. 30
2014

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$908.67
RG Fund	0.00
Reserve Fund	1208.41
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$2117.08
 <u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$144.95
Mensa Funding	180.48
Transfer from RG Fund	533.24
Newsletter Printing	0.00
Newsletter Subscription	0.00
Misc.—Maintenance Fee	50.00
Ending Balance	\$908.67
 <u>RG Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$533.24
Transfer to General Fund	533.24
Ending Balance	\$0.00
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.36
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.41
 <u>Post Office Account</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$250.16
Funds Added	0.00
Postage Costs	63.49
Ending Balance	\$186.67

The general meeting turned out well. We had about 20 members attend. I'm not a seafood lover, so I should have known better than to order the octopus tar-tar. Once you pried it off your face, it was kinda chewy.

A few people shared some interesting facts about themselves. (Karen in a gorilla suit promoting King Kong?)

Dennis regaled us with a tale of the time he spent 47 days in a Middle Eastern prison. Seriously.

A few jokes were swapped including:

A young women in a very short, very tight leather skirt was waiting at a Houston bus stop. The bus pulled up and the doors opened. The young women tried to raise her leg to get onto the first step, but alas, her skirt was too tight. She discretely reached behind and pulled the zipper down a bit, and tried getting on the bus again. She still could not raise her leg enough, so she reached back and pulled the zipper down a little more. This time she could almost reach the step. Quickly she reached behind her pulled the zipper down a little more. Just then the cowboy behind her picks her up by the waist and lifts her onto the bus. Indignant, she turns to the cowboy and says, "I don't know you well enough for that kind of behavior." The cowboy looks her in the eye and says, "Sorry miss, after you pulled my fly down three times I thought we were friends."

Thomas Thomas, out RVC provided information on getting a periodical permit instead of mailing the newsletter bulk rate. This may save us enough on postage so that we can continue the newsletter in it's present form. Our thanks go out to Thomas Thomas.

A good time was had, and we plan on doing it again at 6:00 PM June 14th. See you there.

June 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3		5		7 GO!
8	9 C.A.B.A.G.E.	10	11	12	13	
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	19	20	21 GO!
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	26	27	
29	30 C.A.B.A.G.E.	Reminder—May 31—Vote Count				

SCAM Calendar of Events for June 2014

May 31st - Saturday 7:00

VOTE COUNT & POTLUCK

Come witness democracy at work as we tabulate the returns, then join us for potluck food and fun at Wynn Rostek's 3456 Willis Dr. Titusville.

Contact: *Wynn (321)267-9391.*

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 Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192.

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

MENSA TESTING

June 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 July 19.

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

Membership Notes for June 2014

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Payton Brown
Ian M McClure
Alana Salls

Sienna Salls
Ty Stockman

JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Bill Emmons	17th	Ellen Rogers
3rd	Isabel Garrett	20th	Thomas Moor
3rd	Stacy Strickland	24th	Sam Kirschten
11th	Cynthia Weiser	24th	Christopher Moss
17th	Jane Williams	26th	Kenneth Morris
17th	Arthur Belefant		



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.

For the month of June (my birth month), I decided to write about a mathematician who is still alive and had a remarkable life that was portrayed (somewhat loosely) by Hollywood. That gentleman is John Forbes Nash, Jr. (born June 13, 1928 in West Virginia) and was seen in the 2001 movie *A Beautiful Mind* (the title of the biography done by Sylvia Nasar, which is an excellent book).

Nash attended Carnegie Mellon University on a full scholarship. He initially majored in chemical engineering (how I started out at my college), switched to chemistry (me too), and finally graduated with BS and MS in mathematics. He accepted a scholarship to Princeton to pursue his PhD. One of Nash's advisors at Carnegie Mellon supposedly wrote a letter of recommendation consisting of a single sentence: "This man is a genius". (Most Mensa folks probably feel the same about themselves, but how many had a college professor put it in writing?).

Nash's doctorate was a 28-page dissertation on non-co-operative games. It contained the definition of what would be called the "Nash equilibrium", which would win him the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (with John Harsanyi and Reinhard Selten) for 1994. The Nash equilibrium is a solution concept for non-competitive games that involves two or more players. If each player has chosen a strategy and no player can benefit by changing strategies while other players keep theirs unchanged, then the current set of strategy choices and the corresponding payoffs constitute a Nash equilibrium. Basically, if Jack and Jill are in a Nash equilibrium then Jill is making the best decision she can, taking into account Jack's decision, and Jack is making the best decision he can, taking into account Jill's decision.

Game theorists use the Nash equilibrium concept to analyze the outcome of strategic interactions of several different decision makers. One of the concepts underlying John Nash's idea is that one cannot predict the result of the choices of multiple decision makers if one analyzes those decisions in isolation. Rather, one must ask what each player would do, taking into account the decision making of ALL the others. The Nash equilibrium has been used to analyze war and arms races. Think of the Prisoner's Dilemma and tit-for tat computer games for how conflict may be mitigated by repeated interactions. It has been applied to the study of bank runs and currency crises, as well as in situations where people with different preferences can cooperate and if they will take risks to achieve cooperative outcomes. It has been used in regulatory legislation and environmental studies (think *Tragedy of the Commons* use) as well as traffic flow and multiple parties competing in politics.

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Additional work by Nash included the Nash embedding theorem, which shows that any abstract Riemannian manifold can be isometric ally realized as a sub-manifold of Euclidean space (this gets very heavy and bizarre). In 2011, the National Security Agency declassified letters written by Nash in the 1950s where he proposed a new encryption-decryption machine. It demonstrated that Nash anticipated many concepts of modern cryptography. He also came close to solving a theorem involving elliptic partial differential equations, which would have probably guaranteed him the Fields Medal (mathematician's equivalent of Nobel Prize).

It was while he was teaching at MIT in 1959 and married that Nash began to exhibit the first signs of mental illness. He was admitted to the McClean Hospital for schizophrenia, during which time his son was born. Before his marriage, Nash had a son from a relationship with Eleanor Stier, a nurse he met while she was caring for him as a patient. The movie based on his life was criticized for omitting this event, given he was alleged to have declined marrying her based on her social status.

During his bouts of diagnosed paranoid schizophrenia, his behavior was extremely erratic. He spoke to people who were not even there, wrote letters to embassies in Washington, D.C. declaring that men who wore red ties were establishing a covert government, and other aberrant actions. Although he took prescribed medication, Nash later wrote that he only did so under pressure. He felt that their adverse affects were more harmful than the mental illness itself. He spent over nine years in various psychiatric hospitals, finally recovering with the passage of time.

As of 2011, Nash has continued to work in advanced game theory and advanced price theory. His ideas tend to parallel the economist and political philosopher Friedrich Hayek. He has won several honorary doctorates and has been a guest speaker at many world-class events. He became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society in 2012.

"There is no great genius without some touch of madness." ,was what Seneca supposedly said. Perhaps he was correct with respect to John Nash.

Note: Also born on 13 June was the incredible Russian mathematician, Grigori Yakovlevich Perelman. He refused a one million dollar award of the Clay Millennium Prize for his resolution of the Poincare Conjecture. He also refused the Fields Award for his other mathematical work and left the field of professional mathematics. He currently lives with his mother in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

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REFERENCES:

1. *A Beautiful Mind: A Biography of John Forbes Nash, Jr.* Simon & Schuster, 1994. ISBN 0-684-81906-6.
2. "John Nash's Letter to the NSA; Turing's Invisible Hand" (<http://aqtb.wordpress.com/2012/02/17/johnnashs-letter-to-the-nsa/>). Retrieved March 25, 2014.
3. Osborne, MJ (2004). *An Introduction to Game Theory*. Oxford, ENG: Oxford University Press. P.23. ISBN 0195128958.



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.

One of the National committees I serve on is the Local Group Revitalization Task Force. The purpose of this committee is to determine ways to identify when a Local Group is having difficulty, before that group reaches a crisis stage. There have been examples of these types of crises in the last year, with one Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) who had to step in and replace a full Local Group Executive Committee (ExComm), while another RVC had to dissolve a Local Group that had stopped functioning entirely.

We're not immune to that in Region 10. One chapter had been publishing warning signs in their newsletter that they were considering dissolving their group. Another group wound up without an ExComm at all. I met with both groups in May to try to help them get beyond these rough spots, but it brings me back to the question posed to the LG Revitalization Task Force: How do we identify these types of problems before they become problems?

One of the things that we keep coming back to is that this is a volunteer organization, and when members don't volunteer, it can create frustration for and pressure on the people who are currently leading their chapters. Things may seem to be running smoothly, but this frequently is due to the herculean efforts of a small number of volunteers. In reviewing the Officers' Roster for Region 10, there isn't a single chapter that doesn't have at least one person holding multiple leadership positions, and most have two or more individuals in that situation.

I'd like to see our Region doing more, but I'd also like to see these individuals doing less – not because they're not doing a good job, but because they deserve the same opportunity to enjoy their membership as everyone else.

I do understand that sometimes people are not in a position to take on volunteer tasks for an organization because of other priorities – family, work, health, etc. – and I don't fault those who cannot make volunteering for Mensa a priority. Each individual must decide for themselves how much time they can devote. But if you can help with your local group, won't you please consider it?

There are 12 chapters in Region 10. Each chapter must have a Local Secretary, but in three of those chapters the Local Secretary is also filling the position of Newsletter Editor. Each chapter must have a Treasurer, but one of those Treasurers is also serving as their group's Webmaster. Each group should have an Ombudsman, but in fact only six of them do. We have the highest number of Young Mensans of any Region – not just in percentage, but in real numbers – but only five groups have Gifted Youth Coordinators. Four groups are currently without Membership officers. And so forth.

Personally, I have found volunteering in Mensa to be very fulfilling and en-

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Minutes of the May 2014 ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg. Meeting was called to order May 7th at 6:15.

Members Present: Dennis Logan, Terry Valek, and Karen Freiberg. (Wynn Rostek and George Lebovitz were absent). These Minutes provided by Terry Valek.

Guests: None.

Reports: Dennis Logan provided a treasurer's report.

Old Business: Terry Valek suggested she get speaking points to introduce Dennis at dinner. The ExComm agreed on a few sentences.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.



THE TENTH STORY

Continued

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riching. I hope you will consider finding a way to contribute to your own local group.

And to those of you who already volunteer, THANK YOU for all that you do!

Thomas George Thomas

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