### The







### SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: <u>www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org</u> (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

**Yes, it is August,** and I am tempted to write another short column on "just another month" or the "dog days of summer are upon us" (I have yet to discover which month would feature the <u>cat</u> days—I do believe cats deserve equal time—just who do those dogs think they are anyway?). I suppose I have come to the same frame of mind as my two favorite Muppet characters—Statler and Waldorf.

I could go on, but I believe you get the point.

One of my pet (no, not a dog or cat) peeves is our seeming mass attraction to "motivation" and "entrepreneurship". It seems the message has become the notion that no true-blue-red-blooded American is complete until he or she is the proud owner of a small business (which, of course, supports an ever-growing cottage industry of advisers to tell us how to start and run such a business).

In the mythical "Average America", where believing is better than thinking, I guess it would be reasonable to expect such a state of affairs. Yet I have noted that this malady has come to infect us in Mensa. In joining SCAM many years ago, I have always been under the impression that Mensa would serve as a sort of respite from a society such as ours that really has no place for people of high intelligence.

In closing, I do have a question of my fellow SCAMsters: *How many of you dream of becoming a proud owner of your own small business?* I look forward to hearing from you...

<u>The SCAM</u> 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.

#### STRANGE PARALLELS

**Scientists describe our universe,** and the many, many multi-verses, in terms that strange somehow becomes the norm. Strange, bazaar, crazy, insane and weird doesn't come close to their descriptions of how things actually are in the parallel worlds of the unlimited universes.

Speaking of unlimited or infinite it has been said that a single monkey with a typewriter, given enough time, will type every volumn that Shakespeare has ever writen, the complete Bible, our Constitution and/or any other work that mankind has compiled over the milennia. (I have never questioned a monkey's ability to acquire a typewriter, by work, theft or by manufacturing his very own and learn to type Shakespeare or to even compose it.) It is the least bizarre of the weird possibilities that exist in our crazy world.

Scientists also say that I, or you for that matter, have a twin out there somewhere, same DNA, same everything, that is doing the very same things that you and I are doing at this very moment. *Scare-e-e-e-y!* 

With unlimited universes, personalities and time ---- anything is possible. But---what's up with these crazy parallel worlds that's happening at this very moment with our twins or even triplets mimicking our every move.

Don't I create enough chaos all by myself? Do I need a double or triple to emphasize my errant behavior?

Could my twin (who is me) be mimicking my every move or be doing it with slight twists?

Okay, just suppose I had eaten Mexican food, had gas backed up to my tonsils, was at a black tie affair and suddenly I couldn't---oh!--- Hold on now!----

Someone slams me in the head with a watermelon and exactly eleven seeds get stuck in my right ear----no---make that 12 seeds---and at the very same instant I am juggling 8 Jimmy Buffett for president posters--no--no--let's get serious, make that 3 posters and then my shirt rips exposing my secret identity---

### Rocket J Squirrel.

Now don't tell me a twin of mine somewhere out there is actually so stupid he gets himself in that very same predicament and exposes his identity too. No way!

Okay, being a bit more practical, if there are doubles doing the exact same thing then there must be someone who's brain is functioning a bit better and would make better choices. I like this scenario better than the first. Okay, lets suppose his abilities far exceed my somewhat limited edition----noooo---strike

(Continued on page 8)

**Soda,** that is carbonated water, occurs naturally in several springs around the world. Most notably Seltzer - carbonated water originally from a spring in Selters, Germany. Perrier - from a spring in Southern France called Les Bouillens. It has been used as a spa since Roman times. San Pellegrino - produced and bottled by Nestlé at San Pellegrino Terme, in the Province of Bergamo, Lombardy, Italy.

There were hundreds of still and sparkling sources throughout the world. They were called spas after Spa in Belgium. The waters from these springs were used for therapeutic purposes. Among the minerals that may be dissolved in the waters are: lithium salts, salts of iron, alum, hydrogen sulfide gas, salts of calcium, magnesium, or sodium, alkali, calcium hydroxide, carbon dioxide gas, radium, or uranium. Those that contained naturally occurring carbon dioxide, before modern bottling techniques were developed, could only be enjoyed at the source.

Since the processes for making and storing carbonated water were developed, flavored and sweetened soda has become a very big business. First it was sold primarily at soda fountains in drug stores. The use of drugstores to dispense soda water evolved out of the original use of soda for its therapeutic value. Each pharmacy developed and sold its version of mineral enhanced carbonated water claiming therapeutic value for is version. The use of glass bottles then plastic bottles then tin plated steel and subsequently aluminum cans and home refrigeration doomed the soda fountain. Two notable exceptions survived the demise of the soda fountain, both of which started as therapeutic drinks.

In India the British colonists took a daily dose of quinine as a contradiction against malaria. To cover up the bitter taste of the quinine, they took their medicine with gin. Thus we have the Gin and Tonic drink made with Schweppes Tonic Water.

Coca Cola began in an Atlanta pharmacy as a general pick-me-up. It was named for its two main ingredients - Coca for cocaine, and Cola for the kola nut which provided caffeine.

Among the many producers of canned or bottled carbonated water, club soda generally refers to carbonated water with sodium salts. Seltzer now refers to carbonated water without added minerals. Soda means carbonated water with added flavorings and sweeteners.

There are some regional differences in the vocabulary of naming these products.

(Continued on page 6)

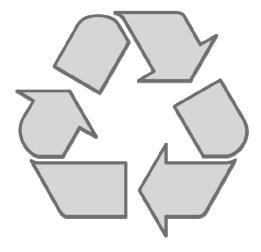
(Continued from page 5)

**Pop** - a term generally used in the South for carbonated water with added flavorings and sweeteners.

**Soda** - the general term used in the northern parts of the U. S. for the same thing.

**Soda Pop** combines the two terms.

**Cola, Coke** - any soft drink similar to Coca-Cola, even Pepsi Cola.



### A Mensan in the Workplace?

re <u>you</u> 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 <u>your</u> 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.

### **SCAM Treasurer's Report**

### May 31, 2014

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$1066.83
Reserve Fund	1208.46
Total Funds Available:	\$2275.29
General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$908.67
Mensa Funding	158.16
Newsletter Printing	0.00
Newsletter Subscription	0.00
Ending Balance	\$1066.83
Reserve Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.41
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.46

#### **PARALLELS**

(Continued from page 4)

that-----lets suppose he looks exactly like me but has just found the uniting formula that every scientist dreams of. That's me! That's me in a parallel world who is the envy of every person in every universe at this very moment. And in another parallel I (who is also me) could hit home runs at every plate appearance, shoot 3 pointers from 60 feet without missing, throw touchdown passes on que and double Wayne's output on ice without losing a tooth.

And!----And!---not only that but-----after a brief shower the other day I was taking a walk and suddenly it hit me---- with a slight tweak in abilities and water a bit deeper -----well now-----I'm thinking my alter ego (who is also me) could take a stroll right through the raging main and even do a headstand on the way....

Oh man! I'm thinking these crazy, bizarre, weird parallel universes aren't so crazy after all.. *And Amen to that!* 

### THE TENTH STORY

Continued

(Continued from page 18)

9<sup>th</sup> with 159 points and earning \$196 for the local group,

*Smiley Town* (Tampa Bay Mensa) – Captain: Kyle Lai, coming in 13<sup>th</sup> with 150 points and earning \$100 for the local group,

*"Bob and Dan – Texans Living In Florida – Hook 'Em"* (Northwest Florida Mensa) – Captain: Daniel Finley, coming in a three-way tie for  $14^{th}$  with 149 points and \$90 for the group, and

**Dragon Orchard Players** (Broward County Mensa) – Captain: Ryan Martin, coming in 19<sup>th</sup> with 147 points and earning \$70.

Congratulations to all for their achievements!

Thomas George Thomas Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Text: RVC10@vtext.com

#### WAR CORRESPONDENCE

lorida in August, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways. Oppressive heat, air you can wring water out of, mosquitoes the size of police dogs. What's not to love? Oh, and the occasional hurricane to break up the monotony. Seriously, be careful out there, Central Florida is one of the top lightning areas on the face of the planet, and way more people are killed by lightning strikes than shark attacks.

And speaking of shark attacks, and alligator attacks for that matter, it really is best to leave the area when these creatures are out and about. They have changed many people's view of our position in the food chain.

For our visitors, and the newly arrived, we have your friend and mine, the palmetto bug, often referred to as a cockroach. Make no mistake, these things are not cockroaches. First there is the size, about as big as your thumb. Second, and a surprise to many newcomers, these suckers fly! Not a slow, lumbering flight, these little monsters are about as fast WWII fighter aircraft.

And how could I forget our imports? Let's start off with fire ants. The string of these little devils will raise a welt that will turn into a nice open sore if you scratch it when it starts to itch. And it will start to itch.

We also now have Argentine ants and Formosan termites. Our house had the misfortune of having a bunch of Argentine ants outside it. The right time of the year resulted in our house having a bunch of Argentine ants inside it. We tried having them exterminated for two years without making any appreciable dent in the local population. Eventually something came along that ate them all. We never did figure out what, but it's not a good idea to look a gift horse in the mouth.

And what about the insects that got all the press a few years ago, killer bees? I haven't heard much about them lately. Supposedly they have interbred with the local bees so much that they are hard to find today. I bet if you look hard enough, you can still find a few.

Does anybody remember the invasion of the walking catfish? (No kidding, catfish that walked from water hole to water hole) More than a few dogs learned a valuable lesson when chewing on these finny friends. And let's not forget the Cane toads. They secrete a poison from their skin. Again, more than a few dogs learned not to mess with toads.

I propose that we stop everyone leaving the state heading north, at our border. They're not allowed to leave until everyone in their party has at least one undesirable creature in their luggage. Politicians and real estate developers will count as two undesirable creatures each.

# August 2014

2	600	16	23		
		15	22	29	
	7	14	21	28	
	9	13	20	27	
		12	19	26	
	4 C.A.B.A.G.E.	11 C.A.B.A.G.E.	18 C.A.B.A.G.E.	25 C.A.B.A.G.E.	
	3	10	17	24	31

# SCAM Calendar of Events for August 2014

### 5:30 PM 1st - Friday

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: Dennis Logan, 501-7547.

# 5th - Tuesday 6:00 PM

## **EXCOMM MEETING**

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

## 8th - Friday 3:30 PM

# GITBP (NEW EVENT)

Come join us at our newest event (Give Into Beer Pressure) at Squid Lips at the foot of the Eau Gallie Causeway (1477 Pineapple Ave.) in Melbourne. The event lasts until 10 pm, so you can join us later. Don't forget to check out the great menu: www.squidlipsgrill.com.

Contact: Vera Cartwright (864)430-0126.

### 5:45 PM 30th - Saturday

### 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, 474-4075 for details.

### MENSA TESTING

encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age Aug. 16 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 14 or older. Testing next month will be Sept. 20.

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

# Of CABAGEs and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: Every Monday in the Food Court, Merritt Square Mall

Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636 6 p.m. Every Saturday at Books-A-Million, The GOI: Every Satur Avenue, Viera. Hosted by

the Space Coast Area GO Association. Host: George Lebovitz,

1 p.m.

the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com

### **Membership Notes for August 2014**

#### WELCOME TO SCAM

John Gaughan

#### AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	James Vanaman
5th	Michael Lawley
13th	Ronald Gaynor
15th	William Lamoureux
16th	Kevin Mellett
22nd	Shirley Jones
30th	Michael Greene



### 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.

or a birthday in August, I thought I would continue with the idea of a mathematician who tries to popularize mathematics for the common folk. Similar to the article mentioned last month for mathematician Paulos.

Steven Henry Strogatz (born August 13, 1959) is the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Applied Mathematics at Cornel University. Much of his work has been involved in the study of synchronized dynamical systems. He has been involved as well in the application of mathematics in the fields of mathematical biology and network theory. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton and attended Trinity College Cambridge from 1980 to 1982. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1986 for research on the dynamics of human sleep-wake cycle. (I wonder if he collected data on his students in class while he was giving lectures).

After a post-doc fellowship at Harvard and Boston University, Strogatz joined the faculty at MIT in 1989. He received a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation for his work on dynamical systems. He later moved to Cornell to accept a dual professorship for applied mathematics and mechanical and aerospace engineering departments.

Strogatz has received several awards for his ability to explain complex mathematics in terms that are understandable and interesting for those who are not mathematicians by training (a valuable skill these days, as more and more people are made aware of the importance of math in the working of the world). Among the awards is the Baker Memorial Award for excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (selected and awarded by the students at MIT) and the Tau Beta Pi Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006, awarded by the engineering students at Cornell for exemplary teaching. On the national level, he was honored with the American Association for the Advancement of Science Public Engagement with Science Award for "exceptional commitment to and passion for conveying the beauty and importance of mathematics to the general public." He has also filmed a series of lectures on chaos theory for the Teaching Company and his trade book *Sync* was chosen as Best Book of 2003 by Discover Magazine.

I myself just finished reading his "The Joy of X" (which won the Euler Book Prize by The Mathematical Association of America). It is a very interesting and easy to understand collection of essays dealing with mathematical topics that he has written for the New York Times. It was a 15-part series on mathematics that was called "Steven Strogatz on the Elements of Math". It demonstrates his easy to read, uncomplicated approach to explaining a variety of mathematical topics. Those experiences that appear in your life and those that appear in in-

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teresting surroundings. He couches the topics in terms of his personal experiences which makes the short essays informative without being boring.

I like his opening paragraphs on most of his articles in this book. My favorite one is probably:

"If you were an avid television watcher in the 1980s, you may remember a clever show called 'Moonlighting.' Known for its snappy dialogue and the romantic chemistry between its co-stars, it featured Cybil Shepherd and Bruce Willis as a couple of wisecracking private detectives named Maddie Hayes and David Addison. While investigating one particularly tough case, David asks a coroner's assistant for his best guess about possible suspects. 'Beats me,' says the assistant. 'But you know what I don't understand?' To which David replies, 'Logarithms?' Then, reacting to Maddie's look: 'What? You understood those?'

That pretty well sums up how many people feel about logarithms."

Another of his interesting approaches to teaching mathematics was his book, "The Calculus of Friendship: What a Teacher and a Student Learned about Life Corresponding about Math" (who would figure?) It relates a three-year correspondence between Strogatz and his high school calculus instructor, Mr. Don Joffray. Through the use of allegories, anecdotes, and calculus, the mentor teacher and the prodigy student cover a wide range of life's experience and how calculus can relate to those events in their lives. It is both touching and informative, as well as fun and sad in some aspects.

Strogatz is one of a continuing group of well-educated mathematicians who has a gift for explaining (even logarithms) to the literate yet innumerate populace the value and application of mathematics. I commend such folks and say: go forth, be fruitful, and *multiply*.

### **References** (all by Steven Strogatz):

- 1. The Joy of X. Harcourt Press. ISBN 978-054-7517650.
- The Calculus of Friendship. Princeton University Press. ISBN 978-0-691-13493-2.
- Sync: Emerging Science of Spontaneous Order. Hyperion Press. ISBN 978-0-7868-6844-5.

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### **SCAM Treasurer's Report**

### June 30, 2014

	Account	<u>Balance</u>
Ge	neral Fund	\$732.88
Res	serve Fund	1208.51
	Total Funds Available:	\$1941.39
	General Fund	
Beg	ginning Balance	\$1066.83
Me	nsa Funding	164.26
Ne	wsletter Printing	498.21
Ne	wsletter Subscription	0.00
Mis	sc.—Maintenance Fee	0.00
End	ding Balance	\$732.88
	Reserve Fund	
Beg	ginning Balance	\$1208.46
Inte	erest	0.05
End	ding Balance	\$1208.51
1		

### This Page is RESERVED:

### JUST FOR YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for SCAM submittal guidelines.

### A Mensan in the family?

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

### THE LAST MINUTE

Continued

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events. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this committee, please contact any ExComm member (emails can be found in the SCAM).

George Patterson is going to host a "salon" at his home some time in September. Per Wikipedia: "A **salon** is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation." Further information on this event will be forthcoming.

The idea was proposed that SCAM should try to increase membership by attending local events and promoting people to take a sample qualification test, perhaps offering discounts for formal testing.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> May: General Fund: \$1,066.83, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.46, Total Assets: \$2,275,29.

June: General Fund: \$732.88, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.51, Total Assets: \$1,941.39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Contacted 8 candidates for the first time. Contacted 9 of 12 candidates who were signed up by CFL Mensa at MegaCon. (3 bad e-mail addresses.) No response from any of them. Contacted 7 candidates for the second or third time; tested 1. Next test session is July 19, 2014 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

#### THE TENTH STORY

t the Annual Gathering in Boston during the first week of July, there were several announcements that concerned Region 10 – primary among them that the 2017 Annual Gathering will be held in Hollywood, FL at the Westin Diplomat in Broward County. This will be a great opportunity for many in our region to attend an AG, particularly those who usually cannot travel for long distances or long periods over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. It'll be the first Annual Gathering in our region since the World Gathering in 2006. There will be much more information to follow, so stay tuned.

The Board of Directors meeting is where most of the national appointments are made for the coming year. I appointed David Fleming of Central Florida Mensa as Assistant RVC 10. I've given David the task of helping to develop leaders among our Gen Y/Millennial members. Please join me in congratulating David and wishing him well.

There were also many awards presented at the AG. A National Service Award was presented to Charlie Bruce (currently of Central Florida Mensa), who has served as American Mensa Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee, RVC and served on nine national committees. Maggie Truelove and Michael Tuchman, also of Central Florida Mensa, received National Certificates of Appreciation for their years of service, and a Chairman's Service Award went to Sylvia Zadorozny of Tampa Bay Mensa for her long-time service to the chapter and to Mensa.

A new set of awards, the Jewels, were presented for the first time this year. These are for recognition of various levels of achievement by our local groups, and is replacing the former Group Of The Year Awards (or GOTYAs). There are three levels of achievement: Emerald, Sapphire and Ruby, with the greatest achievements by local groups meriting the Diamond Award. Northwest Florida Mensa took home the Diamond Award this year for Class IV groups (groups with between 100 to 199 members). Central Florida Mensa also excelled as one of only three groups to earn a Sapphire Award for Class II groups (groups with between 400 to 899 members). Northwest Florida Mensa also reached the Silver level in the ACE Awards (Achieving Communications Excellence), which recognizes achievement in combined media: Newsletter, Website and Social Media. The ACE Awards replace the former PRP (Publication Recognition Program) awards.

Several groups from Region 10 did well in *CultureQuest*, with *Tragic Kingdom* (from Central Florida Mensa) coming in first in the nation! Holly Horton was the captain of the winning team, which scored 183 out of 200 possible points, earning \$420 in funds for their local group. Other winners included:

Conjaxture (Mensa of Jacksonville) – Captain: W. John Haywood, coming in

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### The Last Minute

### Minutes of the July, 2014 ExComm Meeting

**The ExComm met** at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, called to order by Asst LocSec Joe Janson at 6:18 pm.

<u>Members Present:</u> Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

**Guest:** George Patterson.

The minutes of the June, 2014 minutes as published in the SCAM were approved.

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

### Treasurer's Report<sup>1</sup>

<u>Testing:</u> Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported June testing via email<sup>2</sup>

George Patterson, in coordination with Mike Moakley, is going to look into changing the format of the SCAM to "magazine format" as a potential for saving money on postage.

The next SCAM open meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 12 at the Red Ginger Restaurant, 6300 N.Wickham Road, #127, Melbourne, FL. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm and our guest speaker will be Kathleen Rich-New, author of the book "Plan B: The Real Deal Guide to Planning Your Business." You should be receiving an email reminder of this event in the near future and again as the date draws close.

There was a discussion regarding possible future events (which do not necessarily include a dinner):

- ♦ The Pet Psychic, Ellen Doreen, giving readings for members' pets
- A Carnival Day Cruise
- St. Johns River Trip
- Indian River Lagoon Issues
- Visit to local craft breweries (microbreweries)
- Group tour of the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science
- ◆ The Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral (followed by a meal at one of the nearby restaurants?)
- ♦ Victory Casino Cruise

The ExComm decided that a committee should be formed to explore the possibility of arranging group tours to these and any other locations which may be suggested, and to determine the level of interest for each of the proposed

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