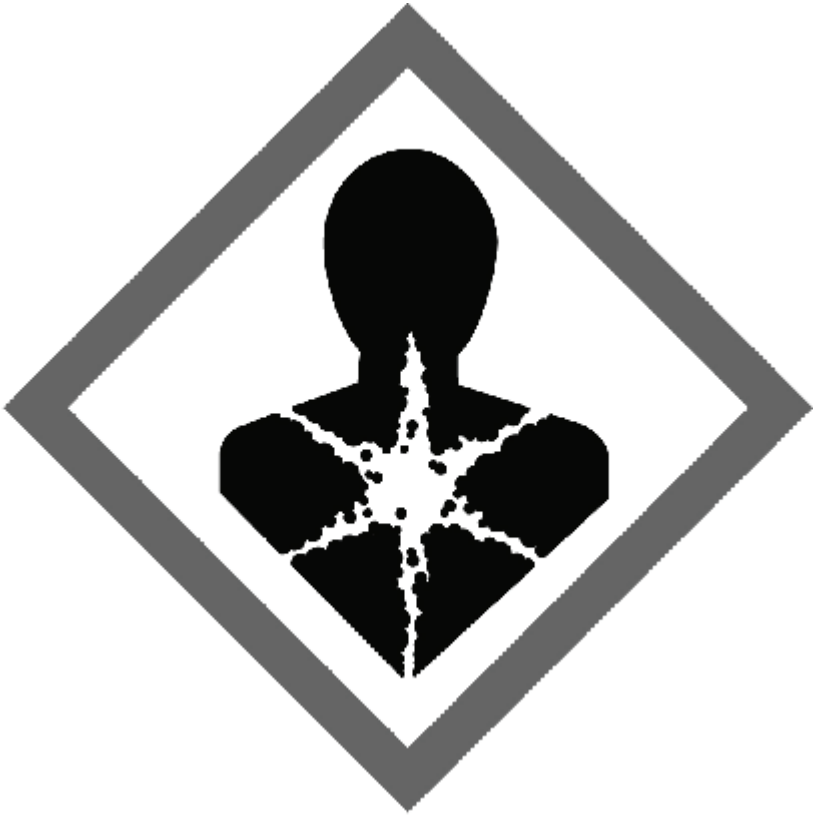


The

SCAM

page oast rea ensa



Volume 32, No. 11

November, 2014



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



Executive Committee

Local Secretary

WYNN ROSTEK

3456 Willis Dr., Titusville, FL 32796

267-9391 locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Assistant Local Secretary

JOE JANSON

4048 Judith Ave., Merritt Island, FL 32953

Phone: 338-5833

asstlocsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Recording Secretary

GEORGE LBOVITZ

1649 PGA Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935

recsecretary@scam.us.mensa.org

Member-At-Large

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955

633-1636 member@scam.us.mensa.org

Treasurer

DENNIS LOGAN

285 Tangelo St., Satellite Beach, FL 32937

501-7547 treasurer@scam.us.mensa.org

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator

HANK RHODES

MensaTest@cfl.rr.com

Membership

GEORGE PATTERSON

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

GEORGE LBOVITZ

SCAM Bylaws Committee

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

membership@scam.us.mensa.org

Mediator

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL 32901

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster

KAREN FREIBERG

633-1636

webmaster@scam.us.mensa.org

Assembly/Circulation

GEORGE PATTERSON

474-4075

Calendar

DOUG STARKE

633-1636

doug@starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

**THOMAS GEORGE THOMAS,
RVC10**

37647 Sky Lake Cir.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-

7646 (813) 994-3981

RVC10@us.mensa.org

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.

1229 Corporate Drive West

Arlington, TX 76006-6103

(817) 607-0060

AmericanMensa@mensa.org



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

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

On this occasion, I regret to inform you that I have a death to report. The ever-popular First Friday event, held at the Melbourne Hooter's restaurant has, as of this month, ceased to exist. The demise of this time-honored event leaves a space that will be difficult to fill.

On that note, you will discover that our Calendar is rather light. Did you have that idea for that ultimate Mensa event? Now would be a good time to come forward.

In all fairness, we do have a new event that was initially introduced a couple of months ago. **The Salon**, hosted by George and Barbara Patterson, is scheduled for the 15th of this month. What is the **Salon** all about? You can learn the details on Page 5 of the September SCAM. If you cannot locate your copy, you will find it on our website (*just click "Newsletter"*).

Speaking of death, this issue does contain an opinion column about Ebola. What is YOUR opinion on this topic? In our group, we have a number of active and retired doctors. As Ebola is a health issue, your feedback would especially be welcome.

Until next time ...

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.

This universal expansion gives me a feeling that's hard to explain. The galaxies are growing and flying apart at enormous speeds and making it more than likely we'll never get the chance to experience a Betelgeuse Big Mac.

How can we ever expect to catch up to exotic cosmic cuisine when burgers are flying away from us at Brickyard speed and even faster. What keeps us trying so hard and on track is the fact that the burgers must be simply gigantic by now. And, McNuggets? They would be the size of dinosaurs and growing. Sure, they have to grow as everything around them is growing. I'm trying to imagine the size plate one would need. YUM! YUM!

The Universe is so vast it boggles my mind trying to comprehend its enormity.

Thirteen point seven billion years old and that many light years going back in distance to the starting line and getting farther by the minute. I don't even want to think about how far it might be in the other direction. Oh, that's right! If you go in the other direction you'll be going forward in time which will counter balance going back in time and that would put you---I think, right about where you are.

Cosmologists say our neighborhoods are disappearing at a faster rate than Detroit could ever imagine. Then I hear that at some future date we will merge with our closest neighbor and sister galaxy Andromeda. What's up with that? I thought we were supposed to get farther apart.

Just thinking about it makes me feel so---sooo dizzy. With the Earth spinning at 24,000 MPH its no wonder. And not only that but, the Earth is making its annual trip around the Sun at another 67,000 MPH. Then I can't even begin to calculate how fast we're traveling around our galaxy center or through the Universe. Can you blame me for being dizzy? Astronomers and cosmologists, who understand what they talk about, tell us about the Big Bang, the expanding universe, the red shifts and the dark matter and dark energy.

I try to think about these things and the enormity of the world at times but I can't even get close.

I try to imagine zooming through space, a la Einstein, but no dice. I try zipping past galaxies back to the beginning but I don't get far. As I'm looking at the center of a particular galaxy I wonder if the black hole or chunk of something there so dense and spinning so rapidly that light just can't catch up that maybe, just maybe, its only dark because someone totally forgot to pay the electric bill.

And if it is a vortex, like an ocean eddy, and sucking in stars faster than two

(Continued on page 17)

I have been told that, after speaking with a native New Yorker, I speak with a New York accent. That may have been true many years ago, but not now. It is getting harder and harder to find someone with a New York accent. My history is one reason. I lived in New York during my formative years; until I left New York for the Army. I have not been back for more than a visit since then. Once I left New York, I lived in English speaking communities composed of Americans from all parts of the U. S. We all are imitators. We tend to match the accent of the person to whom we are talking. Being faced with the multitudinous accents of my compatriots, first in the army, then with the American expatriates working in foreign countries like Greece, Japan, and Florida, my own accent flattened.

The distinct regional accents of American and British English, began to lessen, and in some cases disappear, after WWII. Two causes fostered this. The increased mobility of the population was one, my own family is an example. We live in Florida, my wife is from Texas, our kids live in Oregon, California, and North Carolina. Our grandkids have parents who were raised in Florida, Japan, Tennessee, and Canada. This increased mobility of Americans and British reduced the regional accents of those moving and the regional accents of the communities in which they were living.

The second cause is movies and television. The whole world watches American and British productions. To attract general audiences, producers have required actors to speak in non-regional accents. Even in *My Fair Lady*, where the premise is replacing Lisa Doolittle's Cockney speech with "proper English", Lisa's Cockney is toned down so that the un-Cockney audience can comprehend her lines, but enough is left for us to understand that in the beginning she is speaking Cockney. If she were speaking Cockney of the time at which the movie is set, she would be incomprehensible to most of us.

This loss of regionalism was gradually disappearing starting with WWII, but it still existed in some extreme cases. In 1953, cycling through Italy, I teamed up with two Englishmen from Liverpool. Their accents were strong, but we usually managed. One day, they said something to me that I couldn't understand. They repeated themselves several times. Finally, they said *mangiare, mangiare!*, "let's eat!". They had to resort to Italian because I couldn't understand their English. Fifty years ago, the Beatles came to the U. S. Whether they liked it or not, everyone here could understand what they were singing.

I visited Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay before the arrival of television. At that time the women never left the island. The only way on or off the island was by fishing boat. The men did leave, as they were fishermen and brought

(Continued on page 7)

Ever since the tragedy of 9/11, hardly a day goes by without our country either being engaged in a war or having our more conservative element demanding that we become engaged in a war. As these words are being written, the latest call to war is with an Islamic extremist group known as **ISIS** (*Islamic State of Iraq and Syria*) or **ISIL** (*Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant*).

It is not my purpose here to enter into a debate as to whether or not to do battle with ISIS or ISIL since, at least to some degree, the decision already has been made. Rather, it is my concern that we, as a country, seem to feel inadequate unless we are engaged in military action somewhere in the Middle East. It seems we also do not feel good about ourselves unless we deify those we would put in harm's way in supposedly Defending the Free World.

It would be naïve to believe that, as ill-advised as our recent adventures appear to be, that our country should never engage in warfare. The question then becomes: How do we differentiate between when we must go to war and just simply doing battle for the wrong reasons? While there is no easy answer, what follows are some ideas I am offering in order to aid our leaders in making the right choice as each situation presents itself.

On other observation I shall make is the often seen slogan:

“Freedom is Not Free”.

Making war does not come cheap. When President Clinton left office in January 2001, our federal budget had a considerable surplus. At the end of President Bush (the son) term, our budget was back in the red zone. Much of that was due to the Iraq War, currently estimated to cost \$1.1 trillion, or well over \$3000 for every U.S. citizen.

Ironically, the people whose drums beat the loudest in their call for war are quite often the same people who want smaller government and lower taxes. In recognition of this reality, my first recommendation is to require a tax increase sufficient to cover the cost of war. Since the working class can ill afford an additional tax burden, the best way to handle this is to add tax brackets to the upper end of the income tax scale. As freedom is not free, war requires sacrifice. Those best able to sacrifice are also the most likely beneficiaries of the true objectives behind a proposed war.

Making war also costs lives. I have also noticed that the ones who are most likely to call for war are the ones who will not actually be putting their lives in harm's way. Under current law, all males who have attained the age of 18 are required to register for the draft. Let us go a step further and reinstate the draft. In selecting their draftees, the Selective Service should keep in mind that

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

those young men who are least needed to support their families should be the primary candidates for the draft. In short, this means those who are born of privilege (after all, they have benefited most from the Land of the Free) should be the first to serve in the front lines.

If we were to adopt policies such as the ones I suggest above, I believe we will go a long way to limiting our appetite for war to only those battles that are truly vital to our national security.

ON LANGUAGE

Continued

(Continued from page 5)

their catch to the mainland and had to communicate with the buyers. The women did not. I had no difficulty conversing with the men as I had to do to gain passage to the island. The women, however, spoke something akin to Elizabethan English. At first, I had difficulty understanding them, but after three days, I could converse with them. Now, Tangier Island is a popular resort with hundreds of tourists visiting. I doubt if much Elizabethan English is heard.

While driving through Scotland in 1960, once Rita and I crossed the border, communication became difficult when we occasionally stopped for directions. At one stop, we were looking for a hotel. We asked a policeman for directions. We could not fathom what he said. After several minutes of fruitless dialogue, we understood him to say, "Follow me." He hopped into his car and we in ours and drove to the hotel.

In the '50's, I was working in Greece. My boss and his wife were Greek-Americans, born and raised in Georgia. They both had a heavy Southern accent when speaking English. Sophie, that was my boss' wife, also had a distinct Georgia accent when speaking Greek.

If you listen to the people around you at any Mensa function, you will not hear much of distinctive accents, although, if you check, you will find a vast array of native origins. This is the future of English.

I'm looking for a few good readers – Mensa members who can spend some time, a few hours in late January or early February, to score scholarship essays.

The Mensa Foundation scholarship program is an essay contest that is open to all students living in the U.S. who are enrolled in a U.S. college or university in the academic year following the award. Applicants write 550-word essays that describe their educational and/or career goals. Winning essays are judged by members using Foundation criteria. Please consider being one of those judges.

This program was expanded last year to include nonparticipating local groups. Before then, students in the geographical area of these groups were ineligible to even apply.

As Assistant National Scholarship Chair in charge of Nonparticipating Groups, I'm recruiting more than 60 members from all over the U.S. to judge essays. We're looking for members who are confident in their knowledge of writing and reading skills. Of course English teachers and professional writers are welcome, but so are members from all walks of life.

Essays will be emailed to you in late January. You'll have a few weeks to read and score them in your home, though we hope it will only take an afternoon or two. You email the scores back and you're done!

You may already be planning to judge essays for another Scholarship Chair. I don't want to steal current judges from Local Groups or Regions. However, for those members who love reading essays and want to spend an additional few hours reading more, you can participate at this level with no fear of conflict of interest. Let me know which region or local group you're reading.

Please send an email to volunteers@mensafoundation.org for any questions and to get involved in this worthwhile program.

Your ExComm was a bit busy this month. We are working with David Fleming of CFM on supporting a local Mensa presence at this year's Megacon. Joe is also working with National to get a Mensa Banner and promotional materials.

It has been suggested that we (*SCAM*) may want to sponsor a booth at a Brevard based convention. We are looking into the comic convention that has been held in Melbourne for the past two years. If they are holding it again this year, (*and it looks like they are*) and booths are affordable, we may try the waters.

We are looking into putting together a trivia team to compete at a local bar. At this point we are seeing which bars have trivia games, and seeing if we can get enough people interested in joining the team to make it a going concern. If you are willing to be on the team, drop me an email.

We are also checking with CFM, which has a much larger group of younger members (*Gen X and Gen Y*) to see what games are popular with the younger crowd. In the near future we'll be hosting a games night featuring several of the games that appeal to the younger crowd. (*I may have to learn Settlers of Catan...*)




We are also working on expanding the options for the new "monthly general meeting" that is turning out to be fairly well supported. The hardest part of this effort is to find suitable speakers every month. So far we've tapped the ExComm and Joe's list of speakers, but we can see that this pool of speakers will be rapidly drained if we pull one speaker a month from it. We need our member's help, you can suggest speakers to myself or Joe, and we'll do the rest.

Funding wise, we are in fairly good shape right now. We can continue our funding of the newsletter at the current levels for the half a year or so until we seat a new ExComm. That doesn't mean that we are putting off dealing with the problem, just that we will need to look at the situation again in about 6 months.

Thanks again for your support, and as always, if you've got an idea for an event you would like to see, just send an Email to anyone on the ExComm.

November 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

							1 GO!
2	3 C.A.B.A.G.E.		5	6	7	8 GO!	
9	10 C.A.B.A.G.E.	11	12	13	14		
16	17 C.A.B.A.G.E.	18	19	20	21	22 GO!	
23	24 C.A.B.A.G.E.	25	26	27	28		
30							

SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2014

15th - Saturday 7:00 PM

SALON

Come join us at George and Barbara's, 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, for an evening of "enlightened ?" discussion. 7 PM til whenever. Light refreshments. RSVP's not required, would prove helpful for planning.

Hosted by: G. & B. Patterson 474-4074,5 or george314159@gmail.com

29th - 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, 474-4075 for details.

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

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 and click on "Calendar".

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

MENSA TESTING

Nov. 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 not be held.

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

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.

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

Membership Notes for November 2014

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Logan Soper

Shaila Venkat

WELCOME BACK!

Savannah Olivas

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Gregory Showman	26th	Thomas Magee
6th	William McClure	29th	David Rojas
11th	Allan Torsney	30th	Thomas Gachet
18th	Joseph Mueck	30th	Lisa Willnow
19th	Harold Long		
20th	Ronald Turan		
21st	John England		



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.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Sept. 30,
2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$611.81
Reserve Fund	1208.66
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$1820.47
<u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$515.82
Mensa Funding	224.46
Newsletter Printing	128.47
Newsletter Subscription	0.00
Ending Balance	\$611.81
<u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.61
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.66

I am not an expert or even close on this subject, but I am going to tell you the brutal truth as I always do.

Truth: The government is lying to you. They are giving the public statistics through rose colored glasses or are leaving out important facts. When listening carefully sometimes there is a grain of nasty truth that is presented in such a fashion as 99% of the recipients miss it.

That tiny fact must be isolated and extrapolated. Hardly anyone can or will do it. I try. And the major media will not broadcast it.

As of this date the government is telling us Ebola is not that easily communicable? Personally, I don't believe Washington because they have a history of lying about almost everything important. Ebola has a death rate of 70% to 90% and in Africa it seems to spread rather quickly. Yes, there are many reasons why that can be shown to be true there, but not here. Really?

These are two very different cultures. The widespread interaction by the population is very minimal when compared to the U.S. That is why there have been reports of villages being almost completely wiped out. The local folks continue to interact and do not understand the risks of communicability.

The U.S. has a very mobile percentage of people who travel widely every day and every week. If a salesman (executive, whatever) doesn't feel too sharp, maybe has a slight fever, he is not going to cancel an important appointment he just flew several hundred miles to make. Shake hands with Ebola. Maybe his coffee cup is not carefully washed and the next party thinks the cup is clean, and so on. Maybe I am exaggerating, BUT maybe I'm not.

This one example gives you an idea of how Ebola can be transmitted throughout the country in a very short period of time. When our traveler gets home and does, maybe doesn't, go to his doctor the doc might not be aware of the symptoms or think they are minor. Now Mrs. becomes infected.

Our President is now sending 3,000 troops to a heavily Ebola-infected area in Africa. Are these guys going to be put in quarantine when they come home? Don't bet on the government doing anything that smart. The odds are against us – 3,000 to infinity.

Could an Ebola outbreak affect the stock market? Possibly. I was an exchange member and floor trader for 17 years. You stand in the pit where transactions are done with open outcry, shoulder-to-shoulder with the next guy. If only ONE member came down with Ebola how many guys would be in the pit the next morning? Of course Internet trading will still continue.

(Continued on page 15)

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*.



EBOLA

Continued.

(Continued from page 14)

How many production lines (like autos) would be slowed because of absenteeism? Maybe the media would start telling people not to go to crowded places. Malls? Ball games? Movies? Trains? Buses? Don't throw me under the bus. I am trying to make you aware of facts the media is not telling you now.

I hope I am wrong. Is there anything you can do now? Buy a bucket of rice at the Chinese market. And lot of dry pasta. Some canned goods and put them away. This is a world emergency.

Good luck to all of us.

(Continued from page 18)

85% of the adult members in our Region have email addresses, but fewer than 15% are members of the various social groups. This is your opportunity to connect; please consider doing so.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming local group gatherings in the coming season.

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Text: [RVC10@vtext.com](text:RVC10@vtext.com)

(Continued from page 19)

Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

1. August - General Fund: \$515.82, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.61, Total Assets: \$1,721.43.
September - General Fund: \$611.81, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.66, Total Assets: \$1,820.47.
2. August - Contacted 0 candidates for the first time, 12 candidates for the second or third time, tested 0.
September - Contacted 10 candidates for the first time, 5 candidates for the second or third time, tested 1.

Next test session is October 18, 2014 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

(Continued from page 4)

teenagers with one bag of fries then where do they go? Are they relegated to the garbage can like the empty bag?

If it's spinning that fast and so dense then how could one sit down to a decent meal? Your burger would be too heavy to pick up and you'd have to hang on or fly off into space. Your date would think you're the worst ever even if you did pay for the meal.

Now, when astronomers look back to the beginning and can see no more than soup, is it the milliseconds after the Big Bang or is it an event horizon of a black hole or a chunk of something so massive that it can suck in the whole Universe like the teenager who didn't get his fair share of fries? And it seems that everything has spin whether its a galaxy, a sun system or an atom. Maybe atoms also have black holes or chunks that can spin so rapidly that they blink into nothingness. I would surely like to have answers as I'm sure most people would.

Many people think more logically and actually know why there is no event horizon for our Universe. They also know that some places are too cold for burgers and one would be forced to eat Eskimo pies to stay fit. They know too, by mathematical calculations, that the silly things that I imagine just can't be. But, my imagination is mine to use any way I please. And, in my mind maybe, just maybe, I could zoom to the far reaches of space and order up the most exotic burgers the universe has to offer with an unlimited gift certificate.

And, in my mind I imagine the red shifts of galaxies are caused by them racing toward an event horizon and the big garbage can as our universe expands. Or maybe I am the one with the red shift and maybe, just maybe, our universe isn't expanding at all. Maybe I am just getting smaller. And smaller, and smaller.

A Mensan in the family?

Are you 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, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

In late September the AML Board of Directors held a teleconference in order to decide whether or not to approve a contract for the 2018 Annual Gathering proposed for Indianapolis. The contract had to be signed before the next regularly scheduled meeting in December, hence the special meeting. While we were convened, we also approved the minutes of the September 6 Board meeting, and clarified two bylaws referenda which had been approved for balloting earlier, plus a new dues increase motion was placed on the agenda so it could be voted on at the December meeting. All items passed except the dues increase, for which discussion was postponed until December. A few days later we approved the minutes to the teleconference by email, and minutes for all our meetings are now available on the American Mensa website under Read > Board Meeting Reports.

Unfortunately because of the timing I was unable to notify you about this meeting in my column last month. Notices were posted to the various online venues (the AML Today email notice, the AML Community Forums at the national website, American Mensa Firehouse and American Mensa Hospitality (our two official Facebook groups), and some of the unofficial e-lists, but anyone relying solely on print media would have missed out on the announcement.

Local groups are still required to make certain that notices of all official membership and business meetings are available to their members in print if requested. No group is allowed to limit notifications only to those who choose online notifications, be they by email, websites, or social media. However, it is becoming more prevalent that unofficial items (lunch and dinner gatherings, games nights, bar meets) are circulated via social media and do not make it into the newsletters.

In Region 10, at least nine of the local groups maintain Facebook groups (only Mensa of Jacksonville, Tallahassee Mensa and Palm Beach Mensa lack a Facebook presence that I am aware of). Many of these groups (including Jacksonville) also maintain email lists, primarily via Yahoogroups. And Palm Beach County Mensa makes use of Meetup to notify their members of upcoming events.

I'm certain it's not the intention of any of these groups to disenfranchise any of their members. All official business is still available to all members. But clearly online is the direction that information is moving, and in order to make their budgets stretch as far as they can, your groups need as many members who are capable of it to be available via the online venues.

If you're not already connected, please consider joining one of your local group's social media or email discussion/announcement lists. If your group doesn't have one of these, volunteer to help to set one up, if you are able. Over

(Continued on page 16)

Minutes of the October, 2014 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, October 7th, 2014, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:04 pm.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: George Patterson, David Fleming (Region 10 Asst. RVC).

The minutes of the August, 2014 minutes as published in the SCAM were approved. (There was no meeting in September.)

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

Treasurer's Report: The August and September reports¹ were unanimously approved.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email²

Last month's event at the Red Ginger was well attended, well-received, and a good time was had by all. We discussed not needing to provide a speaker for these monthly events since the speaker pool is finite and merely getting together with fellow Mensans for a congenial evening and good food should be sufficient. In lieu of a speaker, we could also just have an open discussion, with some topics prepared in advance. Additionally, it was suggested that an alternative to a dinner event would be to try to obtain group discounts at local attractions.

David then gave us background information regarding the Region 10 booth at this year's Megacon in Orlando. In addition to raising money, it greatly boosted awareness of Mensa and resonated with the much desired youth demographic that SCAM is trying to stimulate. We unanimously approved donating \$100 to their activities for the coming year and hope to participate alongside Region 10. Joe will act as liaison with David to coordinate our ongoing efforts with them. We also discussed incentives such as offering a \$10 discount voucher for testing and trying to attract "fresh blood" by visiting local establishments which conduct trivia contests and putting up a challenge to "Beat the Mensans." Continuing the discussion of how to attract younger Mensans, we also put up the notion of modernizing a game night with whatever games are currently "in." Unfortunately, the ExComm was not able to specifically identify these currently popular games and will pursue inquiries with individuals under our average age of 127.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 4th, in the home of Karen

(Continued on page 16)