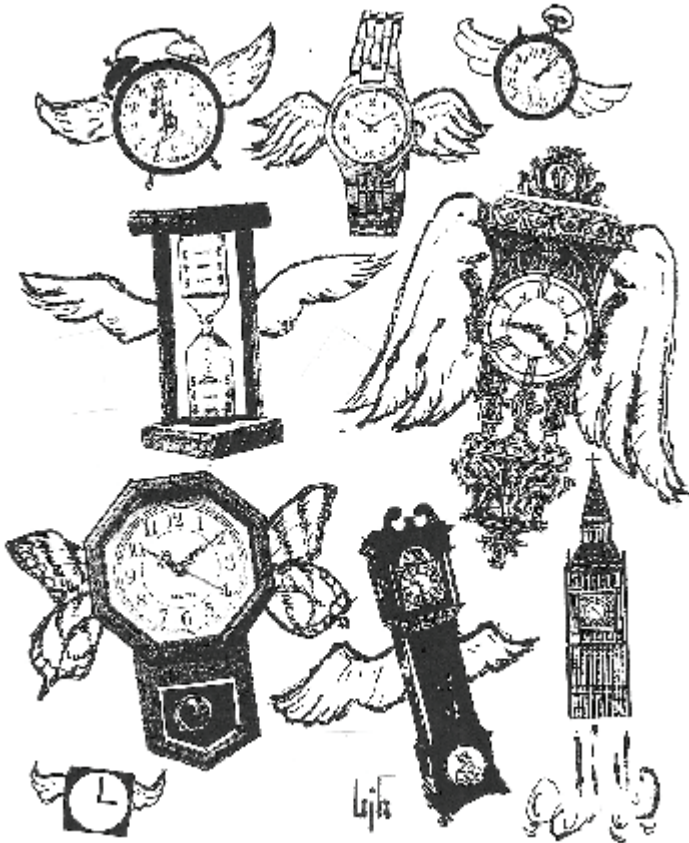


The

SCAM

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Happy New Year!





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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

Happy 2015 to all! Hope everyone survived the Holiday Season. As we begin the new year, there are some business items I need to call to your attention

First involves the Calendar of Events. At the time of publication, I was not able to get a definite date for the January ExComm meeting. Using the Minutes as a guide, I "penciled in" Wednesday, January 7th. It is a tentative date. So, if you have plans to attend the meeting, I strongly suggest you confirm the date with an ExComm member in advance.

Next, we have two events scheduled for the 17th (same time, even...). The downside is you cannot attend both; the upside is you have a choice. They are two very different events, so your decision depends on where your interests lie. Or you can choose by the nearest location...

The third item concerns this newsletter. Beginning next month, the method of delivery will change. We will no longer be using the bulk mailing permit. Each issue will bear a stamp (How's that for low-tech?). Please note that if you chose to receive your issue electronically, you will NOT be receiving a mailed copy. So, if you do want a printed copy, please check your member preference settings to ensure they reflect your wishes.

Please be assured that copies of *The SCAM* will continue to be available on our website and American Mensa's website; both in .pdf format. Current issues and back issues are available on both sites.

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.

What happened to Otzi? How did he meet his fate? People of great wisdom have been kicking this around for some time now with no definite conclusions. Whatever they decide, it was for sure not one of his better days.

Snowing, extremely cold, his fingers half frost bitten, sneaking across the border into Italy then—BAM— right there before him is a border patrolman. He didn't have time to run and couldn't fight back because of his frozen fingers so he put his hands up in surrender.

Bad mistake for Otzi; the patrolman didn't want to drag him all the way back for a court hearing just to see him sent back home to try again next week. Why not take this illegal alien off the map? Swoosh—thuck---no more Otzi.

Okay! That's only one scenario under consideration.

Not too likely and one might say that it is not believable at all. What Tyrolean border patrol officer is going out alone when it is too cold to yodel for backup? Just not happening. Impossible!

Could he have been a mule that someone killed for the nose candy? Absolutely not! It was long before nose candy and even Las Vegas were ever invented. He and his friends just sat in caves and gorged on home-made wine while learning to count hairy kids on their fingers and toes.

Or, it could be that it was not drug related at all. Maybe he had heard that Italy had some pretty hot chicks in their Gentleman's clubs and he wanted to sneak across the border for a quick peek. A hairy pole dancer jabbed him with an arrow because he was getting a little too frisky. But, no withdrawal slips and no dollar bills were found near him. One more impossibility!

Or maybe, he was running from his wife to keep from getting the beegbees beat out of him for staying out all night in a Gentleman's club, stumbled, was caught and it got a little out of hand. But, his wife was overweight, always pregnant with another hairy child and couldn't possibly climb the mountain. Impossible again!

Maybe he just happened to fall on his own arrow and bled to death. Very improbable!

One more speculation is that he was sacrificed. C'mon, give me a break. He was not found on an altar, he was not cooked and he was little more than skin and bone. What kind of heathen would dare offer such a sacrifice. They'd be in Hell fire before they got off the mountain. Impossible!

But, sticking to facts, one has to remember that people lived much longer back in those days. He might have had another six or seven hundred years left and

(Continued on page 13)

Some specific items have their own methods of counting. For example, paper is measured in quires of 24 or 25 sheets. Twenty quires make reams of 480 or 500 sheets indicating its roots in the twenty (*Vigesimal*) base method of counting. The octal system of numbering is used in music with eight notes in an octave.

Twelve units make a dozen, used for eggs and several other commodities. A dozen dozen is a gross or 144 units, which is still used in commerce. A dozen gross is a great gross or 1728 units, now rarely used.

Another strange vigesimal method of counting occurs in French. French, like English, has special words for eleven and twelve, *onze* and *douze*, and uses the same pattern as English for twenty through seventy. At eighty it shifts to a vigesimal nomenclature, *quatre-vingt* (four twenties) and ninety, *quatre-vingt-dix* (four twenties plus ten) rather than *octante* or *huitante* and *nonante*. Swiss, Belgian, and Luxembourgian French however, use *octante* and *nonante*. The French Bourse also uses *octante* and *nonante* to avoid confusion when crying out orders.

Other less used systems of numbers are **Troy Weight**, used for precious metals. It is a mixture of the duodecimal and the twenty based systems of counting. There are twenty pennyweights in a **Troy Ounce** and twelve Troy ounces in a **Troy Pound**. This is the basis of the old system of counting British money, 20 pence equal one shilling and there are 12 shillings in a pound.

Partridges (*for eating*) are counted in braces (*one male and one female*). Precious stones are weighed in **carats**. Gold purity is measured in **karats**. Pure gold is 24 karats.

There are two common counting systems that appear to be based on the duodecimal system of counting, that is circular measurements with 360 degrees in a circle; and time, with 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, and 12 or 24 hours in a day. From here it gets wild with seven days in a week, 365 or 366 days in a year, four weeks in a month or 52 weeks in a year, and 12 months in a year, none of which are exact multiples of each other.

Another complex system of counting is distance with 12 inches in a foot, three feet in a yard, six feet in a fathom, mark twain means two fathoms clearance under a Mississippi river boat, note the obvious duodecimal basis, then the counting goes irregular, 5280 feet in a mile, also a chain is 66 feet, or 100 links, or 4 rods. There are 10 chains in a furlong, and 80 chains in one statute mile.

Petroleum products are measured in barrels of 42 gallons. Beer is also

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measured and counted in barrels, but these barrels are 43 gallons.

Fruit and berries are measured in **pecks**. One peck equals two quarts and there are 16 pecks in a **bushel**.

Although in counting groups of animals the standard ordinal numbers are used, the names of the groups are individualized. For example, lions are counted in prides, wolves in packs, sheep in flocks, geese in gaggles, cattle in herds, fish in schools, apes in troops, bats in colonies, eagles in convocations, whales in pods, monkeys in barrels, owls in parliaments, and quails in coveys.

It is amazing with all this complexity, we can still count.



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*.

Well, I hope you got through the holidays intact. We've got a couple of items of business I'd like to get out of the way up front.

If you are interested in being a member of the SCAM trivia team, contact Karen Freiberg and let her know. It looks like this is coming together very quickly.

We're having a games night Saturday, January 17th at our house starting at 6:00PM. I've picked up a few new games such as Munchkin that I'm looking forward to opening. Call if you need directions or additional information (*My number is in the front of your newsletter*).

It's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming SCAM elections. We'll need three people to form the NomElComm which is responsible for recording who is interested in running for office, and the actual vote count which takes about 15 minutes. The big advantage of being on the NomElComm is that being a member prevents you from running for office. A ploy I used successfully for many years until I got sloppy and ended up elected.

Boy, if you think cats and dogs shed, you've never had a live tree for Christmas. *Needlezilla* left little reminders of his brief stay hidden all over the house. It'll be months before all traces of him are erased. Of course, this will in no way stop us from repeating our grand tradition again next year. All the old needles should be gone by then.




If you're at all interested in how to spend way too much time and money decorating a Christmas tree, just ask my wife about the Christmas lights I designed and built this year. (*Yes, we had custom LED Christmas lights. What is the point of being an uber geek if you can't go overboard once in a while? Now if I could only line up some minions...*)

In passing I'd like to mention a program that is run by some local animal shelters. In today's bleak economy some people can no longer afford to feed their pets. Instead of giving them to a shelter, some shelters provide a food bank like system for pet food. If you have a few extra dollars you don't know what to do with, give me a call for information on this program. Times are hard enough without having to lose a beloved pet over a few bucks.

I hope you have big plans for 2015, I know I do.

January 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	C.A.B.A.G.E.			1	2	3 GO!
4	5 C.A.B.A.G.E.	6		8	9	10 GO!
11	12 C.A.B.A.G.E.	13	14	15	16	
18	19 C.A.B.A.G.E.	20	21	22	23	24 GO!
25	26 C.A.B.A.G.E.	27	28	29	30	

SCAM Calendar of Events for January 2015

17th - Saturday 6:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Wynn Rostek will be hosting this event at his home, 3456 Willis Dr., in Titusville. See article in this issue for more details.

Contact: Wynn, (321) 626-3670 for more details.

EXCOMM MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

MENSA TESTING

17th - Saturday 6:00 PM

SALON

Come join us at George and Barbara's, 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, for an evening of "enlightened ?" discussion. 6 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

Jan. 17 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. Next month, testing will be held Feb. 20.

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

31st - 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.

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 the **Space Coast Area GO Association**.
1 p.m. Host: George Lebovitz,

the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com

Membership Notes for January 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM

Paul Bisson
Dawn Hamilton

Chester Young

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

William Bergen

Jesse Tomaskovic

WELCOME BACK!

Stephen Hicks

JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Rose Marie Martinez	22nd	Laurie Bunker
4th	Vito Jimenez	22nd	Melissa Rabano
10th	Dennis Logan	25th	Kimberly King
10th	Stephen Hicks	28th	Jeffrey Lineweaver
12th	Arleigh Sharpe	28th	Galan Murphy
14th	Barry Signorelli	28th	Joseph Carrier
14th	Gary Tower	30th	Jeffrey White
14th	Lee McLamb	31st	Joanne Ricker-Abowitt
18th	Daniel Land		
21st	Diane Mullinax		



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.

Editor's Note: This article is a reprint from Tampa Bay Sounding, newsletter of Tampa Bay Mensa, November 2003, Sylvia Zadorozny, Editor. This article also ran in the March 2005 issue of The SCAM.

I have come to realize, much to my chagrin, that most folks are not overly fond of super-smart people. This may not seem too earthshaking, and I am generalizing, but it is a bit baffling! Society talks a good game about the value of intelligence, but in point of fact, finds its members with an abundance of those qualities an annoyance. And in some places on this planet the very bright are considered dangerous!

Anyone who has ever seen those bumper stickers, "My child is Rocket Scientist of the Month at Plainville Elementary" knows parents love to brag about how brainy their children are. But the only people, other than the kid's parents, who are happy to see those bumper stickers, are the kid's grandparents! Even the objects of those awards are often a little embarrassed by those stickers.

Employers like smart employees. Again, this is a relative statement. An employee smart enough to be an asset and not a liability is prized. But a super-smart employee may be viewed as a threat, if not by his or her boss, then by fellow workmates. I am sure many of our members can relate to this.

In those dating personals, women will list intelligence as a quality they would like in a mate. False flag here too, my brainy hunks. They want a man smart enough to remember to put the toilet seat down and make a good wage, but not smart enough to figure out what happy crap they are running on their men. And men generally don't list smarts as a quality they are seeking because their own brains often don't think that far up a woman's frame!

And just as some very tall people will slouch, some high IQ types "play dumb" because they learned early that it will be easier for them to "fit in"! Most of us didn't pick up on this though. I have experienced this first hand. At a Mensa Regional Gathering, an engineer and I were having a discussion when suddenly, he stood up, blurted out that the Hubble Telescope group was giving a talk in five minutes and walked off. No "goodbye," no "nice talking to you," nothing. I sat there stunned, watching him walk away in his mismatched socks! (*Are all engineers colorblind?*)

And for years my ex-wife would call me Mr. Spock (of *Star Trek* fame) and tell me I had no people skills. I took many courses and worked very hard to develop the few skills I now have. But it does seem to be an area of weakness with the highly intelligent. I don't know if the lack of people skills is the effect of our

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-Games" Regional Gathering in Central Florida Mensa on January 16-18 (go to sun-n-games.org for details). After the RG, Southwest by South Florida Mensa will once again host their "Bikers vs. Brainers" Trivia Challenge on the evening of January 18. If this event intrigues you, you might be a candidate to join a CultureQuest team in the contest coming up in April.

Other events around the region include Tampa Bay Mensa's Winter Social Cruise along the Intercoastal waterway on January 11, and a Party at Sea Cruise sponsored by Hell's Ms (the Party SIG) on February 8-14, departing out of Ft. Lauderdale. More details about this can be found at groups.yahoo.com/group/mensa_cruise.

I hope you'll take advantage of these, or any of the other events being hosted by your own groups. Enjoy!

Thomas George Thomas



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?

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treatment by the general populace or a manifestation of the arrogance of dealing with smooth-brained humans! And I don't really care one way or the other. That debate is for another time and forum.

But I digress! I am proud of this gift I have. I learned early in life that I would never be a jock or big scary guy. I had heard that we humans only used a very small portion of our brainpower. I figured if I worked harder I could build this organ up and that would be my edge in life. I was eight years old! It worked . . . kind of! But at a price. I don't fit in, and I know some people are intimidated, others are envious, and a few even a tad hostile! We all have our crosses to bear! Well, I have a project to finish up . . . Oh! Nice chatting with you, goodbye!

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the life insurance premiums and club fees were getting to be too much to bear.

Maybe, his wife being the beneficiary and after a severe beating convinced him to cash in on his insurance to redeem himself for his philandering lifestyle. Okay! He had an arrow in his shoulder that was probably the cause of his death along with the loss of blood and a gash on his head.

Sooo, speculation on my part, as to manner of death, and crazy as it sounds, I say it was suicide by bow and arrow.

First proof—If he had only wanted to kill himself he would naturally have shot himself in the head but it is very clear that he was trying to make it look like anything but suicide for insurance purposes. But, since he had totally forgotten to check the weather forecast for an impending ice age his suicide was to no avail since his wife could not find him and claim the double-indemnity she was hoping for.

Second scenario—His hairy wife ate the whole pizza and he was trying to make it to Hungry Howie's before they closed then, did himself in when he realized he was out of food stamps.

Lastly—He couldn't endure another beating from his hairy wife, climbed the mountain, hid before shooting himself to be sure she would not find him and collect his life insurance.

Sherlock Holmes said that once you eliminate the impossible whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. I rest my case!

The American Mensa Board of Directors' meeting last month was productive. Among the actions taken were:

- Passed the update to the Avenues of Redress policy to cover online groups and forums
- Approved allowing parental attendance at certain gifted youth events (including test sessions)
- Kept the dues rate at current levels
- Established an equity restoration level for the 2015-2016 budget of \$25,000.

The motion to establish a national event attendance policy was postponed until the March meeting.

There was a presentation on risk management with a focus on determining proper levels of insurance and liability coverage. One of the takeaways of the meeting was for the Risk Management Committee, of which I am a member, to go over our current policies to determine if there are any shortfalls or even any areas where we may be over-insured. While it's prudent to be prepared for major eventualities, it's not wise (or economically feasible) to prepare for EVERY eventuality. This is an ongoing project, and I'm sure there will be more reports on the horizon.

Pam Donahoo gave a presentation on the programs that American Mensa currently supports, from programs that are growing in use and popularity (social media, MensaForKids.org) and programs which have high value to our members but low growth (MindGames, CultureQuest); to programs which are decreasing in value to our members (Mensa Gift Guide, Community Forums). A couple of figures which I found interesting were that approximately 10% of our membership is now receiving the Mensa Bulletin online, while conversely only 96 members out of over 53,000 logged into Community Forums over the past month.

During the first part of December the National Office moved to some new servers and rolled out a new **MensaForKids** website, which is the first of Mensa's websites designed to work on mobile devices. The website is sponsored by the Mensa Foundation and the Library of Congress, which is an exciting partnership. These are great steps towards closing the technology gap identified at our September meeting, and I look forward to seeing their progress.

Keeping in mind that the main benefit of Mensa memberships remains other members, I hope that those who have the opportunity will attend the "Sun-

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Minutes of the December, 2014 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, December 10th, 2014; called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:19 pm.

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

Guests: none.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Not available at the time of the meeting.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email¹.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Mensa gathering at the Red Ginger on Saturday, December 13th (*which is moot by the time you read this*).

Candidate names for the "Beat the Mensans" team for local trivia contests are being compiled by Karen Freiberg. The venue for contests will probably be The Pizza Gallery in Viera. A team name will be required.

Wynn was contacted by a Merritt Island High School senior about Mensa scholarships and will follow-up with the contact information at National for him.

SCAM has a new banner! (*Note that in order to see how magnificent the new banner is, you actually have to come to a SCAM event*)

There will be a game night at Wynn's house on Saturday, January 17th beginning at 6:00 pm. Some of the new games recommended by CFM will be available. Although intended to attract a more youthful crowd, all are welcome.

Time to start thinking about a NomElCom.

The next meeting was not set but will probably be on Wednesday, January 7th, in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

¹ November - Contacted 2 candidates for the first time, 10 candidates for the second or third time, tested 1. Next test session is January 17, 2015 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.