

The

SCAM

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Is
Bill Maher
RIGHT
about
#StopRush?
See Page 11.



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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.

REMEMBERING BARBARA HENDRY

Karen Freiberg

Barbara Hendry (then Barbara Peer) used to play Hand and Foot Canasta in the 1990s and 2000s. I remember her as a consistent member of SCAM's Monday night CABAGE ("Cards And Books And Games Everyone"), which used to meet at local bookstore/cafes. I got to know her over the card tables and found her charming, vivacious, articulate, witty, wise, and fascinating. CABAGE escalated to parties at our respective homes, where my impressions of her deepened.

Barbara was a classy lady. What will I remember most about her? Her laugh, her love for her cats, her bold caftans, her kindness and sincerity, and her quick wit. What will I miss most about Barbara? My friend the person with the energy to appreciate each individual she met.

Her memory will always be with us, and her legacy will continue through her son and her grandson. Barbara would smile if she were here with us today. She would have some funny story to tell to make everyone comfortable, and we would for a moment forget our sadness. I will miss my friend dearly, but I am so grateful for having known her.

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.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Nov 30,
2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$610.13
Reserve Fund	1208.76
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$1818.89
<u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$650.77
Mensa Funding	218.36
Newsletter Printing	159.00
Misc. (Mega-Con Contribution)	100.00
Ending Balance	\$610.13
<u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.71
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.76

In Japan, soba shops are everywhere, and soba is the universal food, something like hamburgers in the United States. In the Japanese movie "Tampopo", two truck drivers and a soba shop owner go on a quest to find and duplicate the best soba available.

The typical soba shop is a small one-person or family owned store that serves nothing but soba. It typically has no tables but a few seats at a counter.

Soba, in Japan, specifically refers to a buckwheat noodle that is obtainable in the United States only as an import or the dish that is made with the soba noodle. Soba shops are usually located where their clients gather, railway and subway stations, shopping centers, and downtown areas of small communities. These shops may serve nothing else but soba albeit in bewildering varieties. Soba may also be found in pushcarts, in 7-11 type shops, and dried in packets for home preparation.

The soba noodles and the sauce or broth are specific to each soba shop and their recipes are fiercely guarded. They often develop a reputation and a loyal cadre of customers. The soba noodles are often made in the soba shop every day. The shape, flavor, and texture of the soba is discernable to the devoted soba eater. Thus the importance of making the noodles in house. The dough for the noodles is often let to rise overnight before being rolled out and cut. The texture is of the utmost importance. They must not be too soft or too firm, similar to the al dente of Italian pasta.

A soba meal may be simply the boiled noodles in a hot broth consisting of possibly a pork or chicken stock flavored with dashi kombu, hana katstu, shoyu, sugar, MSG, and other ingredients. The purists will eat their soba with nothing else but the broth. Others will eat theirs with any of many additions placed on top of the dish as in a pizza.

One of the most popular versions of a soba dish is go muko soba or five kinds soba. As the name implies, go muko soba has five "toppings" on the hot, boiled noodles. The five toppings may include shrimp, chicken, mushrooms, tofu, beef, squid, and various vegetables. For reasons of superstition, four toppings would never be used.

A Japanese version of one Chinese noodle dish is called yaki soba, which is a direct translation of the Chinese chow mein - fried noodles. This is an example of the Japanese use of the word soba to refer to a wheat noodle because the dish is considered to be Chinese.

Boil one pound of udon or linguine in ample, unsalted water, only until it is just tender - al dente as the Italians say. Once cooked, drain without rinsing.

(Continued on page 12)

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Dec 31,
2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$834.23
Reserve Fund	1208.81
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$2043.04
 <u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$610.13
Mensa Funding	224.10
Newsletter Printing	0.00
Postage	0.00
Ending Balance	\$834.23
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.76
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.81

February is special to me for several reasons. My birthday occurs this month, which is a cause for a minor celebration for me and the family. More importantly, February is also the month that the Central Florida Hamfest occurs. This is a double bonus because I get to shop for my birthday present at one of the largest gatherings of Amateur Radio operators in the U.S. Talk about a kid in a candy store... I always find some great high tech goodie that I just can't live without. It's also a chance to meet some old friends face-to-face.

February is also the last month during which our cabin in North Carolina is sealed against old man winter. In March there is a chance we can open the cabin up again for the year, and start our northward treks to vacation in our own little piece of heaven.

February is a time of excitement, satisfaction, and anticipation for me.

By the time you receive this, we should have had a successful games night where we tried a few new games that are popular with younger members. There will be a visit to the Port this month instead of a speaker, and our dining will take place at a restaurant at the Port. I hope you have a chance to join us for this event. We did move the date a week, mainly because of how packed the local restaurants are on Valentines day. We'll have a much easier time being seated and served on the 21st than on the 14th.

We are starting to get serious about finding members for the NomElComm. We need three people who are not interested in running for office themselves to serve as the NomElComm. Duty is very light, you need to have contact information listed in the SCAM so that people interested in running for office can notify you. If anyone is interested in running, (Hey, it happens once every few years...) you'll have to pass along their names to the ExComm so we can put them on the ballot. The second part of your duties would include saving the sealed ballots that people may hand you, or mail to you. The last duty is the actual vote count, which is held at a general meeting. The vote count takes about 20 minutes normally.

The good news is that we only have as many people running as we have offices to fill, we can do away with collection of ballots and counting, which means your job is super easy. About three quarters of the time, this turns out to be the case.

It's not too early to start thinking about the audit committee either. As soon as elections are out of the way, we can tackle this required job.

February 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 C.A.B.A.G.E.		4	5		7 GO!
8	9 C.A.B.A.G.E.	10	11	12	13	14 GO!
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	19	20 	GO!
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	26	27 	

SCAM Calendar of Events for February 2015

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.*

EXCOMM MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

13th - Saturday 6:00 PM

SCAM: EXPLORATION TOWER

...And dinner at Milliken's Reef at Port Canaveral.
(www.millikensreef.com/menu)

Hosted by: *Joe Janson, 338-5833.*

MENSA TESTING

Feb. 20 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 March 20.

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, 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**.
Host: *George Lebovitz,*

the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com

Membership Notes for January 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Suzanne Brown

WELCOME BACK!

Richard Wotring

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Hendry

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

3rd	Dawn Hamilton	14th	Wynn Rostek
7th	Heather Howard	17th	Robert Champion Jr.
7th	Ann Galetta	17th	Robert Lipton
10th	Herbert Feingold	23rd	Evan Smith
11th	Michael Moakley	25th	Eric Roberts
14th	Greg Wiggins	26th	Don King
14th	William Bergen		



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.

I must confess that I am a fan of Bill Maher. Every Friday night at 10 pm (unless he is on a long break), his show, “Real Time with Bill Maher” airs on HBO. It is, essentially, a political talk show/comedy program. For several years now, I have enjoyed watching his program. For those who don’t know, his show wraps up with a segment known as “New Rules”. This past week, the general New Rules topic was freedom of speech, even for those we do not particularly like to hear from.

In discussing this topic, he pointed out that “even liberals” are guilty of hypocrisy when it comes to free speech, and he cited a movement known as “#StopRush” to make his point. Maher further states that all people are protected under our Constitution’s guarantee of freedom of speech, even those we find vile and hateful, such as conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh. So far, he and I are in agreement. However, Maher states that liberal hypocrisy is exercised through the efforts of the “#StopRush” to end the Rush Limbaugh broadcasts. This is where I part company with Maher.

Make no mistake about it: “#StopRush” IS actively seeking to remove Rush Limbaugh from the airwaves. This is, indeed, true. But does this movement, even if it is successful, amount to Limbaugh’s free speech rights? It is my position that the answer is NO. To clarify this, let’s talk a bit about free speech.

Freedom of speech, put simply, is the legal right to speak your mind. Such speech does take many forms. It could be speaking at a gathering of people, it could be in the form of a letter to the editor at a local newspaper, it could be in the form of a Facebook post, it could be hosting a radio program (*not unlike the one hosted by Rush Limbaugh*). I am in full agreement with Bill Maher when he states that Rush Limbaugh is exercising his free speech rights, these same rights that are protected by our Constitution.

So, what is the issue? Bill Maher’s position is that, by its attempts to drive Rush Limbaugh off the air, “#StopRush” is attempting to violate Limbaugh’s free speech rights. But, in so doing, is “#StopRush” violating Limbaugh’s right to free speech? That would depend on what measures are being taken to achieve that goal. To answer the question, let’s briefly examine both parties.

Rush Limbaugh is an extremely popular and controversial radio talk show host on a syndicated broadcast. As Limbaugh broadcasts on commercial airwaves, his (and his show’s) means of support is by commercial sponsors who, by means of advertising, wish to sell their goods and services to Limbaugh’s audience.

“#StopRush”, on the other hand, is an online movement of liberals who

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While the noodles are boiling, the other ingredients can be precooked in a wok. Using a neutral or mild-tasting oil such as canola or safflower, stir-fry cut-up onions, carrots, green peppers, chicken, beef, shrimp, oysters, or just about what else suits your fancy. Don't use too much, remember, this is supposed to be an inexpensive noodle dish. After the other ingredients are cooked, but definitely underdone, add the boiled noodles. Turn up the fire and stir like mad to keep the noodles from sticking together. In about a minute the noodles will be coated with oil and your dish is about ready. Just add two to four table-spoons of soy sauce and it is done.

One of the most interesting is the cold soba eaten in the summer.

Boil buckwheat noodles until just tender. Spread on a fine rack or colander to drain and cool, When cool (but not refrigerated) serve on a plate accompanied by a cool, not cold, bowl of soy sauce mixed with water, about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of soy sauce to one cup of water. Add a dash of MSG and sprinkle with chopped chives. The cold noodles are dipped into the sauce and eaten.

Most Japanese cookbooks devote only a small space to soba, first because it is considered for the most part a plebeian dish and second it is not usually served in restaurants or homes but as a stand-up food in small quick service shops or from push carts. Notwithstanding all of that, soba represents good luck and is eaten on New Year's Day, much as hog jowls and black-eyed peas are eaten in the south of the United States. Soba is also often given as a present to neighbors who are leaving.

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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And definitely not least, the Gifted Youth Program (especially important in Florida with the burgeoning group of young members in our region) has been providing guidance and planning through tools such as the Excellence in Reading program and the Mensa for Kids website (mensaforkids.org), which has recently gone through a rewrite, making it much more user-friendly through mobile devices. This website is co-sponsored by the Library of Congress, and contains lesson plans and activities for youth, including games and TED talks geared towards younger members.

So if you're interested in a social community, we're here for you! But American Mensa also provides service beyond our membership, and we thank you for helping to make this happen. Visit www.mensafoundation.org for more information.

— Thomas George Thomas

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object to Limbaugh's messages, so much so, that their supporters believe that it is past time for Limbaugh to go. It is expressly their goal to permanently remove Rush Limbaugh and his program from the airwaves. To achieve this end, is "#StopRush" resorting to measures declaring Limbaugh's program to be illegal? The answer, here, is NO. Instead, "#StopRush" publishes a list of advertisers who sponsor Limbaugh's program and urges its supporters to ask these advertisers not to continue to support the Rush Limbaugh program. From what I understand, "#StopRush" has been somewhat successful in its endeavors.

The right to free speech does not give the speaker the right to compel an audience. Advertisers are free to sponsor any given program; they are also free to withdraw that sponsorship. Such a decision can be made for ANY reason or, for that matter, no reason at all.

Groups, such as those who support the "#StopRush" movement, have a right to ask sponsors to support their goals. These sponsors, in turn, are free to support "#StopRush's" goals or refuse to support their goals. Moreover, consumers have a right to determine with whom they will do business, even if they choose to do so in an organized manner, such as organizing a boycott. This is what's happening here.

Freedom of speech is not the issue here. In this particular case, Bill Maher is wrong.

American Mensa has entered into another membership renewal season, which means if you are not a life member or in the middle of a multi-year membership, you've already received a notice from the National Office to send in your dues.

Why should you renew? I've covered member benefits in earlier columns, so I'd like to address another question I frequently hear around this time: Why should you be a member of Mensa? What does Mensa DO?

The usual answer to this is the social aspect: Local Groups hold a variety of events hosted by member volunteers, and American Mensa sponsors larger scale events such as the Annual Gathering and Mind Games, plus online connection through Facebook and the Mensa Community Forums and contests such as CultureQuest. (Side note: CultureQuest is coming up in April – form your local teams soon! You can find more details and get practice questions at www.us.mensa.org/culturequest). For most of these, you must be a member to participate, but historically, fewer than 20% of our members take advantage of any of these on a year-to-year basis.

But the social aspect is only one part of American Mensa. The Constitution of Mensa outlines three purposes for Mensa:

- Identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity;
- Encourage research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence;
- Provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for members.

So if Local Groups and online communities are fulfilling the third leg of our Purpose, who is handling the first two? That would be the Mensa Foundation (AKA the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, or MERF). The Mensa Foundation handles a number of initiatives, but the ones that members participate in most directly are the Colloquiums, the Mensa Scholarship program, and the Gifted Youth Program.

The Colloquiums are single-issue educational events which started back in 1982 and which have included topics such as The Gifted in Society, Consciousness, Genealogy and Crime Scene Intelligence. The upcoming Colloquium will be held the day before the Annual Gathering in Louisville on the topic of Brain Health.

The Mensa Scholarship program has been run by the Foundation for many years, accepting applications from September through January, with members throughout the country helping to judge the thousands of essays received during January through May, with winners announced in May. This is one of the great service opportunities for members.

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Minutes of the January, 2015 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, January 6th, 2015; called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:02 pm.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, and George Lebovitz (arrived late).

Guests: none.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: The November and December reports¹ were unanimously approved.

Testing: Not available at the time of the meeting.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Mensa gathering which was tentatively scheduled for February 14th; however, that is not a good date since it is Valentine's Day, plus we did not have a speaker scheduled. After further discussion, it was decided to instead have a non-speaker event, moved to February 21st: a tour of the new Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral, followed by dinner at Milliken's Reef restaurant. Details will be forthcoming and published in the SCAM.

Calling all volunteers for a NomElComm! Be the first one on your block to be a member of this all-important committee to sort out the veritable plethora of candidates who will undoubtedly surface soon to vie for the coveted position of being a member of the ExComm. Elections will be upon us forthwith, so persons desiring to become NomElComm Committee members should contact any ExComm member.

First Friday at Hooters is back by popular demand!

Also note that there will be a Game Night at Wynn's house on January 17th.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 3rd, in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.

November: General Fund: \$610.13, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.76, Total Assets: \$1,818.89.

December: General Fund: \$834.23, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.81, Total Assets: \$2,043.04.