

The

SCAM

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Volume 33, No. 3

March, 2015



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(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

Well, it's March already, or it will be once you read these words. As I write them, it is a February day in Melbourne not long after the endless news reports of seemingly endless snowfalls up north, especially in Boston. On this day, it seems that here we are experiencing the coldest day of the year (thus far). The National Weather Service advises that tonight's low will be something like 33 degrees. It seems like a good day to stay under the covers with some good reading material—like *The SCAM*.

Speaking of quality reading, are you aware that, as a member, you have access to newsletters from many of the Local Groups in American Mensa? To have that access, you do need to be a current member and have access to the Internet. Just go to www.us.mensa.org and sign in.

Once in the site, go to Read, then pick "Local Group Newsletters" from the drop-down menu. From there, you can choose the current newsletter or any past issue that the group makes available. While you're on National's website, feel free to check out the other features. Just browse the site for a while. While you're at it, you may wish to check out SCAM's website. All our newsletters (at least since 2003) have been archived there. We also keep a current Calendar of Events on the site.

Finally, a reminder. This issue has been mailed to all SCAM members. When you renew, your member settings will default to "electronic delivery" which means you will no longer get *The SCAM* mailed to you. So, if you still want a hard copy, please check your settings. If you do not have an e-mail address on file with National, you will continue to get the hard copy each month.

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.

Someone who is much better at math than I am calculated that if we squeezed the time from the big bang to the present day (*13.7 billion years*) into one year then recorded history would only be the last few seconds of the last day of the year. That's a lot of squeezing. That would make me just a very small fraction of a second old, which is good, I think. It sure makes one wonder about the need to hurry for anything.

Now just about everyone knows that NASA is scrambling at full speed to beat the Russians and Chinese to land a crew on the planet Mars, plant the U.S. Flag, study the nature of the planet's makeup, then dig up enough fuel for the return trip home.

This journey, if all goes as expected, will take about two years. What is the big hurry?

Two whole years. Just a fraction of a fraction of a second in Universal time...

Oh Mars! The new world. The first of our interplanetary goals. The first to be aliens on a foreign planet. We will be the 'little green men' of outer space. We will be the conquerors of a new world.

The excitement of the blastoff then watching our beautiful blue planet fade into the distance.

Earth and moon becoming specks in the vastness of space. Seeing only the faces of the crew members, toothbrushes and other floaties. Faces of crew members always there and nothingness outside! No more Earth and Moon. No billboards, no road signs, no farms, no pastures and no cheap hotels along the way. No rivers, no lakes and no mountains to see. No counting mileage markers, no border crossings and no toll booths.

Six whole months of nothing but the same everyday faces, the same stories, the empty space and then,---this is it ---the touchdown.

Hail little life forms of Mars! We bring pestilence in peace.

The pioneers of the past with 'Pike's Peak or Bust' on their prairie schooners had little to worry about.

Barring savage Indian attacks, wild animals, disease, pestilence, starvation or breakdowns, they were fine. Even if their wagon had an irreparable failure they could simple pack what they could carry and walk until death overcame them. But astronauts? They can't get out and walk.

They can only float until death overcomes them which shouldn't take long.

(Continued on page 6)

When thinking about Colonial Era food, Brunswick Stew always comes to mind. It is considered to be typically and originally American although there some intelligence of it being initially German.

While contemporary recipes have chicken as the meat ingredient, older recipes call for rabbit, hare, squirrel, and/or possum. The use of these meats in Colonial times is understandable, they were small, (relatively) easy to catch, and dress. Something the housewife or children could do without resorting to the man of the house and his gun to provide larger game such as deer.

The recipes are extremely variable, dependent on what was available at the time of the making. The following is a recipe from *The Williamsburg Art of Cookery* in a contemporary typeface.

Cut up two squirrels and put in a large pan with three quarts of water, one sliced onion, one half pound of lean ham cut in small pieces and simmer gently for two hours. Add three pints of tomatoes, one pint of lima beans, four large Irish potatoes diced, one pint grated corn, one tablespoon salt, one fourth teaspoon pepper, a small pod of red pepper. Cover and simmer gently for one more hour stirring frequently to prevent scorching. Add three ounces of butter and serve hot.

For a more modern recipe, many cookbooks and the web has many.

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.

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A two year journey—that's two years if all goes absolutely perfect.

But, wait! With technology advancing as fast as it has been, in six months, we can possibly make the whole journey in six months or less. In another six months we might possibly make it in two weeks.

We might even be able to tele-port them in mere seconds. Slow down NASA.

And private enterprise isn't far behind. NASA isn't the only ones who can put objects in space.

What if we send a crew on a two year journey to Mars then six months later we send a faster crew that can catch and actually pass the first crew. The first crew would have good reason to be highly P.O.'ed as the second crew reminds them of the moon they left behind as they pass.

It could happen and, what about private enterprise? They might have floating Mickey Dee stations...

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?

Well, it's time for another missive from the home office. Not much to report, things are going fairly well. We have one person signed up for the NomElCom, where we need three. Since we have such a problem staffing the various committees needed to keep SCAM running, I've decided to not run for the ExComm, instead, I'll serve on the NomElCom. We still need one additional person for the NomElCom, and we need someone to step up to fill the slate for the ExComm. If you are interested in either of these positions, contact me and let me know.

Programs seem to be holding their own for now. I wish we had more events in the calendar, but I'll take what we have. I hope to host another games night in a month or two when things settle down a bit.

I'll also be trying to attend more events as the ExComm thing winds down. I'm sorry that I have not been able to attend, but my dance card is fairly full.

I'd like to publicly thank my fellow members on the ExComm for making my job so easy and fun. It's been a blast working with you, and I think that SCAM has come a long way in the last two years. My biggest regret is not getting the bylaws updated under my watch, but we were not able to get the ExComm to come to an agreement on a couple of important points, so I'll leave it for the next ExComm to complete.

I'd also like to thank everyone that contributes to getting our newsletter to our readers. This is the only contact for the majority of our members and as such is the central service that SCAM provides. Thank you to all our writers, our editor, the people that work on the calendar, and the people involved in getting it printed and mailed. You do a great job.

Finally, thank you to all the wonderful members that have provided so many hours of fun over the years. I look forward to sharing your company in the future.

March 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	
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	19	20	
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	26	27	
29	30 C.A.B.A.G.E.	31				

SCAM Calendar of Events for March 2015

6th - Friday 6:00 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

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

14th - Saturday 7:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER MEETING

Come join us at the Red Ginger Restaurant in the Melbourne Square Mall. Our speaker will be Ellen Doreen, the Pet Psychic.

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

MENSA TESTING

Mar. 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 April 18.

21st - 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.

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

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mensatest@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
6 p.m. **Host:** Karen Freiberg, 633-1636

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.*

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 March 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM

Russ Culp
David Fidelman

MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Kathryn Mendoza	17th	Christopher Dodd
2nd	Joseph Smith	20th	William Daffron III
5th	David Terry Sr.	22nd	Jack Harris
5th	Stephen Schneider	26th	Cedric Ching
11th	Dennis Schindler	26th	Jenifer Mina
13th	Gary Sizemore	30th	Shannon Cox
13th	Ahmed Khalil		
15th	Gary Cordelli		
16th	Robert Roth		



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.

In the 2015 Mensa national elections next April, there will be no fewer than thirteen (13) different bylaws amendments for members to evaluate and vote on. There will also be multiple candidates for several of the national offices. This level of interest and participation on the national level has not been seen for quite some time – and it has gotten my attention.

Having done a fair amount of research and then reviewed all 13 of the proposed bylaws amendments, I find myself unable to support anything substantive put forward by the current American Mensa Committee (AMC). Nor will I be supporting any of the incumbents on the AMC ExComm. Discussions continue on Facebook, Yahoo Groups and the Mensa Online Community, as well as in person across the country. I invite you to join the conversation.

A significant issue is the pattern of continuing dues increases, outpacing the inflation rate. The current AMC has approved these dues hikes but, until now, they have resisted repeated attempts by the current Treasurer, Nick Sanford – now running for Chairman – to institute automatic annual dues increases. We will have other choices for both Treasurer and Chairman this year; it behooves us to consider how our dues money is spent and whether we are getting additional value for higher annual dues.

Several members have pointed to the ongoing expansion of the National Office without an accompanying growth in membership numbers. Others have called for a different approach to the budget process and an accompanying rollback of dues; to achieve this, we would need quite a different AMC and ExComm.

A careful reading of the proposed bylaws amendments, along with a review of this year's AMC meetings agendas and minutes, reveals quite a lot about the thinking of the incumbents who participated in the creation of AMC-approved amendments and who would be operating under the revised rules if those amendments were to pass.

A recent RVC column by Julia Ashley (*Region 3*) and the subsequent response from Dayton Area Mensa's Ombudsman Pat Reising elucidate some of the issues relative to the position and role of the National Ombudsman. The links below lead to an exchange regarding two of the proposed bylaws amendments: #1, Replacement of the text of Bylaws of American Mensa in entirety, and #12, Restore and Protect Powers of the National Ombudsman. An associated proposal, #11, Duties and Responsibilities of the National Ombudsman, is referred to indirectly in the writings and should be considered as part of the

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Tampa Bay Mensa proudly presents:

Memorial Day weekend

May 22-25, 2015

The **WHOLE HOTEL** is reserved just for us!

Three days of friends, speakers, activities,
demonstrations, contests, tournaments,
24-hour hospitality and games,
and other fun stuff.

Meals included!

Programs (we're adding more, but here are some we've already lined up):

Lowry Park Zoo—new animals, and the zoo manager will speak on
“Running a Zoo”

ESPN radio host Todd Wright

Actor Michael Milhoan (*Field of Dreams, Crimson Tide, Third Rock from the Sun*, etc.)

Trash Bowl with Eileen Steinhice

Home Brewing Demonstration (and taste testing!) with Jay Bertolet

Treasure Hunt by Jack Brawner

Dave Bryant and Steve Shapiro—topics still to be determined

Antarctica travelog by Becky Sinnreich

Hypnotherapy with Christine Quinn

Tarot Cards by Kay Shapiro

Arts & Crafts with Theresa Shadrick

Kids' Track on Saturday with Melissa Stephens

Casual games and Tournaments with Kevin Brawner

Frozen margarita/piña colada machines dispensing all weekend; non-alcoholic slushies too

Registration: Before April 25 \$85; April 26 – May 20 \$95; after May 20 \$105.

Single day rate \$40 (not available online). Children 12 & under, half price.

Please make check payable to "Tampa Bay Mensa", and mail registration checks to:

Kathy Crum, Registrar; 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.; Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.

Online registration, using PayPal, is available on the Tampa Bay Mensa website: www.tampa.us.mensa.org

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Tampa Northwest—Oldsmar

Address: 3990 Tampa Road, Oldsmar FL 34677.

Phone: 813-854-5080. (*Important: mention you're with "Mensa."*)

Rates: Standard King/Double Queen \$79 plus tax; King/Double Queen Suite \$89 plus tax.

Questions? Contact Jack Brawner at MadeiraVistaMgr@aol.com or Sylvia Zadorozny at sylviachocolate@gmail.com

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be a webinar on the proposed budget for 2015-2016 hosted by American Mensa Treasurer Nick Sanford, and I will post the information for how to attend on these sites as well.

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Text: RVC10@vtext.com

2015 MENSA NATIONAL ELECTIONS**Continued**

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same discussion. Among these three amendments, I support #12 and plan to vote against #1 and #11.

Read RVC3 Julia Ashley's December Report (*MPULSE*, Dec 2014, page 14) [here](#).

Read Pat Reising's "Response to December's RVC3 Column, (*MPULSE*, Jan 2015, page 21) [here](#).

*Editor's Note: This column was originally published online. The links referred to herein, of course, will not work from this publication. The easiest way to access the referenced columns is to go to National's website (www.us.mensa.org). You will need to sign in, then navigate to "Local Group Newsletters" and select *MPULSE* from the drop-down menu. From there, you can choose the issues (in this case, December and January) and read the articles).*

Last month one of the Region 10 Local Groups made a big change: Gainesville Area Mensa updated their bylaws and has changed their name to North Florida Mensa to better define their group. Their boundaries stretch from Central Florida up to the Georgia state line, and across the state from the Gulf Coast to Saint John's River near the Atlantic Coast, so calling them "Gainesville" served to disenfranchise the members in all the other local areas that they serve, including Ocala and The Villages to the south and Lake City to the north. They've also launched a beautiful new website (www.noflamensa.com) to celebrate their new charter, which includes their calendar and recent newsletters. This is a tremendous recovery from where they stood just nine months ago, after having lost all of their ExComm members. Congratulations to Mark E. Kelly, Mike Perry, Pat Bartlett, Kathleen Stipek, Helene Johns, Susan Garbarino and everyone else involved who have been working to make this group a success once again.

Congratulations also to Mensa of Jacksonville, who was one of four Local Groups chosen as a winner in the Plus ONE promotion for their testing activities in 2014. They were awarded an additional \$500 for their achievement.

There are also signs of recovery in Miami Mensa, who have reestablished their monthly Speaker meetings and have had experienced increased attendance over the past few months. Again, thanks to LocSec Vincent Chen, Program Chairman Barry White, and all who are striving to make their group a success.

Central Florida Mensa held their very successful "Sun 'n' Games" Regional Gathering in January, and is gearing up to host their second Mensa booth at Orlando's MegaCon in April. Tampa Bay Mensa hosted an afternoon cruise for their members out of Clearwater in January, and is preparing the "Margarita Bay" Regional Gathering for Memorial Day weekend. And Southwest by South Florida Mensa had another well-attended and profitable "Bikers vs. Brainers" promotional event/scholarship fundraising event.

The common thread in all these groups and all other successful groups in Region 10 are the commitment of the local group volunteers. Nothing is achieved without their dedication, and I hope you join me in appreciating their service.

The next meeting of the AMC will be on March 21 in Indianapolis. At this point the motions for this meeting are not finalized, so there won't be any opportunity to solicit feedback via the newsletters. However, the agenda will be posted on the American Mensa website (www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports), and as soon as they are available I will be posting a link to the Mensa Region 10 Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/) and in the Mensa Region 10 email group (to subscribe visit <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/region10>), where we can discuss items on the agenda. There will also

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Minutes of the February, 2015 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:06 pm.

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

(Honored) Guests: Doug Starke and George Patterson.

The minutes of the January, 2015 minutes as published in the SCAM were approved.

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

Treasurer's Report: The January report¹ was unanimously approved.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email².

A reminder that the February event will be, February 21st at 6:00 pm, a tour of the new Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral, followed by dinner at Miliken's Reef restaurant. The regular event at Red Ginger will resume for our March 14th get together.

For the next two months, the SCAM will still be delivered normally through USPS. Thereafter, members will have the option to receive their copy electronically instead. Details will be forthcoming.

Our beloved Treasurer, Dennis Logan, will be out of state for the next three months and George Patterson has kindly volunteered to be our Acting Treasurer in the interim.

We still need volunteers for a NomElCom (and an Audit Committee) for the upcoming ExComm elections. Anyone willing to serve on either or both of these committees should contact any ExComm member.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015 in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

¹ **November:** General Fund: \$1,018.15, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.87, Total Assets: \$2,227.02.

² **Contacted 13 candidates for the first time, 1 candidate for the second or third time; tested 2. Next test session will be Saturday, February 21, 2013 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.**