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SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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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.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Well, we finally did it. Our new ExComm has now been seated and are ready for action. Congratulations are in order for Joe Janson who has been selected to serve as our new LocSec and to T.C. Shaw, who joins the ExComm for the first time as our new Asst. LocSec.

Thanks go to George Lebovitz, Karen Freiberg, and Dennis Logan for agreeing to serve for another year in their respective positions.

As for me, I will continue for another term as Editor. As I have mentioned several times in the recent past, I plan for this term to be my last one. So, if you're interested in succeeding me as Editor, I would like to hear from you.

In next month's issue, I will publish Part 2 of *How The SCAM Works*. Once you have read both my columns, you will have a general idea on what it takes to be Editor. In the final analysis, the job will be as easy or as difficult as you choose.

As Editor, I will remind you once again, it is YOUR SCAM. You determine the content on these pages. It's up to you.

As our new ExComm begins its term, I would also remind you that Space Coast Area Mensa belongs to you as well. Your experience as a SCAM member is what you make of it.

There are no shortcuts: *Get Involved!*

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.

Some people say that space elevators will be the end-all of the future. An elevator to a magical place in the sky where we can look down on the poor devils who just can't manage to get up off their lazy Earths. Just step into an elevator and push executive suite. It will take you to a huge satellite city, a platform to the stars.

No more rocket launches, no more Cape Canaveral or Kennedy Space Center, just a simple button push and you're there.

From the satellite city you can launch to any planet of your choice, the nearest black hole, another solar system or just about anywhere your little heart desires.

We will be like the Jetsons. When that pesky gravity is no longer a problem we'll be able to jet around our futuristic domed city with our own little jets on our backs or feet.

We'll be able to do all our shopping as we actually float through Wal-Mart. And, dream of all dreams, we'll have dripless Big Macs. Without gravity we won't even need bibs to enjoy our favorites.

We'll all live in upscale communities like 'Wally World Estates' or 'K-Mart Acres'. The children will be able to text 24 hours a day and even while floating and eating pizza.

It might not be that grand in the beginning although eventually it will open up outer space for everyone.

Initially it might start with something much simpler than an actual elevator. Initially meaning, a very very long rope or ladder or possibly a ridiculously high pile of plastic crates.

I haven't noticed the Otis elevator Company building their version so maybe it will be up to the DIYers to get the job done. Now, let's see---

Would 500 miles do the job? Nope, geocentric orbit, to keep the elevator base directly below the satellite, is somewhere near 22,000 miles.

That's a very long rope, a lot of crates or a very high elevator.

Do we have to start from the top and build down or can we build the old conventional way?

We don't all own rocket ships capable of launching to space so--- conventional is definitely my choice.

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Isaac Asimov's "*Nightfall*" is generally regarded as one of the best science-fiction stories. Even Dr. Asimov said that it is his best story (THE BEST OF ISAAC ASIMOV). I must demur. I recently reread the story and found it wanting.

A basic tenet of good science-fiction is that it extrapolates known and accepted science of the time that the story is written. The story does not violate any laws of physics or chemistry then known. *Nightfall* fails in this.

Nightfall takes place on the planet Lagash. Lagash has six suns, arranged so that at all times at least one sun is in the sky above the planet, thus it is never night or dark. Once every two thousand fifty years, there is a period when no sun is overhead. At that time the people on Lagash go mad and destroy all of their civilization. This has occurred over and over again. The story takes place in the current civilization in the last few hours before the last sun in the sky, Beta, disappears beyond the horizon and the expected madness is about to happen.

It is not impossible for six stars to form a solar system along with several planets. We know of several binary stars, why not six? Each planet and each star could have its own orbit modulated by gravity from the other five stars although the whole would rotate around its center of gravity. If one or more of the stars was sufficiently far from the center of gravity then it is conceivable that a planet could orbit around an inner star or group of stars so that at all times the at least one of suns would be overhead. This then is the situation on Lagash.

The current civilization on Lagash is two thousand years old, but old enough to have developed pocket watches, newspapers, cameras, and other accoutrements of modern civilization, but not light from fire. Yes, they know about forest fires, and they occasionally camp out and cook over fires, but because of the constant daylight they never developed artificial light.. At the very end, when the last observable sun, Beta, is about to disappear, they create crude torches to light their way.

Here is where the premise of the story falls apart. A civilization that could develop so much of modern technology as envisioned in the story must surely have discovered electricity and artificial light, even if only candles and oil lamps. Thus no fear of darkness and consequential madness. This is Asimov's story and he sticks by it.

If, because Beta leaves the overhead sky, it must be so only at the location on Lagash where the action of the story takes place. Diametrically opposite, the planet must be in full glory of six suns shining down. No darkness, no madness.

(Continued from page 4)

And---does it have to be in geocentric orbit where the bottom of the elevator remains in the same place?

Any ground level point on the equator where we build our platform would be traveling at about 1,000 MPH relative to a very low satellite elevation so that would make it a bit difficult to step onto an elevator at that speed.

If our satellite was in a 500 mile high orbit that should surely slow its speed so we might be able to latch onto it as it zips by. We could dangle a large rubber loop that we could stick our arms into much like the Navy Seals who are snatched out of the water into a speeding pickup boat.

But, even if our arms weren't ripped out of our bodies we would still have to climb 500 miles. Very tiring!

And, how are we supposed to get the rope up there in the first place?

Something else we must consider. Bad weather! That could be a real problem.

Rain would be bad, snow (*at high elevation*) would be worse and lightning would be---well, even Ben Franklin knew better than to get caught in a thunder storm.

Now suppose----*ohh yes, the wind!*

That could be truly devastating. And, strong wind along with snow---Oh man! If a blizzard hit us while we're up in the stratosphere and clinging on for dear life that could umm ummmm...

There just has to be an easier way. Oh, Yes! I wonder if NASA has considered it.

Okay! Okay! If we can only find someone who is in need of a good milk cow and has some mag...

Thanks to all of those who voted in the last election. After the uncontested election, the ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg. There I was nominated to the position of your new Local Secretary. Taking my former role of Assistant Local Secretary is TC Shaw. While new to the ExComm, TC Shaw is a long-time, regular contributor to the SCAM newsletter. You can read his interesting scrivenery stylings every month, usually starting on page four of The SCAM. In addition George Lebovitz is continuing in his role as Recording Secretary. Karen Freiberg is continuing in her multiple roles as Member-at-Large, S.I.G.H.T. and Webmaster, and Dennis Logan is continuing in his role as your Treasurer.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Wynn Rostek for his past and future service. Wynn joins the ranks of Local Secretaries Emeritus at SCAM. Wynn excluded himself from election to the ExComm this year in favor of serving on the NomElComm that oversaw our election, a much needed and difficult role to fill. Wynn has volunteered to head the SCAM Bylaws Committee with several important objectives aimed at moving our bylaws in line with new technology and convenience. Changes to Mensa bylaws can be a challenging job, so I wish Wynn the best of luck in his work and give my pledge of total support. Hank Rhodes will continue as the Proctor Coordinator. George Patterson will continue in his roles of Membership, Publicity Committee Chair and Assembly/Circulation of the SCAM Newsletter. Doug Starke will continue keeping our Calendar up-to-date.




I am sincerely grateful that Mike Moakley has accepted his reappointment to Editor of SCAM and also as our Mediator. However, this will be Mike's last year as Editor. So if you would be interested in becoming the new Editor of SCAM for next year, the time to act is now, so Mike can give

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Our Regular Events:

- **TRIVIA and DINNER (New!):** Slow and Low Bar-B-Que, Stadium Pkwy., Rockledge. Every Thursday at 6:30pm.
- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

August 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------|--|-----|-----------------|---|---|
| 2 | 3 C.A.B.A.G.E. |  | 5 | Trivia & Dinner |  | 8 GO! |
| 9 | 10 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 11 | 12 | Trivia & Dinner | 14 | 15 GO! |
| 16 | 17 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 18 | 19 | Trivia & Dinner | 21 | 22 GO! |
| 23 | 24 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 25 | 26 | Trivia & Dinner | 28 |  |
| 30 | 31 C.A.B.A.G.E. | | | | | |

SCAM Calendar of Events for August 2015

7th - 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

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

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.*

MENSA TESTING

Aug. 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. Next month, testing will be held Sept. 19.

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".

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

Membership Notes for August 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM

Joseph Cona
Edward Kinnally

WELCOME BACK!

Debra Huss
Elizabeth Lay

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Brittain

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <i>2nd</i> | James Vanaman | <i>16th</i> | Kevin Mellett |
| <i>5th</i> | Michael Lawley | <i>22nd</i> | Shirley Jones |
| <i>11th</i> | Cyprian Klish II | <i>29th</i> | Chester Young |
| <i>13th</i> | Ronald Gaynor | <i>30th</i> | Michael Greene |
| <i>15th</i> | William Lamoureux | | |

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.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

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you the training you will need to perform that role. I implore any members with an interest in this position to please step forward. Please contact either me or Mike to discuss.

Moving forward, my primary objective as your new Local Secretary is to try to further enhance the Mensa experience at SCAM. I am interested in hearing from any of you with ideas about what you would like to see this organization doing. Last year we added a regular monthly gathering on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Red Ginger in Melbourne Square Mall. We have had a number of interesting speakers over the past few months as well as several gatherings that were purely social occasions. We'd like to do more speaker presentations, so if any of you have ideas for potential speakers, please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts. I want to create even more opportunities for participation at all age levels within SCAM. I am open to any ideas on ways to accomplish that, especially for the younger members that we rarely hear from.

My secondary objective is to increase the SCAM membership. Earlier this year I volunteered at the MegaCon in Orlando and witnessed a very successful membership drive in action by Central Florida Mensa. Central Florida Mensa had the highest growth rate in the state as a result. I plan to take lessons learned there and apply them to our own membership work on the Space Coast. We have plans to participate in events similar to MegaCon that will be held in Brevard County. In addition I have various other ideas, including possibly membership as a non-profit organization in the local Chamber of Commerce. All publicity is good publicity, so I am looking for opportunities for publicity wherever I can find them.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any thoughts, ideas or questions you may have. I will be very pleased to hear from any member that wants to talk about moving this organization forward in 2015 and 2016.



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10 Ombudsman.

I will be attending the Broward RG (*FLoRanGe 2015: "Another Excuse To Each Chocolate!"*) on Labor Day weekend, so if you have any questions or comments I would be happy to discuss them with you there. Of course, even if you can't make it there, I would be happy to hear from you.

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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The weekly trivia contest at Slow & Low Barbecue in Viera has been well-attended and the SCAM-X team has consistently been in the top three; however, we desperately need someone who knows sports! Consider attending not only to help the team, but also to have a lot of fun!

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 4th, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

At the 2015 Annual Gathering, there were several awards announced for Region 10 chapters and members. Micki Hawn of Broward Mensa was presented with the National Chairman's Service Award, while Southwest by South Florida Mensa won the Innovative Owl Award for their 93% retention rate during the renewal season. For CultureQuest, Conjaxure (*from Mensa of Jacksonville*) took 19th place, Texas Boys in Florida (*from Northwest Florida Mensa*) took 15th place, and Central Florida Mensa's Tragic Kingdom (*Bill Keevan, David Fleming, Gary Franczyk, Holly Horton and Bill Horton*) took 1st place for the second year in a row! And every group in our region won an award in the Jewels program, which recognizes those groups that go beyond the minimum expectations for member satisfaction in local groups. Every group received an Emerald, except for Tallahassee Mensa which won the Class V Sapphire. Congratulations to all the winners!

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting was a full one, with several presentations to a largely new board. Aside from the regular Treasurer and Executive Director reports, there were also presentations on Legal Responsibilities of the AMC by American Mensa's Interpretive Counsel, the role of the Ombudsman by National Ombudsman Dave Cahn, results of a survey of lapsed members (*following up on the Member Survey I touched on in a previous column*), and on Community Services. As for motions, we selected Phoenix, Arizona as the site of the 2019 Annual Gathering, amended the rules regarding return address processing for local group newsletters (the charges for the service were redundant since the same process is used for the Mensa Bulletin), passed a motion to update Research Review policies, and changed the weapons policy to defer to the rules of the venue and local laws for national events. Two additional motions were postponed to the September meeting (expansion of the Executive Committee and revising the presentation of the ASIEs). We ended with a discussion of the use of the Mensa logo, and the Name and Logo Committee will be working with other committees to review the current rules and clarify them if necessary. The next AMC meeting is scheduled on September 12 in Arlington, TX.

My roles have expanded over the next term. In addition to serving on the Communication and Risk Management Committees and the Local Group Revitalization Task Force, I will also be on the Community Service, AG Policy Review and Finance Committees. And not least, I will be serving as the AMC Liaison for the 2017 Annual Gathering in Hollywood, FL, working with AG Chairman Marc Lederman (*who did an excellent job co-chairing this year's AG with Mary Lee Kemper*).

Finally, in Region 10 business, I have appointed Brian Reeves as the Region

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Minutes of the July, 2015 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, July 7th, 2015, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:10 pm.

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

(Honored) Guests: Doug Starke and Zanne Rostek.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: The June report was not available at the time of the meeting.

Testing: The June report was not available at the time of the meeting.

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

The recent election resulted in the following members being elected to the new ExComm: Joe Janson, T C Shaw, Dennis Logan, Karen Freiberg, and George Lebovitz.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Minutes of the July, 2015 ExComm Meeting (2)

The meeting was re-convened by former Assistant LocSec, Joe Janson at 6:15 pm.

Members Present: Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, and George Lebovitz.

(Honored) Guests: Doug Starke, Wynn Rostek, and Zanne Rostek.

ExComm positions were filled as follows:

LocSec: Joe Janson

Asst. LocSec: T C Shaw

Treasurer: Dennis Logan

Secretary: George Lebovitz

Member-at-Large: Karen Freiberg

Joe Janson will contact former committee members to ask them to continue in their roles.

Wynn was thanked for his outstanding effort as the SCAM ExComm for the past two years and was asked to chair a committee to pursue developing a new set of bylaws.

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