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# SCAM

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# SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



Website: [www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://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***

**W**ell, this is it. My 151st, and final, issue of The SCAM. My retirement as Editor, long discussed in prior issues, will now become reality as you read these pages. Dennis Logan (your current Treasurer as I write these words) will be succeeding me as Editor. Please give Dennis all the support you can.

So, what are my parting words? Simply put, **Thank you**.

My thanks go to **George Patterson**, who manages our circulation. Each month, his job begins where my job ends. The Editor creates each monthly issue from the material that comes in from the members. Once The SCAM is created, it is sent to the printer. George picks up the printed copies and ensures that you, the member, get your copy.

My thanks also go to **Karen Freiberg**, our Webmaster. Due to Karen's efforts, you may view this newsletter on the SCAM website. You can also read back issues of The SCAM. Every issue I have ever published is available on SCAM's website.

My thanks also go to all our writers, past and present, who have made this newsletter better than it would otherwise have been. On this, I give special recognition to **Art Belefant** for being a SCAM contributor since long before I became Editor. Moreover, his articles have covered a diversity of very interesting topics.

Most of all, I thank YOU, the reader. After all, you are the reason this newsletter exists.

Thank you all.

**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.

**R**ecently, I had occasion to view an episode of “The View”, that lunchtime show hosted by 4 or 5 women that is apparently intended for an audience of self-proclaimed domestic goddesses. A regular feature of the show is “Hot Topics”, where issues of the day deemed to be of importance are discussed by the hosts. Simultaneously, near the bottom of the screen, one can see various instant messages where some members of the audience weigh in on that topic.

Sometimes, Hot Topics discusses serious political or social issues. More often, it seems to be more of a “court of public opinion” on what these goddesses deem to be the right way to conduct a relationship, rear a child, or—believe it or not—whether it’s OK to laugh while making love.

On the Hot Topics of that particular day, I picked up on three such topics:

The first centered on whether it is ever proper for a married man not to wear his wedding ring. It seems that if the man chooses not to wear the ring, he is trying to conceal his marital status, presumably so he can have an extramarital affair. Another take on the question was introduced when one of the hosts commented that many women are actually *attracted* to a man wearing the wedding ring thus being drawn into an affair with him. So...what is the man to do? Does he wear the ring to ward off affairs ... or does he not wear it in order to accomplish the very same objective?

The second involved the perception that many men neither have, nor desire, a social media presence. The question: Why is that so? Presumably, so he could conceal his marital status and engage in extracurricular activity (*See a pattern here yet?*). To me, this is simply one more twist on the age-old argument that people who value their privacy must have something to hide. Perhaps the next target of public suspicion will be those who lock the toilet stall doors when using a public restroom (*which, I believe, would still include most of us*).

The third discussion, unlike the other two, was directed toward women. The question was asked, “How much (visible) cleavage is acceptable at the workplace?” Other than a spirited discussion about women with larger breasts being impacted to a greater degree than their lesser en-

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**S**ome of our grandchildren visited us this past month. These twenty-year olds wanted to compare various drinks, not beer, but cream sodas. Our local super market in Melbourne Beach has a remarkable selection of rare and foreign cream sodas. They chose six.

1. *Faygo*. Detroit, MI. Vanilla Creme, Naturally and artificially\* flavored. Made with 100% cane sugar\*\*.
2. *WBC*. USA. Vanilla Cream. Natural flavor, citric acid, 100% real sugar\*\*
3. *Americana*. Mukiteo, WA. Honey Cream. Pure cane sugar, natural and artificial flavors, pure organic honey, caramel color, citric acid, vanilla extract.
4. *Boylan Bottling Co. Creme*. Cane sugar, pure vanilla extract, natural and artificial flavors, sodium benzoate, citric acid, caramel color.
5. *Polar*. Worchester, MA. Vanilla Cream. Cane sugar, natural flavors, sodium benzoate, citric acid, quillaia extract, caramel color.
6. *Flying Cauldron Butterscotch Beer*. LA, CA. Cane sugar, vanilla extract, natural caramel color, natural flavors, stevia rebaudiana leaf extract.

This is a compilation and summary of the comments from the tasters.

1. *Faygo*. Sweet, less off taste
2. *WBC*. Sweet, slight chemical taste.
3. *Americana*. Banana taste, higher carbonation
4. *Boylan*. Not too sweet, less carbonation
5. *Polar*. Not too sweet, less carbonation, full bodied
6. *Butterscotch Beer*. Not too sweet, nasty, chemical taste

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## A Mensan in the Workplace?

**A**re 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.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST  
FOR  
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for  
SCAM submittal guidelines.

**T**he SCAM Gifted Youth Program is taking off like a rocket, both figuratively and literally!

After only two meetings, we have over a dozen kids with their families on board and have scheduled our first real event: Thanks to Wynn Rostek, we will be building model rockets on Saturday, July 9th, and then launching them the following Saturday, the 16th!

Furthermore, we have plans for several future events in the works and everyone involved is quite excited about the program.

We have been in collaboration with the Brevard Gifted and Talented Network and are being promoted on their Facebook page and are also coordinating with the Brevard School System to see if we can provide support to their gifted efforts.

For such a new initiative, I think we can fairly say that this program is already more successful than any of had anticipated.

Many thanks to Dennis Logan, without whom none of this would ever have come about; Wynn and Zanne Rostek for volunteering outstanding ideas and providing support for our activities; and Kurt Penca who is a phenomenal in interacting with our young members. Without their efforts, we couldn't dream of being where we are in such a short time.

### **Our Regular Events:**

- **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](mailto:the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com).

# July 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

								2 GO!
3	4 C.A.B.A.G.E.	5	6	7	8	9 GO!		
10	11 C.A.B.A.G.E.		13	14	15	16 GO!		
17	18 C.A.B.A.G.E.	19	20	21	22	23 GO!		
24	25 C.A.B.A.G.E.	26	27	28	29			
31								

## SCAM Calendar of Events for July 2016

### **1st - 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 12** at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

### **30th - 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**

**July 16** 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's test will be held August 20.

**Contact:** Hank Rhodes, [mentsatest@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mentsatest@cfl.rr.com).

### **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](http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org) and click on "Calendar".

## Membership Notes for July 2016

### ***WELCOME BACK!***

C J Hall  
Jack Thompson

### ***JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS***

4th Chari Fry  
5th Robert Tuck Jr  
6th James Conaway II  
9th Rick Bugado  
11th Harriet Dyer  
20th Jeffrey Barbour  
21st William Hartman  
23rd R M Livingston  
25th Leona Pratt  
26th Pepper Stevens



### ***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.**

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My own impression is that there is little difference among the cream sodas tasted except that I agree with the general opinion about Butterscotch Beer. The off-taste may be because of the stevia used for a sweetener.

I don't think that the expense, upwards of a dollar a bottle, of drinking the rare sodas warrants their use. In our house, we use generic cream sodas from Wal-Mart, Publix, or Winn-Dixie indiscriminately. I can find no difference in taste. Incidentally, Wal-Mart cream soda contains high fructose corn syrup, natural and artificial flavor, potassium benzoate, citric acid, and caramel color as do the other store brands.

**\*Vanilla** is derived from the seedpods of orchids of the genus Vanilla, primarily from the Mexican species. Vanilla is the second-most expensive spice after saffron, because growing the vanilla seed pods is labor-insensitive. Vanilla is a mixture of several hundred different compounds, including vanillin. Vanillin is the dominant flavor in vanilla. As vanillin can be derived from other sources, including wood, it is an artificial flavor. Because of its cost, vanillin is often used in lieu of vanilla as a flavoring, but lacks its complexity. Three of the sodas did not contain artificial flavors, 2. WBC, 5. Polar, and 6. Butterscotch Beer, therefore the vanilla flavor must come natural vanilla. Those sodas that use artificial flavors in addition to vanilla may be using vanillin as a partial replacement of vanilla.

**\*\*Sugar (Sucrose)** is found in the stems of sugarcane and roots of the sugar beet.

Pure beet sugar is difficult to find, so labeled, in the marketplace. . In any product, if one of the ingredients is "sugar", you may assume that it is beet sugar unless it is labeled "cane sugar". It is difficult to distinguish between fully refined sugar produced from beet and cane sugar. Although most people cannot distinguish the difference between beet sugar and cane sugar, some home bakers claim that there is a difference in the results in cakes. White refined is the most common form of sugar in North America and Europe. Refined sugar is made by dissolving and purifying raw sugar. White refined sugar is typically sold as **granulated sugar**, which has been dried to prevent clumping and comes in various crystal sizes for home and industrial use:

**\*\*\* Quillaia** is extracted from the inner bark of the soapbark (Quillaja saponaria). It contains a high concentration of saponins (soaps).

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dowed sisters, there seemed to be no agreement on a proposed standard. Of course, the real concern was the perception that unacceptable male behavior just might result from too much of a breast being in view. Yet, like the other two issues, the hosts still could not reach a consensus.

It would seem to me that a man who is in a current committed relationship is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't. I do, however, have an idea on how to resolve the "cleavage issue": *The Jealous Wife Test*. We could assemble a panel of those among married women who are best known for their all-encompassing suspicion that their spouses would be unfaithful if ever given a chance. The proposed panel would be charged with deciding what amount of cleavage (if any) would be acceptable in front of their respective husbands (*of course, with that ever-roving eye*). Perhaps then a new dress code could be formulated.

At this point, I offer one observation: In my experience, one of the most difficult endeavors a man can engage in is maintaining a successful intimate relationship with the woman he loves. In my mind, for a man to be involved in two or more such relationships simultaneously would cause me to seriously question whether he is mentally competent. So I am finding it, at best, quite difficult to understand the obsession some women seem to have that their mates would be compelled to cheat on them given the opportunity.

Does this problem really exist on such a grand scale? Are *all* married men hell-bent on having an extramarital affair? It would seem to me to defy logic that a man would marry one woman and then actively seek the charms of someone else. So, if this really happens, we need to ask why. I suspect, however, that this line of inquiry will never take place. What might be found out may well be contrary to their stereotype of married men, thus the target audience of *The View* might not be comfortable with what they find out.

*Your View?*

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this reason, an additional \$1,000 annual fund per region has been earmarked for local group assistance only, not to be used for direct RVC expenses. The purpose of this is to provide seed money to benefit local groups in measurable ways, but not to cover regular operational expenses. I will be discussing this in more detail with the Local Secretaries in the region over the next month.

I'm happy to note that the Mensa Region 10 Facebook group had a member increase of nearly 20% since my column last month, and we've started to have some conversations about various Mensa matters such as volunteering and member participation preferences. I'll be posting the agenda for the AMC meeting to that group once it is released, and I hope there will be discussion about that as well. The invitation to join the group remains open – go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/> to request access and join the conversation.

Until next month *(or until I see you online)*,

*Thomas George Thomas*

## **A Mensan in the family?**

**A**re 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?

**A** **teleconference** of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) was held on May 18. One of the items to be discussed was a set of questions to be posed to potential candidates for national office. Several changes were proposed to the questions that had been printed in the agenda. There was some concern that changes might be interpreted as vetting the candidates, opposition to which was one of the reasons the Nominating Committee was eliminated from the national Bylaws in the previous election. In order to ensure that sufficient thought was put into these questions, the motion was withdrawn and a subcommittee was formed to work on changes to the motion, and it will be presented at the next AMC meeting on June 30 in San Diego at the Annual Gathering.

A side effect of the elimination of the Nominating Committee is that we have to trust that candidates will come forward on their own to fill positions on the AMC, without being approached by a sanctioned committee. While a search committee had been proposed at the March AMC meeting, it was rejected as looking like it might be trying to reinstitute the nominating committee which had just been rejected – even though, unlike the nominating committee, a search committee would have had no authority to place anyone on the ballot. All candidates will still have to gather their own petition signatures.

For that reason, I suggest that anyone who would be interested in running for an office, be it regionally or nationally elected, should begin to think about it now. The election chair was appointed at the March AMC meeting, and I expect that she will have some changes to the procedures that take into account the bylaws changes made in 2015. If you are considering running, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the AMC positions.

In other news, I spoke at Tampa Bay Mensa's "Margarita Bay" Regional Gathering about a new local group program that was introduced this year. While the RVCs have an annual discretionary fund available to them, this has not even been sufficient to cover travel expenses for getting to local groups around the region, much less provide support for local groups that may be having difficulties. For

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### Minutes of the June 2016 ExComm Meeting

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:06 pm.

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

**Guest:** Terry (Val) Valek.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Dennis Logan, submitted the June report which was accepted by the ExComm<sup>1</sup>.

**Testing:** Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported May testing via email<sup>2</sup>.

The minutes of the May, 2016 meeting as published in the SCAM were approved.

The proposed new bylaws submitted to National were revised with the changes which were suggested and resubmitted for final review.

The SCAM Gifted Student Program is becoming more successful than we had imagined it would be at this early stage with a full dozen students! We are investigating possibilities for our next activity and are looking at an event at either Brevard MakerSpace or The Fab Lab. Also being considered is a rocketry event that Wynn Rostek has graciously offered to conduct, as well as an Arduino (*a micro-controller for building digital devices and interactive objects*) programming session.

Since by the time you are reading this, we will have already conducted our ExComm election, we hope you all submitted your votes to fill the vacancies for Treasurer (*current Treasurer, Dennis Logan, is moving to become the new Editor of the SCAM since long time Editor, Mike Moakley, is retiring after his hundred years of faithful service*) and Assistant LocSec.

Since we could not obtain a speaker, we are canceling the June Red Ginger event. At the July 9<sup>th</sup> Red Ginger get together, I will be making a presentation on the status and development of our Gifted Student Program. I hope to see many of you there, as not only will I be presenting to you, but I would love to get ideas from you as well.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6:00 pm (postponed one week because of the conflicting July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday) in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

<sup>1</sup> *General Fund: \$1,616.35, Reserve Fund: \$859.46, Total Assets: \$2,475.81, with some outstanding expenses still to be paid.*

<sup>2</sup> *Contacted 4 candidates for the first time, 5 candidates for the second or third time; tested 1. Next test session is June 18th, 2016 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Prospective candidates should contact us at [mensatest@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mensatest@cfl.rr.com).*