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SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 20th 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, editor@scam.us.mensa.org.

Editor's Notes

Dennis D. Logan, Editor

As promised, I finished late. All my fault, not particularly worried about it. If I get more than five emails sent to editor@scam.us.mensa.org complaining about my lethargy I promise to have the next issue out before the first of October.

There will be a showing of Dr. Stangelove presented by Turner Classic Movies later this month. I really like that movie and will be attending one of the showings for certain. Details are on the calendar page in the middle of the publication.

It sure would be nice to fill in a name for the Member-At-Large position that we have open. It doesn't take a lot of time unless you want to actually do something.

To that point, we are actually doing something with our Gifted Youth program but we could really use some help planning and hosting the events. I know many of you have skills and talents that a young gifted person could benefit from. I know in my own experience I have benefitted from the gifts of the gifted children. They are bright and energetic and so anxious to learn. All our kids are good kids and a joy to be around. They really are good kids from a myriad of backgrounds some of whom really want some mentoring and challenging activities.

If you have any experience with really cool technologies or arts or anything you think a smart kid might enjoy and benefit from please, please, please contact George Lebovitz at rokkitsci@att.net. I guarantee your rewards will not be commensurate with your efforts.

Until next month, more or less, take care of yourselves and always choose to be happy.

“I went to the ATM this morning and it said INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. I’m wondering which of us, me or the machine?”

I was visiting my local automatic teller machine (ATM) last week, when I thought how these devices are probably going to disappear in the future. With the increasing use of on-line banking features and fears of personal security while using them, ATMs may go the way of the telephone booth. However, one forgets how useful the devices have been and what is the history behind their invention.

Most historical accounts report the first automated banking machine was the creation of the American, Luther Simjian. He had patents on a color x-ray machine, self-focusing camera, and exercise bicycle. He had also invented the ‘Bankograph’, a machine that could accept cash or check deposits at any hour of the day or night. In 1960, he convinced a New York bank to take a few of his automatic-deposit machines.

A microfilm camera inside the Bankograph took a snapshot of every deposit. Customers received a copy of the snapshot. Unfortunately, the Bankograph did not catch on. Simjian claimed the only people using the machines were prostitutes and gamblers who did not want to deal face-to-face with tellers. He claimed there were not enough of them using it to make the machines a worthwhile investment (I would have thought the machine could not have kept up with the user traffic!)

John Shepherd-Barron was an old-fashioned Scotsman and engineer who had worked on currency printing and armored transportation of currency. The legend goes that, just like Archimedes, Shepherd-Baron was sitting in the bathtub and had a flash of genius: If vending machines could dispense chocolate bars, why could they not dispense cash as well? In 1967, the London based Barclay’s installed the inventor’s device in a branch on Enfield High Street. It used the popular 4-digit PIN (personal identification number)-based on research showing that is how much information people can effectively remember. That was an idea supplied by Shepherd-Barron’s wife. His machine did not use plastic cards. Instead, it used paper vouchers printed with radioactive ink so

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that the machine could read them. The customer entered their identification code and took their cash- a maximum of 10 pounds sterling at a time.

The first automated banking machine in the U.S. was devised by a Dallas engineer and former professional baseball player named Donald Wetzel. Wetzel's machine used plastic cards like the ones in use today. Instead of radioactive ink, the cards stored account information in magnetic strips. In September 1969, a Chemical Bank branch on Long Island installed the first of Wetzel's machines. I wonder if a not-so-Mensa- level crook ever walked up to those early ATMs, pointed a gun at it, and mumbled, "Give me all your money, and ya won't get hoit."

By the 1970's, many banks had jumped on the ATM bandwagon. To introduce this machine to consumers, other banks used all kinds of advertising tricks. For example, a bank in Columbus, Ohio sponsored a six-hour Paul Newman movie marathon on a local channel. Every 25 minutes during the movies, commercials for the bank would tout the advantages of its new cash-dispensing machine. In 1977, Citibank spent more than \$100 million to install ATMs all over New York City. The following January, a huge blizzard hit New York and dumped 17 inches of snow on the city. Banks were closed for days; meanwhile, the ATMs use increased by 20 per cent. Citibank launched its "The Citi Never Sleeps' ad campaign. It included posters and billboards of customers trudging through snow to get to Citibank ATMs. After that, almost every one of the country's banks followed Citi's lead. The era of the ATM was underway. As time passed, the devices became somewhat faster in conducting transactions and more security (magnetic strips containing additional information for the machine to read as well as the requirement to enter PIN numbers separately) were added.

Although their use is diminishing in some cities, they still appear at every bank you could imagine. Even in the most isolated locations: There are even two ATMs located in Antarctica. Talk about 'cold cash'! It also resulted in fewer human tellers being required, so this added to unemployment woes. There was also the loss of a human contact/interaction

while conducting your transactions (although some folks may say they prefer to interact with a machine rather than some of the tellers they have met).

So, be thankful we have lived in an era that provided easy access to our bank accounts (if not also easy access by hackers and thieves). Mensa should always remember those men and women who are creative and always thinking of new ways to get your money's worth.

References: Madhavan, Guru, *Applied Minds-How Engineers Think*, W.W.Norton, NY. 2015.

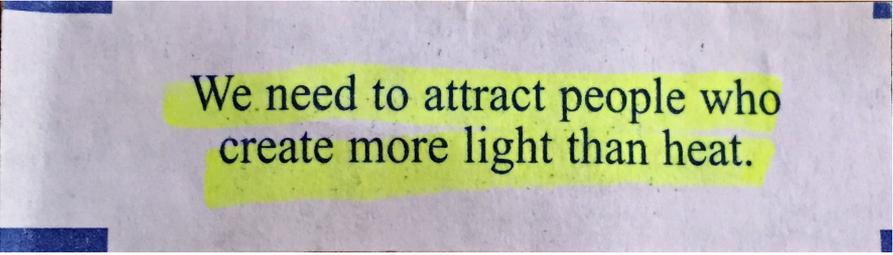
THE PRESENT MOMENT*Joe Janson*

I am a Real Estate Broker and I never imagined that I would be my own worst client. In general, the secret of my success with real estate buyers is that I have more stamina than they do. I can wear them out long before I wear myself out and help them find a place that is perfect. My first client, an employee of the Brevard County Sheriff's Department, and I searched for days in Port Saint John until we got to the last home available there and by magic, that was it. She bought that home and has been happy ever since. That was when I knew I had something special for finding real estate. It took me a while, but I got it done.

My wife and I, who currently live in Cocoa, have been searching for a new home for the last few months. Cocoa is okay but we wanted something different so in April, we started looking for another place. We went through many different communities from the furthest south to the furthest north borders of Brevard County. We found many homes that might work, could work, but none that would absolutely work. Please understand that our search is tempered by a budget. We are both self-employed, so we tend not to pay ourselves like rock stars. We have to find the right match in real estate; a combination of a good price, homestead taxes, and easily insurable. I think over the past few months, we have looked at every home in our price range in Brevard County and were down to waiting for new homes to appear...ANYWHERE!

We bypass a lot of the flipped homes because in general they are not homesteaded and so their tax burden is typically a deal killer for us. We found a home in Port Saint John that we liked but the math didn't work. Then next we found a home in Titusville that we loved, but after analyzing the finances, again we were playing too close to the wires and the seller was a little eccentric and was causing us both a lot of stress with unusual demands. Hopeless, we let that home go. Then suddenly last night I got a text message from a friend to contact her tech support guy who had a home in Palm Bay that he wanted to sell because he had moved to California. She wanted me to list it for him. But it actually sounded like a great home for me.

This morning I went there hoping it could work. Some homes we were interested in ended up in bidding wars, but this one I had all to myself. Theresa and I saw it. We knew that it had everything we needed. He agreed to paint and replace carpet. We bought it on the spot. That was today, August 27, 2016; the same day our new Editor in Chief, Dennis Logan is looking for my column and abusing me for my priorities. Dennis, thank you for your Mike Moakley-like patience...it is greatly appreciated. And that, my friends, is the present moment.



We need to attract people who
create more light than heat.

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: rokkitsci@att.net .

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



2nd - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

This didn't happen this month so you didn't miss anything. Maybe TC will be back for October!

6th - Tuesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See minutes for location.

24th - 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.*

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".

18th 2 PM & 21st 7 PM

DR. STRANGELOVE

Join me on the 18th or 21st to watch Dr. Strangelove, presented by TCM, at Carmike Avenue 16 Theatre, 2241 Town Centre Avenue. I'm expecting I'll go on Wednesday evening. I've never seen it on the big screen.



#74

Encapsulated brilliance
He spoke editorially
Pompously professing wisdom
As an ally of Ali

#75

It was quite a jolt to miss my youth
As I became a man
A trick accomplished only as
A demented doctor can

#76

Above the blue Potomac
It was extremely hard
Seeing all the fallen heroes
Buried in his own backyard

#77

Like a supernovae
She exploded on the scene
Headlining every paper
And every magazine

#78

An Oedipus complex is strictly out
And he was not a momma's boy
He never talked about his childhood
And he never owned a toy

#79

The challenged of the letters
Had good cause to revel
He changed the look
And then he took
It to a different level

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#80

The Green Berets all know him
A mysterious kinship that they keep
The only time they call him
Is when they take a leap

#81

I always have my shovel
In case we need a brake
To stop the devastation
That's left there in the wake

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

R Kent Buchanan	09 September
Michael James Fuller	17 September
Wade Hollowell	01 September
Dr. Jacqueline Evans Jacobs	12 September
Harry Welsh Martin, Jr.	17 September
Janet H. Mueck	12 September
George Patterson	02 September
Rodrigo Pereira	04 September
Charles N Satchwell	28 September
Leah R W Simpson	07 September
Eric A Swiechowski	13 September
Richard E. Wotring	28 September

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.

GIFTED YOUTH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Rocket build and launch July.



GIFTED YOUTH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Google Cardboard build and try August.



At the June 30 American Mensa Committee (AMC) in San Diego, most of the meeting consisted of reports and presentations, including a report on a testing voucher pilot based on a highly successful recruitment program in Mensa Germany, a presentation on a Leadership in Training Program currently under development, and results of the Lapsed Member survey run in mid-May. Several motions were also voted on. We passed updates to the AMC Questions to Candidates that are published with the ballots for AMC elections, which increased some word limits and added a question on why the candidate wants a leadership role in American Mensa. The AMC approved a statement from the Name and Logo Usage Review Committee clarifying AML's policy on the use of the Mensa Name and Logo at public events. The Avenues of Redress were amended to include the Regional Ombudsman throughout the process. We accepted the selections of Kansas City, MO and Houston, TX as the sites of the Annual Gatherings in 2020 and 2021 respectively. And finally, we approved four of five proposed Bylaws referenda for the 2017 ballot, which split the "Omnibus" amendment from the previous election into distinct parts so they could be considered on their separate merits, as well as a process for reconciling conflicting referenda should multiple referenda pass. For anyone interested, a 5 hour video recording of this meeting has been posted on the National website, and can be viewed by visiting <http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> and selecting 2016-06-30 – San Diego, CA from the dropdown. You will also be able to find full detailed minutes at this link once they have been approved.

A teleconference of the AMC will be held on August 23 with a brief agenda. There are only a couple of motions: to approve the minutes of the June meeting and to appoint the Election Committee Chair for 2017. Beyond that are three discussions: Review of AML insurance programs, preliminary discussion about forming an Awards Review Task Force, and preliminary discussion about potential changes to the Disciplinary process. Although the teleconference meeting does not allow for real-time observers, the recording will be posted after the meeting for anyone interested, and comments are invited from members prior to any formal motions to be made at the September 17 AMC meeting. This agenda can be found at the link above, by selecting 2016-08-23 – Teleconference.

In Region 10 news, several awards were presented to our members and groups at the San Diego AG. The National Service Award was presented to Brian Reeves and Elissa Rudolph, both from Palm Beach Area Mensa. Central Florida Mensa's "Tragic Kingdom" team won first place in CultureQuest for the third year in a row. Ruby Awards for local activities and accomplishments were presented to Tallahassee Area Mensa, Northwest Florida Mensa, and Tampa Bay Mensa. And Tallahassee Mensa won the Innovative Owl Award for their amazing 97% member retention rate!

The Mensa Region 10 Facebook group is growing steadily, and we now have over 150 members from all 12 Local Groups taking part and sharing ideas. I've been able to get news out more quickly through this online group than I can via newsletters, though I recognize the continued need for the printed information for those without computer access or who prefer not to participate in social media. I'm investigating additional avenues for getting information out between columns, and hope to have something more to announce in next month's column. In the meantime, to join the Region 10 Facebook group visit <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

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.g.thomas>

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, August 9th 2016, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:06 pm.

Members Present: Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, Val Valek, and George Lebovitz.
Guest: Dennis Logan.

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 May testing via email¹.

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

Joe reported that George Patterson accepted his continued position with Membership/Assembly/Circulation/Publicity, Hank Rhodes re-confirmed as Testing Coordinator, Wynn Rostek as Chair of the Bylaw Committee, Karen Freiberg as SIGHT Coordinator, and Doug Starke for the SCAM Calendar. Mike Moakley declined to continue as Mediator and will have to be replaced.

The proposed new bylaws were once again returned for additional minor changes and were again resubmitted for final review.

Joe submitted the information on the new ExComm and committee members to national.

Space Coast Area Mensa is the proud recipient of the American Mensa Emerald Award in recognition of our outstanding performance as a local chapter! Yowza!

George has spent approximately \$200 (receipts provided) out of pocket for SCAM Gifted Youth events and inquired whether he could receive compensation. However, the balance in the treasury is barely sufficient to support continued mailing of the SCAM and other expenses. It was suggested that we might cut back publication of the SCAM to every other month or come up with ideas for a fund raiser.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, September 6th 2016 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

¹ Contacted 10 candidates for the first time, 4 candidates for the second or third time; tested 1.



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