



Borealis

NORTHERN MICHIGAN MENSA

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 2004



SOLITUDE ON A SEASONAL ROAD

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

GAMES NIGHT - Tuesday, 9 November, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at Borders Books and Music, located at 2612 Crossing Circle, Traverse City. Bring your favorite game and a willingness to have fun! Coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps, soups, and desserts are available for purchase.

EXCOMM - Saturday, 13 November, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Cottage Café in the Papa's Den. All members are welcome to attend.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 November, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF - Friday, 26 November, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café, located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. Coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps, and desserts are available for purchase.

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Don't forget about the Mensa Boutique, the source of all things Mensan. Some sales going on at the nonce. Find the site at www.mensaboutique.com.

DIBS AND DABS

According to the latest mailing info from national Mensa, we have two "move in" members. Let's welcome Shelly Arthur-Sinar from Idaho Falls, ID, and now in Gaylord and Wendy Kay Crowley, from Marquette, MI, now resident on Mackinac Island.

Under the auspices of the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, two awards are up for member nomination:

- Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a teacher, professor, or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member.

- Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement

"Creative achievement" is a novel idea that has proven to be of practical value to others, such as a solution to a particular problem. Artistic works are not considered.

Details and application forms are available from Ralph Hillquist.

Dirty pool, but I'll sneak this in here. Annual dues will increase to \$52 per annum effective 1 January 2005. That's less than a penny a day, so they say (the \$3 increase that is).

For you "roadies," some upcoming events:

- Cincinnati 2004 3-5 December 2004

It's the *Prime Time* of your life.

- Colloquium 2005 4-6 March 2005

Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future. A unique forum, Mensa style, of stimulating intellectual inquiry and insights into the problems and promises of renewable energy. In Tucson, AZ.

- Staten Island, NY 8-10 April 2005

The New York experience

- FloRanGe 05 27-29 May 2005

A Florida RG in Fort Lauderdale, hosted by Broward Mensa. Good food, good friends, a few surprises.

ExComm MINUTES

Sue Styles, Deputy Loc Sec

Meeting results should be published in the newsletter periodically. We will try to start doing this as closely as possible to the actual date of the meeting. ExComm meetings are open to all members, although only elected officers can vote. Meetings often take place immediately before Saturday brunches, but the date and time are usually posted in the newsletter and on our website. This is your group; feel free to contact any ExComm member with your ideas, issues, or concerns! We can only act on what we hear from you.

Overview of ExComm Meeting Minutes, 7/17/2004

ExComm Elected Officers present: Sherry McNamara, Sue Styles, Ellen Monahan, Melissa Rennie, Jack Schultz. Other members present: Stephen Siciliano.

Treasurer's Report (Ellen): We have a balance of about \$2,677, not including outstanding bills for printing the June newsletter and mailing tests to the national office. Sixty of eighty-nine current members are getting *Borealis* via email.

Proctor Coordinator's Report (Jack): Since NMM began in 8/02, we have earned \$950 from testing fees. \$412.50 is since August of 2003. Since January 2004: \$287.50.

Webmaster's Report (Stephen): The website has a new look, and the ExComm now has a way to update any page so everything doesn't have to go through Stephen. Also, now that Stephen has the website on his own server, he will work with the new newsletter editor on simpler ways to send *Borealis* via email.

Membership Officer's Report (Melissa): A survey of members who have not renewed their membership revealed a wide variety of reasons (e.g. forgetting, lack of time to participate, moving). There were no major complaints about our local group that led to anyone not renewing. Also, Melissa is still thinking about our group hosting a Regional Gathering (RG) in the future.

Scholarship Chair Appointment: Sherry has discussed this position with Dorothy Vogel, a college and private piano teacher who expressed interest. Sherry has some information to get Dorothy started, and information has been solicited from the previous Scholarship Chair. The ExComm voted to approve this nomination.

Newsletter Editor Appointment: Sherry has talked to several people interested in helping with the newsletter. Michelle Swanson and Ralph Hillquist are the most likely candidates, and Sherry suggested they share the position. Two co-editors would allow for vacations, illnesses, or a "break" from time to time. The ExComm approved appointing Michelle Swanson and Ralph Hillquist jointly as Newsletter Editors.

Program ideas: Free Shakespeare presentations in Elberta and the Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain were suggested as activities for members. There has also been contact with Interlochen about doing some sort of activity or program together.

Membership Handbook Status: [The idea of a membership handbook has been discussed all year. It could contain a directory, activities schedule such as brunch the 2nd Saturday of each month and Annual Picnic in late August every year, and information on the Friend Fund to help members with dues, group funding for CultureQuest®, how the ExComm is elected, etc.] This may be a time-consuming project. The most useful format was discussed, and a new member present said online would indeed have been useful in the absence of a physical document. All agreed that posting information online can benefit new and current members, while allowing for growth over time. We may publish a physical version in the future; for now Jack will begin providing some content to be posted on the website.

FROM SUE'S CULINARY COLLECTION : Cheesy Potato Soup

4 c. diced peeled potatoes

3 c. chicken broth

2 c. milk

1 ½ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. pepper

2 c. (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese

dash paprika

croutons

fresh chopped parsley

In large saucepan, heat potatoes and broth until simmering. Cover and cook until potatoes are tender, about 12 minutes. Puree potato mixture in a blender, leaving some chunks. Return to saucepan. Stir in milk and seasonings. Add the cheese and heat only until melted. Garnish with croutons and parsley.

NEW! NMM BOOK CLUB

Sherry McNamara, Loc Sec

Are you an avid reader? Do you want to meet with other readers and discuss books? Then this club is for you!

Format of Club: One person will be responsible at each meeting to present background information about the author as well as any pertinent information about the book. Following this presentation, the group will have a "round-robin" discussion of each member's thoughts and ideas about the book. This club is expected to go beyond the simple, "I liked the book," or "The main character was really nice." Don't get me wrong, the club is intended for enjoyment, but some in-depth discussion is expected.

Meetings: The first meeting will be on Saturday, 4 December, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. We will meet at the Omelette Shoppe, 1209 E. Front (across from the Civic Center). Subsequent meetings will be held either every month, or every other month, depending on the decisions made by the group at the first meeting

First Book: Since our first meeting will be in December, I have taken the liberty to choose the first book for discussion at that meeting. In addition, I will be the presenter at the first meeting. I have already read, and presented, this book to my AAUW book club and have done all the necessary research. I have chosen the same book as the 2004 selection by the Traverse City Reads group, so maybe you have already read it! The book is *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill. Please read this and be prepared to discuss it at the December meeting.

Your Assignment: 1) Read the book! 2) Think of books you would like to read, or have read, and believe would make for good discussion. Bring your book list and we will take a vote on which books to read for the next couple meetings, or for the next year, depending on the number of suggestions we agree upon. 3) Think of a name for this club so I can register it with Horizon Books; this will allow Horizon Books to have enough books on hand for our members as well as to provide us a 10% discount on the books.

NATIONAL TESTING DAY

Sue Styles, Proctor



Saturday, October 16, was American Mensa's National Testing Day. The theme this year was "Looking for Intelligent Life? Find Mensa." (While I don't particularly care for that theme, which implies that Mensa is the only place you will find intelligent people, it may have a kind of 'popular appeal' that marketing types look for!) The idea of a national day allows Mensa to put together a theme and seek national publicity for Mensa and for testing. It also gives us a theme to use in our local publicity if we wish, helps us get publicity, and generally creates excitement around the testing process for potential members and local groups. Over 150 local groups participated this year (many with multiple sessions), and locations and times were posted on the AML website. There were 8 sessions in Michigan: four hosted by Southeast Michigan Mensa, two by Western Michigan Mensa, one by Mid-Michigan Mensa, and our own session.

As far as the actual test process, National Testing Day is not much different from a regular test session. Last year we had a site in Gaylord and one in Traverse City, with two participants at each site. This year our Proctor Coordinator, Jack Schultz, was out of town, so I tested two young men in Traverse City. One is from Gaylord, and the other is from Traverse City. Both were very interested in joining if they qualified. The national office is prepared for the deluge of tests after National Testing Day, so they have pledged to have the results back to testees by November 8.

We often get inquiries in response to our publicity from people who end up not being able to attend a particular test session. The same was true this month. A woman from Moran in the UP inquired, as did one from the Rogers City area, and two mothers called on behalf of their teenage children. A current member asked about having his daughter tested, and a young man from Traverse City. These contacts will be added to Jack's master list to be informed of future testing opportunities.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Up here in the north country this time of year, we have all seen the many fine feathered friends group up to head south for our winter season. Somehow, for all the joy they have given us, it doesn't seem fair to just say "there goes a bunch of birds." As you know, or may have suspected, each bird type has a specific name for its grouping, e.g., a gaggle of geese. Nonetheless, for you junior bird-watchers or serious ornithologists, there follows a demanding test of your knowledge. In the left column is a list of bird types and in the right, a list of group descriptors; nothing is in order, of course.

As an exercise, match them up. Answers will appear next month, along with another set of listings.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1) coots | a) covey |
| 2) chickens | b) host |
| 3) mallards | c) wisp |
| 4) pheasants | d) nye |
| 5) partridges | e) sord |
| 6) hawks | f) brood |
| 7) sparrows | g) building |
| 8) woodcocks | h) nye |
| 9) snipe | i) fall |
| 10) rooks | j) cast |

{This exercise was prompted by a contribution to the Summer 2004 issue of *Whisper in the Woods* by Richard Mallery of Acme (writer and publisher of *The Dick. E. Bird News*).}

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A WINNER is always part of the answer

A LOSER is always part of the problem

A WINNER always has a program

A LOSER always has an excuse

A WINNER looks for a better way

A LOSER looks for an easier way

A WINNER sees an answer for every problem

A LOSER sees a problem for every answer

A WINNER says "It may be difficult, but it's possible"

A LOSER says "It may be possible, but it's too difficult"

Roaming the Region

Charlie Bruce (aka Gloater)

This past month the cruise bug bit me. Terry and I spent two weeks on a Celebrity cruise ship from Vancouver British Columbia through the Inside Passage to Alaska. We stopped in Juneau, Skagway (where we rode on the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad), and then cruised past Hubbard Glacier in Disenchantment Bay. Then we were sailing south again to Ketchikan, Victoria Canada, and disembarking in San Francisco. After two days in San Francisco and one day back home in Columbus it was time to return to the west coast (Portland) for the September AMC Meeting. Needless to say, I still travel a lot.

Speaking of travel, we signed up for the SeaGathering SIG's cruise out of Galveston, TX for five days of "RG on the Sea" type Mensa fun. Last I heard there were about 40 Mensans signed up and the list is growing so don't miss out. As Ray O'Connor, our Mensa SIG Chairman, says, "Mensa fun, games, tournaments, shopping in Cozumel, the white sand beaches of Calica, fine dining, live music, Vegas-style shows, comedy acts, and much more." If you're interested, email Ray or myself for further information.

One last comment on cruises. Do you realize that one of your Mensa benefits is the Association Cruise Club? American Mensa has made arrangements with Royal Caribbean® and Celebrity Cruises® to offer us Cruise Club rewards, benefits and savings on great destinations. Check out the Member Resources/Benefits section of the American Mensa web site for this and other benefits.

I will probably be traveling a lot over the fall and winter months, so please contact my Assistant RVC, Alan Baltis if you are unable to reach me. I will also be forwarding my RVC3@us.mensa.org emails to him when I'm away for any length of time.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN MENSA

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org