

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail. They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo, and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

Email: nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com

US mail:
Borealis
Stan Cain
3584 Village Circle Dr.
Traverse City MI 49686

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Sherry McNamara	231-933-9272	kikiwon@hotmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	Don Hennig	231-258-2654	dhennig@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
At Large	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	sdcmem@yahoo.com
At Large	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Membership	Jim McDermott	231-943-7792	
Ombudsman	Peter J. Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Editor	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com
Proctor			
Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
Program	Carol Crawford	231-938-3330	carolcrawford@chartermi.net
Publicity	Judith Lindenau	231-935-4962	judith@taar.com
Web Contact	Sue Nolff	231-943-9958	snolff@chartermi.net
Scholarship Chair	Patty Paternel	231-392-6403	ppaternel@chartermi.net
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tmb@mac.com

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
Assistant Editor	Don Hennig	231-258-2654	dhennig@sbcglobal.net
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Dave Swanka	716-833-5549	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: The Boardman River near Keystone Pond. Photo by Jack Schultz

Northern Michigan Mensa

March 2007 Calendar

MOVIE CLUB - Saturday, 3 March 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at LaSenorita located at 2455 N. US 31 S (near Sam's Club) for the discussion portion of our meeting. The movie title will be announced on 23 February via email and will also be posted on the webpage. If you don't have access to either of these, please call Sherry for the movie information at 231.933.9272. The movie will be shown at Horizon Cinemas, 3587 Market Place Circle, Traverse City. Movies change following the last showing on Thursday night, so don't wait until Friday the 2nd as it may not be the same movie that we will be discussing.

BRUNCH - Saturday, March 10, 2007 - 11:00am

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.

EXCOMM MEETING - Friday, 16 March 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

We will hold this meeting at Sherry McNamara's home prior to the start of games night.

GAMES NIGHT - Friday, 16 March 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Come for a night of relaxing, socializing, and gaming! Bring your favorite game, libation, and a snack to share. We will meet at the home of Sherry McNamara, 1526 W. Silver Lake Road (between Secor and Boone), Traverse City. Call 933.9272 for directions.

TGIF - Friday, March 23, 2007 at 5:30pm. Another Cuppa Joe at 1200 West 11th Street in old Building 50, Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. They have many beverages, sandwiches, soups, pastries and cookies available.

Member News

Happy March Birthdays

- 3 Margaret J. Scott
- 26 Charles R. Fricke
- 30 Sherry Marie McNamara

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

25 Years	William Earl Hagan	5 Years	Sherry Marie McNamara
20 Years	Harold William Smith		S. Schellenberg
17 Years	Mel Melzer		M. K. Shaw
12 Years	L. Corpe		S. A. Styles
7 Years	J. A. Thorne	3 Years	T. L. Slater
6 Years	Charles R. Fricke	1 Year	Jonathan D. Nelson
			M. Pizzedaz

January 2007 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	52528	94
New and reinstating membership	930	1
Offers of membership	284	3
New members since April 2006	4149	8
Reinstating members since April 2006	2988	13

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 1/31/2007. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

Mensans Brave the Cold

By Jack Schultz

On Saturday, February 10, seven members of our group left the monthly brunch in Traverse City and headed south to the outskirts of town for what became our second annual winter hike. The Boardman River flows into a reservoir (Keystone Pond) created by an old electric power-generating dam. Just north of that dam is Sabin Pond, also created by a dam. Last winter we hiked along Sabin Pond. These two ponds are destined to be lowered by up to 17 feet this year, so this was a good time for us to visit Keystone Pond.

The weather was bright and sunny, with scattered puffy white clouds, but the temperature hovered around 15 degrees. We'd planned to use snowshoes, but the trail alongside Keystone Pond had been tramped down by previous users and so we could walk even though the snow was well over a foot deep. We began at the Lone Pine Trailhead, along Keystone Road, in the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve and hiked north along Keystone Pond to an endpoint where a viewing platform extends into the water during the warm season but was on land at this time of year. While there, we saw a mature bald eagle take off from a perch across the pond (which was frozen). The creature flew leisurely along the far shore and then landed in an aspen tree on the south shore of the pond.

As we walked along, I subjected my companions to some "tree lecturing" with Q&A. In the cold, breezy air, they were tolerant enough not to complain at standing along the trail while I pointed out the differences among various trees and shrubs and told them of my earlier research with aspens in Utah.

We retraced our steps to near the starting point where the river is open and flows into Keystone Pond. Numerous Canada geese and various species of ducks were making use of the open water on the river and occasionally tried to walk on the ice where the pond was frozen. We then continued south along the river on a trail which wound nicely through the woods and eventually came out on Keystone Rapids. We didn't quite get as far south as the bridge over the river on Beitner Road but we were close. Some of us decided it would be quite a bit of fun, and perhaps even somewhat challenging, to take canoes or kayaks through the rapids. Maybe that will become a summertime activity during 2007.

Participants on this hike included Sherry and Ed McNamara, Aaron and Mary Kay Stander, Stan Cain, John Swartout (our newest member--from Boyne Falls), and me. It will be most interesting to see just how these ponds on the Boardman

River look once the drawdown is completed. Eventually, the plan is to remove the dams entirely and allow the river to return to its free-flowing state.



Photos by Stan Cain and Jack Schultz.

CultureQuest® XVIII April 29, 2007

Hundreds of locations across North America

While CultureQuest® might be considered a trivia game or competition, its intent has always been to promote and test cultural literacy. From film to politics, from literature to geography and from music to history, Mensan teams of up to five members gather in their neighborhoods on a single day across the U.S. and Canada and, for 90 minutes, compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights. Since its inception, more than 3,000 cultural questions have been answered by Mensan teams across the U.S. and Canada.

In the past, we have had several teams from Northern Michigan Mensa competing in this exciting event. We will need participants and hosts/hostesses. To host a team, you will be welcoming team members into your home for the 90 minute testing period. You will also be responsible for keeping the testing materials safe until test time, filling out the proper paperwork (minimal) and mailing the answer sheets as soon as the test is completed. To participate, you will be placed on a team based on your geographical location. You might also bring some "brain food" to the event to help keep your team's energy up during the testing.

All team members (primary players and alternates) must be dues-paid members of American Mensa for fiscal year 2007-2008 as of April 1, 2007. Team entry fee is \$40 per team (four to five members). Please contact Carol Crawford at 231-938-3330 or carolcrawford@charter.net if you would like to participate. The deadline for responses will be March 20, 2007 so that Carol can organize participants into teams and let everyone know the individual entry fees.

In Defense of the Sensitive Use of Language By John Porter

I read Ruth Minshull's piece on PC language in the [January 2007] issue of Borealis with much interest, and not only because I object to the invective use of the word "bureaucrat". I wear the badge of bureaucrat proudly, although I have to admit that I much prefer using the term "civil servant". I have been a servant of the citizens of Michigan since July 1968. Actually, of the nation's citizens as well, since the state agency for which I work is about 80% federally funded,

making it a combined state-federal program. That makes me a bureaucrat squared, I guess.

Helping people with disabilities get and keep jobs has taught me something about stereotypes and stigma, about mental retardation and mental illness, about prejudice and discrimination, about missing limbs, malformed bodies, and disease processes, about pride in one's humanness and about the desire to fit in.

When I read about being "afflicted" with disabilities I am saddened, not offended, as Ruth suggested I might be. When I read (present tense) about the "deaf, dumb, blind or crippled", I am reminded that prejudicial attitudes can be the foundation of overt discrimination later. To use adjectives like the word "disabled" as nouns, identifies people in a way that they are dehumanized, less than fully human or not even human. The PC term to use is "person with a disability" (PWD, as we say in the trade). That is, the individual is a person first, who happens to have many characteristics like we all do, but also has one that is a disability. The person is not the disability; the person is a person, first and foremost. To see the disability first is being blind to the truth. In this situation, the "see-er" is the one "afflicted"with short sightedness!

The significance of politically incorrect language in this context is that it subjugates a category of individuals by defining them to be less than whole, less than average, less than "we" are. Now, if one is in favor of oppression of specific individuals and specific categories of individuals, then there is no better way to promote this kind of discrimination than to use language that defines the situation as we want it defined. This is a strategic strategy of those who use ethnomethodology to define and manipulate situations.

A common definition of culture is "all shared, learned behavior". Language is arguably the best example of culture that we have. To care about our society's culture, we must care about our language and how it is used. If we want to promote prejudice and discrimination, we could do no better than to criticize sensitive use of language. If we want to improve relations between and among people(s), if we value the integrity of people as people, if we respect the right of people to be considered people first and foremost (before any of their specific characteristics), we will strive to be more conscious of the impact of language and more sensitive about words we choose to use and about words we choose to not use.

Answers to Just some trivia By Margaret J. Scott

1. What is known as the "Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports?"
2. What TV series features the line, "Warning, aliens approaching?"
3. What company owns the world's second largest truck fleet?
4. What sport did John Wayne play at the University of Southern California?
5. What actor is Mary Martin's son?
6. What killed Chuckles the Clown?
7. What veteran of TV commercials died at the tender age of 17?
8. How many time zones are there in Canada?
9. What is the most traveled sports team?
10. What type of horse racing sports the Little Brown Jug Race?
11. What is the occupation of Oscar Madison in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*?
12. Who taught Eliza Doolittle to be a lady?
13. What was the name of the Volkswagen in Disney's *The Love Bug*?
14. Who played the blacksmith on *Gunsmoke* from 1962-1966?
15. Who played the original Charlie's Angels?

Answers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. The Kentucky Derby | 9. Harlem Globetrotters |
| 2. Lost in Space | 10. Harness Racing |
| 3. Coke | 11. Sports Writer |
| 4. Football | 12. Henry Higgins |
| 5. Larry Hagman | 13. Herbie |
| 6. An elephant | 14. Burt Reynolds |
| 7. Morris | 15. Farrah Fawcett, Kate Jackson, Jacklyn Smith |
| 8. Seven | |

Do You Think You Know Everything? Submitted by Jack Schultz (from the internet)

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right. (Bet you tried this out mentally, didn't you?)

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard. (All you typists are going to test this out)

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket. (Good thing he did that)

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

Now you know everything!
