



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Mensa:

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

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 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.

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the month of publication. Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

Advertising:

At this time, **Borealis** does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

Email submissions to:

nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com

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

ON THE COVER: *.A Lightpainting* by Stephen Knapp. Part of an exhibit at the Dennos Museum. More details at www.lightpaintings.com. Photo by Stan Cain.

Northern Michigan Mensa

July 2008 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 July 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter the front door.

LOWER PLATTE RIVER CANOE/KAYAK TRIP - Sat., 19 July 2008, 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Riverside Canoe Trips, 5042 Scenic Highway, Honor (M22 at the Platte River bridge, www.canoemichigan.com). Rent or bring your own watercraft. Bring your own snacks and beverages, or even plan to cook out at the Lake Michigan beach at the end of the two-hour trip. Friends and families are encouraged to join us. Call Susan Kraus at 231/510-5672 for more information, or e-mail your questions to her at smag66@yahoo.com

TGIF - Friday, 25 July 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, end-of-the-week get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available.

Next Month

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 2 August 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for August will be *The Codex*, by Douglas Preston, to be presented by Jack Schultz.

Member News

Happy July Birthday

19 Judith L Cools
20 Wendy Jane Barker
S A Styles

21 Cherie Marie Gabriel
28 John J Roney

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

4 Years Richard J Warden
3 Years Elissa J Laskey
Ryan B Nelson
L Schrock-Taylor

2008 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	48207	95
New and reinstating membership	650	4
Offers of membership	308	0
New members since April 2007	621	2
Reinstating members since April 2007	842	5

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2008. 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".

June Book Club Meeting

Mensans discussing *The Rape of Nanking* in June included from Left to right: John Porter, Sherry McNamara, Margaret Scott, Jim McDermott, Melissa Rennie (presenter), Jack Schultz and Stan Cain (not shown)



The LocSec's Login

**By Jack Schultz
NMM LocSec**

Last month I tried to point out the variety of different activities and events we hold throughout the year for our local group. This time I'd like to address some of the topics that have come up periodically and I hope it may stimulate some of you to share your thoughts.

Many folks join Mensa because they find something lacking in their lives, or maybe it's just that they want to augment lives that are already overloaded with too many things to do. Or, maybe they are mainly seeking the company of other intelligent people with whom they feel "comfortable."

Sometimes, when I have asked people why they don't renew their Mensa membership, I've been told, "I don't find enough intellectual stimulation in our group." Sometimes I hear, "Well, I expected more out of a group of supposedly very bright people; I wanted to become involved in worthwhile 'projects' but I don't find that any are going on."

All of these responses are legitimate, especially from the point of view of those who have shared them. Maybe we do need to find special projects that reach out to the community at large and possibly can do some good. Surely, with more than 40 different events being held throughout the year, we can squeeze in some other things. Individuals often give of themselves to the community, serving as volunteers in various activities such as Odyssey of the Mind. (Joan Dasef comes to mind in this regard, because she has served for many years as a tutor and in other capacities with O.M.) I'm sure that some of our members are involved in worthwhile endeavors that could well use the support of other volunteers. Maybe if we hear from some of these people and learn that they could use involvement of other Mensans, a few more can get involved.

Too often, we feel that, if we write something for Borealis, we'll come off as tooting our own horn rather than being taken as offering something we hope readers will find of interest or be stimulated to pursue. That couldn't be further from the truth; most of us would truly like to learn "what turns you on."

So....PLEASE think of Borealis as a vehicle for you to share your thoughts and perhaps to help get others interested in making their membership worthwhile.

Mensa in Motion

Our editor has an early deadline this month because he's heading west to Colorado to attend the AG, so it's not possible to report on two rather significant events that will have taken place during June in Northern Michigan Mensa. As of this writing in mid-June, the first official meeting of the Petoskey Area Subgroup of NMM hasn't taken place but it is scheduled for June 19 in the Petoskey Public Library. Jennifer LaPoint, Coordinator of that group, tells me that at least six or seven individuals have said they plan to get together. She has great plans for making it possible for members north and east of Traverse City to get together to share company, review books, or whatever else may interest those members as time goes on. I am eager to see how things proceed and I will have attended that inaugural meeting by the time you read this.

Similarly, our first Mensa family camping event will have taken place during June and it promises to be a fun activity. I will have attended that and will report on it in this column or in a separate article in the August issue of Borealis. The campground has a few rustic (but new) cabins and Mary Shaw as well as Sue Styles have each rented one of them. I am planning to rough it by pitching a tent, as is Susan Kraus and her family. Other members may well have stopped by the campground (Cedar Creek Campground – near Manton) at various times during the weekend.

We Continue to Grow

As of the end of May, there were 95 of us in Northern Michigan Mensa. That's six more than this group has ever had at the end of May, so we appear to be on track to break all records for this current membership year. Our newest member, Lavon Jonson of Bear Lake, is a teacher and we're very happy to welcome her to Mensa. Three other members renewed a bit late, and 10 others from last year are yet to renew. It's great to see NMM on the move.

NMM Friend Fund

Perhaps not everyone is aware of the NMM Friend Fund. This fund is composed of money donated by our members and is kept separate from the NMM operating monies. The purpose of this fund is to provide money for a renewing member, or new prospective member, who is unable to afford his/her membership dues. Transactions are handled confidentially by contacting any member of the voting ExComm. Please consider donating to this fund by contacting our treasurer, Sue Styles.

Shining the Light

By Margaret J. Scott

Congress has banned the incandescent light bulb which we have all used for our entire lifetimes. They feel that the energy inefficiency of that incandescent bulb should be replaced by the new fluorescent bulbs. This goes into effect next year, 2009.

The incandescent bulb, and the energy it produces, has not been found to be harmful to the climate and they have been in use for 100 years. The heat they produce in making the light helps heat our homes, in this day of well-insulated homes, so the energy is not wasted.

The fluorescent bulb, with its rules for disposal and cost involved in both the purchase of such a bulb and the getting it to a disposal spot is excessive and should not be legislated by Congress.

In this day and age when Congress has lots of important work to do regarding safe-guarding and closing our borders, funding our troops, letting us drill for gas and oil in the United States and build refineries, the fact that they are doing such a thing as regulating what light bulbs you may purchase and use is outrageous.

If you haven't read the warnings regarding these light bulbs, and the mercury they contain, note this. First, several years ago people were told not to have thermometers in their homes that contained mercury. Mercury was too dangerous! Now they are urging everyone to have mercury-containing light bulbs in every room of your house. Amazing isn't it.

In the event one breaks in your house, have everybody else leave the house immediately and not walk through the mercury on their way out. Make sure all pets are removed from the area. Open all windows and doors to the outside; shut all doors to other parts of the house and leave the area for 15 minutes or more. Don't vacuum.

Items needed to clean up a small mercury spill.¹

1. 4-5 Ziploc type bags
2. trash bags, 2 to 6 mm thick
3. rubber, nitrile or latex gloves
4. paper towels
5. cardboard or squeegee
6. eyedropper

7. duct tape, or shaving cream and small paint brush
8. flashlight
9. powdered sulfur (optional)

To clean up such a break, you may not vacuum it up. You must use rubber gloves to pick up the pieces, place on paper towel and you must place them in a Ziploc bag or glass jar with a lid, so it is sealed. Label it. Small pieces [mercury beads] should not be swept but should be scraped up with pieces of cardboard and those pieces also placed in the Ziploc or glass jar. Use flashlight if needed to find small pieces, use eyedropper to pick up mercury beads, place in Ziploc or secure in glass jar. Use shaving cream and paint brush to pick up small hard to see spots. Wipe area clean with damp paper towels, place in Ziploc bag or jar. Do not sweep or vacuum.

If you have carpeting where the bulb broke, after picking up all the pieces and disposing of them properly, do not vacuum, but cut out the piece of carpeting and also place that in the sealed bag or glass jar or other sealed disposal container.

Take all of this to the appropriate hazardous waste disposal site where you will pay to have this disposed of. (All the above instructions are at the EPA web site listed at footnote¹.)

I find this whole thing of legislating our choice in what light bulb we should use totally out of bounds. What warnings do you regularly hear about our lakes? You should not eat much fish out of Michigan lakes. Pregnant women or nursing mothers should never eat the fish from Michigan lakes because of the high mercury content. So, now we should have more mercury in our ecological system. You can be sure people won't dispose of these mercury containing light bulbs as they should. Rather than pay the cost to have them disposed of, people will throw them away or burn them.

I am also offended because I have always been a person who is interested in conservation of our precious outdoor resources, and have always been careful not to pollute in any way.

I guess I'll have to buy enough incandescent light bulbs to last me for the rest of my lifetime, as they will eventually ban the manufacturing of incandescent bulbs.

Since Congress is out of control, please consider backing The Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act, H.R. 5616, sponsored by Rep. Michele Bachman of

Minnesota, which will revoke the deadlines set for the use of only the mercury-containing bulbs. Contact our Representatives and Senators and ask them to back this Resolution.

Ah yes, one other boondoggle by Congress – installing all new mercury bulbs for the capitol building at a cost of \$2 million plus of tax payer money, the cost of which will not be recouped in more than 35 years, if then.

¹List from: www.epa.gov/mercury/spills

Subject: Common Sense over Brains

Submitted by Jack Schultz

A few years ago, there was a Mensa convention in San Francisco, and several members lunched at a local cafe. While dining, they discovered that their salt shaker contained pepper and their pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the bottles without spilling, and using only the implements at hand? Clearly, this was a job for Mensa! The group debated and presented ideas, and finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over to dazzle her with their solution.

"Ma'am," they said, "We couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker..."

"Oh," the waitress interrupted. "Sorry about that." She unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them.

Puzzle Page

Alphabet Logic

[Reprinted from "SMOG", newsletter of Savannah-area Mensa of Georgia, August 1997; Cedric Stratton, Editor]

Here is an Alphabet Logic puzzle, designed for the veteran puzzler. A numeric value was assigned to each letter of the alphabet. A randomly-selected list of words was chosen, with the sum of the individual letter-values printed after each word. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to determine the values of each letter through addition, subtraction, and substitution.

This is not for the faint of heart. Mensans should expect to spend about one-two hours, on average, to solve it. The values are consistent throughout the list, and can be determined through the judicious use of logic. All puzzles have been tested to verify that they do, indeed, have solutions

APPOLO	64	MOUSE	84
EXPERT	74	POPEYE	88
JEWEL	80	STONE	73
PAPER	45	ZEUS	54
SHAWM	74	CHAIR	54
WOTAN	79	GUITAR	93
AUTO	70	NICKEL	59
FLING	72	QUIRK	77
LAMB	40	TIME	73
PENCIL	61	EAGLE	71
SOFA	59	HARMONICA	109
YELLOW	97	PAN	26
BROWN	60	RABBIT	66
FRIEND	100	VIOLET	92

Answers to the Alphabet Logic Puzzle will be in next month's Borealis
