

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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May 2010

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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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

US mail:

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

Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Richard R. Hopfner	231-946-7204	locsecnmm@gmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	easnyder@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bernard Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
At Large	Judith W. Lindenau	231-947-2050	judith@judithlindenau.com
At Large	Dwayne A. Bean		dwaynebean@gmail.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	Peter J. Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Publicity	Bobbi Walker		bobbiraw@att.net
Web Contact	Priscilla Walmsley		pwalmsley@datypic.com
Scholarship Chair	Margaret Scott	231-879-3140	mjscott@localnet.net
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tom_barnhart@sbcglobal.net
Petoskey Area Subgroup			
Coordinator	- vacant -		

As the ExComm is working to fill vacant positions, please let any voting member know if you are interested in a position or willing to help in any capacity!

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Betsy Y. Mark	734-434-5757	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: Mt. Kenya, Africa. Jon and Conny Cain are standing on the left. See the article on p.6.

May Calendar

ExComm MEETING - Saturday, 1 May 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

The ExComm will hold a business meeting at **Auntie Pasta's**, 2030 W. South Airport Road, Traverse City. All members are welcome to attend. Lunch afterward will be optional.

MUSIC HOUSE MUSEUM TOUR - Sunday, 2 May 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

A few Mensans are getting together for a special detailed tour of the **Music House Museum** at 7377 U.S. 31, Acme. You are welcome to join us. We will meet in the parking lot. Admission is \$10. You can find additional information on the museum at www.musichouse.org.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 May 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

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

T.G.I.F! - Friday, 27 May 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet at the Mackinaw Brewing Company at the corner of Cass and Front Street, Traverse City. Join us!

Next Month

Note: Because of a conflict, next month's **Book Club** meeting will be held on Saturday, 5 June 2010 at 10:00 a.m. rather than 11:00 a.m.

Member News

Happy May Birthday

7	Harold A Kranick	19	Robin E Wottowa
8	Aaron Stander	20	Laura A Weiss
9	Julie L Hill	22	Judith W Lindenau
	Thomas C Remsperger	28	Marc Batway
18	Kymberli A Wregglesworth	30	Michael H Lancashire

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Randall R Arnott

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

30 Years	Suzanne L Cook	6 Years	Dorothy Vogel
10 Years	B Begeman	2 Years	L Jonson
7 Years	C L Dickson	1 Year	M D Quaine
	Laura A Weiss		

Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Gary S Cools Judith L Cools Jessica Mary Sullivan
Jane Fremouw Swanson

2010 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	57497	104
New and reinstating membership	1452	5
Offers of membership	414	1
New members since April 2009	4326	8
Reinstating members since April 2009	4766	15
Members leaving		2

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2010. 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".

CULTURE QUEST

By Bobbi Walker

The brave five of "Cherrypickers", (Bobbi Walker, Pete Turkus, Jack Schultz, Julia Hill and K.C. Mowrey) met at our alternate's home (Joan Dasef) and attacked with determination the 200 questions. Most felt that this year's test was more answerable than last year's, but there was still a trick question or two. As soon as we get the posting of rank from The National Office, we will let you know how we did. I sincerely hope that now that the entry fee will be covered by Program funds, we will see more participants next year. In the past, we have always managed to field one or two teams. Even though we are one of the smallest chapters in Mensa, we manage to come out somewhere in the middle of the rankings.

Mensa Brunch



The group (L to R); Jim McDermott, Joan Dasef, Melissa Rennie, Judith Lindenau, Pete Turkus, Bobbi Walker, Jack Schultz, Bernie Hanchett and Stan Cain.

Our April Brunch was enlivened by the presence of the Program Coordinator for the AG, our very own Melissa Rennie. She advised us that Canadian Mensa would be having tours on their side of the border, including a wineries tour, so remember your passports. If you don't have one, you should apply right away. Passports normally take from 4 to 6 weeks to process, but sometimes can be as long as 16 weeks.

Fun and Games

More than 200 Mensans gathered in San Diego recently for **Mind Games 2010**. During the three-day event, members played and rated 49 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

This year's winners are:

Anomia (Anomia Press, www.anomiapress.com)

Dizios (MindWare, www.mindware.com)

Forbidden Island (Gamewright, www.gamewright.com)

Word on the Street (Out of the Box Publishing, www.otb-games.com)

Yikerz! (Wiggles 3D Incorporated, www.yikerzgame.com)

Mind Games 2011 will be held April 15-17 in Albany, NY. Register for just \$55 through April 30, 2010 at www.mindgames.us.mensa.org

From: Catherine Barney (CatherineB@americanmensa.org)

Happy Times at the New T.G!I.F!



The group (L to R): Tom Slater, Jim McDermott, Bernie Hanchett, Pete Turkus and Bobbi Walker. Photo by Stan Cain.

In a departure from our usual TGIF location of Horizon Books, a few members tried not one, but two new locations for our Friday night get-together. The scheduled Right Brain Brewery venue, while probably great for some purposes, was found not suitable for a sit-down chat – having no place to sit and being much too noisy. After about a half hour, we decided to adjourn to Kilkenny's Pub to check it out. We found a fairly quiet table in a corner and had a great time. May's T.G!I.F! is scheduled at the Mackinaw Brewing Company. We hope to see you there!

The LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

Spring and other Transcendental Events

What is it about the first really warm and beautiful day of the year? Our homes are easily made as warm as we desire all winter. Electricity has pushed back the wall of night so that if we wish to read or engage in any sight-intensive activity we may do so past twilight with minimal problems or even consideration. We have many social events available we can attend during a time that scant few generations ago meant isolation, seeing only a limited number of people, if any, and the crawling madness of cabin fever. Now we can quickly distract ourselves from this with the ubiquitous online world, offering to us a world of people maybe from as far away as it is possible to be on this planet.

Yet...

Why is it that when I spend the first sunny and warm day of the year outside, that the sunlight in my eyes and the tingling electricity that the air lends to my legs, now shorts-clad rather than bundled for warmth, that it feels like a release from an imprisonment that has lasted exactly as long as winter has? Do I really need to investigate the "why" of it beyond knowing that it is, and seeing how precious the new season is? My answer to that? "Not really. Just enjoy it."

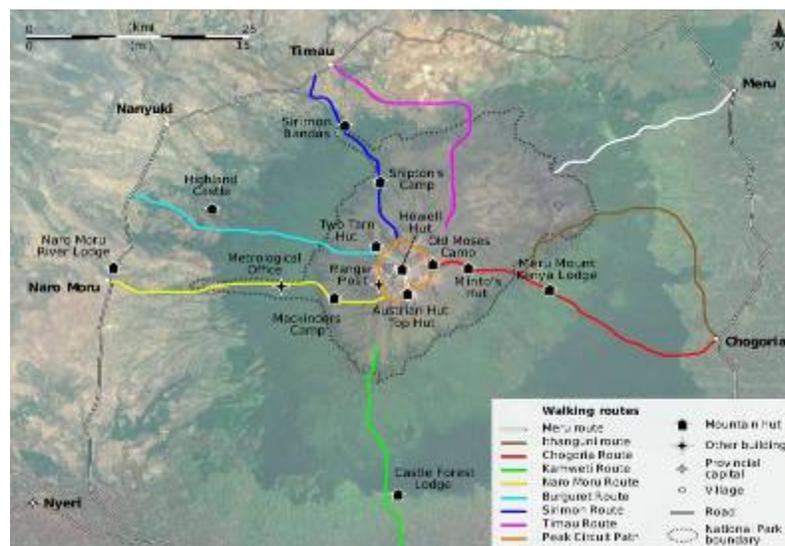
Another opportunity that I've recently had is to see this place that I love through the eyes of some people close to me that saw it for the first time. That is another spring, and another event to treasure. We live in what I would hold to be an area that is world class in beauty, in natural purity, and in services that our often-maligned government offers to those of us who live here. You want springtime magic in your life? Watch someone who comes from a place that is beautiful but spoiled by people who don't care if that beauty is destroyed; which has an established government, but it is corrupt and self serving rather than generous to its citizens. Watch them as they walk into the Grand Traverse public library, knowing that they've told you there is no place like that, even in the capital of their country, with the number of books, of audio and visual media, and free to use anonymous internet computers... and see it again for the first time as what it is. Remarkable.

Then you may also do as I'm going to do this weekend, and see James Cameron's Avatar when it begins its two-week run at the State Theater. Go in with all of your adult views and perspectives, but when it starts, maybe you'll have that all go away with the experience of seeing something so new and amazing that all the adult can do is stand back while the kid inside comes alive. Afterwards, when the adult views slide back, let it remind you that you just watched something amazingly real for two and a half hours that never existed except in the minds of the people who created it and in the heart of a computer. If that isn't something new and magical, like spring in its way, then I'm at a loss to say that anything is.

Join me in celebrating our regenerating season of growth, and if you could, we'd love to see you at our May 1 ExComm meeting. We are trying a new place to see how well it goes with our group, and we want to hear your thoughts on what you are thinking about Northern Michigan Mensa or just to observe and advise. Join us. The details for the meeting are listed in this issue of Borealis.

Happy Spring all, and hope to see you soon.

Climbing Mt. Kenya



Editor's Note: My son Jon and his wife Conny are living and teaching in Nairobi, Kenya. Nearby are many fascinating points of interest, including Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain (after Mt. Kilimanjaro). Here Jon describes an ascent of the Mountain in 2009.

New Year's Eve - Nairobi to Chogoria: 2200 to 2800 M

The first day started with a 7 a.m. pick-up from our house in Loresho (near Nairobi), then a quick 3.5 hour drive to Embu for a stop to pick up some cash and a bottle of wine for New Year's Eve. Only afterwards did we discover we didn't have a corkscrew. Then it was on to Chogoria with a lunch at a local "restaurant". The lunch was good and the total price for the four of us was about 1000 KSH (Kenyan Shillings - about 12 USD.) We searched in vain for a corkscrew and ended up gouging the cork out with a thin screwdriver and then transferred the wine into a plastic water container. After lunch, we loaded into a 1972 Land Rover and headed up towards the trailhead with our gear, porters and guide (10 people in a smallish car). Half way up, we got caught behind another older Land Rover broken down on a single lane. After 15 minutes, they managed to get it started and we continued on. We were dropped off with our guide, Duncan, about 6 Km before the camp. This was to get us acclimated to the altitude and get us walking. I think it was for Duncan to see what kind of clients we were going to be. We arrived at the gate around 4 p.m. and relaxed for the next two hours until dinner was served. This was the nicest accommodation we would see for the next 5 days, with hot showers (which we foolishly did not take advantage of) and mattresses. We played a few hands of hearts and around 10 p.m. toasted the New Year and went to bed.

New Year's Day - 2800 to 3300 M

This would turn out to be a much more difficult day than we had originally planned. The morning started out fine with our gear ready and our 4 porters, cook, guide and the four of us ready to go. We didn't even make it to the camp gates when we encountered a large male elephant blocking our path. After much discussion and a fair amount of respectful observation, the ranger was summoned to help move the elephant out of the way so we could continue a nice gradual 6 Km walk uphill to the largest lake on Mt. Kenya. Along the way, we dropped our packs to visit a waterfall. We made it to camp around 2 p.m. and had some lunch. After lunch, we went on a "short" 3-hour walk. At first, we were just going up a small hill to get a look around. Then we went across the riverbed to another plateau, this one much higher. The walk back was through a boggy swamp, which caused quite a bit of amusement.

We returned to the camp, ate dinner and went into the tents for an early night's sleep.

We meet a couple from the UK who have been spending the last 6 years coming to the Mt. Kenya Park every Christmas to hike. They would subsequently get lost and we would see them 2 days later far away from where they intended to be.

Jan 2 - 3300 to 4200 M

This would be a long, steep uphill climb of 9-10 Km but it felt like much more. We decided when talking with the agent who helped arrange our travel that we wanted to go very simply but still have some support. Most parties have two porters per person, one for food and one to carry the pack. We wanted to carry our own packs and have the porters carry food. It was a good experience, but on day 3, I started to understand why many people choose to have the porters carry everything.

The food we ate was good, fresh fruit at every meal and a mix of pasta and rice and vegetables (the hazards of traveling with three vegetarians). For breakfast, we had Uji (thin porridge) and tea.

The route was up and down, not just a nice gradual slope, and some of the valleys were pretty steep. Around 4000M it started to snow/rain and by the time we got to the camp it was pretty heavy. We had planned to camp out, but the thought of putting up a tent in the weather was not appealing. We ended up spending the night in a 12' x 16' shack which seemed like a palace. It was designed for 20 people and there were only 10 of us so we had plenty of room. I decided it would be fun to scale the boulders around the small lakes and promptly fell in the water, soaking my boots. We then went for a short walk to see the "gorgeous valley" amazing view (6 weeks before, a helicopter crashed into the lake at the bottom). The remainder of the afternoon was spent drying my shoes and preparing for an early start for the summit day which would begin soon. The temperature was -2 Celsius when we went to bed around 8 pm.

Jan 3 - 4200 to 4985 (16,355' Summit) to 3300 M

This was a long day. Duncan (our guide) expected us to be slow, but we were quicker than he expected on this day. (We only carried daypacks. Our other packs would be carried to the breakfast area --Shipton's camp-- by the porters). We awoke at 1:30 a.m. I had a mild headache and hadn't slept well. We were off at 2:15 a.m. The temperature was -10 C. at 4200 M with no wind. The first hour was a nice gradual slope towards the peak. The sky was clear and the stars were great with no moon since it had set by the time we started. The second hour started to get difficult; the temperature dropped and the wind started to pick up. To complicate matters we were moving too fast so we had to slow down and stop

occasionally. We would put on layers and, by the time the second hour ended, we all had on every piece of clothing we had brought. Conny was shivering and was cold everywhere.

I had cold feet, but other than that, I was fine. The last hour was a steep, slippery slope with lots of rocks, high wind and cold. It started to get light about 35 minutes before we reached the summit. Looking back down I think I know why we did that part of the route in the dark - very steep. We ended up getting to the summit 10 minutes before sunrise. The sunrise was great. We were happy to feel the warmth of the sun.

The route down was fast but slippery. We arrived at Shipton's camp at 9 a.m. for breakfast. We spent an hour warming up and changing back into warm weather gear. The walk down to the next camp (Meru) was a long 16 Km and, of course, not all walks are down hill. The first 7 Km followed a river with a Lobelia forest (strange looking plants), after which a steep 1 Km climb and then 1 Km up and 1 Km down (four of these) until we reached the bandas*. We were tired and had a difficult time regulating body temperature. Most of the people were sitting around in shirtsleeves and we were freezing with jackets on. We were in bed by 7 p.m. A real mattress felt great.

Jan 4 -Back to Nairobi

It was an easy 9 Km downhill walk to the van, then a one hour drive to a nice outdoor diner at the Nanyuki Airstrip. I had a hamburger and fries. The drive back to Nairobi was uneventful and we made it home by 4:30 p.m. The shower was nice.

* Bandas are hut like structures that have an elevated cement floor and open walls. Some have simple bathrooms with flush toilets and showers and others have just beds with mosquito nets.

Puzzle Page

CRYPTOGRAM Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

WIALA ELA CBHL ZEUY, EMQ BMDU CBHL ZEUY, NM

ZINRI ZA IEKA RBMWERW ZNWI WIA ZBLDQ. ZA ELA

AKEDHEWAQ EMQ RDEYYNCNAQ JU WIAYA CBHL

RBMWERWY: ZIEW ZA QB, IBZ ZA DBBF, ZIEW ZA

YEU, EMQ IBZ ZA YEU NW.—QEDA RELMAONA

Answer will be in next month's issue

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

"My theory on housework is, if the item doesn't multiply, smell, catch on fire or block the refrigerator door, let it be. No one cares. Why should you?" — Erma Bombeck

Answer to last month's Chess Challenge

Black to play and mate in 3 moves.

- 1) ... Ne2+
- 2) Kh1 Qxh2+
- 3) Kxh2 Rh4 #



For those not familiar with the standard chess notation above, the following conventions are used:

K = King
Q = queen
N = knight
B = bishop
R = rook

The board is labeled relative to how the player with the white pieces sees the board:

First, the board is rotated so that the bottom right corner square is white. The columns are labeled a,b,c,..., h from left to right
The rows are 1, 2, ..., 8 from bottom to top
Thus, the bottom left square for the white player is a1.
The top right square for the white player (or bottom left square for the black player) is h8.

When it's a pawn move, a P can be used but is usually omitted. So e4 on opening implies P moves from e2 to e4.

+ means check
x means take (i.e. capture)
means checkmate

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

I have been asked to remind Region 3 members of our Website and our Facebook and Yahoo Groups - please join them. I will be using them more often! All three URLs are posted below. It is possible that your editor may not have room in your newsletter to print *reMARK* in part or whole. You can find it at those sites. If you do not have internet access and *reMARK* is not printed, write to me and I'll send a copy to you. I will try to post what's happening regionally and nationally to those sites, too.

I was asked to appoint a Region 3 Judge for the Mensa Hall of Fame contest. I polled LocSecs and asked for volunteers. In the future I will put such requests on the Yahoo and Facebook sites, so join now! Thank you

to Region 3 volunteers **Shawn Kenney** from Cleveland, **Bob Anderson** from WNY, **Bob Strauch** from SEMM, **Beth Middleton** from WV, **Ken Gass** from SEMM and **Rick Baron** from WMM. Rick's name was pulled and he won the judgeship honors.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate **Tim Schifle** of Cleveland Area Mensa who is now LocSec. He succeeds **Shawn Kenney**. **Shawn** has agreed to help get all Region 3 newsletters posted to the AML website. Soon he will be contacting those editors who are not yet posting on-line. I'm confident that with **Shawn's** help, Region 3 will be the first and only Region to provide on-line access to all newsletters.

Southeast Michigan Mensa recently held its election. I congratulate **Kathleen Giesting** who takes office on May 1 and joins **Bob Strauch** and one other, whose initials are BYM, as Ann Arbor Co-Vice Presidents (Area Coordinators). All other officers remain the same.

Dayton's "Pep Rally" "Fly In" is scheduled for May 15. In April, Dayton Ms were e-mail blasted with the details and so were all other Region 3 Ms. If you are interested in attending, and haven't registered, let me know as soon as possible. There is no cost to attendees.

And, finally, don't forget to register for the AG. It's going to be the biggest and the best party ever!

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org

3674 Oak Drive - Ypsilanti, MI 48197

734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)

Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>

Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook group -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>
