

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 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.

Advertising:

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members.

Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

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.

Email submissions to:

Stan Cain
nmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

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

ON THE COVER: The *S/V Denis Sullivan*, from Wisconsin, sails in West Bay as part of the Michigan Schooner Festival. Photo by Stan Cain.

October Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 October 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. The October book club selection will be **Tales of the City** by Armistead Maupin, presented by Heather Gruenberg. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

CANOE AND KAYAK TRIP - Sunday, 2 October 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us on the **Crystal River** near Glen Arbor in Leelanau County for a couple of hours to enjoy fall colors and perhaps see some big salmon on their spawning run. We'll meet at the parking area where County Road 675 and Westman Road cross, east of Highway M-22 on the north side of Glen Arbor. You'll need to bring your own canoe or kayak or rent equipment.

Those who need to rent canoes or kayaks can make contact with two outfitters in Glen Arbor. **Crystal River Outfitters** can be reached at 231-334-4420 or by email at info@crystalriveroutfitters.com. Another rental place is **The River Glen Arbor**, and the phone number there is 231-334-7888. Call Jack Schultz at 231-275 6735 for more details or directions.

MENSA VISITS DEEP WOOD PRESS

Sunday Brunch and Field Trip, 9 October 2011 11:30 a.m. until....?

Come join us on a field trip to see Chad Pastotnik, proprietor of Deep Wood Press, demonstrate his craftsmanship in the art of fine letterpress printing and bookbinding. We'll be at Chad's home and studio on the Cedar River, about four miles north of the village of Mancelona. Bring your own lunch and beverage and we'll eat on the deck of Chad's and Kathryn's lovely and newly completed timber-frame home on the river's edge.

Chad has won national honors for his efforts and next year will be Chad's 20th year in business. He will happily share his knowledge with us in his pressroom and bookbindery. He has several old printing presses as well as a fantastic Linotype machine that composes a line of type out of hot metal "on the spot."

Chad is Jack and Joanne Schultz's son-in-law. He and their daughter Kathryn and their two young grandchildren (Nadia, age 6, and Jude, age 8 months) will play host to our Mensa group for the second time. Those who went the first time will remember what a lovely spot this is and how fascinating it was to learn about the techniques Chad uses to produce his fine works.

The address is **121 Doerr Road, Mancelona, MI 49659**.

Directions:

Take **U.S. 131 to M-88** in Mancelona and turn West, Drive about ½ mile to **Cedar River Road** and turn North (right), Drive about 3 miles to **Doerr Rd** (gravel). and turn West (left), Drive about 1 mile and look for the green 121 address sign on the left. Turn into the driveway on the left.
(If you come to a bridge over the Cedar River, you have gone too far.)

If you have questions, phone Jack Schultz at 231-640-4569. Please try not to be much later than 11:30 a.m., however, because we'll eat and then Chad will begin his tour and discussion of the premises.

Afterward, those who enjoy fall colors may wish to caravan with us to a viewpoint called "Landslide" which overlooks the Jordan River Valley just west of the village of Alba. Mark this on your calendar. It will be a special outing you won't forget.

T.G.I.F. Friday, 28 October 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

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

My problem lies with reconciling my gross habits with my net income. -
Errol Flynn

Member News

Happy October Birthday

9 Ruth Minshull 17 Thomas MacNeil Barnhart

Members Moving to Our Area - Welcome!

Ronald G. Bardy

<u>August 2011 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	51319	89
New and reinstating membership	455	3
Offers of membership	301	1
New members since April 2011	1094	3
Reinstating members since April 2011	1298	7

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 8/31/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

Mensa Testing Sites Needed!

As times have become mighty tight for various organizations, most of them now charge for rooms if we wish to offer the Mensa Admissions Tests. Since we do not have a budget for renting space, we are in dire need of places that will allow us to test people without being charged. If any of you Mensa members know of suitably quiet places where we could hold testing sessions without paying a fee, PLEASE contact Jack Schultz, our Testing Coordinator, ASAP. October is Mensa's "National Testing Month" and we would like to offer the tests for anyone who might be interested, but we must have places to do so. Sue Styles (Elk Rapids), Melissa Rennie (Bear Lake area), and Jack (Traverse City area) all can conduct testing sessions, so if you know of free testing places, please let Jack know. His new email address is jsvoyageur@gmail.com and his phone number is 231-275-6735. THANKS!!!

Election Time Update

The Nominating Committee has been selected and is hard at work putting together a slate of five candidates for election to the Executive Committee for the 2012-2013 term.

In addition to any members who are selected by the NomComm, any other member who is interested in running for office should contact a member of the NomComm. If no more than five members are found who are willing to serve on the Executive committee, then there will be no need for an election in December and these five will automatically assume the offices on the Executive Committee on January first.

Nominating Committee

Stan Cain	231 938 1506	sdcmen@yahoo.com
Jack Schultz	231 275 6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
Erik Snyder	989-370-0993	easnyder@yahoo.com

A CLUSTER OF CRITTERS

By Ruth Minshull, NMM

Recently I ran across an explanation for the phrase, "a MURDER of crows". It seems that these boisterous, aggressive fellows have a practice of meeting occasionally to pass judgment on the behavior of one of their members. If they decide that the defendant deserves punishment, they will swoop down and peck him to death.

Not everyone agrees with this bit of lore. I saw one blog entry claiming that it was just a fallacious folk tale: "The basis in fact is probably that occasionally crows will kill a dying crow who doesn't belong in their territory or, much more commonly, feed on carcasses of dead crows." Other people, however, claim to have seen this quick justice take place—and, they say, it's not a pretty sight.

Whatever the facts, "a MURDER of crows" appears on every listing of collective nouns used to describe a group of animals, birds, fish, fowl and varmints of most every sort (including people).

The custom of making up such names goes way back. In fact, most of them (called terms of venery) were cooked up in the fifteenth century when it was necessary to codify hunting terms for the various clusters of game being sought by the hunters.

It was considered the mark of a gentleman to know such words and use them accurately. Several books listing collective terms were published in the late 1400's and cultured men were expected to learn them lest they make some embarrassing blunder "at the table" – after which they would be ridiculed.

In his delightful book *An Exaltation of Larks*, James Lipton gives an excerpt from Conan Doyle's novel *Sir Nigel*. One character, Sir John Buttethorn, is scoffing at a young "jack-fool" for saying "a COVEY of pheasants."

Sir John goes on to say that it should be: "...a NYE of pheasants, even as it is a GAGGLE of geese or a BADLING of ducks, a FALL of woodcock or a WISP of snipe. But a COVEY of pheasants! What sort of talk is that?"

Getting the correct term of venery no longer seems all that important to us. Still, it's fun to peruse the collection of names. One after another catches my eye: a CHARM of finches, a PARTY of jays, a SIEGE of herons, a LABOR of moles, a BUSINESS of ferrets, a GAM of whales. Then there's the QUIVER of cobras. I wonder: is it the reptiles or the observer doing the quivering?

I didn't expect the lists to have a name for a passel of paparazzi, but they did: A FEEDING FRENZY OF PAPARAZZI. That image has certainly held up over the centuries.

Many times the compilers couldn't stop with one name. Thus, there can be a FLIGHT, a DULE, a DOLE or a PLAGUE of doves, as well as a PITYING of turtledoves. Butterflies were treated kindly as a SWARM, RABBLE, KALEIDOSCOPE or a FLUTTER.

They got quite carried away when it came to cats and kittens. There's a CLOWDER, POUNCE, CLUTTER and COMFORT of cats, as well as a KINDLE, LITTER, or INTRIGUE of kittens. (Now, I think I might have gone with a SNOOZE of cats and a FLUFF of kittens.)

Speaking of felines, an assembly of lions can be a PRIDE, FLOCK, SAWT, SOUSE, TROOP or SAULT. Personally if I met up with such a cluster, I wouldn't worry much about what to call them but would instantly join a skedaddle of hightailers.

A battery of bees, likewise, has many names: A GRIST, HIVE, SWARM, DRIFT, BIKE, CLUSTER, ERST or NEST of bees – and if I encountered a buzz of those, I would also vamoose with maximum velocity.

I can't help but think that there was often more whimsy than definitude in the choices – especially when it came to people. About crooks, they offered: a SCAM of con artists, a SCHEME of swindlers, a SKIM of embezzlers, a HELPING of pickpockets.

Even the religious were not ignored. We find: a MASS of priests, a FLAP of nuns, a SEA of Bishops, a FIDGET of altarboys. Law and politics were addressed: a BUTTONHOLE of lobbyists, an ESCHEAT of lawyers, a CROSS of litigators, an INSANITY of clauses and (one of my favorites) a PITFALL of fine print. In a similar vein, there is a HO! HO! of loopholes. (I might have chosen an AHA! of loopholes, myself.)

Although there are more than 1,000 entries in Lipton's book, as I browse through it, I find myself wanting to make up my own terms of venery: a GIGGLE of little girls, a SWAGGER of teenage boys, a SNIDERY of gossips, a TUMBLE of puppies, a SQUAWK of seagulls.

This is irresistible!

An AGITATION of ants, a DITHER of dowagers, a POMPOSITY of congressmen.

On a more contemporary note: a CHAT of texters, a SNEAK of hackers, a TWEAK of programmers, a SPAMFUL of e-mails, an INTROVERSION of nerds, an EYEFUL of iPoders, a CLEVER of geeks, a BABBLE of bloggers, an EXHIBITION of FaceBookers, a TWADDLE of tweeters...

Help!

I can't stop myself....

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.

NUEA OVZFDCA ZK FZOA ZN ZKASZMVQFA. ZM ZN

ZELUNNZQFA MU FZSA TZMGUDM OVZFZKP VM

NUEAMGZKP, DKFANN HUD FZSA NU IVDMZUDNFH

MGVM HUD EZPGM VN TAFF KUM GVSA FZSAY VM VEF

-- ZK TGZIG IVNA, HUD OVZF QH YAOVDFM. --

B. J. CUTFZKPN

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

I arise in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day. --E. B. White

Answers to last month's puzzles From *The Moscow Puzzles* by Boris A. Kordemsky:

What arithmetic symbol can we place between 2 and 3 to make a number greater than 2 but less than 3? **A decimal point.**

A number with two identical digits is multiplied by 99. What is the four-digit product if the third digit is 5?

By trial and error:

99 x 11 = 1089 99 x 66 = 6534
99 x 22 = 2178 99 x 77 = 7623
99 x 33 = 3267 99 x 88 = 8712
99 x 44 = 4356 99 x 99 = 9801
99 x 55 = 5445

And, by inspection, the answer is 4356.

However, a general solution can be derived by noting that;

Each column of digits in the product ascends or descends by 1.

Digits in positions 1 and 3 always add to 9.

Digits in positions 2 and 4 also always add to 9.

Therefore if the third digit is 5, the first digit must be 4. The second digit must be one less than the first, or 3. The last digit must be 9-3 or 6 so the answer is 4356.

Found in an old list of Audio Engineering definitions...

"Smoke"

From the phlogiston theory of electronics, it is smoke that makes ICs and transistors work. The proof of this is self-evident because every time you let the smoke out of an IC or transistor, it stops working - elementary! This has been verified through exhaustive testing, particularly regarding power amplifier ICs and transistors. (Incidentally, wires carry smoke from one device to another) [Origin unknown].

Editor's Note:

Due to space limitations this month, please read Betsy's column, **reMark**, online at the Region 3 web site - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/> Yahoo gp. - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/> Facebook gp. - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>