



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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. Bad jokes are allowed. 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 that if a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all." That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication.

Submissions are not only welcome, the editor will buy you a coffee at the next TGIF if you help him out.

Members of Northern Michigan Mensa may send their original writing submissions to *Borealis*.

Please do not send the work of others unless such submissions are accompanied by written permission and release of copyright from the author.

Writing:

1. Submit writing that can be edited for length and clarity, but not content. *This will be the default editorial assumption unless the author indicates otherwise.*

2. Writing may be submitted to be published only as it is. If writing is submitted "as is or not at all" it will not be edited in any way, and if published, will appear with an editor's note indicating it is wholly the work of the author.

3. Writing that is rough and needs major editing may also be submitted. If you have written something but don't have time to polish and edit it, you can still submit it and, at your request, I will give it extra help.

ALL. Writing and letters may be submitted by email as an attachment or as the message body itself. Typed pages and letters can be mailed.

Photographs:

Photographs and other scanned artwork can be submitted via email as JPEG or GIF files. Data should be at least 3x5 inches at 200 PPI. Digital camera files may be sent right from the camera; they will be processed for publication.

Flat art or photographs can also be mailed, but please do not send originals. Please label each piece submitted with your name and address.

Email: kachadurian@chartermi.net

US mail: *Borealis*

Thomas Kachadurian

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Northern Michigan Mensa

March 2004 Calendar

Friday, February 5

Test the Nation II - Fox TV 8:00p.m.

This is a follow-up to the highly successful program that was run last summer and which generated hundreds of inquiries about Mensa. Leeza Gibbons and Mark Walberg Host This Live Two-Hour Special. After the popularity and online participation success of Test the Nation, FOX has decided to give Americans another chance to participate in a live I.Q. test from the comfort of their homes.

Monday, February 8

Games Night - Borders Books, Traverse City 7:00p.m.

Borders is located near Wal-Mart at 2612 Crossing Circle (off S. Airport Road) in Traverse City. We will meet the second Monday of each month at the same location. Borders closes at 10:00.

Each games night we will try a different game theme. What would you like to try? Email tom@kachadurian.com to throw in your \$0.02. Back to card games for March.

Saturday, March 13

Brunch - 11:00a.m.

Cottage Cafe, Traverse City

The Cottage Cafe is at the Days Inn in Traverse City at 420 Munson (US-31 North). It's on the south side of the road between the Northwestern Michigan College entrance and 8th Street.

Friday, March 26

TGIF - Horizon Shine Café, Traverse City 6:00p.m.

The Horizon Shine Cafe is located in the lower level of Horizon Books on Front Street in downtown Traverse City. There are wrap sandwiches, soft drinks, and desserts on the menu.

Sunday, March 28

CultureQuest XV 4:00 p.m. - Follow up dinner 5:45 p.m.

The CultureQuest XV quiz is open to only those who registered by mid-February. Dinner following the game is open to ALL members. We will meet at 5:45 p.m. at South City Limits, located at 1407 S. Division, Traverse City (across from Meijer).

Technology and Youth

I AM A GREAT DAD THIS WEEK. I found a 1998 PowerBook that had been unused (and unusable) for two years. I updated it with parts from around the house: a bigger hard disk from another computer, RAM chips I just had sitting in a drawer, a cheap wireless PC card. I loaded fresh system software and turned it over to my 9 year-old daughter, Madeline. She is surfing the internet from her bed, doing homework at the dining room table, and even taking it to school. Madeline thinks I'm really cool (even cooler because I gave her an old MP3 player, but that's another story).

But my coolness is not the point of this writing. It's about Madeline's interactions with the computer. I help many adults with their computers. It's slow business and requires patience. Not so with a nine year-old. Although she had been only vaguely familiar with the MAC OS, she is doing things with the computer no one has ever showed her how to do. She called me from home one day to say the browser wouldn't load pages. I suggested a few things and told her I would look at it when I got home. When I returned home her homework was done and she had resolved her internet problem. From the things I had mentioned she had poked around in the system software until she figured it out.

But the relative brilliance of my daughter is not the point of this writing. It's about you. It is particularly about you if you have a computer. It is even more about you if you have an internet connection. It is exactly about you if you have all those things and are still reading this on a paper copy that was mailed to you. You could get *Borealis* quicker, save money for our local group, and (forgive the cliché) save a few trees. You need to get the electronic version of *Borealis*.

Borealis is available each month in your email box. You will get it at least five days sooner. More importantly, you will learn to love the PDF file. PDF files are readable on any computer with Adobe Acrobat reader, which is free.

PDF is the future of publishing. My 4-color book, *Views of Mackinac Island* was printed completely from a PDF file. In one minute I can download a 100 page instruction manual from the Canon website. With this information I can know if the camera meets my needs before I buy it. I needed a form last month to file my year-end State of Michigan sales tax return. In less than ten minutes I found the form as a PDF on the Michigan.gov website and downloaded and printed it seconds later. I would have spent that long on hold trying to get one in the mail.

Release the child inside you. Embrace technology. Subscribe to the *Borealis* PDF via email.

Annual Financial Report

Northern Michigan Mensa

For the period July 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Prepared by Susan A. Styles, Deputy LocSec

The financial records for the above cited time period were reviewed with the current Treasurer, Ellen Monahan. This was a shortened fiscal year due to the change in fiscal year end from June to December. The review was not conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and was limited in scope.

Findings:

1. A sample of income transactions was reviewed to source documentation and all samples were found to be recorded properly.
2. Expense transactions were reviewed; they appear to be normal and properly recorded.
3. A sample of bank statements was compared to monthly reports from the accounting software; balances and transactions were in agreement.
4. Direct deposit of funds from the National Office is occurring on time and with appropriate documentation as to breakdown of amounts.
5. Budget reports are difficult to generate without a set budget. However, the historical data is well-categorized and would provide good estimates for establishing a budget.

Conclusions:

1. Records indicate that the group has operated at a net profit for the period audited. Significant income was generated by testing and Cherry Festival activities.
2. Documentation is kept in an orderly fashion and appears to be complete.

Recommendations:

None at this time.

Join the Fun

Some people feel that the only way to truly experience Mensa is by attending a regional or national gathering. Having never attended a regional gathering, I can not vouch for or against the idea. Personally, I think that Mensa has so much to offer that everyone should find the niche that best suits them, whether it be local, regional, and/or national involvement, Special Interests Groups, or by just reading the *Bulletin*.

In April, there are three regional gatherings in the Midwest. The first is DAMNations NC-17 in Dayton, Ohio. It is geared towards adults and takes place April 2-4. The next event is actually a national event: Mind Games. Mensans play and critique games that have recently been released. The top five games are granted the Mensa Select seal. Chicago Mensa is sponsoring the event April 16-18. At the end of the month, Southeast Michigan Mensa is holding SEMMantics XXVI from April 30-May 2.

For parties willing to carpool to attend regional events, the ExComm is offering a gas stipend of \$25 for in-state travel and \$50 for out of state travel. We do have a limit of \$150 per year to make available to members. Contact a member of the ExComm if you wish to take advantage of the program.

In the interest of diversity, the ExComm has also decided to make a scholarship available to local members who are living below the federal poverty level. The scholarship will pay for yearly dues. To apply, one must contact Ellen Monahan and be able to prove their income. Currently there are only two scholarships available, so it is first come, first serve. A 'Friends Fund' has also been started to offer additional scholarships, as needed. To donate to the 'Friends Fund', contact Ellen Monahan. The federal poverty guidelines for 2003 are as follows: family of one, \$8,980; family of two, \$12,120; family of three, 15,260; family of four, \$18,400.

We have three new members who joined in January. Mark Alford renewed a lapsed membership. Dr. M. Teri Daunter of Petoskey and Stephen C. Gladieux of Traverse City both recently qualified and joined. Sue Styles also tested five individuals in January. We are inching closer and closer to that 100 mark.

Proxyquest is still going on. We are currently second in the nation with 75 percent of our membership voting. The only one ahead of us is Borderline Mensa at 92 percent. The easiest way to vote is online at www.us.mensa.org or by marking the postcard with one's membership renewal papers. The online password is located on the inside page of the current Bulletin.

-Melissa J. Rennie

Friend Fund

From Pete Turkus

I recently suggested at the ExComm meeting that I would be willing to pledge \$10.00 per year to a fund which would make it possible for members of limited means or finding themselves particularly stretched some year to continue their membership. The nature of my employment is such that I have been unemployed on seven occasions during my 14 years of membership. Fortunately, much overtime is the norm during full employment periods so things even out for me. Others may not be so lucky. The ExComm has voted to start such a fund and some members have also contributed. The ExComm will have more information on how those in need may be assisted.

Puzzle Follow-up

From Ben Stout (pbstout@coslink.net)

Solutions for last month's issue:

No. 9: 1800 yards wide. This can be solved by attacking it from at least 3 different angles.

No. 10: One half plus one third plus one ninth is equal to seventeen eighths. So it only took seventeen camels to satisfy the terms of the will. The eighteenth camel was a "floater".

TO READERS OF THIS COLUMN: I have run out of my stock of puzzles which I think would be interesting to our readers. I suggest that other members may have a favorite or two which they would like to send in to Tom. I will keep looking for any new ones which I can find.

I has been fun, and I have enjoyed corresponding with several of you.

Plea to All Members – Keep Us Alive and Well

I AM WRITING TODAY TO PRESENT A CRITICAL ISSUE in the life of Northern Michigan Mensa (NMM). As the new ExComm, one of the first issues we officers sought to undertake was a thorough review of the budget and what we felt was necessary for the survival and, hopefully, long life of NMM. Well, from the inception of this group, there has not been a specific budget plan. Since I am responsible for a budget in my real life job, I was a bit surprised at this, but it nonetheless worked out just fine these past 18 months. Now that the organization is growing and, I guess, as is true whenever there is a new person in charge, people have come forward with issues and suggestions that involve money.

Most of you are probably not aware of what it costs to keep NMM running and how we receive revenue. We receive sixty-seven cents each month for each member from the National Office. In addition, we obtain a reduced amount of twenty-five cents for a second member in the same household. The National Office sends us one dollar for every new or reinstated member. This is only given during the month they join and the amount received then drops down to the sixty-seven cents per month rate thereafter. Since we are required to send copies of our newsletter to the National Office and various other officers and editors if they request it, we receive sixty-five cents per copy sent. We also receive some interest income from our bank account.

The big money maker is in testing fees, and we receive \$12.50 for each person tested. In addition, and certainly not required, we have received money from individual donations and volunteer income, such as working at the Cherry Festival. This last form of income is not something that can be considered regular or consistent income; it is just icing on the cake. So, in a typical year, we receive about \$1300.00 of fairly consistent and expected income.

Right about now you may be asking yourself, “So?” Well, here is the rub. Tom Kachadurian has been kind enough and generous enough to print our newsletter each month for very, very, little reimbursement. While this was wonderful, it isn’t realistic for him to continue to absorb the cost of paper and toner for the 80, or so, newsletters he prints each month. He was being reimbursed for the cost of postage. Beginning in January, he started using a copy shop for making copies and stapling them together. This cost is about \$58.00

per month for copies, plus the cost of postage is about \$38.00 per month. OK, remember the revenue items from paragraph two above? Yep, you got it, we cannot provide a newsletter each month in this same manner as we currently are doing it and have any money left over at the end of the year.

OK, I am hoping that right about now you are asking yourself, “What can I do about this?” No, I don’t want any blood (or money) from you, but I would like you perhaps to consider a very simple alternative. Currently, I have an email address for approximately 90 of the 98 members of NMM. Of those, only about 25 members receive *Borealis* via email. Why? I really don’t know. I receive mine via email and it provides me with immediate information at the beginning of each month for the upcoming activities. I get it in COLOR. Yes, that’s right, I get it in color because that is how the real copy is created. We lose color when it is sent to the copy shop. So, you can get *Borealis* earlier, and enjoy it more with the color photography in each issue, there is no downside to receiving your *Borealis* in this fashion.

Here is what I would like to happen, I would like those of you to email me at kikiwon@hotmail.com and tell me that you would be willing to try receiving *Borealis* via email. If you have difficulty because you are not very computer literate, we will provide you with some assistance in the beginning, such as how to open the email attachment, etc.

I realize that not everyone has email and obviously, if that is the case, you can still receive your *Borealis* via regular mail. If you want to continue to receive it via regular mail, please let me know that as well. If you have access to a computer, you can email me, or telephone me at 933-9272, with your preference. If you leave me a message on my answering machine, please leave your full name so I know exactly who called and exactly which format you would like utilize to receive *Borealis*.

Sherry McNamara
Local Secretary

Roaming the Region

by Charlie Bruce (aka Gloater)

OUR PROXYQUEST IS GOING WELL. As I write this, Region 3 still leads the nation in percentage of members submitting proxies. We also lead in total number of proxies submitted. My thanks to all of you that have made this happen. However, we still have a long way to go. If you haven't done so yet, please submit your proxy so we can quit sending you emails and making phone calls. If you don't know what it's all about, or why you should, please contact me so we can discuss it.

I am also looking for ProxyQuest Coordinators in all the local groups to assist in getting their groups, and our region, above and beyond the 50% level. If any of you are willing to put in some time making phone calls to local members to help reach our goal I would be greatly appreciative. Please contact your LocSec (or President) and myself and let us know you are willing to help. Mensa, Region 3, and your local group need your help; let's make this happen.

In spite of an extremely cold month, I did manage to make it to the Winter Bash in Southeast Michigan Mensa and to the Indianapolis Regional Gathering (which isn't in our Region, but within close driving distance). I'll be glad when the weather warms up and I can get out and about again.

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary:	Sherry McNamara	231-933-9272	kikiwon@hotmail.com
Deputy Local Secretary:	Susan A. Styles	231-943-4349	seas@umich.edu
Treasurer:	Ellen Monahan	231-929-9281	emonahan@chartermi.net
At-Large Member:	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
At-Large Member:	Melissa Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Membership Officer:	Melissa Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Proctor Coordinator and Proctor:	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
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S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator:	Ralph K. Hillquist	231-882-0233	rkillquist@chartermi.net
Ombudsman:	Peter J. Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
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	Stephen C. Siciliano	231-947-1480	mrtak9@ameritech.net

Regional Vice Chairman	Charles Bruce	614-237-4228	rvc3@us.mensa.org
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check out our website at: www.nmm.us.mensa.org



Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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SPREAD THE WORD - TESTING

Please help get out the word that our next testing session will be held in Traverse City on Saturday, March 20. Contact Jack Schultz for more information and to preregister, nwoodpc@chartermi.net or 231-275-6735.