

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa

 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Volume 6 Number 1

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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.

#### **Deadline:**

The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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:**

[nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com)

#### **US mail:**

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# Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

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At Large	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	<a href="mailto:renmeij@yahoo.com">renmeij@yahoo.com</a>

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## OTHER MEMBERS

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

**ON THE COVER:** The fifth anniversary picnic. Photo by Jack Schultz. See Pages 6 and 7 for additional information and photos.

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## October 2007 Calendar

### **BIBLIOMENSANS Book Club - Saturday, 6 October, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *A Coffin for Dimitrios* by Eric Ambler. The presenter is Jim McDermott. This group is open to all members. Attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

### **Crystal River Canoe/Kayak Trip - Sunday, 7 October 2007 at 2:00 p.m.**

A two- to three-hour trip with 3 very short portages. On last year's trip, the salmon were running providing an interesting experience.

**Note: the trip will be canceled if it is raining around noon and/or if the forecast is for rain that afternoon. No alternate date is scheduled.**

#### Directions from Traverse City:

Take M-72 west to County Road 677 (also called Valley Road).

Turn right (north) and go to M-22.

Go THRU Glen Arbor to CR 675. Turn right (east).

Go about a mile and watch for the MENSA sign about 1/10 mile east of Westman Rd.

Turn right and park near start point on the Crystal River

If you have your own canoe or kayak, go directly to the starting point at 2 p.m. Or, you can rent a kayak in Glen Arbor at Crystal River Outfitters, which is on the Crystal River just east of "downtown" Glen Arbor. **(Note that as of the end of September, due to low water, they were not renting canoes.)** They provide shuttle service from there to where we will be starting. Phone them ahead of time at 231-334-4420 or visit their web site: [www.crystalriveroutfitters.com](http://www.crystalriveroutfitters.com). You drop off their kayak at their business place at the end of the trip.

The rest of us who do not rent equipment will continue on to where CR 675 meets M-22 and end the trip there. One vehicle left at that point will serve to shuttle people back to their cars. You can contact Jack Schultz (phone 231-275-6735 or email at [nwoodpc@chartermi.net](mailto:nwoodpc@chartermi.net)) for further details

### **ExComm Meeting - Saturday, 13 October 2007 at 10 a.m.**

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. All members are welcome to attend.

### **BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 October 2007 at 11 a.m.**

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.

### **TGIF - Friday, 26 October 2007 at 5:30 pm.**

We will meet at Borders Books, 2612 Crossings Circle (Wal-Mart Plaza next to Toys R Us), Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. They have many beverages, pastries and cookies available.

### **Mark your NOVEMBER calendars!**

### **MOVIE CLUB - Saturday, 3 November 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 25 October 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.

## Borealis Policies

### By Stan Cain

After several inquiries and after consulting with the ExComm, two new policies have been implemented for our newsletter. These policies have been added to the other Borealis publication guidelines in the front of the newsletter.

One concerns advertising. It is felt that for our group, the inclusion of advertising would not provide any benefits in accordance with Mensa's stated purposes and goals:  
"To identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members."

The other involves submission deadlines. A long standing but not explicitly stated or enforced deadline for submissions has been the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication; e.g. September 15<sup>th</sup> for the October issue. I feel adhering to this policy will help avoid last minute changes and allow Borealis to reach members before the first of the month. This is sometimes important when events are scheduled for early in the month.

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## Member News

### Happy October Birthdays

8	D A Bean	18	Patricia Lynne Paternel
9	Ruth Minshull	27	Karen Kennedy
13	R K Hillquist	27	Elissa J Laskey
15	Jessica Mary Eberly	31	Susan D Nolf
17	Thomas MacNeill Barnhart		

### Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

9 Years G L McWhirter

### Welcome Back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Jill S Miner

### Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

G R Greene Robert Michael Matson

August 2007 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	50143	90
New and reinstating membership	767	3
Offers of membership	501	0
New members since April 2007	1851	4
Reinstating members since April 2007	1523	7

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 8/31/07. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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## Membership News Election Information

It's time to begin the process of determining who will become the next five voting members of the Executive Committee (ExComm) for Northern Michigan Mensa. The new two-year term will begin on January 1, 2008.

The first step has already been taken in selecting a three-person nominating committee. Judith Lindenau, Rick Warden and John Porter were the three members appointed. The Nominating Committee's responsibility is to assure that a slate of ExComm candidates is identified.

Any Northern Michigan Mensa member interested in becoming a candidate for the next ExComm should contact Judith, Rick or John. They will nominate candidates in time for inclusion on the ballot that will appear in the December issue of Borealis.

The five candidates receiving the most votes in the election will become the next voting members of the ExComm. Those five elected candidates will then decide among themselves who will serve in the three required officer positions of Local Secretary, Deputy Local Secretary and Treasurer. The remaining two positions will be At-Large Members.

Judith, Rick and John may be contacted at:

Judith Lindenau 231-935-4962 <a href="mailto:judith@judithlindenau.com">judith@judithlindenau.com</a>	Rick Warden 989-731-2544 <a href="mailto:rickwarden@charter.net">rickwarden@charter.net</a>	John Porter 231-929-4233 <a href="mailto:porterj3@charter.net">porterj3@charter.net</a>
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When the new voting members assume their duties, they will appoint or re-appoint the non-voting members of the ExComm. The term for the appointed members of the ExComm runs concurrently with the voting members.

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# Regional Vice Chair

## RVC 3 Thoughts for October/November By Dave Swanka

Hello members of Region 3! This column will be a short synopsis of the AMC meeting held September 8th - I'll offer my insight into the issues presented at the meeting. This being the first airplane trip for me in over twenty years, I was somewhat surprised at the flying pencils that pass themselves off as jet airliners. Only an Airbus 319 that I was on during the Dallas to Detroit leg of the journey was what I would have called a comfortable plane. Obviously customer comfort is not a high priority anymore. The customer service wasn't so hot, either. Unlike the airlines, we (or at least some of us) on the AMC do strive to provide the membership with good service. Your feedback only strengthens our ability to provide such service. Now on to the meeting's agenda items worthy of note.

1. A nominating committee process review committee was established to review the nominating process - don't know where this is headed, but if it results in more candidates running it will be a good thing.
2. A local group charter review committee was reformed; last term's came up with several unacceptable proposals which were voted down.
3. A planning committee was formed - as no planning goals have been reached, it won't have a lot to do.
4. The AMC's Executive Committee's responsibilities and authority were redefined and somewhat limited. While not comprehensive enough for my taste, it is a step in the right direction - accountability to the membership.
5. Local groups will be required to provide a definitive statement of their cash balance annually to AML. Hold on now, this is an IRS requirement and the local treasurers have this information readily at hand. I don't view it as a burden.
6. Members who are under sanction at the time of elections, but whose sanction doesn't specifically forbid voting, will now be allowed to vote. This is a sensible action and one long overdue.
7. We held a lengthy Executive Session, which I am not at liberty to go into in detail. It is just for this reason that I really oppose the idea of Executive Sessions. All discussion, whether personal or legal, should be open for review of the membership. I will say that motions such as expressing a vote of confidence in our EXCOMM or individual members of the AMC pervert the notion that competent, effective job performance is the expected norm rather than the exception.

The meeting was cordial despite lots of differing viewpoints; just goes to show that intelligent people can state their side of an issue and bring up opposing points of view without matters becoming unduly personal. An organized planning meeting was also held, which I fortunately missed most of. Organized, structured planning meetings usually are about as productive as a dog chasing its tail. Give me a good old-fashioned brain storming session anytime - especially one with over twenty Mensans involved. Now that would yield some meaningful ideas on where Mensa should head in the future. Oh well, the best-laid plans of mice and Mensans....

As always, it's good to hear from you, and enjoy the beautiful autumn season!

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## 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.

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## Annual Picnic By Stan Cain

Our September picnic was well attended and the weather was perfect. It seemed to be a rather sedentary bunch and we could have used a few more kids to liven things up. There were a lot of Mensa style intellectual (and not so intellectual) discussions and some horseshoes were pitched. Your editor tossed a few and noticed that the shoes were heavier and stakes were farther apart than they were 20 years ago at my last game - perhaps I can blame it on new government safety regulations. Anyway, here are a few pictures from the picnic. Photos by Jack Schultz.



# Treasurer's Report

## Northern Michigan Mensa Statement of Income and Expenses January 1, 2007 through July 31, 2007

	Budgeted	YTD	Remaining
<b>Income</b>			
National Office Allocation	\$900.00	\$555.72	\$344.28
Testing Fees	\$250.00	\$62.50	\$187.50
Interest	\$30.00	\$20.04	\$9.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,180.00</b>	<b>\$638.26</b>	<b>\$541.74</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Newsletter	\$800.00	\$292.26	\$507.74
Office/Incidentals	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Activities/Programs	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Scholarship	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Proctor/Testing	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Stipend for Regional/National Events	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>	<b>\$292.26</b>	<b>\$1,457.74</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$570.00</b>	<b>\$346.00</b>	<b>-\$916.00</b>

<b>Friend Fund</b>			
Balance	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$56.00
<b>Donations</b>		\$600.73	
<b>Net Expenditures</b>		-\$946.73	

## Northern Michigan Mensa Bank Balance Reconciliation January 1, 2007 through July 31, 2007

	1/1/07	Net Change	7/31/07
<b>Checking</b>	\$2,632.66	\$946.55	\$3,579.21
<b>Savings</b>	\$101.57	\$0.18	\$101.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,734.23</b>	<b>\$946.73</b>	<b>\$3,680.96</b>

Note: The above figures include a subtraction from testing income of \$62.50 incorrectly credited twice by the National Office in 2006. Testing activities to date have brought in \$125.00. Also, the Donations figure includes an unexplained deposit from the National Office of \$100.73.