

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

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Volume 6 Number 3

December 2007

**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)

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

**ON THE COVER:** Our November new member brunch at Cottage Cafe. Photo by Stan Cain.

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## December 2007 Calendar

### **BIBLIOMENSANS Book Club - Saturday, 1 December, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.**

This month the book for discussion is *The Human Stain*, by Philip Roth. Margaret Scott will be our presenter. Please plan to attend for another lively discussion!! We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City.

### **ASTRONOMY NIGHT at Rogers Observatory - Saturday, 1 December 2007 8 - 10 p.m.**

For any of you who missed the public viewing night of 17 Nov, the observatory will be having another public viewing night, featuring Mars and comet Holmes. The observatory is located south of Traverse City. See the November Borealis for directions.

### **BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 December 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, 28 December 2007 at 5:30 pm.**

This is our monthly, end of the week get together to unwind and chat. 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. There are many beverages, pastries and cookies available.

\*\*\*\*

## Election !

**Don't forget to vote for Executive Committee members. See the instructions and Ballot in the back of this issue.**

\*\*\*\*

# Member News

## Happy December Birthdays

8	Stan Cain	14	Norma Hastings Feeley
11	J. A. Thorne	25	G R Greene

## Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

25 Years	Patricia Lynne Paternel	6 Years	Wendy Jane Barker
19 Years	Peter J Turkus	1 Year	Vicki L Carpenter
13 Years	Mark L Banker		Trevor L Dunson

## October 2007 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	51419	91
New and reinstating membership	574	1
Offers of membership	959	3
New members since April 2007	2504	4
Reinstating members since April 2007	1908	8

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/07. 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".

\*\*\*\*

## New Member Brunch

The November brunch was well attended and featured the presentation of a Mensa coffee mug to new member Jennifer Cassidy. After the brunch, many of the group toured the Grand Traverse Distillery - makers of True North vodka. Photos by Stan Cain and Melissa Rennie.





New Member Jennifer Cassidy and her children Rosalynd and Kyle



Kent Rabish, vodkaologist (left) discusses infusion technique with Ed McNamara while Karen Kennedy samples the product.



Kent Rabish with Priscilla Walmsley and Pete Turkus, shown to the right of the distillation columns

## Borealis Statistics By Stan Cain

Do those of you who read Borealis every month ever wonder about the costs involved in publishing? Here are some sample numbers from the last two years that I have been editor:

ISSUE DATE	PRINTED & MAILED	PRINT / POSTAGE / TOTAL COST (\$)	E-MAILED *	TOTAL ** MAILING
Apr 06	55	\$32 / \$21 / \$53	58	113
Sep 06	43	\$29 / \$17 / \$72	47	92
Jan 07	54	\$13 / \$21 / \$34	49	103
May 07	44	\$ 7 / \$18 / \$25	67	111
Nov 07	39	\$ 6 / \$16 / \$22	66	105

\* Includes some lapsed members

\*\*Includes mailings to other Mensa groups

Two things stand out in the above numbers:

First is the decrease in cost of printing and postage after September 2006. This was due to a change of printers from STAPLES to TAAR (Traverse Area Association of Realtors). Thanks go to Judith Lindenau for that suggestion. In addition to the lower cost, TAAR also folds and staples the copies for which service STAPLES would have charged more.

Second was an increase in the number of members receiving Borealis by email after January 2007. At that time, a personalized reminder was sent to all members who have an email address listed with AML, but who were not on the email list for Borealis.

There is also a significant variation in printing cost due to a varying number of pages in the issues. The printer charges a per-page price. In addition, the cost of first-class postage has risen from 39 to 41 cents during this time period. Another variable is the number of members on the mailing list. This number always drops after membership renewals in April when some people are late renewing.

Bottom line is that our costs are less than half what they used to be. They could be lower if more members changed from regular mail to email delivery. Anyone who wants to do this should contact me at [nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com).

## Candidate Statements

### Stan Cain

I have been a member of NMM since May 2003 and have served on the ExComm for the last two years. I am the current editor of Borealis. I joined Mensa after I retired and moved to Traverse City following a career in engineering and computer programming. I have found Mensa to be a rewarding experience and source of friendships with a variety of interesting people. I would like to continue to serve on the Executive Committee.

### Melissa Rennie

I have been a member for 5 years and served on the Northern Michigan Mensa ExComm for 4 years. I also serve on the American Mensa National Membership Committee and I am the programming chair for the 2010AG in Detroit.

No statements were submitted by Jim McDermott, Penny Novarro, Jack Schultz or Sue Styles.

## NMM Election of Officers

All current members of Northern Michigan Mensa are entitled to participate in the election for Executive Committee members. NMM officers will serve for 2008 and 2009.

The ballots must be received by the Election Committee no later than December 15, 2007. Ballots received after that date will not be counted. The five candidates receiving the greatest number of valid votes cast will be elected. They will decide among themselves which office each is to assume. Votes which are tied will be determined by the Election Committee by a flip of a coin.

As there are five positions on the Executive Committee, vote for one to five of the six candidates. Fold the ballot and return to Election Committee member Judith Lindenau at the address below:

**Ms. Judith Lindenau**  
7707 Fouch Road  
Traverse City, MI 49684.

**Your return name and address must appear on the exterior of your envelope and will be used to confirm voting eligibility.**

ELECTION DEADLINE: Ballots must be received by December 15, 2007.

# **NMM ExComm BALLOT**

**Mark up to Five Candidates**

**Stan Cain**

**Jim McDermott**

**Penny Novarro**

**Melissa Rennie**

**Jack Schultz**

**Sue Styles**

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