

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 6 Number 11

August 2008

 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

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

ON THE COVER: Part of a sculpture outside the Sheraton Hotel in Denver, Colorado - site of the 2008 Annual Gathering. Photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

August 2008 Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 2 August 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for August will be *The Codex*, by Douglas Preston, to be presented by Jack Schultz.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 9 August 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

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

ANNUAL PICNIC - Saturday, August 16, Noon to 5 p.m. - Rain or Shine.

At the home of Jack and Joanne Schultz, on Stevens Lake, Benzie County. This will be an event to celebrate the 6th anniversary of Northern Michigan Mensa. Please come to meet new members and renew acquaintance with those who've been around awhile. All family members are welcome.

This is a potluck picnic, so bring a dish to pass--salad, snacks, vegetable, hot or cold entrée, or dessert. Provide your own beverages and picnic supplies. Please RSVP to Jack Schultz (231-275-6735) by three days prior to the picnic, if possible. We will plan to eat around 1 p.m.

Directions: Schultz's address is 8846 Green Briar Rd., Lake Ann, MI 49650.

For those coming from Traverse City, take M-72 west toward Empire and go 10.9 miles from the junction of M-72 and M-22 at Tom's West Bay Shopping Center. Turn left (south) at the junction just beyond Glen's Landfill. That is County Road 667, also indicated by a sign pointing to Lake Ann. Go 2.0 miles to a junction with Cedar Run Road and then turn right (west) on Cedar Run and go one-half mile. Turn left onto Green Briar Road and go to the 2nd driveway on your right. Signs will show you where to go.

Coming from Ludington, Manistee, and other locations south and west of Traverse City, take U.S. 31 to the State Fish Hatchery about four miles east of Honor. Turn north onto County Road 669. Go about six miles to Almira Road and turn east (also called County Road 610). Go one mile to a STOP sign at Ole

White Road (also known as Sweet Lake Road) and then turn left. Go one mile north (passing Mistwood Golf Course) and turn right (east) onto Fowler Road. Go one-half mile and then turn left. You'll be on Green Briar Road. The Schultz driveway is about 0.8 mile north from Fowler Rd.

If you have questions or get lost along the way, phone Jack Schultz at 231-275-6735 or email him at nwoodpc@chartermi.net.

TGIF - Friday, 22 August 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Member News

Happy August Birthday

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Mark L Banker | 15 | Delberta Ruth Windiate |
| 8 | Alan T Kohler | 20 | C L Dickson |
| 12 | Corinne Kass-Hillard Mowrey | 23 | Suzanne L Cook |
| 13 | Lynn A Durling | 26 | Susan M Kraus |

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 6 Years | J Porter | 2 Years | Karen Kennedy |
| 5 Years | Lynn A Durling | 1 Year | J S Miner |
| | Margaret Ellen Gustafson | | |
| | Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro | | |

2008 Statistics

| | AML | NMM |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Total membership | 48207 | 95 |
| New and reinstating membership | 650 | 4 |
| Offers of membership | 308 | 0 |
| New members since April 2007 | 621 | 2 |
| Reinstating members since April 2007 | 842 | 5 |

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2008. 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".

TWO FRIENDS LEAVE US

By Jack Schultz

Donald C. Hennig August 9, 1942 – April 18 2008

Northern Michigan Mensa lost a good friend on Friday, April 18 of this year. Don had served as our Deputy Local Secretary for the period of 2006-2007 and he had been one of the individuals who had been connected with Mensa in northern Michigan almost as long as anyone. When we first began holding Mensa meetings back in the late-1970s, Don was on the scene. For a time, he also served as Traverse City Area Coordinator for Western Michigan Mensa many years before we became an officially recognized local group. Don also served as an Assistant Editor for Borealis from 2005 until he had to withdraw from active involvement in the group.

Don was a highly regarded forester who had a long career with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He made Kalkaska his home for many years until his illness required him to move to New Jersey so he could receive treatment at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute about two years ago. Don was a quiet but always cheerful man and he supported our fledgling group strongly right from the start in 2002. Don was born in Indian Falls, New York and he died in Cranbury, New Jersey at the home of his sister.

Ralph K. Hillquist October 13, 1937 – July 23, 2008

Ralph took the Mensa qualifying tests in the spring of 2001, along with about 13 other people. It was the largest group we've ever tested at one time. His sense of humor came through even then, and it was a pleasure so spend time with him whenever he attended a Mensa function.

After our first editor, Tom Kachadurian, gave up the reins to Borealis, Ralph took over for part of a year. We appreciated his stepping into the breach.

We'll miss Ralph's friendliness and sense of humor, and we express our sincere sympathy to his wife Sharon for her loss.

Petoskey Area Group Meets

On June 19, eight individuals, including six Mensans and mothers of two of them, met at the Petoskey Public Library. For a couple of hours, sharing of personal information and aspirations for what this new subgroup of Northern Michigan Mensa might become set the tone for what lies ahead. Jennifer LaPoint, coordinator of the Petoskey group, kept the ball rolling. Others who attended included Breanna (Bre) Blasius, a high school student from Harbor Springs. Her mother added comments as the evening went along. Robin Wottowa came from East Jordan and John Swartout came from Boyne Falls/Vanderbilt. Seven-year-old Chase Philport was brought from Harbor Springs by his mother, Kristyn. Our Local Secretary, Jack Schultz, joined the group also and offered encouragement.

The group has decided to meet **monthly on the third Thursday**, but unforeseen circumstances forced the cancellation of July's meeting. Another get-together is planned for August and Jennifer will get the word out to those members who live north of the line between Elk Rapids and Grayling.

SCRABBLE CHALLENGE

Submitted by Jack Schultz

On Saturday, August 2, 2008, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Third Annual SCRABBLE CHALLENGE, sponsored by the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council and Friends of the Traverse Area District Library. The event will be held in Traverse City at the District Library on Woodmere Avenue. This is a call for advance registration and notice of how additional information can be obtained.

A prize for the best total score by an individual will be \$500 in merchandise donated by Federico's Design Jewelers in Traverse City. Entrance fees are \$10 per individual if paid in advance and \$12 if paid at the door. Group tables can be reserved for \$40 (four people) in advance or \$42 at the door. (That includes the registration fees for individuals.) To register or to obtain additional information, phone (231) 947-1619 or email jackbay@charter.net.

Proceeds go to further the goals of the Literacy Council and the Friends of the Traverse Area District Library.

Several Northern Michigan Mensa members have participated in this event in the past, and it's a good cause. Maybe our group can become involved in literacy projects throughout our territory as well as supporting our local libraries.

Happy "Wordsmithing."

AG 2008

By Stan Cain

This was my first AG (Annual Gathering) and I could compare it to several SEMMantics, the Southeast Michigan Regional Gatherings I have attended. The AG, of course, is much more, with more attendees (over 2,000 I heard), more programs and more speakers. Since I retired from a job involving engineering and technology I have missed being exposed to these things. I found myself drawn to presentations on astrophysics, a space mission to Pluto, and Greenland ice core care. Since there were usually several simultaneous presentations, this meant missing speakers on global warming, identity theft, stem cell technology and America's war on tyrants.

It was nice to have others from NMM to touch base with occasionally. We (nine, if you include kids and spouses) often met for breakfast before setting off on usually different activity paths for the rest of the day

I never did find out what speed talking was all about, missed hugging Alan Baltis in his attempt to break the Guinness world record for most hugs in one hour and, perhaps most important, never found out the nine things that most men don't know about women.

Going to a lot of speaker presentations and programs meant missing all the tours of Denver and the surrounding areas. However, since we (my wife Dorothy and I) spent a week in Breckenridge, CO (a winter ski area in the mountains) prior to the AG, I felt we had a good exposure to some of the best the state has to offer.

I attended a couple of LDWs (Leadership Development Workshops) on newsletters and photo editing during which I felt that I learned a lot. You may see these pages undergoing some changes in the future.

Leslie Stahl and a crew from the CBS program "60 Minutes" were at the AG and spent several days filming various presentations and interviewing people. Someone said this segment may be presented in the fall.

Funny stuff? Well, the speaker on GPS Technology got lost on the way to the hotel (or at least didn't show up). And, there was the devilishly clever test of trying to find your way through the maze between the hospitality/dining area (in the lower level of one building) to the presentations areas in several levels of another building). Eventually, hand lettered signs appeared with arrows to show the way and by the end of the gathering, most Mensans had it figured out.

Getting there by flying was surprisingly pleasant. In June, United instituted a non-stop flight from Traverse City to Denver. We bought tickets before the run-up in air fares increased the cost. Although the cost was more than flying through Detroit, the convenience was a big factor. We had considered taking the

train from either the Detroit or Chicago area. Then, a few weeks before the AG, the Midwest had the rains and flooding along the Mississippi River. I heard that a railroad bridge was washed out and that Amtrak had halted service between Chicago and Denver! I'm not sure if they got service restored in time for the AG or not.

All in all, attending an Annual Gathering was a thoroughly rewarding and refreshing experience and one that I hope to repeat soon.



NMM AG attendees

Standing: Carol Crawford and Stan Cain and seated: Jim McDermott and Melissa Rennie. Photo by Dorothy Cain



Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper(L) speaks with AMC Chair, Russ Bakke after the mayor welcomed the AG to Denver. Right: Fun at the Street Fair.



Festivities at the Banquet
AG Photos by Stan Cain

ALAS, I RUE THE ADO

by Ruth Minshull

I've never met a cruciverbalist I really liked.

Obviously I don't have Will Rogers' generosity of spirit. Of course, he probably didn't do crossword puzzles. If he had, it might have changed his entire outlook on life, as well as his opinion of his fellow human beings.

I have to admit I've never met a cruciverbalist in person, but I don't have to. I encounter them almost daily through their products and I am a victim of their diabolical machinations.

Of course, I can understand what they are up against. They're trying to entertain us, challenge us, and maintain our interest. That's what they claim anyway. I really suspect that they're sadistic polecats bent on making us feel like drooling morons, just because we don't know the French word for summer, we've forgotten how to write the year 1537 in Roman numerals, we're stumped when asked to remember the names of all seven dwarfs or Santa's reindeer, we don't remember what comes after "tau" in the Greek alphabet and we can't recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Swahili.

In my kinder moments, I do appreciate some of their problems. In fact, when I feel really generous, I admit that I'm amazed by their ingenuity in juggling those interlocking words, to end up with a complete puzzle--and no leftover parts.

In those same generous moments (brief, mind you) I realize that when we encounter a puzzle that is too easy, we don't want that any more than we want a super tough one. We want one that's just right--*for us*.

I could sum it up with a paraphrase of the old rhyme by Frank Gelett Burgess: I never saw a cruciverbalist. I never hope to see one, but I can tell you anyhow, I'd rather see than be one.

Puzzle makers always have trouble finding enough three-letter words to fill their needs, often resorting to ROE, RAH, REO, and RUE. When have you ever heard someone say, "I rue the day I married that dimwit"? Sure, a person may regret it--passionately perhaps--but I have never observed anybody in the middle of a "rue".

Other favorites are SPA, TSP, TAR, PER, BAA, DNA and NEE. Some of these appear in almost every puzzle.

Short vowel words are the hardest. EVA Gabor, AVA Gardner and UMA Thurman will live in perpetuity within those little squares -- not because of their talent or beauty or accomplishments, but because of their vowel-beginning, three-letter names. I hope those glamorous ladies don't mind.

Especially challenging are the "e" words. It is the most frequently used letter, but there are a limited number of "e" words in the language. ERGO, ERA, ESSE, ESTA, EWA, EVE, EON, ERA, EMU, ELI and the poetic E'ER come to mind. They obviously borrow frequently from Latin.

And, of course, it's no simple matter to deal with the a's, thus we find AGE, ART, ARC, ARK, ALE, ADE, AID and the all-time favorite ADO. Now, I have never been personally involved in an ado (has anyone since Shakespeare?) and I'm not sure I would recognize it if I were.

Quite a few words slip into obsolescence when no one is paying attention. But some of them must live on, if only so that cruciverbalists can dig themselves out of a hole when necessary. Thus we run across: ASEA, ALAS and ALIT, which don't pop up much in everyday life. Have you every heard anyone say "alas" even when aseas?

The letter "o" is also a tough one. The same few words occur repeatedly: ODE, ORE, OVA, OLD, OLEO, OREO and the big favorite OLÉ. I should be grateful to the puzzle makers. Should I ever find myself at a bullfight in Spain I will know just how to show my support for the bull--or should it be the matador? Of course, if they happen to put a cruciverbalist in the ring with the bull I'd have no trouble at all choosing sides. "Olé, Torro, Olé!"

The LocSec's Login

**By Jack Schultz
NMM LocSec**

Here's an opportunity which I hope many of you will take me up on. It should be both challenging and rewarding. I was recently contacted by Denyse Everett at Northwestern Michigan College. She works in Support Services at the College and is also on the Board of the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council. On August 2, the Literacy Council and the Friends of the Traverse Area District Library will hold the third annual SCRABBLE CHALLENGE. You'll find details about that event elsewhere in this issue of our newsletter.

My challenge to you is to learn more about the Literacy Council and its goals. I'd like to think that some, if not many, of our members would find becoming involved in the Council and what it does is something that would add immeasurably to their lives as well as those of others. To quote directly from the

Literacy Council's web site, here's what is presented as a snapshot of what the Council is and what its volunteers do.

"There are members of our community who struggle with the literacy skills which we take for granted. Some have difficulty interpreting symbols on a page of text. Some are unable to process what they read. Some have never learned to read beyond a grade school level. Others speak and read a foreign language. Whatever the reason, volunteer tutors are available to assist these people in reaching their literacy goals. Our volunteers donate their time to others because they believe everyone should be able to read and understand a prescription, fill out an application, or read their children a story. Many of our tutors are avid readers themselves and would like to pass along the lifelong enjoyment of literature.

"Literacy volunteers provide free instructional services for adults who wish to improve their reading, writing, and oral communication proficiency. Our goal is to increase the literacy skills of these individuals so they can more fully participate in the economic and educational life our community offers."

I would like to see our members become involved in this worthwhile enterprise, either in the Grand Traverse Region or in a similar organization closer to where they live. As they say, "It's possible to lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." Perhaps that will be the situation here; however, I know that many of you have skills that would enrich the lives of others while enriching your own...and it just might enable Northern Michigan Mensa to achieve a level of community involvement that would call attention to our organization...and it might interest more individuals in seeing if they qualify for membership. Please check out the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council's web site to learn more about what the Council does and how you might personally become involved. Here's the web address: <http://gtalc.org/>

Other Literacy Matters

As you may recall, I tried to stimulate some interest this past spring in getting some of you to go out to Interlochen to sit in on some of the classes in creative writing where visiting authors were brought in to share their views of the craft of writing. For one reason or another, either the scheduling wasn't just right (daytimes on weekdays) or folks just weren't interested. I'm not giving up on this idea, however, so I want to give you a little preview of what we have coming up on tap for you this fall.

One of our own members, Dr. Aaron Stander, is an accomplished writer and he has published two good mystery novels that have been set in the Grand Traverse Region. His third such novel will be coming out soon if it hasn't already. Aaron will be speaking to our group this fall, about his books and about the writing process. I hope you'll put it on your calendar to join us on the

day when this occurs. (Watch for an announcement in the September issue of Borealis.)

Then, on Saturday, November 8, another writer will speak to us at our regular November brunch. Jeff Vande Zande teaches courses in writing at Delta College (between Midland and Bay City). Here's how Jeff describes what he proposes for his meeting with us:

What if I read a short story and a few poems, and then I could talk about the creative process behind those specific works and, subsequently, talk about my creative writing process in general. I could get at why I write, what I hope my writing does for others, what I keep in mind while I'm crafting my stories, etc. If we could keep it casual enough, maybe during the whole thing, I could also answer questions that might occur to audience members. Maybe it could be an "anatomy of a short story" kind of thing . . . and talk specifically about what many short story writers have in mind as they craft their stories.

Do You Know a Smart Attorney?

During the month of August only, any attorney who has taken the Law School Admissions Test (the LSAT) may submit evidence of a score obtained on that test without having to pay Mensa's normal evaluation fee. If you know of a lawyer who might qualify for Mensa, be sure to let him or her know of this special opportunity.

Mensan Makes Irish Music! Information from: Judith Lindenau email: judith@judithlindenau.com

The Traverse City Irish music group "Scatter the Mud" will play at Kilkenny's Irish Public House (West Front Street in Traverse City, in the basement of North Peak Restaurant) on Sunday, August 10, from 7-10 PM.

"This is true Irish tradition," said Donna Wilson Probes, a member of the group. "It's very common for entire families to spend a Sunday together playing music, dancing, and singing. Our band hopes to bring that custom to Traverse City."

"Scatter the Mud" takes its name from a popular Irish jig. The group is composed of Cynthia Nichols, fiddle; Judith Lindenau, penny whistle; Lawrence Probes, concertina and vocals; Donna Wilson Probes, bouzouki and vocals; and Don Lessard, guitar.

Puzzle Page

Edited by Stan Cain

Cryptograms - The following strings are scrambled quotations by a well known person. One letter has been replaced by another. The code is different in each quote.

KL BIBZQFSB ZXKAFAXQB FP BSBO XP YXA, LO XP GLLA,

XP TB BUMBZQ EFJ QL YB.

TFII OLDBOP

JOT SJTMO'W VTRJLOQPT QO JOT'M DQIT WBT VTGDFF

QNKJVGWPW NJNTOWM - OJW WQDD QW'M WJJ DGWT

GLGWBG RBVQMWQT

Alphabet Logic Puzzle

Answer to Last Month's Alphabet Logic puzzle:

A = 12 B = 5 C = 1 D = 24 E = 19 F = 21 G = 14 H = 15 I = 20
J = 13 K = 2 L = 7 M = 16 N = 10 O = 17 P = 4 Q = 26 R = 6
S = 9 T = 18 U = 23 V = 11 W = 22 X = 8 Y = 25 Z =
