

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.

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:

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Northern Michigan Mensa

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

ON THE COVER: 12-foot high snow man on Douglas Lake. Photo by Jack Schultz.

Northern Michigan Mensa

March 2009 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 March 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the 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.

TGIF - Friday, 27 March 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday 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 upstairs.

CULTURE QUEST XX

Margaret Scott is coordinating our group's participation in the national Mensa trivia game this year. Culture Quest XX will take place on **Sunday, April 19**. All across the country, teams from many of American Mensa's local groups will sit down to scratch their heads and puzzle over questions that will tax the brain power of everyone. Teams can have as many as five participants (plus a sixth as an alternate), but signup for participation must be done no later than March 31. Anyone interested in participating this year should first go to the Mensa Web site to read about Culture Quest and then contact Margaret directly so she can form the teams.

There is a team fee of \$40 (which averages \$10 per person for a team of four and \$8 per person if five participate), and this amount must be submitted by Margaret when lists of team members are sent in. Two divisions – Classic and the Youth Division, called The Next Generation – exist for the competition. All members of Classic teams must be paid-up members of Mensa (as of April 1, 2009) but only the team captain of The Next Generation group need be a paid-up member...but he or she must have been born AFTER April 1, 1991.

We always hold a dinner get-together immediately following the CQ event, and all members of NMM are invited to attend. Details on that will be provided in the April issue of Borealis, but you can count on it being on Sunday, April 19.

Please contact Margaret Scott ASAP so she can form the teams for this year's Culture Quest. Her phone number is (231) 879-3140 and her email address is mjscott@triton.net.

Member News

Happy March Birthday

1	Kenneth F Bryson	26	Charles R Fricke
3	Margaret J Scott	30	Sherry Marie McNamara

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

27 Years	William Earl Hagan	7 Years	Sherry Marie McNamara M K Shaw
22 Years	Harold William Smith		S A Styles
9 Years	J A Thorne	5 Years	T L Slater
8 Years	Charles R Fricke	1 Year	Kenneth F Bryson Stefan Dragicevic Bernard Hanchett Susan M Kraus

Welcome To Northern Michigan Mensa

Nancy Dady James F Kane Brett A. Pharo

2009 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	55450	103
New and reinstating membership	977	13
Offers of membership	263	1
New members since April 2008	3434	4
Reinstating members since April 2008	3772	9

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 1/31/2009. 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".

The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz, Local Secretary

BIG NEWS: WE'VE SET A NEW RECORD

When the National Office sent out our "end-of-January" membership report, I was delighted to see that we had more members in Northern Michigan Mensa than we've ever had in January — 103. Then, when I did a spot check by going to the Mensa Web site about the middle of February, I found that two more individuals had joined. Nancy Dady of Traverse City and Brett Pharo of Rapid City became Mensans in the first half of the month, so we now are 105 strong. Unless we lose a member or two between now and the end of March, we will set an all-time record for membership in our group.

REPORTING ON FEBRUARY'S EVENTS

As most of you by now know, Dee Blair wasn't able to join us for our brunch during February. Her step-father's home in England suffered severe water damage caused by burst pipes in his house while he was hospitalized, so Dee flew over there to handle dealing with insurance adjusters, repair people, and all the other details associated with recovering from a catastrophe. She will join us sometime later this year after she returns to Traverse City. Perhaps we'll be able to have a leisurely stroll through her exquisite gardens on Sixth Street.

We did, however, have an enjoyable brunch on February 14 and were able to help Pete Turkus celebrate his birthday. The discussion of *The Road* at our bi-monthly Bibliomensans event was a lively one. Seems that somewhat more than half those present had difficulty finding a lot of redeeming value in the writing, but good give-and-take occurred (as usual) and not too many feathers were ruffled. The uproariously funny book, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, by Bill Bryson will be discussed at our April book club session. Richard Hopfner will be the lead presenter. If you like good discussions, don't fail to join us at the Cottage Café on April 4. Even more, if you want a few belly laughs, don't miss reading this book. All members are

welcome to attend these Bibliomensans events on the first Saturday of every other month.

The stumbling U.S. economy manifested itself during the recent fundraising campaign at Interlochen Public Radio (IPR), but it didn't affect our group which manned the phones on February 12. A smaller number of pledges than normal came in during the three hours we were at the station, so this allowed for a great many verbal exchanges among the six volunteers present. Mensans who participated included Vicki Carpenter (and her husband Phil Downs) from Beulah, Steve Quick from Traverse City, Lou Isabell from Acme/Williamsburg, and yours truly. Another, non-Mensa volunteer completed our group. Even though I was the only one there who had participated in the book club's discussion of *The Road* the previous Saturday, most of the volunteers had read it. Another lively discussion ensued...with a slightly higher ratio of "unfavorable" to "favorable" ratings than occurred at Bibliomensans.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This year, 27 people in our local area submitted essays in the annual Mensa Educational and Research Foundation (MERF) scholarship competition. Two of those exceeded the limit on number of words allowed, so they were disqualified. The other 25 essays were judged and the results were forwarded onto the regional level for judging against others submitted within Region 3. Winning essays at that level will go on to be judged at the national level and the final winners will be announced early this summer. We will award one or two scholarships locally, depending on whether or not our best essayists win at the national level.

Editor's Corner

Well, as Bobbi Walker mentioned in her email notice about our last brunch, I have been hospitalized and am now home recovering from brain surgery. I had two weeks in the hospital to think about things and life and have perhaps developed some philosophical observations I would like to share:

We are all mortal.

Life is very fragile.

Each day is a gift; use it wisely.

I'm sure I read these somewhere at one time since I don't think they are original.

And, as a final note, this type of surgery leaves you with a very short haircut.

I also want to take the time to thank all of my Mensa family for your kind thoughts and cards while I have been recovering--they were very much appreciated.

On another subject, I want to bring up our need to have a backup/assistant editor available for times like now when it may not be easy or possible for me to get out our newsletter. I know there are many capable and knowledgeable people out there who could do this job as well or better than I, and I would like to offer you this opportunity to become more involved in Northern Michigan Mensa. I'm currently thinking that it would be good to have someone take over as editor now on a permanent basis. I have been your editor for the past three years, and while I have really enjoyed doing this, I think I would like to become involved in a different part of our organization

Borealis is composed using MS Word. The output file for online distribution is created with a PDF utility. A paper version is printed commercially. Almost all communication is handled via email so a new editor could reside anywhere in our region and travel would be minimal.

Please let me or Jack Schultz know if you are interested.

And finally, a big thank you to Jack Schultz for helping me organize and put together this issue.

Trivia Quiz Submitted by Margaret Scott

More preparation for April's Culture Quest...

1. In a hotel with the "American Plan," what do you get besides a room?
2. If you are looking at the famous *American Gothic*, the painting of a Midwestern farm couple, what major art museum are in you?
3. What southern state's flag shows a woman trampling a man?
4. By presidential proclamation, the U.S. flag flies twenty-four hours a day at what historic Maryland site?

5. *Tiros I* was the first type of what important satellite?
6. The inspiring quote "With God all things are possible" is the motto of what Midwestern state?
7. What world-famous architect coined the word *carport*?
8. Astronaut Ed White became the first American astronaut to do what?
9. The Jordanaires and the Blue Moon Boys were backup singers for what pop idol?
10. What was the significance of Glenn Miller's recording of the song "Chattanooga Choo-Choo"?
11. What oddly named Michigan city was named for a Greek fighter against the Turkish army?
12. Established in 1668, what is the oldest town between the Alleghenies and the Rockies?
13. The flags of which four nations have flown over Michigan?
14. The first auto traffic tunnel built between two nations was what?
15. What state was the first to guarantee every child the right to a tax-paid high school education?
16. What city is home to the largest equestrian bronze sculpture in the Western Hemisphere?

Answers will appear next month.

Trivia Quiz Answers Submitted by Margaret Scott

(Answers to February's Trivia Quiz:)

1. Stone Mountain , carved with images of Confederate heroes Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and 'Stonewall' Jackson.
2. California . The bristlecone pine is said to be over 4600 years old.
3. Arkansas , which has the Craters of Diamonds State Park.
4. Mark Twain; it happened as he predicted.
5. Dick Van Dyke
6. Scrabble
7. A picture of an Egyptian pharaoh was on one of the king face cards.
8. Elvis Presley
9. It was the first gold (million-selling) single.
10. Ypsilanti , named for Gen. Demetrios Ypsilanti.

Reference: *The Big Book of American Trivia*

Creative Puns for “Educated Minds” Submitted by Penny Novarro

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur’s round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption..
5. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
6. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
7. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
8. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
9. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
10. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
11. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, “No change yet.”
12. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
13. In democracy it’s your vote that counts. In feudalism it’s your count that votes.
14. Don’t join dangerous cults. Practice safe sects!

Note: These puns were sent to Penny from a friend. She doesn’t know their source, but some of them have been around a long time.

Photo Roundup



January Games Night!

From the expressions, it looks like Sue Styles(foreground) and Heather Gruenberg are beating Stan Cain (L) and Jack Schultz



IPR Pledge Drive

Volunteers manning the phones at the IPR pledge drive on February 12, 2009 are (clockwise from front) Phil Downs, Vicki Carpenter (Phil’s wife), Steve Quick, Lou Isabell, Jack Schultz and Marge Eckert.