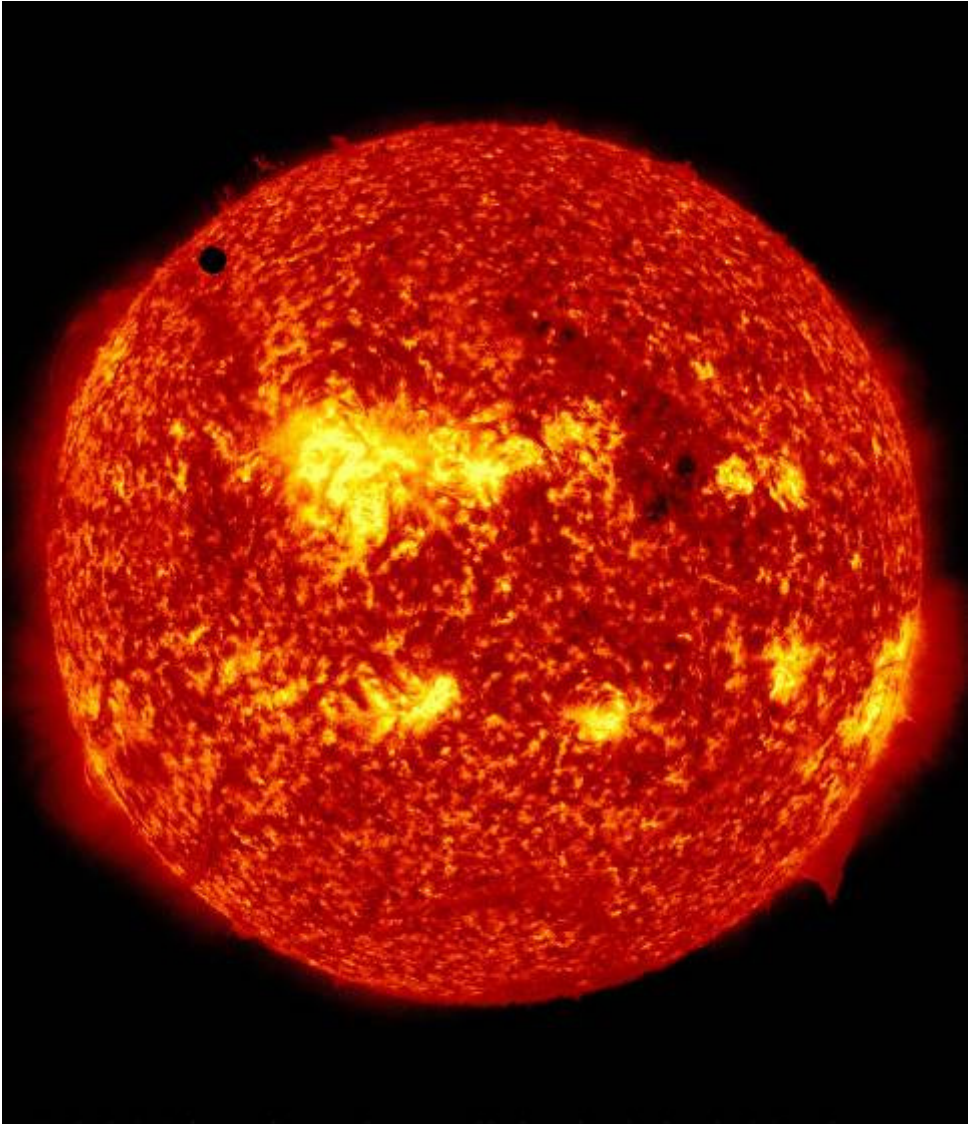




# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 10 Number 10

July 2012

**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.

**Advertising:**

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members. Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

**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.

**Email submissions to:**

Stan Cain

[nmborealis@yahoo.com](mailto:nmborealis@yahoo.com)

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

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Petoskey Area Subgroup Coordinator	- Vacant -		
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### OTHER MEMBERS

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	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional Vice-Chairman	Betsy Y. Mark	734-434-5757	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: Ultra-high Definition View of the 2012 Venus (dark black dot—upper left) Transit. From NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). NASA Photo. See description on page 4.



## Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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[nmmborealis@yahoo.com](mailto:nmmborealis@yahoo.com) and put  
"change delivery method" in the  
subject line.  
You'll get it faster, and in color!

# July Calendar

## **ANNUAL PICNIC – Saturday, 21 July 2012, at 1 - 5 p.m. Rain or Shine**

This event will be held at the outdoor pavilion of the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road, south of Hartman Road, in Traverse City. We will have a covered pavilion with picnic tables, rest room facilities and electricity. There are hiking trails nearby and a place to launch canoes or kayaks (see photo on Page 4.)

This will be a potluck and B.Y.O.B. NMM will be providing barbecued chicken this year. No grills are available on site. We may, however, bring one. So that we may be properly organized, we would appreciate an R.S.V.P. Please e-mail or call Pete Turkus before July 21, preferably sooner. Paper plates, and plastic ware and cups will be provided. Plan to attend and bring the family!

Pete Turkus, Program Chair  
231-941-8321  
petencheri@chartermi.net

## **T.G.I.F! Friday, 27 July 2012 at 5:30 p.m.**

We will meet at the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available. Join us!

## **And, coming up in August...**

### **BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 4 August 2012 at 11:00 a.m.**

The August book club selection will be: *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* by Peter Hessler and presented by Stan Cain. You can read a description of the book on Page 7. It's a long book, so get busy reading!

### **BRUNCH - Saturday, 11 August 2012, at 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

The Brunch will be at the at the Flap Jack Restaurant, 3980 N US 31 S, Traverse City (also known as the Flap Jack Shack.) with a speaker, Steven Tuttle of the Northern Express. Steven will speak on a subject of his choice which will most likely be a critique of some facet of our political system. I'm sure he will also be happy to take questions on some of the topics he writes on in the Northern Express.

# Member News

## Happy July Birthday

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 17 Timothy Brotherton | 21 Cherie M. Gabriel |
| 19 Judith L. Cools    | 22 Janet A. Nerone   |
| 20 Susan A. Styles    |                      |

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 Richard J. Warden    | 7 Kimberly Lohr   |
| 7 Linda Schrock-Taylor | 2 Sara L. Quigley |

## Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Jon Paul Suchoski

## Members New to Our Group - Welcome!

Sandra L. Belyea

<u>May 2012 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	48,277	74
New and reinstating membership	613	2
Offers of membership	315	0
New members since April 2012	507	9
Reinstating members since April 2012	785	12

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 4/30/2012. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

## Movie Club

After a lapse of a few years, we are checking on interest in reviving the NMM Movie Club. Tentatively, this would meet on alternate months from the Book Club and would view and discuss a movie shown at the State Theater in Traverse City and possibly The Bay Film Series in Suttons Bay. Sherry McNamara is organizing the group and initially would select a movie from the list published by the theater and then email the club members the name of the movie and a time and place for discussion. Due to timing considerations, the movie announcements would not be published in Borealis. If you are interested in being on the list, please email Sherry at [kikiwon@hotmail.com](mailto:kikiwon@hotmail.com).

# From the LocSec

**By Richard Thibeau**

Mensa Testing Day is scheduled for October 20, 2012. It's not too early to encourage anyone you know who might be interested to sign up for the test. Gaining new members is one way to keep the group thriving. On the local events calendar for 1-5 p.m. July 21, 2012, is the Annual Picnic, this year to be held at the Boardman River Nature Center. Details are on Page 1

Also, at 11 a.m. on Saturday August 11, 2012, at the Flap Jack on US 31 S is the August Brunch. We will have a really intriguing speaker--Steven Tuttle, who writes terrific, thought provoking columns for the Northern Express. Two great opportunities to get together with local Mensans. I hope everyone considers attending at least one of these events.

The Mensa membership year is from 1 April to 31 March. If dues are not paid to the national office by end of March, the member falls into the Lapsed category. A letter has been sent to this group's lapsed members encouraging them to renew. Renewals can also be made online at [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)

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## **NMM Programs and Activities** **By Pete Turkus, Program Chair**

Every now and then I like to encourage our membership to be more participative in determining the programs and activities we offer. Our monthly brunch (referred to as "The Brunch" since it is our longest running gathering) has been most successful when we have a speaker. I will try to make this a priority in the future. Your suggestions as to who to invite will be very much appreciated. Perhaps YOU would like to be our speaker (free brunch included.) Our T.G.I.F. is no longer the "party" it used to be. Is there anyone interested in a party event? What else would you like to do? We've had canoe trips and wildflower hikes, field trips and a road rally. How about some new ideas?

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# 2012 Transit of Venus

By Stan Cain

If you missed the transit of Venus on June 5th, you need to have a plan to live another 105 years to view the next one. Or, you will have to be satisfied with viewing the large number of images captured from around the world and from instruments in space.

Launched on Feb. 11, 2010, the Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, is the most advanced spacecraft ever designed to study the sun. During its five-year mission, it will examine the sun's atmosphere and magnetic field and also provide a better understanding of the role the sun plays in Earth's atmospheric chemistry and climate. SDO provides images with resolution 8 times better than high-definition television and returns more than a terabyte of data each day.

On June 5, 2012, SDO collected images of the rarest predictable solar event--the transit of Venus across the face of the sun. This event lasted approximately 6 hours and happens in pairs eight years apart, which are separated from each other by 105 or 121 years. The last transit was in 2004 and the next will not happen until 2117.

The image displayed on the cover is in extreme ultraviolet light with a wave length of 304 Angstroms and shows a part of the atmosphere of the sun, which does not appear in the visible part of the spectrum. .

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**White Water Kayaking below the Sabin Dam near the Boardman River Nature Center at the 2009 NMM Picnic.**



## By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

It's the Annual Gathering! I hope you are in Reno, Nevada, with me. I will be hosting a Region 3 Meet and Greet on Wednesday, July 4, from 6 to 7:15 PM and I hope to see you there – plenty of time afterwards for the fireworks! Region 3 Meet and Greets are great ways to connect with members from our wonderful Region. Touch base with members who share your interests. Are you on your ExComm? Do you volunteer for a specific something for your local group? Meet others who do the same and who might benefit from your experience. I have actually met members from my own local group who hadn't been at any local function and whose first event was the AG. When you sign in your local group gets points towards the Group of the Year Award. What a great way to make new acquaintances and friends!

It's not too late to register for the 2012 Columbus Area Mensa RG, The London (Ohio) Games to be held July 27-29. Tournaments will reign supreme as in any Col-M-Pic year, but there will also be a full slate of speakers, activities, Friday night kids, British-themed food and drink, and much more! Registration is \$70 until 7/9 and \$75 at the door. Friday only is \$30, Saturday only is \$50 and kids 11-18 are half price. Kids 10 and under are free. MP (5): included. Checks payable to Columbus Area Mensa. Hotel: Ramada East Airport, 4801 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43213; 614/861-0321. Room rates (\$69) guaranteed until July 1. Contact Julia Ashley, PO Box 292557, Columbus, OH 43229; 614/448-6023; psibernaut@yahoo.com if you have questions and check out the RG's website: <http://columbus.us.mensa.org/2012-rg.pdf>

Western Pennsylvania Mensa takes you around the world in 80 hours this Labor Day weekend. See the world without pesky airport lines! Registration for adults and kids ages 4-9 is \$90 and \$45 until July 8 (the AG), \$95 and \$48 until Aug. 1 (Columbus RG), \$99 and \$50 postmarked by Aug. 26, and \$115 and \$58 at the door. Single-day registration rates for adults and kids ages 4-9 are \$30 and \$15 for Friday, \$50 and \$25 for Saturday, \$50 and \$25 for Sunday, \$25 and \$13 for Saturday or Sunday evening only, \$25 and \$13 for Monday. MP: all included. Checks payable to WPAM RG. Hotel: Doubletree (formerly Radisson), 101 DoubleTree Dr., (aka 101 Radisson Dr.), Pittsburgh, PA 15205; 800/445-8667; [www.doubletree1.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/hotel/PITGTDT-DoubleTree-by-Hilton-Hotel-Pittsburgh-Green-Tree-Pennsylvania/index.do](http://www.doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/PITGTDT-DoubleTree-by-Hilton-Hotel-Pittsburgh-Green-Tree-Pennsylvania/index.do). Room rates (\$89) guaranteed until Aug. 11. CD 9 and under, H RP Aug. 20 cutoff DT SA CP H/AS. Contact Jamie Fritz, 345 Thompson Run Rd., Penn Hills, PA 15235; 412/612-0634; jlongstreth@comcast.net.

Cincinnati Area Mensa is in an excited state (any of the energy levels of a physical system – like an RG committee) as you are invited to the HyperchaRGeD gathering. (Hypercharge: the quantum number equal to  $B$  [baryons] +  $S$  [strangeness] +  $C$  [charmed].) Gravitational attraction and radiant energy brings you to the Doubletree in Sharonville starting Nov. 30, and inertia takes you to a half-life of the event on Dec. 2. The natural frequency of this event is 30! Yes, the 30th Regional Gathering! Positronically assured of a periodic table of entrees, Quark's bar, luminosity in the programs and momentum in the tournament track. Quanta rates are (all postmark dates) \$60 through June 1, \$65 through Aug. 1, \$70 through Nov. 24, \$75 thereafter. Children under 5 are free. Ages 6-10 are \$15. Ages 11-20 are half the full rate. Partial rates are available at the door. Friday only = \$30; Saturday only = \$65. Saturday dinner and dance (after 5 p.m.) = \$40. No rollovers. Refunds must be requested by Nov. 29, 2012. Checks payable to Cincinnati Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Doubletree, 6300 E. Kemper Rd., Sharonville, OH 45241; 513/489-3636; [www.doubletree.com/hotels/CVGKRDT](http://www.doubletree.com/hotels/CVGKRDT). Room rates (\$99) guaranteed until Nov. 15. S CD 10 and under, H RP 11/29/12 cutoff DT. Contact Cassie Ryle, 7270 West Chester Rd., West Chester, OH 45069; 513/755-6322; [cassier@fuse.net](mailto:cassier@fuse.net).

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

[rvc3@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc3@us.mensa.org)

3674 Oak Drive - Ypsilanti, MI 48197

734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)

Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>

Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7>

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# South Pacific

By Pete Turkus

A new acquisition at the Traverse Area District Library is a DVD of a stage performance of Oscar and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Unlike the movie production this version has the actors on stage with an orchestra behind them as they read from scripts, much like a radio production. Reba McEntire is cast as Nellie Forbush and Alec Baldwin is Luther Billis which were the Mitzi Gaynor and Ray Walston roles in the movie. The part (and baritone voice) of plantation owner Emile de Becque is played by Brian Stokes Mitchell. Both he and Rossano Brazzi have rich and wonderful voices. Reba McEntire's accent is actually closer to Little Rock, Arkansas than Mitzi Gaynor's. Reba McEntire has a few changes of costume and Alec Baldwin reprises the "coconut brassiere" of Ray Walton. There are few other actual costumes and virtually no scenery. Both this DVD and the original movie are available at the Woodmere branch of the library.

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# River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze

Bibliomans' Book for August

By Peter Hessler - 432 pages

In the heart of China's Sichuan province, amid the terraced hills of the Yangtze River valley, lies the remote town of Fuling. Like many other small cities in this ever-evolving country, Fuling is heading down a new path of change and growth, which came into remarkably sharp focus when Peter Hessler arrived as a Peace Corps volunteer, marking the first time in more than half a century that the city had an American resident. Hessler taught English and American literature at the local college, but it was his students who taught him about the complex processes of understanding that take place when one is immersed in a radically different society. Poignant, thoughtful, funny, and enormously compelling, *River Town* is an unforgettable portrait of a city that is seeking to understand both what it was and what it someday will be.

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# Puzzle Page

## CRYPTOGRAM

Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.  
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

**XXMXT WDSNG SO RI RVLSOL. LDX QVKFNXC SO**

**DKP LK VXCRSI RI RVLSOL KIWX DX BVKPO ZQ.**

**~QRFNK QSWROOK**

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**Answer to last month's Cryptogram:**

Distrust all those who love you extremely upon a very slight acquaintance and without any visible reason. ~Lord Chesterfield

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