



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 12 Number 10

July 2014

#### **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



Northern Michigan Mensa

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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: . Sunflowers. Photo by Melissa Rennie.

## July Calendar

### HIKE Saturday, 19 July 2014 at 9:00 a.m. - Rain or Shine.

Come with us as we check out the trails in the hilly part of the Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City. Bernie Hanchett will lead the way. Enjoy the hardwood forests, the views from on high, and some fresh air. If you haven't hiked this area before, this will be a treat for you! The starting point will be the parking area on Red Drive, just south of the Greenspire School and across from the TBA Conference Center. We'll start promptly at 9 a.m. and go until we're tired. Questions? Call Bernie at 231-946 5177.

### Dining Out - Wednesday, 23 July, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

This month it's Sleder's Family Tavern (717 Randolph St. in Traverse City). First one there grab a table in whichever back or side room is available. Sleder's has great burgers and fries ... and everything else that's not necessarily good for you.

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

### BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 2 August 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

The August Book Club selection will be **A Superior Death** by Nevada Barr, presented by Jack Schultz. See a synopsis on Page 2.

**Annual Picnic and ExComm Meeting - Sunday, 10 August 2014 in the afternoon.** Mark the date and stay tuned for more details...

## Member News

### Happy July Birthday

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 17 Timothy Brotherton | 21 Cherie Marie Gabriel |
| 19 Judith L. Cools    | 22 Janet A. Nerone      |
| 20 Susan A. Styles    | 25 Rosemary Hawley      |

### Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 10 Richard J. Warden | 9 Kimberly Lohr |
|----------------------|-----------------|

<u>May 2014 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	48,299	86
New and reinstating membership	469	1
Offers of membership	199	0
New members since April 2014	489	19
Reinstating members since April 2014	652	29

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2014. 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"

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## A Superior Death

### Bibliomensans' Book for August

#### By Nevada Barr - 320 pages

Author Nevada Barr sends National Park ranger Anna Pigeon to a new post amid the cold, deserted, and isolated beauty of Isle Royale National Park, a remote island off the coast of Michigan known for fantastic deep-water dives of wrecked sailing vessels. But when a routine application for a diving permit reveals a grisly underwater murder, Anna finds herself 260 feet below the forbidding surface of Lake Superior, searching for the connection between a drowned man and an age-old cargo ship. Written with a naturalist's feel for the wilderness and a keen understanding of characters who thrive in extreme conditions, **A Superior Death** is a passionate, atmospheric page-turner.

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# News from the RVC3

The 2014 AG and Colloquium in Boston is almost upon us. Hope to see some of you there. This is when hotel reservations get interesting. Occasionally rooms open in the hotel block as last minute cancellations start calling in. If you've been procrastinating, a last minute call for a hotel reservation just might pay off.

Closer to home, we have the usual line up of RGs. Look for more details in the Bulletin

Columbus Area Mensa -- Columbus, OH  
Ohio: A Capital Idea  
Aug. 1-3, 2014,  
Contracted 3x more meeting/gathering space this year!

Western PA Mensa -- Pittsburgh, PA  
Rube GoldbeRG: the Deliberately Over-Engineered RG  
August 29-September 1, 2014  
The longest RG in Region 3, Friday through Monday of Labor Day Weekend.

I know the Columbus RG expects 70% of the guests to be members from outside their local group. If there is an RG near you, take advantage of the opportunity to meet a broader group of Mensans while they're in your back yard.

And when you do visit an RG, think twice about missing a program you feel expert in already. Those are the opportunities to identify members having similar interests to yours. Use the social hours between programs for further discussion. But do make an effort to meet people. My last RG visit was SEMMantics where I met a rocket scientist and a Canadian archeologist. Neither person was on the program; just casual conversation brought out great conversations.

If you're interested in any part of the 2015 Mensa Election, let me know. The Nominating Committee is now seeking candidates for office including my opponent. There is opportunity for both nominated and petition candidates, though deadlines differ. And it's important to note that getting a bylaw change on the ballot has yet a different deadline and even larger petition signature requirement.

**Julia Ashley, RVC3**  
**rvc3@us.mensa.org**  
**614.448.6023**

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## The Stella Awards

Excerpted from a number of Internet Sites

The Stella Awards are given to the individuals who win the most frivolous lawsuits. The Stella Awards are named in honor of 81-year-old Stella Libeck, the woman who won \$2.9 million for spilling a cup of McDonald's coffee on herself. The following are candidates for the award:

January 2000: Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle, tripping over a toddler who was running wild through a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering that the child was Ms. Robertson's son.

June 1998: 19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

October 1998: Terrence Dickson of Bristol, PA, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up, because the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation. Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found in the garage and a large bag of dry dog food. Mr. Dickson sued the homeowners' insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of a half million dollars.

October 1999: Jerry Williams of Little Rock Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The dog was on a chain in its owner's fenced-in yard at the time. Mr. Williams was also in the fenced-in yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been provoked by Mr. Williams who, at the time, was repeatedly shooting it with a pellet gun

December 1997: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, PA, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx. The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson threw it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

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