



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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June 2015

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

ON THE COVER: A garden amphibian (toad?) found on a deck planter one day. About 2" long. Photo by Stan Cain

# June Calendar

## Book Club - Saturday, 6 June 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

The June book club selection is *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* by Lois Leveen, and presented by Stan Cain. We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier, TC.

## Dining Out - Wednesday, 10 June 2015 at 5:30

We will meet at the Thai Café, 1219 E. Front St., TC. . The Thai Café is in the strip mall on the south side of the street near Garfield Rd. It's a chrome and linoleum place but the food is fantastic! Pad Thai, Curry Chicken, and a boatload of Chinese dishes.

## Brunch - Saturday, 20 June 2015 at 10:30

Note that we're meeting the 3rd Saturday (instead of the 2nd), due to a noisy crowd who booked the MI Grille (the old Bay Town Kitchen, where we usually meet) on our usual date. It's located at 420 Munson in TC. So, everyone order up your omelets, pancakes or waffles so you don't have to make breakfast at home. And ... see what everyone has planned for the summer.

# Member News

## Where Are We?!

Northern Michigan Mensa has 88 members as of March 2015. As editor of the newsletter, I have access to the members' addresses and have been aware that there is a wide distribution of members throughout our defined area but hadn't realized that there were so many locations involved.

In fact, there are 33 separate postal location names where our 88 members reside and they are shown in the table on the next page.

I started looking at member distribution while we were deciding where to have our next annual picnic. Turns out that all the picnics in the last 10 years have been held on the west side of Traverse City. So, looking at the data in the table, it occurs to me that it would be interesting to calculate a center of population for this small dataset with an aim of perhaps trying to hold some events nearer the population center. Of course the elephant in the data is Trav-

erse City and moving to a region outside of the TC area means usually a very low attendance,

The concept of the center of population (as used by the U.S. Census Bureau) is that of a balance point. The center of population is the point at which an imaginary, weightless, rigid, and flat surface representation of the 50 states would balance if weights of identical size were placed on it so that each weight represented the location of one person. For the U.S. in 2010, the Center of Population is located in south central Missouri. (see calculation details next page).

Perhaps some of our more mathematically inclined members might want to treat this as a puzzle. No prize money - just the admiration of the rest of us. Results will be published in next month's Borealis.

## Geographic Distribution of NM Mensa members

<u>Sorted by Name</u>		<u>Sorted by Population</u>	
Allenson	1	Traverse City	33
Bear Lake	1	Harbor Springs	5
Beaver Island	1	Interlochen	4
Beulah	1	Luddington	4
Boyne Falls	1	Gaylord	3
Boyne City	1	Cadillac	2
Cadillac	2	Charlevoix	2
Charlevoix	2	Cheboygan	2
Cheboygan	2	Northport	2
East Jordan	1	Petoskey	2
Elk Rapids	1	Rapid City	2
Gaylord	3	St. Ignace	2
Grayling	1	Suttons Bay	2
Harbor Springs	5	Williamsburg	2
Indian River	1	Allenson	1
Interlochen	4	Bear Lake	1
Lake Ann	1	Beaver Island	1
Luddington	4	Beulah	1
Manistee	1	Boyne City	1
Northport	2	Boyne Falls	1
Onaway	1	East Jordan	1
Paw Paw	1	Elk Rapids	1
Petoskey	2	Grayling	1
Presque Isle	1	Indian River	1
Rapid City	2	Lake Ann	1
Reed City	1	Manistee	1
South Boardman	1	Onaway	1
St. Ignace	2	Paw Paw	1
Suttons Bay	2	Presque Isle	1
Traverse City	33	Reed City	1
Tustin	1	Wellston	1
Wellston	1	South Boardman	1
Williamsburg	2	Tustin	1

**Following is an excerpt from the U. S. Census Bureau's web site on how to calculate the Center of population**

"The latitude of the center of population is determined by multiplying the population of each unit of area by the latitude of its population center, then adding all these products and dividing this total by the total population of the United States. The result is the latitude of the population center. East-west distances were measured, or computed, in substantially the same manner, but with the inclusion of a correction for latitude. For these distances, a degree of longitude at the equator was the unit of measurement. East-west distances along the equator could be measured in degrees, but any east-west degree distance north of the equator where all the United States is located -- had to be adjusted to recognize the convergence of meridians toward the poles. This adjustment required that each east-west distance, stated in degrees of longitude, be multiplied by the cosine of the latitude. This mathematical relationship is precise for a sphere and a very close approximation for the earth. The computation required that the longitude of each of the thousands of selected points be multiplied by the cosine of the latitude of the point and by the population associated with the point. These products were added and divided by the sum of the products for the same thousands of points, each of which was obtained by multiplying the cosine of the latitude of a point by the appropriate population figure. The result was the longitude of the center of population"

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**And, coming up in the next six months...**

**Annual Picnic -**

Our planners are looking at either the end of July or the beginning of August at a site to be determined. Details will be in the next Borealis.

**Election -**

Starting in September, we must begin the process that will elect a new slate of officers for the 2016-2017 year term.

**The following election schedule is defined by our by-laws:**

- September 15<sup>th</sup>**      **Nominating Committee** appointed by ExComm.
- October 15<sup>th</sup>**      Nominations for ExComm candidates finalized and turned over to newsletter editor.
- November 1<sup>st</sup>**      Newsletter with nominations published.
- November 1<sup>st</sup>**      **Election Committee** appointed by ExComm. They select a slate of candidates.
- November 15<sup>th</sup>**      Last day for election petitions for additional candidates
- December 1<sup>st</sup>**      **Ballots** (if necessary) distributed in newsletter.
- December 20<sup>th</sup>**      Last day to receive ballots from voters.
- January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**      Newly elected board assumes office.

**Reaching Out...**

Member **Don Curtiss**, who lives in the Wellston area (near Cadillac, Manistee) would like to contact other members who live or travel in that area to possibly get together. Such a group could become a sub-group of Northern Michigan Mensa if enough members are interested. At one time, we had a Petoskey area sub group, but this has not been active for several years. Interested members can contact Don at **donaldcurti@gmail.com**.

**News from the RVC3**

know some people never read the Bulletin and will miss my annual report, so I'll take this chance to repeat myself in the Local Group newsletters:

Many Local Groups share calendars and eBlasts with bordering Local Groups to bolster attendance. We continue to host regular RGs amidst the struggle to keep costs low and to break even. New approaches have to be sought and seriously considered. Expect some of your favorite venues and formats to change as we look forward to more Regional 3 events. Volunteer where you can and have a say in what's done.

I sincerely appreciate comments on my RVC columns and Facebook posts in the election season. It is particularly useful for members to hear feedback when opposing views arise. In the same manner, the AMC begins every meeting with opposing thoughts on something and has to work through it to a conclusion. I look forward to another term as RVC3.

I hope many of you get to the 2015 AG in Louisville, KY. Take a look at those cities on the name badges. You may spot someone local you hadn't met yet. Someone from my local group I have yet to meet is Zach Brown speaking on How to Win the Internet. I can't wait to hear how a potato salad food truck challenge turned into a \$55,000 charity success.

**Sincere Regards,**  
**Julia Ashley, RVC3**  
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**614.448.6023**