

*The*

# SCAM

pace coast rea ensa



*SCAM October Masquerade RG*

*October 22, 23, 24 — Details on Page 14!*

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**Volume 22, No. 10**

**October, 2004**

*The*  
**SCAM**  
*pace coast area mensa*  
*Editorial Staff*

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Volume 22, No. 10

**October, 2004**

**WRITER'S BLOCK**



***Mike Moakley,  
SCAM Editor***

**Trick or Treat!!!**

**T**indeed, as I complete my first year as The SCAM Editor, we've had some tricks as well as some treats. The latest "trick" here on the Space Coast was Hurricane Frances who arrived in all her glory. Fortunately for me, my home suffered no structural damage, but we were without electricity for over a week. I sincerely hope all SCAM members fared well.

An example of a real treat is the upcoming October Masquerade RG. Much has been written about the RG recently. But don't take OUR word for it: GO there and see for yourself! You'll be glad you did.

Another example of a trick is some news of concern from our parent organization, American Mensa (AML). It appears AML has put together a Risk Assessment Team in an effort to determine potential liability to AML arising from our calendar events. You would do well to read Past LocSec Clara Woodall-Moran's article on Page Four. It would seem to me that Mensa is now subscribing to the "Chicken Little" mentality based upon the myth of a America rife with citizens who sue for millions at the drop of a hat. Perhaps this is an illustration that the success of the much-promoted

*(Continued on page 12)*

**Editor's Note:**

The SCAM belongs to the members of Space Coast Area Mensa. Accordingly, we welcome all material submitted for publication in The SCAM. The material may be on just about any subject. Controversial opinions or subjects are encouraged, as are rebuttals to any opinions published herein. The Editor retains the right to edit or reject any material, but will not exercise such prerogative to limit opinions or discussion of any topic.

All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. All submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears above.

**Clara  
Woodall-Moran**

**COMMENTARY ON  
PROPOSED AML  
POLICY**

**M**any of you have gone to Regional Gatherings all over the United States, and to International and National (Annual Gatherings) as well. Most have noted with awe the amount of work the committee members put into presenting the event. The Hospitality staff in particular has a very hard job, of keeping enough food, snacks, and beverage going for a varying numbers of hungry folks.

Space Coast Area Mensa, in fact, is well-known for its 24hour hospitality suite and the fine food it has always served. Beer, wine, bottled water and sodas have all been in ample supply. Except for the served meals all the snacks and beverages are self-serve.

What all this leading up to is the fact that this may be the last RG at which we can have “volunteer prepared” food at the SCAM RG. Since the SCAM RG is held at a local Hotel we will be forced to have the hotel provide all consumables, including the snacks, beer, wine and soda. The cost will be prohibitive enough to prevent us for holding another RG.

For many years, there has been a sort of controversy over whether or not, liability attaches to the National organization of Mensa if an event appears on the calendar of a local chapter. Mensa events have historically been defined as those events at which Mensa (or the local chapter of Mensa) business is conducted. This mitigated the liability toward the national organization for injuries or civil wrongs that might arise at an event on a Mensa calendar but not for the conduct of business. In short, if someone gets sick at a party you hold at your home, they can only sue you, not the American Mensa, Ltd.

The American Mensa Committee decided a risk assessment needed to be taken of all possible liabilities attaching to AML (American Mensa, Ltd.) and then the AMC (American Mensa Committee) would try to find ways in which to mitigate the liability to AML. This sounds relatively reasonable, especially in light of the litigious nature of society today, but consider these issues: the abovementioned definition of a Mensa event, (any event at which the business of Mensa or a local chapter is conducted) is now, by default, defined to include any event on any local chapter's calendar; also, the risk assessment does not differentiate between restaurants and other food/beverage service businesses and your home (or the hospitality suite at an RG and an eating/drinking establishment) as far as the requirements for food service certification and beverage dram law enforcement.

Mensa is a SOCIAL organization, and as such the members get together to socialize. They often share food and drink. Each member is responsible for his/her own well-being within a reasonable limits at these events as well as the host (or hospitality team) is responsible for providing, within reasonable limits, safe food. As all food and beverage is self-serve

**A**ny Mensans don't want much non-Mensa politics in their publications; they generally have other sources. There are print, broadcast, on line, and personal interaction for information and decision-making in real world politics. Most feel that Mensa publications should be primarily about Mensa.

Of course, if an occasional piece of good humor, or an unusual fact or point of view appears, that's fine. But you said it yourself: you don't find much political stuff in Mensa newsletters! That's probably because it's not popular or desired.

*Helen Lee Moore*

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*(Continued from page 3)*

(as a general rule) there should be no liability attached for those consuming alcohol. The server is the person drinking – dram laws, would therefore, attach to the drinker not to the group.

Now comes our AMC stating that we cannot continue in this manner as they are afraid the "dram laws" would apply with liability attached to the AML, so someone on the hospitality team will have to take on all responsibility for the drinking habits of others (and have a means of tracking the consumption of each individual attendee to be certain no one over indulges) and have all liability attached to the individual for the entire hospitality suite in the case of the RG and to take on food service certification for hosting a party at home.

The AMC is also frowning upon any organized (or unorganized) ride-sharing, and are looking into limiting what can be done in the name of SIGHT. The SIGHT host would not be allowed to cook for the guest and should not drive the guest to any events, etc. In short, SIGHT should be disbanded, as a listing of local hotels and eateries can be obtained from the local Chamber of Commerce.

If you do not want the SOCIAL aspects of Mensa to be removed, start paying attention to what the AMC is doing. If you do not like the direction this thinking is taking us, let your voice be heard. In fact, try to obtain a copy of this risk assessment. Your dues paid for it but you don't get to see it. You only get to know about the parts as presented to the AMC. Only the members of the risk assessment team and the Executive Committee are allowed to see the full report.

*Clara Woodall-Moran*

**The Casebook of  
Anthony Chianti,  
Private Eye**



**Ken Thornton-Smith**

**The Wabasso Triangle:  
Episode 911: Pyrex of the Caribbean**

**T**It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying all known Laws of Physics, Indialantic parking meters and five gallons of Roundup, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

Anthony Chianti, Licensed Private Eye and Indian River Community Pasta Detective, reporting:

But first, here's this month's Oat Cuisine tip:

Separate the pork and beans from a large can. Eat the pork first, as an entrée, then sprinkle frosting sugar on the beans for an interesting and economic dessert. For that extra gourmet touch, try heating them up.

It was Thursday and after all that pasta silliness last month it was good to get back to business as usual. I spent the entire morning stuck in the office, slaving over a pile of paperwork. Time flies when you're busy, and pretty soon it was lunchtime.

I put down the crossword, dusted off my favorite live album – The Drain, Unplugged – turned up the volume and made for the kitchen.

I checked the refrigerator: Nothing. Then the freezer: Nothing, not counting the empty frozen pizza boxes.

There is something delightfully therapeutic about petit pois, but as you know they really need some extra carbohydrates to help their tryptophan convert to serotonin.

As I walked out of the kitchen admiring a large dish of canned peas and macaroni, I tripped over the vacuum and watched lunch disintegrate on the floor. The vacuum was conveniently placed for cleaning up, but the mess would have to wait – it was lunchtime and things were getting desperate: I was stuck on 23 Down, that was my last casserole dish and, apart from the living room carpet, there was no food in the house.

That new gas station up on Main has two little food stores inside: Sub Culture and Pizza Dis, Pizza Dat. Both were expensive – it was just as well that I didn't need to put any gas in the car. I devoured the foot-long meatball Sub sitting in the parking lot and saved the pizzas for the drive home.

On the way back, just as I turned into Nelson Mandela Avenue, the car died. Something was wrong somewhere, and for once it wasn't my nemesis, Detective Inspector "Raving" Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad, breathing down my neck.

This time the tank was empty. Fortunately, it wasn't too far from mia casa, so I pulled over and walked home. The break was all I needed to finish off the crossword, but I had to get back to the car before dark.

I drained the lawnmower and trudged back to my trusty 1976 Buick Testudo –half a gallon should get me to the gas station, and some chips will keep me company. On the way I passed a large marquee on a church and it read:

POT LUCK DINNER 7p.m. TODAY  
This Month's Theme: Europe in the Middle Ages

I'm not sure whether it's fate or the hand of divine destiny, but sometimes He taketh away with one hand and giveth rather a lot more back with the other.

I walked into the church clutching my gas can and half a bag of chips. I hid the gas can in the furnace room, put the chip clip in my pocket, and placed the bag on the table. Three trestle-tables later, both my paper plates were piled high. I found a seat, grinned at the other diners in their medieval moo-moos and stuffed myself stupid.

I waited until the end and then, helping to clear up, must have accidentally walked off with a stack of large glass casserole dishes. As I approached the front door a matronly woman intercepted me,

“Oh no, over this way... “ She steered me into a side room.

It was packed, people lining the back and sides. Opposite was a long bench and behind it were seven men in bright red dresses and ridiculous hats.

They looked miserable – Tortiglioni, my Italian Bloodhound, looks a fountain of joy compared to these guys. In the middle, crimson creaking, sat the considerable girth of Detective Inspector “Raving” Ravioli. He directed me to sit down on a lonely wooden chair facing the bench.

“Take a seat, Chianti, or are you in a hurry to do the dishes?”

“Ravioli... ” I sneered, “You're even shorter sitting down. I remember the day we first met. It was at a wedding – wasn't that you on top of the cake?”

“Silence!” Ravioli banged his fist on the table, “You will only respond when asked a direct question!”

“You don't look so good in red, Ravioli, although it does match your eyes. And that outfit seems a little tight... I can see you as the lead singer for Spandex Valley... what was the question?”

“Enough of this insolence!” Another one of the Miserable Cardinals,

Monsignor Far Left, spoke, “Do you have any last requests before the Spanish Inquisition finds you guilty?”

“Spanish Inquisition? But this is a Lutheran Church...”

“Lutheran, Schmutheran. These days we take work wherever we can. Still, the food is better than the Synagogue we did last week...”

“Never mind that,” said another Constipated Cardinal, Extreme Right, “Our theology is none of your business unless you happen to transgress it. Even then, it’s our prerogative whether or not we tell you. Either way, I believe we find you guilty...” He looked along the bench at the row of nodding heads, “Unanimously.”

“Guilty of what? What’s the charge?” I spluttered.

“I don’t think we need to go into any messy details do we, gentlemen? In any case, guilty is a relative term.”

“That’s right,” said Second Left Cardinal, “You will be judged by the Almighty after we throw you off the causeway strapped to an air bed. If you sink, you are innocent. If you float then He has spoken and found you guilty. Guilty, you sinner!” He stood up and pointed at me, “Guilty of... guilt!”

The crowd roared, this was an uncomfortable situation, like a Sumo wrestler with diaper rash. Things were getting ugly and I had to think fast. This is where years of Pasta Detective training pays off.

Two hours later they threw me off the Wabasso causeway. This was somewhat sooner than anticipated due to a large explosion that originated in the furnace room. The crowd was angry, looking for a scapegoat, and every little thing, like the total destruction of their church, was blamed on me.

I was still clutching the pile of casserole dishes as I hit the river. The straps slipped off the air bed, and the dishes slowly filled with water and dragged me to the bottom.

I was in a fix. Letting go of the casserole dishes, I would float to the top and be terminally Inquisitioned. Also, my personal collection of Pyrex would be back to zero. On the other hand, sitting on the river bottom, I had about one minute before...

I came to and stared at the ceiling. Things were different. Iridescent shimmering green just didn’t look right. For a start, there were no cobwebs around the fan. And, come to think of it, no fan to be cobwebby. Strange. That, plus I was laying naked on a bed of seaweed. This can mean only one thing: The Wabasso Triangle had struck again.

“Oh my God, you like, woke up!” The nearest mermaid smiled, “Did the Doctor see you?”

“Yes, he said I needed to diet. I asked him “What color?””

“Kewl. Like, our legends promised us the Crystal Bearer would return four thousand years ago – like, what kept you?”

“Construction on I-95.” I beamed back, “Where am I?”

“We call it, like, West Atlantis, but in your language it is called Wabass-hole.”

“That explains a thing or two, but what's all this Crystal Bearer business?”

“The ancient prophets foretold a smelly Italian would bring us glass. Or was that a smelly prophet and, like, an ancient Italian? Anyways, in a special process known only to us and our licensee, Acme Bottleworks of Malabar, we grind up glass containers for construction. You see, around here, glass is like kinda scarce and valuable, but we have tons of these... ” She produced a soda can.

“Tons?”

“Absolutely tons.”

It didn't take too much negotiating, probably because they saw me as the promised one, and pretty soon Aqualina was moving into my bathroom and I had a contract for them to deliver one ton of crushed soda cans and a tray of sushi every week in exchange for two Wal-Mart bags of glass bottles.

Well, amazing but true, and it can only have happened here. That's about it for this month's update from the Wabasso Triangle.

Anthony Chianti, Indian River Community Pasta Detective, signing off. Intensive Care Unit, Crystal VA Hospital, West Atlantis.

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## **The Alchemist:**

### **CATNIP**



**Al Thomas**

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[al@mutualfundmagic.com](mailto:al@mutualfundmagic.com)

**J** have watched my cat play with a bag of catnip. At first he is having fun and slowly he becomes drunk with pleasure and then finally he becomes so tipsy he falls over to sleep it off. The pleasure part is great, but I am not sure if he awakes without a hangover.

Rocket (that's his name) reminds me of one of those people who buy a stock and hold it. At first while it is going up there is great pleasure and then euphoria until they know they are market geniuses. That's the drunken stage. Finally when the market turns against them they fall over not having enough sense to quit (sell) and later when realization returns they have a huge hangover (called hindsight) – and no money.

Can these 4-footed animals teach us 2-footed beasts anything? Can we be smart enough to quit while we are ahead? Rocket (and his friends) continue to make the same error time after time. We are supposed to be smarter so let's learn from their misconduct.

If you own stocks and/or mutual funds and the market is going up it is super catnip and we keep buying knowing that somewhere over the rainbow we are going to be rich and retire like kings. Almost none of today's investors ever think about selling. Wall Street tells us to buy and hold. They don't want you to sell because if you do they quit making money. Brokers make nothing on money market accounts.

Today with money market accounts paying less than 1% investors know the market will come back up. That is what all brokers preach. That is their catnip; their promise of better times ahead (with no plan to protect your cash). If they take that catnip promise away you might sober up and get rid of those losing stocks and mutual funds.

The great mother of all stocks, AT&T, well, it used to be, has dropped from \$100/share to \$14. What are those widows and orphans eating for supper now? Not steak. Maybe cat food.

When your equities are no longer rising and many are declining it is time to exit the market. Give up the catnip. When the trend stops its upward angle it is time to sell. Of all methods of investing the safest and most reliable is trend following. It is the catnip on the way up, but when the trend starts to decline you realize you are one smart cat and you are sober and walk away (sell).

*Copyright 2004 Albert W. Thomas All rights reserved. Author of "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" [www.mutualfundmagic.com](http://www.mutualfundmagic.com) comments to  
[al@mutualfundmagic.com](mailto:al@mutualfundmagic.com)*

## *Deb's Corner*

**I** hope everyone came through the latest hurricane unscathed. I wanted to share with you two announcements that came to my attention that I thought everyone would like to know about.

First, the Space Coast Feline Network is offering training sessions for those who wish to learn about their "Trap - Neuter - Return" program in Brevard County. You can learn about feral cats and their care, and how to trap them for the spay/neuter clinics. There is a \$5 fee, payable in advance, for materials. You may call 259-4554 for reservations.

All sessions are 1 - 4 pm at either the Central Brevard (Cocoa) Library (November 1st) or at the Melbourne Public Library (October 9 or December 11, 2004). The feral cat hotline is 633-2040 or [www.spacecoastfelinetwork.com](http://www.spacecoastfelinetwork.com).

Second, Brevard Freecycle is inviting all freecyclers, civic groups, and organizations that would like to help out and/or attend to share information about your groups with what we hope will be a large group of people.

The event will be held on Make A Difference Day, October 23rd at Veterans Memorial Park on Port Malabar Blvd. In NE Palm Bay. The time is to be worked out, yet we have been given use of the park from 8 am to 8 pm, so that leaves it open to our needs.

The use of this park has been donated to us by the City of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation - our sincere thanks to Dixie bottoms who agreed to waive the space fee, as we are there for the community and are part of the recovery and relief from the effects of the hurricane.

We will need lots of help to make this event a success and to introduce ourselves as freecyclers. Come share the fun, the more the merrier. All normal rules of Freecycle apply: Keep it free, Keep it legal, Keep it appropriate for all ages. To keep posted, you can subscribe to: [makeadifferenceday-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:makeadifferenceday-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Due to the lack of electricity after the hurricane, we were able to make use of the Melbourne Public Library, whose computers were up and running. It was a simple matter to check e-mail, pay bills, take care of business and contact family and friends. Thanks to the wonderful library staff for allowing the public access and helping to relieve the minds of many.

See you at the library! And thank you for visiting my corner,

*Deb*

## **From The Registrar**

*by*

**J.T. Moran**

**2004 RG Registrar**

([morwood@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com))

### ***It's almost here...***

That's right, by the time you receive this issue of **The SCAM** there will only be a few short weeks before the opening of the Space Coast Area Mensa social event of the group's year - the **2004 October Masquerade RG!**

Beginning at 3:00pm on Friday, October 22nd and continuing until about Noon on Sunday the 24th will be the best weekend gathering in the best 24 hour Hospitality Suite in (at the very least) the entire Southeast.

There will be hugs, games, tournaments, food, chocolate, munchable crunchables, and the companionship of fellow Mensans and their loved ones.

You will be able to simply relax and enjoy the ebb and flow of conversations in the huge hospitality area, joining in if you wish, or go to the other end for informal games, or even enter into the ferocious world of tournament competition in games such as Scrabble®, Cribbage and more.

Not feeling into games? Well, from the Hospitality Suite you can have an unobstructed view of the moon or sun rising over the Atlantic Ocean, or just watch and listen from the outside balcony as the waves lap the shore.

There will even be a Costume Dance for those feeling mysterious. Don't try to cloud anyone's mind, though, or you won't be in the running for the Best Costume award.

There will be something for everyone at the RG. Send me your registration and check to get on board. If it is postmarked no later than September 30th you can still get in on the \$40 registration rate. Day rates of \$25 for Friday Night only and \$35 for all-day Saturday will be available at the RG registration desk in the lobby of the hotel. And, of course, you will be able to register at the desk for \$55 for the entire gathering. Meal plans must be paid for in advance, see the flyer or contact me for further details.

A scholarship auction will help our annual scholarship, and any income earned from the gathering is part of the primary funding for this newsletter.

So come one, come all, to the best party of the year. Mensans, their loved ones, and Friends of Mensa and SCAM are more than welcome.

Only blowhards with names like Charley, Frances, or Ivan need not try to attend, as they will not be welcome.

See you there!

## ***NEWS!!... NEWS!!... NEWS!!!***

*Because of the delay in publication due to the power outages caused by Hurricane Frances, the postmark deadline for the \$40 registration rate has been extended to October 7th! Take advantage of this bargain and SAVE!!!*

***J.T. Moran, Registrar***

**KAT CALLS**

**Katherine Cochrane**  
**Katherine@cd-info.com**

**J**ust a few quick meows (yowls?) this month -- I think explanation is not necessary. We've all been through a lot!

The newly redesigned website is available at <http://spacecoastareamensa.org>. Please have a look and let me know if there are any problems. A few pages still need to be filled with content, but they'll get there soon. In the meantime, if you want to use the old site, it is still available for a short time from a link on the home page. Once all the content is transferred, that will go away.

Just a quick reminder that if you have events to add to the calendar, or events that need updating, please let me know as soon as you can. You don't have to wait for the deadline of the 8th of the month, since I can update the online calendar as soon as I have the information. Also, be sure to check the online calendar for last minute changes. They do happen! September was an example (I almost said a "good example", but that's stretching it.) The ExComm meeting that month was cancelled at the last minute because our host had to evacuate.

Hope everyone is safe and has electricity restored!

Cheers,  
K@

*(Continued from page 2)*

"Proxy Quest" was a grievous error on our part. At any rate, you can start by reading Clara's excellent article. Then contact AML. Above all, let your voices be heard! Mensa belongs to US, not to the people we place in charge. Never forget that.

The future of Space Coast Area Mensa and American Mensa is in our hands. It's up to you.

Mike Moakley  
Editor, The SCAM



## COME ONE - COME ALL

TO THE 2004 SCAM OCTOBER MASQUERADE RG  
ON THE BEACH IN BEAUTIFUL INDIALANTIC  
FLORIDA

*It's that time again to dust off that old  
mask and polish up your favorite cos-  
tume props and get ready for another  
fun-filled, never know what to expect,  
not your ordinary, SCAM RG.*

*Once again, our favorite hotel on the beach, The Holiday Inn,  
Oceanfront, has rolled out the red carpet for us .*

*They have renovated our favorite Penthouse and are  
getting everything ready to ensure that the weekend  
will be one long remembered.*



**Standard Room Rates are \$70.00 a night for up to four RG'ers.**

**Oceanfront Rooms are \$93.00 a night for the same number as well as  
some Suites available for \$155.00 a night. Rates are guaranteed thru  
10/08. Call 1-800-465-4329. Group Code MNS**

**The Hotel will be serving a Saturday Night Deluxe Buffet for \$28.00  
and a Sunday Morning Brunch for \$15.00. A combo meal plan for  
\$40.00 is available. All meal prices include gratuities and tax.**

**Registration is \$40.00 thru 10/07/04, \$45.00 from 10/08/04 thru  
10/21/04 and \$55.00 at the door. Day rates will be available and, as  
always, registration fees will be cheerfully refunded.**

**October 22, 23, 24 SCAM October Masquerade RG  
AT the Holiday Inn, Oceanfront Resort**

**2605 N. Highway A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903  
(321) 777-4100 or (800) 465-4329**

**Make Checks Payable to : Space Coast Area Mensa**

**J.T. Moran, Registrar  
P.O. Box 457  
Sharpes, FL**

**(321) 632-0854**

## October 2004 Calendar of SCAM Events

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

**S-Smoking; NS- No Smoking; SS-Separate Smoking Area; P-Pets in the home; NP-No Pets present; BYO -Bring Your Own: \_Snacks, \_Drinks, \_Everything.**

### Regular Events

*These are so popular that we do them all the time.* Why not come out and join the fun?

**C.A.B.A.G.E. North:** *Mon., the 11th & 25th.*

Barnes and Noble, across from Merritt Sq. Mall

**6 p.m.** Host: Karen Freiberg,

Cabagenorth@spacecoastareamensa.org

**C.A.B.A.G.E. North:** *Wed., the 6th & 20th.*

Books-A-Million, Merritt Square Mall

**6 p.m.** Host: Karen Freiberg

Cabagenorth@spacecoastareamensa.org

**C.A.B.A.G.E. South:** *Wed., the 13th & 27th.*

House of Joe, 1224 W. New Haven Ave., Melb.

**6 p.m.** Host: Katherine Cochrane

Cabagesouth@spacecoastareamensa.org

**Coffee, Etc.:** *Wed., the 6th.*

House of Joe, 1224 W. New Haven Ave., Melb.

**6 p.m.** Host: Trish Thornton

Coffeetc@spacecoastareamensa.org

**ExComm Meeting:** *Sunday the 3rd.*

Please see the **ExComm Minutes** inside back cover for location and contact info.

**Mensa Entrance Exam:** *Sat. the 23rd at the SCAM Masquerade RG.*

Please bring ID with you. **Fee: \$30.**

Contact: Helen Lee Moore

Testing@spacecoastareamensa.org

**Brunch with Jim:** *Sun. the 17th.*

Colossus Restaurant, 380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne. Please note we cannot hold seats for latecomers.

**11 a.m.** Host: Jim Trammel

**S.N.O.R.T.:** *Taking a break this month. See you next month at Miyako's, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melb.*

**6 p.m.** Info: snort@spacecoastareamensa.org

### Reminders!

**Calendar Deadline** is the **8th** of the month at **5 p.m.** If you would like to host any events next month, please be sure Katherine gets this info by this time.

**Newsletter Deadline** is the **10th** of the month at **5 p.m.** All other items to be published in next month's SCAM must be in Mike's hands by this time.

**Featured Calendar Events on Page 18**

## This Month's Featured Events

9th Saturday	Various Show Times \$1.00 plus popcorn	Roxy Cheep Flix NS
Please call Rita before 12 Noon for movie selections and times. You can have movies and afford the popcorn, too. Good event for families. Several shows from which to choose.		
Rita Johnson-Aronna		<i>patrita@workdnet.att.net</i>
16th Saturday	1:00 p.m. \$3.00	What are you Reading? NS
Come join our book discussion group. Bring one or two books you are currently reading to share your opinions of them, good OR bad. 1697 Willard Rd. NW, Palm Bay.		
Katherine Cochrane		<i>katherine@cd-info.com</i>
22nd thru 24th		SCAM Masquerade RG
Friday thru Sunday		
Come one, come all to the best event ever! If you miss this one, you'll have to wait another two years before we host another RG. If you've never been to an RG, you don't know what you're missing. Our monthly Mensa admission test will be administered at the RG on Saturday, so feel free to introduce us to a prospective member. A great time is guaranteed for all.		

Phone: (407) 631-3548

FAX: (407) 690-2295

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## ***The Gourmet's Guide:***

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**New Orleans, Part Four:**

### **THE AMERICAN QUEEN**

they succeeded magnificently. The main indoor public room is the Mark Twain Gallery, resplendent with dark wood paneling, glass enclosed book cases, heavy leather and fabric covered easy chairs and sofas, Tiffany inspired and tasseled lamps, where tea and coffee is available twenty-four hours a day. Also, in accordance with the customs of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, adjacent to the Mark Twain Gallery, are a Gentlemen's Card Room and a Ladies' Parlor. Each is a smaller room with appropriate furniture and fittings.

At the front of the boat (steamboats are boats, not ships) there is an open area on the Texas deck (All steamboats have and have had a Texas Deck. Decks on steamboats were traditionally named for states; therefore the largest deck was the Texas Deck). This large open area is called the Front Porch of America. Appropriately it has porch swings, rocking chairs, and rattan chairs. It is a delightful place to sit and watch the river go by.



The Grand Salon is a two-story theater inspired by Ford's theater in Washington D. C. The second-story boxes replicate the box where Lincoln was shot. Here is where the evening shows are performed and where other public functions, such as the Captain's Cocktail Party, are held. The dining room also is a two-story affair. It is

*(Continued on page 17)*

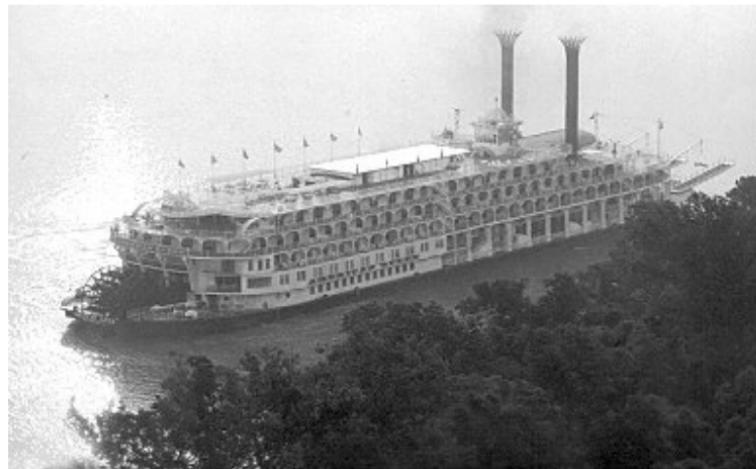
(Continued from page 16)  
inspired by the Main Cabin of the *J. M. White*, which once was the most opulent steamboat on the river.

The steam engines that drive the large (28 foot diameter, 30 foot wide, 45 tons) single paddle wheel in the rear were salvaged and restored from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1930's dredge *Kennedy*. Because the steam engines were not large enough to drive the

boat at the desired speed in all circumstances (11 mph maximum and 8 mph cruising (knots are not used to measure speed on riverboats)) two auxiliary electric motors drive propellers when needed.

The *American Queen* travels 230 miles from New Orleans to Baton Rouge following the meander of the Mississippi River. The distance by road between the two cities is 77 miles.

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Traveling on the *American Queen* is an experience in luxurious leisure. The boat moves so smoothly and quietly that that only by observing the passing scenery is it evident that the boat is in motion. There is no hectic activity aboard. There are shows in the evenings, movies in the theater, a daily talk on the Mississippi River, some other daytime activities, a swimming pool, but no gambling. The whole atmosphere reflects the boat's home port, New Orleans, the Big Easy.

Even the ports of call are relaxed to the point of being asleep. No tourist shops greet you at Baton Rouge or Natchez. A lone woman sitting under an umbrella in Natchez has a few packages of homemade pralines for sale. Baton Rouge does not even have a drug store in its downtown area.



There were no barkers shilling you to go on a tour.

To embark in Natchez, one of the two forward gangplanks is used. As in the old days of steamboating, this steamboat is designed to land, load cargo, and discharge and load passengers by nosing up to a river bank, extending its gangplank and with its big wheel slowly turning to keep it in place, no wharfage is needed. It is easy to imagine that you are transported back in time to over one hundred years ago.

*"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto me."*

-- Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

*"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

-- Matthew 6:14-15 (KJV)

**W**ith the wave of conservatism that has hit our country broadside over the last ten years, it would seem hardly a political discussion goes by without someone asserting, "America was founded on Christian (or Biblical) principles." While this well-worn statement is certainly questionable at best, its importance lies in the fact that so many Americans (many who are voters) do believe it. Such being the case, it just might be expedient to assume the statement is true. That being said, for this installment, I shall indulge in that expediency as I touch on a few topics.

It is hardly news that President Bush, in his bid for reelection, is appealing to his "Christian base" by taking up some of their issues. Of course, at the top of the list is his initiative to ban same-sex marriages. After all, in his State of the Union Address on January 20, the President declares: "*A strong America must also value the institution of marriage. ... Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage.*" In my column in the April SCAM, I addressed this issue in greater depth than I will here. The definition I proffered for "defend" is worth restating here: "*to drive danger or attack away from*" (*Merriam-Webster Online*). I also opined that the ultimate attack on a marriage is *divorce*, which essentially kills the marriage.

Since that fateful day, our nation has had two significant developments: First, Massachusetts, in court-ordered compliance, passed legislation legalizing same-sex marriage (those Commie liberals!), and then Missouri passed a "Defense of Marriage" amendment *banning* same-sex marriage. Just for fun, let's look at some numbers. Since the conservatives assert *their* values are the "Christian" values, let's look at some divorce stats. Massachusetts (Yep, that Commie liberal state again) is the state with the *lowest* divorce rate (2.5 divorces per 1000 people). Washington D.C. is even lower (2.3), but it's not a state.

Almost every state in the Southeast (known by some as the Bible Belt) is represented in the Top Ten for divorces (Georgia is Number 11). Their divorce rate is *2 to 2-1/2 times higher than that of Massachusetts!* But...what about Missouri? It is in the middle group; its divorce rate is merely 72% higher than that of Massachusetts. What happened here?

Let's move now to another topic, "Christian" conservatives insist we need prayer in school. But read what Jesus (the one all Christians profess to follow) has to say on the subject: "*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have*

**A View... From Some-  
where Else**

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Hank Rhodes**

**FLR MONTAGE II**

**THE HARRIED REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST-1**

*Proposed Bush/Cheney '04 Campaign advertisement,  
Take-1:*

*I'm George W. Bush, and I approved this message...  
(Voice of Announcer) "We invaded Iraq because of the  
Weapons of Mass Destruction..." CUT! We can't  
talk about WMDs in Iraq when they don't exist.*

*Proposed Bush/Cheney '04 Campaign advertisement, Take-2:*

*I'm George W. Bush, and I approved this message... (Voice of Announcer) "We  
invaded Iraq because of Saddam's connection to terrorists..." CUT! We can't  
use support for terrorists, since people now know it didn't really happen.  
Iraq didn't become a haven for terrorists until after we invaded.*

*Proposed Bush/Cheney '04 Campaign advertisement, Take-3:*

*I'm George W. Bush, and I approved this message... (Voice of Announcer) "We  
(Continued on page 21)*

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*(Continued from page 19)*

*their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou  
hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth  
in secret shall reward thee openly." —Matthew 6:5-6 (KJV)*

The next topic, basic civil rights of ex-felons. It would seem that once you've paid the penalty for your crime, you would then be restored as a "citizen in good standing" albeit with a criminal record. Not so here in Florida. You are not even allowed to vote, to cite just one example. If you wish to regain your basic civil rights, you must beg for "clemency" to our Governor who may, if he feels so inclined, grant your application. We are not talking about leniency here, but about someone who has paid his debt in full being restored.

One last issue. If you are accused of a crime and you are NOT convicted, your record goes away, you're on a clean slate...right? Again, not here in Florida. If your case makes it to a Florida court, you have a criminal record – accessible to anyone who takes the trouble to look it up (and you wonder why you cannot find work!). The remedy? Apply for clemency, and don't forget to submit your nonrefundable fee. However, there is no guarantee your record will be cleared.

The above are real examples of current "Christian" conservative policy. But are they examples of what Jesus (remember Him?) might do? I think not.

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*invaded Iraq because of human rights ...” CUT!* Even without the S&M freak show at Abu Gharib, we can’t pretend to care about human rights while people are getting shot on the street every day.

*Proposed Bush/Cheney ’04 Campaign advertisement, Take-4:*

I’m George W. Bush, and I approved this message... (Voice of Announcer) “We invaded Iraq because of... (Still shot of soldier and flag)... Because George W. Bush is a great wartime President...(Video clip of President Bush playing “Topgun” aboard the *USS Abraham Lincoln*)...Vote to reelect Bush!” *OK! Mission Accomplished!*

#### SOMETHING ELSE TO FEEL REALLY GOOD ABOUT

Recently the Florida Legislature, in its infinite wisdom, passed a law requiring every classroom in our state to display an American flag at least two feet by three feet in size. Who would vote against the flag? Who could possibly be against the flag? (Certainly not this author!)

Apart from the fact that the cost (estimated at \$22,500 for Brevard County alone) has not been appropriated by the legislature (which is in contrast to the Conservative principle of opposing unfunded mandates), this “Carey Baker\*\* Act” is another good example of junk food legislation that ignores the serious problems effecting our society (such as an under-funded education system) while creating the illusion of responsible action on the part of our elected officials.

This author only hopes that some of the armchair warriors who proclaim their patriotism by displaying the American flag on their ride bother to periodically replace their own faded and ragged “Old Glories.”

Source: “Flag a must in schools, state says,” *Florida Today*, July 17, 2004 p.1A

#### THE HARRIED REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST-2

*Proposed Bush/Cheney ’04 Campaign advertisement:*

*I’m George W. Bush, and I approved this message... (Voice of Announcer) “Unlike his LIBERAL opponents, President Bush staunchly opposes homosexual marriage. Why if two men can marry, there’s no telling what will happen to western civilization. If we allow gays to marry, why, for example, wouldn’t we allow a hamster to become President of the United States? Can you imagine how frightening that would be? Imagine the leader of the Free World, existing in an isolated, artificial environment, unaware of the outside world or the issues of the day, incurious, feeding only on what is presented to him, interested only in his own exercise equipment, concerned only about the well-being of those he comes in contact with.*

*Reelect President Bush, the anti-gay marriage President*" GOOD! But polling focus group indicate we need to employ our other really dirty adjective. See if we can work in "Clintonian" somewhere.

## FROM THE "A VIEW FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE" FILE OF ODD FACTS

Number of humans involved in the breeding of prize racehorses at a Kentucky stud farm: 6

These six include:

- Three individuals to immobilize the mare. (Once her interest has been confirmed.)
- One individual to hold the mare's tail.
- An attending veterinarian.
- And one individual whose job is described as the "Pilot."

Source: "High Stakes in the Bluegrass," *National Geographic* May 2003.

## THE HARRIED REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST-3

*Proposed Bush/Cheney '04 Campaign advertisement:*

I'm George W. Bush, and I approved this message... (Voice of Announcer) "President Bush is a straight-talker, he says what he means and means what he says. After all, the Republicans are the Party that looks the American people straight in the eye and says 'Go \*\*\*\* yourself.' " CUT! That's a little strong. If we're not careful, and the people catch on to us, they will say that to us on November 2.

### Notes:

\* For newcomers, "FLR" is short for how certain others have disparaged this column: "Fallacious Leftist Rantings." This purveyor of FLR is aware of no other definition for this acronym.

\*\* Carey Baker is a Florida State legislator and mobilized reservist. At *A View from Somewhere Else*, we salute him for serving in the military, thereby defending our constitutional right to engage in satire.

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Ray Osborne**

**WRITE TO SUCCESS!**

**T**here is a saying that goes that "The queen of all science is physics". My variation of that is "that the queen of all interests is writing". A deep appreciation for an interest must be had in order to write about it. The writer gets much satisfaction out of researching their interests to become an expert in his field.

Writing is more than informing the it is a journey for the writer. The journey involves many curves, mind disciplines , new relationships and produces other surprises along the way. Open any book and the first page acknowledges others who assisted in producing the book. Many times the author dedicates the book to the people who assisted him. To bring together like-minded nonfiction writers, I started the Nonfiction Writers Circle three years ago. At the monthly luncheon meetings, speakers give the members a wealth of wisdom to empower them to become a success in their writing.

For the March meeting on Inspirational Writing, an article was published March 26th in Florida Today's Life section. Billy Cox, author of the article, interviewed the guest speaker, Renelle West. Renelle coordinates a "Write Your Life" writers group at her church. Renelle was quoted as saying, "That's why I teach (writers) to identify the turning point in their lives. It could be a large or small thing, a death in the family, or an "aha!" moment when things become clear. But it's a moment when something happens and we're never the same again, every great story involves that point of change." Billy quoted me as saying "(writing) jump-starts an individual's journey of self awareness. I compared the writing process to data in a computer: Whereas a computer stores data on a disk to free its random access memory, the mind stores data and ideas by writing them on paper which enables the mind to process new thoughts and insights.

Suzy Leonard Fleming was guest speaker for the April meeting. Her talk on "Writing Stories that connect with readers" offered sound writing and publishing advice to the attendees. Suzy is the Features Editor for Florida Today and with her rich experience in journalism gave many valid points. The best ones can be summed up by Dan Griffith, a regular attendee and Regional Director of the Florida Writers Association: "Regarding Suzy's presentation, her primary item is to have at least three research references to lend credibility and content to your article is well taken." Dan further wrote in email, "I also value your facilitation of later sharing of information via email such as this writers' circle."

The Nonfiction Writers Circle has an email forum on Yahoo

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**A View  
from the Right:**

**J.T. Moran**  
([morwood@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com))

**Liars Never  
Prosper**

The campaign of John Kerry to be elected President has recently run into a few VERY large obstacles. The largest, without doubt, has been the testimony of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

Ever since Senator Kerry became the anointed of the Democrats in March 2004, he has based his campaign upon only two topics:

- (1) He served in Vietnam and was awarded 3 purple hearts, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star.
- (2) He's not George Bush.

Well, since I think we all can agree that item (2) is indisputably correct, let's look at (1).

Almost from the beginning, the Kerry campaign featured a photograph of the candidate along with 19 other Swift Boat skippers from his tour in Vietnam. Even then, he referred to them as his "band of brothers". In May, 2004, the *Swift Boat Veterans for Truth* contacted surviving members of this group to find out how many actually support John Kerry, and discovered that of the 19 Swift boat skippers pictured along with Kerry, **12 consider him unfit**, 2 are neutral, 2 have died, and **3 support Kerry**. The four other skippers who were not present for the photo session were also contacted; **all oppose Kerry**.

Then we have the medals. Kerry's own journal entry of 12/11/68 states that, "*A cocky feeling of invincibility accompanied us up the Long Tau shipping channel because we hadn't been shot at yet, and Americans at war who haven't been shot at are allowed to be cocky.*" Yet he was awarded his first Purple Heart for wounds incurred 9 days earlier. But there can be no Purple Heart awarded if there was no enemy fire.

Next there is the Silver Star. That he was awarded it is irrefutable. However, he lists it as having been awarded with a "combat V", even though the "V" is not authorized to be awarded with the Silver Star, because the Star itself is awarded for valor.

Also putting his valor claims in dispute is the recent statement of Secretary of the Navy (1981-87) John Lehman. The Kerry campaign has highlighted the very flowery citation Secretary Lehman wrote in 1986 for Kerry's Silver Star, which had been awarded 17 years earlier. However, on 8/28/04 Sec. Lehman stated on the record to the Chicago Sun-Times that: "*It is a total mystery to me. I never saw it. I never signed it. I never approved it. And the additional language it contains was not written by me...*"

Now that the media's portrayal of the "war-hero" John Kerry is starting to unravel, the campaign to squash any who dare question the Gospel-According-to-Kerry has begun. The media treat any denunciation or debunking of the democrat candidate as if it were heresy, while at the same time trumpeting the pronouncements of John Kerry as if he were Jesus... although, on further reflection, it seems obvious that if Jesus actually ar-

rived today and made an announcement, He would be derided in the so-called "mainstream media" as some kind of "right-wing Christian nut".

In any event, the disclosures of Sen. Kerry's cloudy records have forced both the Kerry campaign and the sycophantic media to try a different spin. They attack those who bring forth these questions as "doing the Bush campaign's dirty work" and seek any possible way to damage the names and reputations of the opposition.

They point with righteous horror at the discovery that the Swift Boat vets sought legal advice concerning McCain-Feingold campaign law restrictions from Benjamin Ginsberg, an acknowledged expert on the subject who also happens to be a legal expert for the Bush campaign. Although the law does not restrict legal counsel in any form, the Libs demanded the head of Mr. Ginsberg, claiming his activities as proof of coordination between the vets and the Bush camp. Mr. Ginsberg has since resigned from the Bush campaign.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the aisle, there is this quote on the Democratic National Committee website, [democrats.org](http://democrats.org): "*The Democratic Party is partnering with MoveOn.org, People for the American Way, Campaign for America's Future, and dozens of other groups...*" Sure sounds like collusion and coordination to me!

Along with that we have "Zach Exley, Kerry's Director of Online Communications and Online Organizing who was previously the director of special projects for the MoveOn.org." [MoveOn.org](http://MoveOn.org) has so far spent more than \$17 million in pro-Kerry/anti-Bush advertising.

Jim Jordan, Kerry's former campaign manager is now the chief spokesman for [Americans Coming Together](http://AmericansComingTogether.org) which has so far spent more than \$25 million, and the [Media Fund](http://MediaFund.org), which has spent more than \$27 million.

Contrast those figures with the [Swift Boat Veterans for Truth](http://SwiftBoatVeteransforTruth.org), who have so far spent a little over **\$60 THOUSAND** of the almost \$159 thousand they have raised. All figures as reported on 7/15/04.

One of the attacks on the Swift Boat vets is that their primary funding came from Texas businessman Harlan Crow, owner of Perry Homes and a longtime contributor to the Republican party. Again, contrast that with the primary contributor to Kerry causes, billionaire George Soros, who has declared that "*removing Bush from office is the "central focus of my life" and "a matter of life and death" for which I would be willing to sacrifice my entire fortune*". Soros alone has given \$3 million to the [Center for American Progress](http://CenterforAmericanProgress.org), \$5 million to [MoveOn.org](http://MoveOn.org), and \$10 million to [America Coming Together](http://AmericaComingTogether.org). Sound familiar?

What do we hear from the media about these indisputable facts and connections? The same that we hear from the Dems: silence. Oh, wait... I was wrong. The Dems and the media are not silent. They are demanding that President Bush stop the vets, that he denounce and disavow the Swift Boat Vets First Amendment rights to be heard in the political arena. It is only concerning those 527 groups and individuals friendly to the Kerry

campaign that they are silent about.

Back in February the three broadcast networks were obsessed with the story of President Bush's National Guard service, making it the focus of 75 evening news stories. Through August 18, ABC, CBS and NBC had aired only nine stories mentioning the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth charges against Kerry. All it took to get the ball rolling against the President was for Michael Moore to call him a "deserter" and for Terry McAuliffe to accuse him of being AWOL ("*... George Bush, a man who was AWOL in the Alabama National Guard. George Bush never served in our military in our country. He didn't show up when he should have showed up*".)

Mr. Moore, supreme spokesman for the Left and fabricator of "facts", has constantly criticized the President on his military service in the Air National Guard. Mr. Moore was born on 4/23/54, making him 18 in 1972. At that time, the Vietnam war was in high gear—I should know, as on that date I was in Avionics "A" school in Millington, TN. My school, which normally took 16 weeks to complete, had been accelerated to 12 weeks due to the increased call-up rate for overseas billets. Mr. Moore, who was old enough to serve, did no military service of any kind.

Terry McAuliffe is, of course, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He also has never served in any military capacity.

Both these men are to the media acceptable sources for such accusations, whereas the more than 250 members of the Swift Boat veterans are simply liars and partisan political saboteurs, far less credible than the 12 vets who stood by Kerry on the Boston Harbor ferry.

Why is it that the very same media figures who refused to wear a US flag pin after 9/11 because it would "give the impression of bias towards America" and "raise doubts as to our credibility" have absolutely no qualms about blatant bias in support of Candidate Kerry? The same people who refuse to use the word "terrorist" as a descriptive of Al-Qaeda and Hamas operatives have no problem with using "liar" and "coward" when reporting attacks on the President.

Regarding the respective military histories, President Bush has released everything. As reported (and snidely questioned) on **ABC's World News Tonight** (2/14/04): "*The two-inch thick stack of documents includes everything from the President's Yale transcript – though his grades are redacted – to personal medical records. However, it does not answer the fundamental question that has been dogging Mr. Bush: Did he report for duty in the Alabama National Guard between May and October 1972??*"

Senator Kerry has so far resisted releasing his own records. The nearly 100 unreleased pages include just who it was that recommended him for his medals and the reports upon which they were based. They also contain the details of his wounds that earned the Purple Hearts.

One way or another, they will put the matter to rest, so go ahead and sign the SF-180, Senator Kerry. What are you afraid of? The truth?

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where writers share information about writing topics with others. This is a good place where members critique each other's material, receive updates on meetings and meet other aspiring writers from around the world. Most writers need an audience, and to assist with this, readers are invited to the meetings and the forum. Critical readers are welcome too! Upcoming speakers include Katherine Cochrane of CD-Info company and a member of the local Mensa chapter. She will speak to the group on Ebooks and ePublishing. For updates on these and other meetings send an email to [guru153@yahoo.com](mailto:guru153@yahoo.com).

It is writing groups like these that empower writers to be a success.

*Ray Osborne*

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your chapter's one and only Ways and Means Fundraiser – which is held only once every two years. Portions of the funds raised by the RG help to maintain our Scholarship Fund, helps to offset the cost of the SCAM newsletter that is not covered by dues, assist in assorted social events throughout the year and to help pay any cost associated with maintaining the Chapter. While we highly recommend and desire that you attend the RG and get to know your fellow local and regional Mensans, if you are not interested in attending, won't you please consider sending in a registration as a "once every two years" donation to the Chapter. You had some motivation to become a Mensan and your are entitled to take full advantage of all of the benefits that membership in this fine organization can provide, but don't overlook that we are a Not-For-Profit organization and we must turn to the generosity of our local merchants, neighbors and members like yourself to maintain the level of activation and quality of events that we provide our membership. Registration information can be found in this newsletter. Who knows, maybe you might decide to join us for a little while on the weekend, if for anything, at least to get to spend a little time in the beautiful penthouse – you really have to see it to believe it!!

I am looking forward seeing you all on the weekend of October 22-24!!

Joe Smith  
RG Chairperson.

## *Minutes of the*



## *ExComm Meeting*

### ***The SCAM October Masquerade RG:***

***Joseph Smith,  
RG Committee  
Chair***

### ***The Final Word!***

**T**he September ExComm meeting was not held due to the arrival of Hurricane Frances. Thus, there are no minutes to report. The October ExComm meeting will be held **Sunday, October 3rd at 3pm** at the Central Brevard (Cocoa) Public Library. Contact any officer listed on Page Two for details or changes.

### *Greetings fellow SCAM Members,*

**T**he time approaches to show support for **your** local Mensa Chapter. At the time of this writing, the Regional Gathering (RG) at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Penthouse in Melbourne is just 5 weeks away (and at the time of your reading probably only three weeks away – **AAARRRGHHH!!**) Only kidding - we have a very committed and hard working core of volunteers working very hard to ensure that all of our members and guest have the best time possible. I am delighted to inform you that the hotel withstood Hurricane Frances reasonably well and they are fully prepared to provide us with all of the accommodations and services that we have come to expect and appreciate from them.

Hopefully, by now, you have all received a flyer in the mail inviting you to register to enjoy the RG and have been contacted personally by one of the planning committee to discuss your availability to assist us during the event. We still, and will most likely continue to need a little help here and there. Any of you who have ever run an event like this or have thrown a party will appreciate how stress relieving it can be during the event when you know you have a cadre of helpers just “standing by” to take care of the minor complications that **ALWAYS** occur. Go get maintenance to reset a breaker, someone knocked over the punch bowl – see if you can find a mop, what do you mean we’re out of chocolate – we’re all in serious danger...etc (you get the point). If you are willing to show up for a few hours on Saturday to help with serving lunch, or dropping by Friday or Saturday night to just stand by, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact me at 259-4966 and we’ll get your name on the list.

I’d also like to visit with you all another point about the RG. While we all pay our membership dues to Mensa each year and National does send us a portion of your dues to cover the printing and mailing of your monthly SCAM newsletter, it is important to remember that the RG is

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