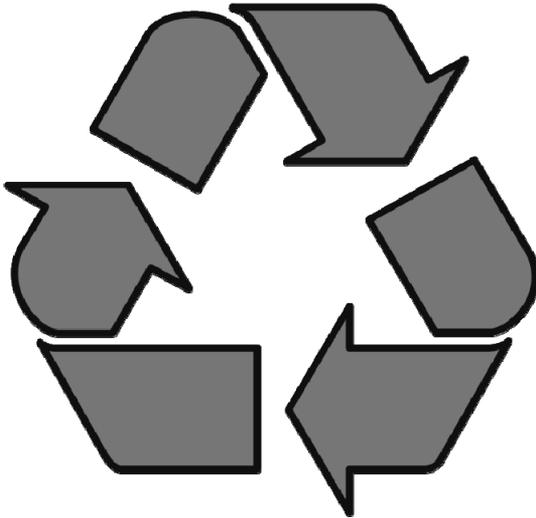


The

SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



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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 on Page 2.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Happy Ground Hog Day 2013! Of course, as I write this, Ground Hog Day is still a few weeks away. What will our ground hog see? For starters, beginning this issue, this newsletter is changing.

We have an expanded calendar display, which will be new to many. It is actually reusing an old idea (hence this cover's recycle symbol). As part of SCAM's outreach effort, the ExComm has requested a return to the "centerfold calendar". Now that we are devoting more space to our events, it might be a good idea now to fill our Calendar of Events. Wynn, who has returned from surgery and, in his column on the next page, he is actively requesting your feedback. How will you respond? You are the future of SCAM.

What other changes will happen with The SCAM? That, also, is up to you. Due to popular acclaim (*yes, both of you...*), for the foreseeable future, my column will continue. Would you like to see other columns besides my monthly diatribes? Write one up, and send it in...

Sometimes, the old ideas are the best ones. Yet, that should not discourage anyone from trying something that has never before been thought of. Just as often, it is the **NEW** ideas that are the best ones.

Finally, I've stated this many times before, somewhat like having a scratch on a music CD (in my day, we said broken record). This is your SCAM. It is only as good or as bad as you make it.

Your turn.

The SCAM sells classified ad space. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Some people know, but many of you may still be wondering why things have been so quiet in SCAM for the last few months. For most of 2012, I have been battling cancer. I have had five surgeries in 2012, the last on New Year's Eve. I have to call it a draw. I am now missing several internal organs, but I am still here. That explains why the events that we normally host have not been on the calendar lately.

That's changing. We will be hosting events again soon. Look for something in next month's SCAM, which brings me to the topic of turnout. A few of our events had moderately good turnout, but even those events were mostly attended by the same people who attend most SCAM. Is there something we can do to lure you to an event, or is it hopeless? Take our short LocSec's poll to let us know:

- You haven't hit my area of interest yet.
- I suffer from terminal shyness.
- My pyramid scheme keeps me way too busy.
- I like the old way of doing things, stop trying to change things.
- I dislike hanging out with other smart people.
- SCAM has local events? Since when?

Here's to 2013 being a better year for one and all. And if you have an idea for an calendar event, let me know. I'll do everything in my power to pull it off.

Wynn

Under 40 and looking for comrades? **Check out GenY SIG!** We are open to members 18-36, and looking to pull together activities for Ms our age. Pretty sweet, right? Check us out on Facebook at **'Mensa GenY Space Coast!'**

As for the food, this is where it gets interesting. The *Opera's* lunch and dinner menus were traditional with a long list of courses and many selections in each course. The *Lirica's* menus were much abbreviated.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Lunch | <u><i>Opera</i></u> | <u><i>Lirica</i></u> |
| | Juices | Appetizers and Salad |
| | Appetizers | Soups |
| | Salads | Platters and Sandwich |
| | Soups | Main Courses |
| | Pasta & Risotto | Cheeses |
| | Main Courses | Desserts and Fruit |
| | Vegetables | |
| | Cheeses | |
| | Desserts | |
| Dinner | Appetizers | Appetizers |
| | Salad | Soups |
| | Soups | Salad |
| | Pasta & Risotto | Pasta and Risotto |
| | Main Courses | Main Courses |
| | Vegetables | Desserts and Fruit |
| | Cheeses | |
| | Desserts | |
| | Bread of the Day | |

The *Poesia's* menus were entirely different, consisting of several separate menus spread on two pages.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Lunch | Menu of the Day |
| | Appetizer |
| | Soup |
| | Bread |
| | Main Course |
| | Desserts |
| | Signature Italian Pasta |
| | Appetizers |
| | Soup & Sandwiches |
| | Salads |
| | Main Courses |
| | Desserts and Fruit |

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Dinner

The first night's menu was an abbreviated traditional menu..

- Appetizers & Soups
- Salad
- Main Courses
- Cheese
- Desserts & Fruit
- Bread

The Gala Nights' menus, there were two on this ten day cruise, were more traditional.

- Appetizers
- Salad & Soup
- Pasta
- Main Courses
- Cheese
- Desserts & Fruit
- Bread

On the other seven nights of the cruise, the menu followed a different format. There were Our Mediterranean Proposal, an International, and Dinner Favorites menus.

| <u>Mediterranean Proposal</u> | <u>International</u> | <u>Favorites</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Appetizer & Soup | Appetizer | Appetizers |
| Main Courses | Salad | Soups |
| Cheese | Soup | Salad |
| Bread | Main Course | |
| Desserts & Fruit | Vegetarian Choice | |
| | Dessert | |

This appears to be an extensive menu, but it is deceiving, there was only one selection under each course of the International Menu and the Favorites didn't change from day to day. Still, as it is perfectly proper to order items from

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

any location on each of the menus, your choices increased. That is important as a desired item may appear anywhere, such as a soup under Appetizer or a pasta under Main Course. Italian, International, and American dishes are mixed indiscriminately among the several categories.

I found that the Italian dishes were very good to excellent, as were the breads and pastries. Yet the Italian dishes did not come up to the quality of that on the *Opera*, being more bland and repetitious. The pastas, though generally excellent, were limited in number. It was not as it was on the *Opera*, where each lunch and dinner had a separate pasta course of a different ship-board-made pasta with a different sauce at each meal. On the *Poesia* there was a pasta each dinner, but it appeared under the Main Courses. The pastas were not freshly made and were often repeated although the sauce was different. If you wanted a separate pasta course, as I did, you had to order two main courses. The Signature Italian Pasta on the lunch menu didn't change from day to day. It was always a choice of three, Fettuccine Alfredo, Spaghetti with meatballs, or Penne in tomato sauce.

There were several slip-up's. Veal Piccata came in a brown sauce without lemon or capers. It was good, but it wasn't Veal Piccata. The Osso Bucco was covered with a heavy tomato sauce which obscured the taste of the veal.

The International dishes didn't come up to par. There were some failures, for example the couscous lacked saffron. Orzo soup used barley instead orzo. The falafel was dry and served with a bland white sauce rather than *tzaziki*. There seems to have been a disconnect between the writer of the menus and the chef.

I didn't try many American dishes, but the steaks were tough and the fish dishes were very good. The quality of the cooking deteriorated during the course of cruise. Even the Italian dishes suffered and became repetitious.

Service in the restaurants was, what I may call typically Italian, very friendly, very accommodating, if the staff understood your requests, but poorly organized and seemingly untrained. One common violation of serving etiquette was pervasive. Waiters would pass dishes in front of one passenger in order to serve another. It was difficult to get a refill on your glass of water once the meal started.

All in all, I would not recommend this ship for a cruise.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Oct 31,
2012**

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$549.33 |
| RG Fund | 2455.74 |
| Reserve Fund | 1807.24 |
| <u>Total Funds Available:</u> | \$4812.31 |
| <u>General Fund</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$812.54 |
| Mensa Funding | \$177.13 |
| Printing for Newsletter | (140.34) |
| Funds for Postage | (300.00) |
| Balance | \$549.33 |
| <u>RG Transactions</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$2510.00 |
| RG Ticket | 570.00 |
| RG Ticket-Paypal | 500.00 |
| Expense—Comfort Inn | (1124.26) |
| Balance | \$2455.74 |
| <u>Reserve Fund</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$1807.16 |
| Interest | 0.08 |
| Balance | \$1807.24 |
| <u>Post Office Account</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$32.06 |
| Postage for Newsletter | (56.75) |
| Funds Added | 300.00 |
| Balance | \$275.31 |

SCAM Calendar of Events for February 2013

1st - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

16th - Saturday 6:30 PM

DINNER AT DAVID'S

Join us at David's Restaurant, 2480 S Washington Ave (US1) in Titusville for just about any kind of dinner, ranging from steak to sushi.

Contact: *Mike Zielinski, 747-0097.*

23rd - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at the Miyako Restaurant, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

Contact: *George, 777-3721 for details.*

MENSA TESTING

Feb. 16 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. Testing next month will be on March 16.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mensatest@cfl.rr.com, for details.

Of CABAGEs and Coffee: (Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: *Every Monday in the Food Court*, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: *Every Saturday at Books-A-Million*, The Avenue, Viera. Hosted by
1 p.m. the **Space Coast Area GO Association.**
Host: *George Lebovitz, the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com*

Membership Notes for February 2013

WELCOME TO SCAM

(No new members this month)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

| | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| 7th | Ann Galetta | 17th | Peter Blythe |
| 7th | Heather Howard | 17th | Robert Lipton |
| 10th | Herbert Feingold | 17th | Robert Champion |
| 11th | Michael Moakley | 26th | Don King |
| 14th | Wynn Rostek | | |
| 14th | Gregg Wiggins | | |

The "Fine Print" for Calendar 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.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Nov 30,
2012**

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$585.12 |
| RG Fund | 1630.74 |
| Reserve Fund | 1807.31 |
| <u>Total Funds Available:</u> | \$4023.17 |

General Fund

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Previous Balance | \$549.33 |
| Mensa Funding | 176.13 |
| Printing for Newsletter | (140.34) |
| Balance | \$585.12 |

RG Transactions

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Previous Balance | \$2455.74 |
| Expense—Comfort Inn | (825.00) |
| Balance | \$1630.74 |

Reserve Fund

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Previous Balance | \$1807.24 |
| Interest | 0.07 |
| Balance | \$1807.31 |

Post Office Account

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Previous Balance | \$275.31 |
| Postage for Newsletter | (56.48) |
| Balance | \$218.83 |

When I first arrived on the Space Coast back in the late 1970s, one of the more popular bumper stickers proclaimed, “*God, Guns, and Guts!*” Even today, I certainly find that this brief message reflects the attitudes of many of our more conservative brethren. This message also lends itself to a discussion of three distinct topics. This article will be the first of a three-part series.

Part One: Guts

One criticism I often hear about Democrat elected officials is that they lack guts. In many cases, I do believe this criticism is well-founded. This is especially true of President Obama, so I will direct my further comments to the President. For those who have not emerged from under their rocks (where they were hiding in anticipation of the scheduled end of the world on December 21st), Obama has been reelected to a second and final term as President.

I believe the first Obama administration can best be characterized as the President being too willing to compromise too soon and, in some cases, almost completely capitulate to the Republican leaders. On the other side of the equation, I saw little or no movement on the part of the Republicans. Now we are beginning the second Obama administration. Thanks to term limits, Obama needs not worry about whether he will be reelected. Short of impeachment, he has nothing to lose. Now is the time for our President to show some guts.

One of the first challenges Obama will face is the “debt ceiling crisis”. Obama has already stated that he will not allow this issue as a negotiation chip in funding government programs. So far, so good. But, what, exactly, is this “debt ceiling crisis”?

Let us consider, for example, a married couple who have gone to their favorite restaurant for dinner. They have already agreed the check would be paid on their MasterCard. Their order taken, the waitress arrives with their food. Everything being satisfactory, they proceed with their dinner, which both thoroughly enjoy. The waitress comes by with the check and states, “I’ll take this whenever you’re ready,” and moves to another customer. The check is for \$50.

The husband looks at the check and says to his wife, “We really need to eat less; You know I only designated a \$40 maximum for eating out. If you want me to pay this check, I need an ironclad agreement from you that you will eat less from now on.” As the wife balks, he says, “Fine, I will not pay this check...” Thus, an example of the “debt ceiling crisis” Obama will soon face.

Back to the federal government. Congress decides how much taxes will be collected. In so doing, Congress ultimately decides what resources are available to operate the government. Congress ALSO decides how much money will be

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(Continued from page 14)

spent on the various government programs which also were decided by Congress.

The President's Constitutional duty is to faithfully execute the laws enacted by Congress. He is to levy taxes on Americans according to laws passed by Congress to fund the government. He is also to pay the costs of the government's expenses as authorized by laws passed by Congress. So long as tax collections meet or exceed the expenses to be paid, these can be said to be a routine Executive function.

But what, as is currently (and often) the case, the expenses exceed tax collections? The Constitution gives Congress the power to borrow money, thus placing the government in debt. In such cases, the President's Constitutional duty is to borrow the needed funds to cover the shortfall. That, also, is a routine Executive function. It is important to note here, however, is that when the government borrows money, it is to cover expenses already incurred by the government in accordance with the laws passed by Congress.

Now, here comes the complicating factor. In 1917, and revised to its present form in 1939, Congress passed a law limiting how much debt the government is permitted to carry at any given time. This law amounts to an arbitrary line that bears no relation to the government's ability to incur or make payment on the debt. The arbitrary line is what we know today as the "debt ceiling". Of course, from 1939 until about two years ago, Congress has routinely passed legislation to raise the debt ceiling as needed to allow sufficient borrowing to cover the congressionally approved government expenses.

This now brings us to the "debt ceiling crisis".

From 1939 to 2011, for most, it was unthinkable to even consider refusing to raise the debt ceiling when it became necessary to ensure the government's bills will be paid. It has always been understood that the government has an obligation to pay its expenses already incurred as approved by Congress. In 2011, however, Representatives in the relatively new Tea Party movement thought it might be a fine idea if they could hold the government's credit rating hostage in its efforts to extract commitments from the Democrats to slash government spending on programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

The message then (as now) became abundantly clear: "Give us the cuts we demand or we will not grant you the authorization needed to pay our bills." Now let us look at the dilemma:

1. The Constitution gives Congress the power to pass legislation authorizing the expenditure of government funds for all authorized federal programs. Let x equal the total of these expenditures.

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(Continued from page 15)

2. The Constitution gives Congress the power to pass legislation authorizing collection of all federal taxes. Let y equal the total of the revenue thus generated.
3. The Constitution also gives Congress the power to borrow money to pay government expenses already authorized and implemented by said Congress. Let z equal the total authorized debt.

Thus, the equation that must be satisfied to conduct government business: $x = y + z$. Now, Congress has by its legislative power specified an arbitrary number for z . Now, as in 2011, z is not sufficient to satisfy the equation.

The Constitution requires the President to “faithfully execute all laws” authorized by Congress. Specifically, he must do ALL of the below:

1. He MUST spend the government money for all programs legislated by Congress (x).
2. He MUST collect all taxes legislated by Congress (y).
3. He MUST borrow money to cover any shortfall between revenue and expenses. However, he MUST NOT exceed the legislated debt ceiling (z).

If the President fails in executing ANY of the above duties, he is in violation of the Constitution. Given the current state of affairs, it is clear that Congress will not allow him to carry out his Constitutional duties. This is the “debt ceiling crisis”.

Unless Congress agrees to raise the debt ceiling, the President has no option but to violate the Constitution. So what does he do?

In my view, President Obama should simply pay the bills as they come due since all the bills incurred have been duly authorized by Congress. If, in doing so, he violates the debt ceiling, so be it. Moreover, should Obama be called to answer charges that, in doing so, he violated his Constitutional duty to carry out the debt ceiling law; he should immediately challenge that law as unconstitutional.

The President does NOT have the power to determine the level of taxation or the level of governmental expenditures, yet he must carry out those laws. Taxation and expenditures are both vital to running our government – any government. He CANNOT interfere with either process without putting the government at risk. However, he can cross an imaginary line without harming the country. He ought to do just that.

What say you, Mr. President? *Do you have the GUTS?*

SCAM Treasurer's Report

Dec 31,
2012

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$661.85 |
| RG Fund | 1630.74 |
| Reserve Fund | 1807.39 |
| <u>Total Funds Available:</u> | \$4099.98 |
| <u>General Fund</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$585.12 |
| Mensa Funding | 218.13 |
| Printing for Newsletter | (141.40) |
| Balance | \$661.85 |
| <u>RG Transactions</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$1630.74 |
| Expense—Comfort Inn | (0.00) |
| Balance | \$1630.74 |
| <u>Reserve Fund</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$1807.31 |
| Interest | 0.08 |
| Balance | \$1807.39 |
| <u>Post Office Account</u> | |
| Previous Balance | \$218.83 |
| Postage for Newsletter | (56.75) |
| Balance | \$162.08 |

One of the positive things that has happened in Region 10 since I became RVC is that we have more proctors, and that includes one local group and one region within a group that have proctors that did not used to. Since most people get into Mensa by taking the test, this is good news, and I encourage all local groups to get as many people to test as possible.

There's something else I am asking members, and local groups, to do: Think about the next generation of proctors. In many groups, there is only one proctor; if that person were to decide to retire from proctoring, or move away, or otherwise no longer doing it, that group would not have a means to test candidates. It's nice to have a back-up plan.

I am encouraging all local groups to identify people who would be good proctors, and encourage them to become proctors. By the same token, I am encouraging all members who think they might enjoy being proctors to contact their locsec. As a proctor myself, it's a volunteer job that's a lot of fun. You get to meet prospective members and be their first introduction to Mensa. You get to answer their questions about what Mensa is like and how much of a good time they'll have by joining. You get to try to guess, as people are taking the test, who is going to pass and who likely won't. It is far and away one of the more fun jobs I have in Mensa.

The requirements are that a proctor must have a college degree. Some teaching experience is desired but not required; teaching experience will cut in half the amount of time it takes to become certified as a proctor, but the only non-negotiable is a degree. If you're unsure, ask your local group proctor to allow you to sit in on the next testing session.

And I have a funny story to tell about proctoring: I had figured out what I believe to be the correct answer to every question on the Mensa entrance exam, except for one, and it drove me crazy that I could not figure that one out. I would look at people's tests to see what other people had answered, and the candidates mostly all put the same answer, so I figured that was probably the correct answer, but could not figure out why. After months of driving myself batty trying to figure out why that was the correct answer, one day, after a test, I asked if there were any questions. One candidate raised her hand and said, "I think the answer to Question such-and-such is so-and-so because . . . Am I right?" And she pointed to the same question I hadn't been able to figure out, and of course her explanation was right. Mystery solved.

Mel Dahl

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 on Wednesday, January 9th, 2013; called to order at 6:18 pm.

Members Present: Karen Freiberg, Wynn Rostek, Terry Valek, Dennis Logan (telephonically), and George Lebovitz.

Guests: Zanne Rostek and George Patterson.

Just prior to calling the meeting to order, George P. regaled us with a great story about his laptop and a cup of coffee.

It was very good to have our LocSec, Wynn, present and feeling better after his most recent bout of surgery.

Treasurer Dennis was informed that we need to fill out a Local Group annual financial report for national.

There will be another Kid's Games scheduled for February, this time in south Brevard. Val or George will try to get information posted in the February (what you are currently reading) SCAM.

Val is going to schedule an Eating Out event for them's wot might be innerested.

We need a NomElComm. George P. kindly volunteered to serve (again) as well as offering to dig up a couple more suckers volunteers as well.

We also need to form up an Audit Committee. Fortunately, Wynn and Val volunteered to perform this needed function with hopes of securing Art Belefant's services to fill the necessary third position.

Treasurer's Report:

Dennis submitted three month's worth of Treasurer's reports. Anyone with a burning need for the details (they were submitted in both hardcopy and PDF and I just didn't feel like transcribing it all) can email me at gLebovitz@att.net and I will gladly provide you the nitty gritty.

We had expected that we had lost money on the poorly attended RG, but found – to our surprise and pleasure – that we actually made about \$600!

Since the ExComm didn't foresee any urgent business looming on the horizon, it was decided to conduct the February meeting via email. The next (formal) meeting was set for Wednesday, March 6th at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm. and the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

George